

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## UN welcomes reopening of Iranian Embassy in Riyadh



● AFP

## International Desk

The United Nations has welcomed the reopening of the Iranian Embassy in Saudi Arabia with the UN Secretary-General spokesman describing the move as a positive action in the region.

Iran officially reopened its embassy in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Tuesday, months after the two countries agreed to restore their diplomatic relations under a China-brokered deal.

Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, said on Tuesday the two key countries in the Persian Gulf region have entered into an open and constructive dialogue that would help the region. Addressing a flag-raising ceremony on Tuesday, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alireza Bigdeli said, "We consider today an important day in the relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

"Cooperation between the countries is entering a new era," he added.

The reopening of the embassy will facilitate travel between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as they have been trying to reinstate direct flights, boost trade, and rebuild business connections. Meanwhile, Iran's new ambassador to Saudi Arabia has suggested that the countries of the region adopt a fresh perspective on the issue of regional security, one which is based on development rather than militarization.

Alireza Enayati made the remarks to Iran's Arabic-language al-Alam television news network on Tuesday.

"Today, we are after more cooperation with each other and prioritize regional security based on [the concept of] development," the envoy said.

## Nuclear cooperation

Also, in a post on Twitter on Tuesday, Iran's Nour News raised the possibility of cooperation in the nuclear industry between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

"Despite Zionists' opposition to Saudi Arabia's nuclear advancement, cooperation in the field of peaceful nuclear technologies and transfer of experiences under the supervision of IAEA can be one of the main axes in the bilateral relations between Tehran and Riyadh," Nour News, affiliated with Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in a post on its Twitter account on Tuesday.

## Responding to latest U.S. threat

# Iran says it will not hesitate to enhance deterrence power

Responding to Washington's latest threat of resorting to the use of force against Iran, the Islamic Republic has reiterated its resolve to reinforce its deterrence power.

"The threat of using force by the U.S. against other states runs counter to international law, especially the provisions of the United Nations Charter," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said on Tuesday, according to Press TV.

"Therefore, the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to strengthen its deterrence capability and protect its rights and security," he added.

Iran's defense minister said

his ministry can manufacture all types of military equipment required by the Armed Forces.

The remarks came after a torrent of provocative comments by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC)'s annual Policy Summit in Washington, D.C.

Blinken accused Iran of "exporting its aggression" and seeking to "obtain a nuclear weapon," repeating Washington's "all-options-on-the-table" threat against Tehran.

The Islamic Republic has, on numerous occasions, assertively negated all of the United States' allegations of regional intervention, and



● IRNA

emphasizing that it neither has, nor will, ever pursue the attainment of nuclear weapons, on religious and

moral grounds. Kan'ani likewise urged American officials to abandon their routine practice

of throwing such "baseless and unfounded" accusations against Iran. He also advised Washington

to reconsider continuing its "illegal and defeated" policies vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Economic cooperation to guarantee security, political deals

By Ebrahim Beheshti

Staff writer

The West Asian region has undergone a paradigm shift in recent months, as a response to the adverse experiences of confrontational security approaches and the intrusive intervention of extra-regional countries, coupled with disagreements and misunderstandings. A novel approach emphasizing de-escalation and interactivity has taken root. This positive development was instigated by the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, followed by the cessation of the war in Yemen, the readmission of Syria into the Arab League, and the announcement of Tehran and Cairo's desire to normalize relations, among other things.

Naturally, efforts to resolve misunderstandings and disputes begin with the security phase before proceeding to the political and diplomatic phases. In fact, the dialogue between Tehran and Riyadh commenced with representatives from their security apparatuses before

proceeding to the diplomatic phase and the reopening of embassies.

A fundamental question now arises that is whether the initiatives aimed at détente ought to be confined solely to the security and political realms or should economic cooperation also be incorporated into the mix?

Over the past few years, political and security disputes have stalled economic collaboration between nations, and some neighbors, despite having enormous economic potential, have failed to define mutual economic interests bilaterally or multilaterally.

However, in this new era of rapprochement, a remarkable opportunity emerges for regional countries to establish joint economic interests and projects amid enhanced security and political stability. It can be argued that promoting economic cooperation among regional nations will contribute toward guaranteeing and stabilizing security and political agreements. Hamidreza Asefi, the former spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry, underscored the need to expand

economic cooperation following the normalization of security and political relations. In an interview with "Iran Daily," he stated, "Naturally, the process of regional de-escalation in the security and political realms will not be confined solely to these spheres, and countries will proceed to the stage of economic cooperation after having gone through these preliminary stages."

Behrouz Mohebbi, a member of Iran's parliament, shed light on how the security approaches and wars of attrition surrounding Iran are among the policies of some major powers that are aimed at undermining the Islamic Republic, reducing the chances of Tehran's economic cooperation with its neighbors, and ultimately destroying it. He added that several regional countries have now come to realize that their national interests have been subordinated to the interests of foreign interventionist powers.

The lawmaker stressed that sustainable benefits for the region could only be achieved through economic relations since shared eco-

nomics bring nations closer. Consequently, Mohebbi emphasized that "developing economic ties not only strengthens regional security and political alliances but is also a necessary step toward establishing comprehensive relations that extend beyond the security and political realms to the economic sphere."

The question remains whether regional nations possess adequate capabilities to fulfill each other's needs through economic cooperation. Asefi responded positively, stating that countries in the region have varying strengths: some hold significant capital, others have commendable potential in agriculture, whilst several excel in human capital and scientific growth. Additionally, certain countries possess superior technological capabilities compared to their peers.

Asefi argued that these capacities can foster mutual benefits by contributing to regional prosperity and progress, given the right conditions of economic cooperation. He also highlighted Iran's strategic



transit location as a crucial advantage for the neighboring countries, particularly the north-south corridor, which could serve as a safe and economical route for goods transportation.

He maintained that fostering economic relations and defining mutual economic interests among regional countries will undoubtedly provide solid support for the stability of security and political agreements.

Like the former spokesman, Mohebbi is optimistic about the relative strengths of the regional nations and their potential contributions to each other's economic prosperity through cooperation and interaction.

He argued that beyond its strategic geographic loca-

tion for transit by rail, sea, and air, Iran can lend significant expertise in technology, industries, and skilled manpower to neighboring countries and the wider region. Furthermore, he added that "other countries possess substantial financial resources, allowing them to invest in large-scale economic projects abroad."

Given this assessment, it is imperative that regional nations expedite the process of economic cooperation. Doing so would not only stabilize security and political alliances, but also result in shared interests as a consequence of de-escalation and interactivity in the region. Failing to act would be a missed opportunity for all parties involved.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Report reveals MKO's role in 2017 attack on Parliament

A new report has disclosed more details about a terrorist attack on the Iranian Parliament in June 2017, revealing that the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) was in cahoots with Daesh (ISIL or ISIS) terrorists in the assault.

The terrorist attack on the Iranian Parliament building in Tehran on June 7, 2017, killed 17 people and injured several others. The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the fatal operation, Tasnim reported. New details of the attack, re-

leased after six years, indicate that the MKO terrorist group had collected information and masterminded the operation.

Tasnim has learned that the MKO terrorist group had obtained the blueprints for the entrances and exits of the Parliament building through acts of espionage and provided them to Daesh terrorists before masterminding the terrorist operation. The MKO agents had obtained the information on the building and its gates after forming links with a

Parliament staffer.

The individual who had established links with the MKO terrorists in virtual space used to accompany one of the Iranian lawmakers. During the period of connection, the individual had supplied the MKO terrorists with classified information. The individual has confessed to having been asked questions by the MKO's main intermediary about the blueprints for the Parliament buildings, its entrances and exits, and the number of guards at each gate.