

NEWS IN BRIEF

Azeris should be scared of Israel not Iran: Spokesman



IRNA – In a reaction to Baku travel advisory, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman insisted what the Azeri people should be afraid of is the "Zionist regime" and not Iran. In tweets on Monday, Nasser Kan'ani emphasized that the country remains committed to visa waiver with Azerbaijan despite Baku's travel advisory. "Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has warned its citizens against traveling to Iran! This is the same policy adopted by the president of the fake, child-killing, and occupying Zionist regime during his recent trip to Baku," he wrote.

Baku airport denies cancellation of flights to Tehran



TREND – Heydar Aliyev International Airport denied reports of cancelling flights from Baku to Tehran. "Flights to Iran are operated as usual," the airport told Trend. Earlier, a number of Iranian media reported about the alleged cancellation of all flights from Azerbaijan to Iran.

FM invites new Turkish counterpart to visit Tehran

PRESS TV – Iran's foreign minister has invited Turkey's new foreign minister to visit Tehran. In a Sunday phone call, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian congratulated Hakan Fidan on being appointed as the country's new top diplomat, calling for the development of relations between the two neighboring nations. He expressed hope that close cooperation between the two neighbors would continue during Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's new term in office. Fidan said cooperation between Iran and Turkey must continue on bilateral and regional levels, adding that he will do his best to help develop relations between the two countries.

Arrogant powers seek to bring back Iran to dependence: *Leader*



Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addresses a ceremony to mark 34th passing anniversary of Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini in Tehran, on June 4, 2023. [Leader.ir](#)

Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said while addressing a ceremony in Tehran to mark the 34th departure anniversary of his predecessor, Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution.

"Many times, our retreats made them march forward and they become more aggressive. The enemies are not satisfied with our retreats, they want to take Iran back to the way it was before the 1979 Revolution," he said. Ayatollah Khamenei noted

that the enemies seek to "disappoint" Iranian youths by focusing on problems in the country. Referring to the riots that broke out last September after the death of a young Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, the Leader said that the enemies have made

several attempts against Iran but have failed in most of them, the latest being the riots last autumn. He said that the riots were "devised in Western think tanks" and supported by their "extensive financial, media, and weaponry" aide. Ayatollah Khamenei further noted that those behind the riots "thought that the Islamic Republic was over and that they could recruit the Iranian nation; the ignorant were wrong again." The Leader also praised Ayatollah Khomeini as "one of the preeminent figures in our history and not just in our time." Such figures, he maintained, "cannot be erased from the history's memory ... and cannot be removed or distorted," Press TV reported. Ayatollah Khomeini passed away at 86 years old in 1989, nearly ten years after the Islamic Revolution toppled the US-backed shah of Iran. He founded the Islamic Republic after a referendum in 1979 when more than 98 percent of Iranians who could vote said 'yes' to the Islamic Republic.

IRGC rejects allegation of vessel 'harassment'

A naval commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps on Monday dismissed a Western allegation that Iranian forces had "harassed" a foreign cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz, saying they responded to a distress call. The US Navy claimed earlier in the day that American and British marines came to the aid of a ship after IRGC forces "harassed" it. Three fast-attack Guard vessels with armed troops aboard approached the merchant ship at a close distance Sunday afternoon, the US Navy said in a statement. IRGC Rear Admiral Abbas Gholamshahi said that the boats simply responded to a request for help from the ship to "alleviate its concerns," IRNA reported. The commander said that the Marshall Islands-flagged ship requested assistance via Channel 16, an international frequency for distress calls, upon entering the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday. Gholamshahi explained that the ship's captain reported that they had seen three small non-military boats a few miles away from their vessel and were concerned about any potential harassment.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran-IAEA cooperation ...

Netanyahu's discontent may stem from the recent constructive approach adopted by the agency, which, unlike in the past, has not succumbed to external pressure and has prioritized technical considerations over political ones. This shift in approach became more apparent following Grossi's visit to Tehran in March. In the past two quarterly meetings of the Board of Governors, the agency had published unproductive reports on Iran's activities under the pressure of the United States, Europe, and Israel. Consequently, the Board of Governors had issued res-

olutions against Iran, which were met with firm responses from Tehran. As a result, Iran reassessed its security cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog and switch off several IAEA surveillance cameras in its nuclear facilities. Furthermore, Grossi's visit Iran was postponed. Embracing political approaches proved to be a challenging endeavor for the agency. However, Grossi's stance during his visit to Tehran in March suggested that he was also making efforts to make up for the missed chances. Addressing a group of journalists in Tehran, he strongly condemned any illegitimate action

against nuclear power plants and assured that the agency would not operate under the directives of any particular nation. In the latest gathering of the Board of Governors, there is a notable departure from previous agendas, as there is no indication of a proposed resolution against Iran. The director general has also reported significant advancements in monitoring Iran's activities. It appears that both the agency and the American and European parties have learned valuable lessons from past experiences, understanding that if they desire flexibility and cooperation from Iran,

they must respect Tehran's expectation of the agency performing its duties in a lawful manner, free from political pressure and influence. Through various encounters, Iran and the agency seem to have established a constructive framework of collaboration. The outcome of the ongoing Board of Governors meeting will determine whether this framework of cooperation can persist or if it will once again falter under political coercion. The success of this approach could potentially remove a significant hurdle obstructing a nuclear agreement between Iran and the West.

Iran to reopen ...

According to media reports, Alireza Enayati has been appointed Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He had previously served as assistant to the foreign minister and director general of Persian Gulf affairs at the foreign ministry. On March 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to re-establish their diplomatic relations after seven years and reopen embassies within two months. In a joint statement after signing the Chinese-brokered agree-

ment, Tehran and Riyadh highlighted the need to respect national sovereignty and refrain from interference the internal affairs of one another. They also agreed to implement a security cooperation agreement signed in April 2001 and another accord reached in May 1998 to boost economic, commercial, investment, technical, scientific, cultural, sports, and youth affairs cooperation. In a Friday meeting with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on the sidelines of

a meeting of the BRICS group of emerging countries, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said he would pay an official visit to Tehran in the near future. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters, enraged by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed its embassy in Tehran and its consulate in the northern city of Mashhad.