

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran keeping
close eye on
Israeli
provocations

PRESS TV – The spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry warned against the Israeli regime's malicious objectives to increase its presence in the region, insisting that the regime's regional provocations will not remain hidden as Iran is well aware of its intentions. Nasser Kanaani's tweet came a day after Israeli President Isaac Herzog traveled to Baku and held in-depth discussions with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev about what they often purport as "Iran's threat to regional stability".

Indigenous
'Simorq' makes
maiden flight

TASNIM – Iran's domestically produced transport plane, 'Simorq,' successfully completed its maiden flight at an airbase in the central Iranian city of Isfahan on Tuesday, a year after its unveiling by Iranian authorities. The Simorq aircraft was designed and manufactured by the Iran Aviation Industries Organization, a subsidiary of the Iranian Defense Ministry. Iranian authorities have said the development of this aircraft aims to enhance the country's defensive capabilities.

Iran ready to
export defense
equipment:
Military chief

MEHR – Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri says Iran stands ready to export its defense equipment to friendly countries and share its military expertise with them. Baqeri stressed that the country's foreign affairs departments can play "a major and important role" in presenting Iran's defense power. "The Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to train, exercise, and transfer their experiences," he added.

IAEA chief confirms progress
in Iran nuclear case

Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi confirmed that Tehran and the IAEA have made progress on certain issues related to Iran's nuclear program.

Speaking to reporters in New York on Tuesday, Grossi said his report on the status of Iran's nuclear program is due to be published soon, according to IFP.

"We are working on several issues with Iran, and we are making progress in some of them and not in others," he added.

The remarks came days before a quarterly meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors in Vienna.

Earlier in the day, informed sources said that Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog have resolved issues arising from false allegations against Tehran's peaceful nuclear program. During the recent technical

negotiations between the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the IAEA, the case of one of the alleged "undetected" sites raised by the agency (known as Abadeh) has been closed. This brings the number of cases concerning the alleged "undetected" sites claimed by the IAEA to two, it added.

The report noted the IAEA's claims about uranium particles with 83.7% purity found at the undeclared nuclear sites in Iran have also been settled.

Iran and the IAEA are in a dispute triggered by the agency's Israeli-influenced accusations, which were leveled against Tehran's peaceful nuclear activities. The IAEA insisted on investigating what it claims to be "uranium traces" found at "undeclared nuclear sites" in Iran.

The issue has emerged as a key sticking point in talks

aimed at salvaging the 2015 nuclear deal, which remains stalled since last August. Iran has dismissed the probe as "politically motivated."

Last September, Mohammad Eslami, the head of the AEOI, strongly rejected all accusations including the UN nuclear watchdog's allegations about the existence of undeclared nuclear activities or materials in Iran.

"There are no undeclared nuclear activities or material in Iran. All accusations are merely based on fake and incorrect information provided by the usurping regime of Israel," he said.

In a meeting with Grossi in Tehran in early March, Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi stated that Tehran expects the IAEA to adopt a "professional and fair" approach to its nuclear energy program and refrain from being affected



by certain powers that are pursuing their own specific goals.

Back in February, the AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi told Press TV that the IAEA publicizes confidential reports about Iran's nuclear activities even before the investiga-

tions are complete in order to prepare the ground for fabrications against the country's peaceful nuclear program.

He criticized the IAEA for allowing the correspondence between Tehran and the agency to leak to the press.

Raeisi: Iran committed to diplomacy,
seeks cooperation with others

President Ebrahim Raeisi on Monday highlighted the importance of forging agreements and cooperation with other states as fundamental duties of Iranian ambassadors.

In an address to Iranian ambassadors in Tehran, Raeisi emphasized the need for regular joint commission meetings to facilitate collaboration, IRNA reported.

He called on the Foreign Ministry to develop tailored plans for cooperation with each country, considering their specific requirements and capacities.

The president categorically rejected the notion that "many countries are not willing to cooperate with Iran" since the country is subject to sanctions.

He said the willingness of some states to cooperation with Iran defies the sanctions narrative.

Raeisi, however, asserted that Iran remains steadfast in its commitment to resistance if



any country chooses a "hostile path".

He noted that Iran seeks cooperation with all countries provided that they show goodwill.

The president underscored the crucial role of the Foreign Ministry in boosting Iran's power, urging a heightened focus on strengthening bonds with Muslim nations, neighbors, and likeminded countries.

He emphasized the significance of active participation

and contribution in regional and international organizations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasian Union, and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), which are widely regarded as essential for shaping an emerging world order. He specifically highlighted the importance of diplomatic engagement with African nations, Latin American countries, as well as various regions spanning from East Asia to Central Asia and Europe.

US failure to isolate ...



The visit laid the groundwork for Iran's subsequent membership in the organization.

The official said that previous governments had failed to establish "meaningful" interaction with Tajikistan which shares historical, linguistic, and cultural communalities with Iran.

"However, the current government's policy of fostering relations has facilitated cooperation, including pursuing membership in the SCO."

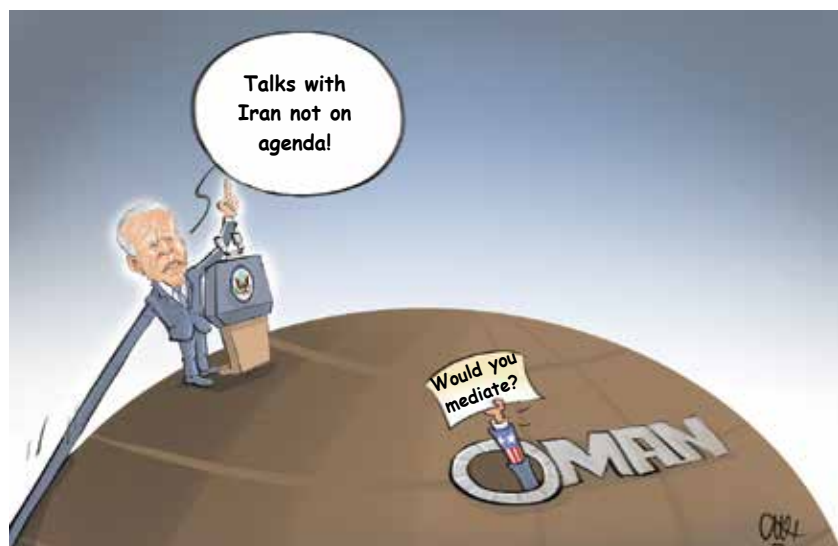
The Iranian government's efforts to foster relations with neighboring nations have yielded positive outcomes, he added. "Recent visits by political delegations, including the sultan of Oman and a delegation from

Turkmenistan, have resulted in agreements in various fields, such as political, security, and economic."

Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq expressed Egypt's interest in restoring relations with Iran, which was welcomed by Iran's Leader as a potential renewal of ties after four decades. Hosseini further emphasized that establishing relations with Egypt could have positive effects on Iran's relations and contribute to its foreign trade. While pointing to border tensions with Afghanistan, he acknowledged that conflicts and disputes are natural occurrences but affirmed that Iran responded appropriately, resulting in the restoration of peace along the borders.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Biden aide visited ...

The officials stated that the main issue that was discussed was a new diplomatic push over Iran's nuclear program with Omani mediation.

"The Omanis are holding proximity talks between the U.S. and Iran," a senior Israeli official told Axios. Proximity talks refer to negotiations done through an agreed upon third party without a face-to-face meeting.

Three senior Israeli officials claimed the White House is exploring through the Omani government whether the Iranians are open to taking

steps that would put some limits on their nuclear program and de-escalate the regional situation and asking what the Iranians would want in return. "The Americans want a time out," one of the senior Israeli officials told Axios.

A White House National Security Council (NSC) spokesperson pushed back on the Israeli officials' claims.

"There is no U.S. discussion of an interim deal and no discussion of sanctions relief or closing safeguards cases," the spokesperson said.

A senior European diplomat added that the "U.S. is work-

ing with the Omanis on the Iranian issue". The White House NSC spokesperson said they won't comment on regional diplomacy "of which Iran is one aspect".

The Israeli government is concerned about a possible push by the Biden administration for a "freeze-for-freeze" interim agreement with Iran, three Israeli officials told Axios.

Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer and national security adviser Tzachi Hanegbi are expected to discuss these concerns during their visit to the White House on Thursday.