

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran reopens
embassy in
Saudi Arabia

IRNA - Iran officially reopened its embassy in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh on Tuesday, months after the two countries agreed to restore their diplomatic relations under a China-brokered deal, according to Saudi media. According to media reports, Alireza Enayati has been appointed Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

China favors
plans for
regional naval
alliance

PRESS TV - China said it will work for the establishment of peace and stability in the region and it supports plans for a regional maritime alliance to that end.

During a regular press conference on Monday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin responded to a question about Iran's plan to form a naval alliance with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other Persian Gulf states that will also include India and Pakistan in order to safeguard regional stability.

Released
Danish
national says
treated
'like a guest'

PRESS TV - A Danish citizen who was recently released by Iran in a prisoner swap said he had been treated well throughout his imprisonment in Iran. Speaking at a press conference after arriving at Copenhagen Airport, Thomas Kjems hailed the hospitality extended to him in Iran. Kjems was released on humanitarian grounds along with Kamran Ghaderi and Massud Mossaheb, who had been convicted of spying and security charges, respectively.

Iran cannot be isolated: **FM**

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said his country cannot be isolated and sidelined, saying, "Countries and alliances act based on their interests. Our clear and outright message is that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be isolated and sidelined." "Iran's active presence in the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization, in the Eurasian Economic Union, and recently in BRICS, shows the global policy of isolating Iran has failed," he said in an interview with Press TV following his two-day visit to Cape Town, to attend a foreign ministerial meeting of the BRICS group of emerging economies.

Amir-Abdollahian underscored Tehran's geopolit-

ical and geostrategic status and said the Islamic Republic is implacably against unilateralism.

"We strongly oppose unilateralism, and at the same time make the most out of the existing opportunities within the framework of multilateralism," he said. "Moreover, Iran enjoys a principal status in the region geopolitically, geo-eco-

nomically, and geo-strategically," he said.

"Iran lies on the major transit route linking the north and the south, as well as the east and the west. We enjoy a whole range of advantages and facilities, and the other parties benefit from this interaction, too."

The top Iranian diplomat also said he had met with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Cape Town. He said the issue of relations between Tehran and Riyadh and the return of relations to a normal state was of interest to the region.

Amir-Abdollahian said one of the topics he discussed with the Saudi foreign minister was that new opportunities have arisen for cooperation in the region.

"We believe the region is changing," the top Iranian diplomat said. "In my opinion, the development of economic, commercial, cultural, and tourism cooperation at the regional level can guarantee regional security."

Highlighting the role of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Amir-Abdollahian said, "The ex-

isting security models to achieve cooperation in the region appear to be outdated."

He underlined the emergence of a new world order which defies U.S. hegemony and moves from unilateralism to multilateralism.

Stressing that the United States will barely stand the fact that the main actors in the world are moving away from unilateralism and focusing on multilateralism, Amir-Abdollahian said, "They want the current order which is based on U.S. hegemony to be at the center of world attention, but as the concepts in international politics and international relations have changed in recent years, the realities of the international stage have also altered."

The top diplomat said among the new actors that influence the new world order are such alliances as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

"In addition to strengthening our bilateral relations with various countries, we will take advantage of existing regional and international mechanisms to maximize our national interests."

Iraq launches security operation
in areas bordering Iran

IRNA

International Desk

A comprehensive border security plan has been launched to close the illegal border crossings with Iran, an Iraqi provincial official said.

The Iraqi government has started the comprehensive security plan to end smuggling operations on the border with Iran, with internal security measures as well as coordination and intelligence cooperation with the Iranian side, Mazan Akram al-Khazaei, an official from Iraq's Diyala Province told Shafaq News on Tuesday, IRNA reported. The Iraqi border guards have started the implementation of the plan to close the illegal crossings in the east of Baqubah Province, especially the areas bordering Iran. The Iraqi security forces' effective measures are underway to be aimed at closing more than 20 illegal crossings in Gheyzaniyeh and Mandali regions, he said, adding that the evidence shows that some of these passages and crossings have been used for livestock and drug smuggling. The illegal border crossings with Iran have been extended for more than 40 kilometers, which in the mentioned plan will be blocked by stretching barbed wire and monitoring towers, he explained.

According to Shafaq News, east of Diyala Province in Iraq has faced a rise in smuggling operations in recent years.

Russian envoy slams Western
reluctance to revive Iran deal

International Desk

The permanent representative of Russia to international organizations in Vienna has criticized the Western parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal for their reluctance to finalize an agreement to revive the tattered accord.

"Does the lack of readiness on the part of Western negotiators to finalise the Vienna Talks mean that they are more or less satisfied with the current state of affairs around the nuclear programme of Iran despite all their complaints? If not, why they gave up with diplomacy?" Mikhail Ulyanov wrote in a tweet on Tuesday.

The comments came hours after the European Union

delivered a statement "at the IAEA Board of Governors on the verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015)."

"The EU will continue to invest diplomatically and politically to restore the implementation of the necessary restrictions to the Iranian nuclear programme in order to ensure that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon," a part of the EU statement said.

The statement also claimed that the bloc "remains committed" to the Iran nuclear deal known as the JCPOA.

The EU states further expressed regret that Iran has not allegedly accepted the

compromise text submitted by the Coordinator on 8 August 2022, claiming that the new developments have made it increasingly difficult to reach a diplomatic solution. "The EU is deeply concerned by the successive IAEA reports documenting the alarming escalation of Iran's nuclear program," the statement further reads.

In another tweet, Ulyanov wrote, "In the IAEA BoG Western states expressed numerous complaints and concerns about the nuclear programme of Iran. It's difficult to take them seriously because the US and E3 can help settle these problems fast if they return to the Vienna Talks to finalise the agreement on JCPOA."

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Action over warnings

In addition to enforcing regulations, authorities

should also invest in public awareness campaigns that educate building owners and occupants about the importance of maintaining safe premises. By fostering a culture of safety, individuals will be more likely to take responsibility for the upkeep of their buildings and report potential hazards to the relevant authorities.

Finally, in situations where a building is deemed too unsafe for occupation, authorities must take deci-

sive action to evacuate and, if necessary, demolish the structure. While this may be a difficult decision, it is essential to prioritize the safety of the community over the preservation of unsafe buildings.

To cut a long story short, the recent fire at Tehran's Seyyed Vali Bazaar highlights the need for swift and decisive action when it comes to the safety of Tehran's buildings. Issuing warnings alone is not enough to keep the same old story from happening again.

In all earnest, there is no



difference between six or a million warnings if there is no follow-up action to actually prevent tragedies like the Plasco Building (destroyed on January 19, 2017 in a massive fire). Authorities must enforce safety regulations and take the necessary actions to protect lives and property.