



UN steps up criticism of IMF, World Bank

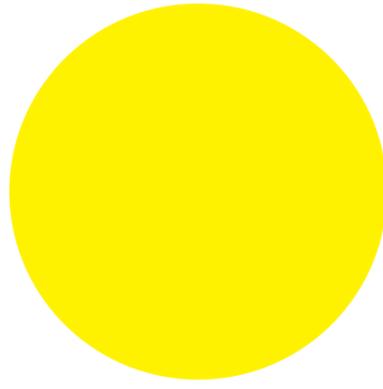
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EXCLUSIVE

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Tehran should be more assertive on northern borders: *Iran MP*

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Turkey, main obstacle to peace in Caucasus



By Mohsen Pakaein
Iran's ex-embassy to Azerbaijan

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

During his recent visit to Azerbaijan, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed, "Our problem with reopening the Zangezur corridor and connecting Nakhchivan with the Republic of Azerbaijan through this route is not Armenia, but our problem is Iran, and Iran's approach in this matter upsets the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey."

Erdogan's statements regarding the Zangezur corridor and his stance against Iran are aimed at distracting public opinion from Turkey's role in prolonging the Nagorno-Karabakh war and closing regional routes.

Erdogan believes that the Zangezur crossing should be an international corridor, disregarding Armenia's sovereignty over this route. The crossing called Zangezur is located within the Syunik Province and, based on the principles of territorial integrity upheld by international law, Armenia holds the rightful authority over this passage. Armenia and Turkey have been at odds for years due to the Armenian Genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire and have no formal diplomatic relations. For this reason, Armenia strongly opposes Turkey's utilization of this passageway. Ankara seeks to nullify this crossing from Yerevan's sovereignty and recognize it as an international corridor, so that it can use it.

Turkey is inciting the Republic of Azerbaijan not to recognize Armenia's sovereignty over the corridor, and to internationalize it. This has caused the prolongation of the war and, in fact, Turkey is the main obstacle to the establishment of peace in the Caucasus and the opening of transit routes.

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Saudi FM in Tehran

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan (l) waves to journalists as his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian welcomes him in Tehran on June 17, 2023.
● PAYAM SANI/IRNA

Iran becomes largest dairy exporter in Asia: *FAO*

Economy Desk

Iran was the biggest exporter of dairy products in Asia in 2022, according to figures released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Iran exported around 1.6 million metric tons (mt) of milk and dairy products and imported 86,000 mt of such products in 2022, according to FAO's report. Iran's milk and dairy exports account for 17% of the nine million mt total exports of such products in Asian countries.



It is expected that exports of Iran's milk and other dairy products will increase to 1.59 million mt in 2023.

It also said Iran ranks as the 13th largest producer of wheat, 13th largest producer of rice, and 11th largest producer of meat in Asia.

FAO has also predicted that Iran's production of cereals and grains will reach 18.8 million tons in 2023.

Iran-KSA thaw to bear positive outcome for region

International Desk

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister paid a visit to Tehran on Saturday as a first trip by a Saudi top diplomat to Iran in seven years amid a rapprochement between the

two Middle East powers. Prince Faisal bin Farhan was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian at Iran's Foreign Ministry ahead of bilateral talks and a press conference.

During the press conference, the two sides hailed the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, which they said would be paramount to improving security across the region.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has never equated security with militarism, and considers security to be a comprehensive concept, which includes political, economic, cultural, trade and social dimensions between all the countries of the region," Amir-Abdollahian said.

The Iranian foreign minister said he discussed a wide range of issues with his counterpart, which included trade ties, joint investments, technology, tourism and transportation. The Iranian top diplomat also said they talked about cooperation on environment, formation of joint economic and political committees and fighting drug trafficking among the

other issues. Both sides also discussed the Palestinian issue, the ongoing conflict in Sudan and some other regional and international issues.

For his part, Bin Farhan said Iran and Saudi Arabia are two important countries in the region, adding that "mutual respect, non-interference in the two countries' internal affairs and commitment to the United Nations Charter" will be at the center of bilateral relations going forward, with an eye on securing the interests of both nations.

"I would also like to highlight the two countries' discussions on cooperation on ensuring maritime security and reducing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," he said.

He said that the Saudi Embassy in Tehran will be reopened soon. Bin Farhan expressed hope that restoration of relations

between Tehran and Riyadh would have positive effects on the entire region and the Islamic world, which will also help the security and the development of economic and cultural cooperation in the region.

Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed in Beijing on March 10 to resume relations and reopen diplomatic missions within two months.

Iran reopened its embassy in Riyadh on June 6, followed by its consulate general in Jeddah and its mission to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) a day later.

Tehran has selected Alireza Enayati, a former envoy to Kuwait and a Foreign Ministry deputy for regional affairs, as its ambassador to the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia broke ties with Iran in 2016 after protesters attacked the Saudi Embassy in Tehran following Riyadh's execution of a prominent Shia cleric.



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Iranians awarded in Shanghai International Film Festival

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