

FM: Iran ready to help sustainable development of Persian Gulf

Iran marks Persian Gulf National Day



International Desk
Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Iran has been always ready to cooperate with the Persian Gulf states to help sustainable development of the waterway. In a message to a confer-

ence held in Tehran on the occasion of the Persian Gulf National Day, the Iranian top diplomat referred to the common values between the people of the Persian Gulf's states, saying that Tehran is ready to cooperate with all countries in the region

in fields ranging from tourism to security. He said that the Iranian government seeks to turn the Persian Gulf into a center for promoting good neighborliness, peace and stability through interaction between the two shores of

the strategic waterway. He underlined that the security of the Persian Gulf region is a complicated issue, which can only be ensured through cooperation and strengthening ties between the coastal countries. April 29, is observed as

the Persian Gulf Day in Iran, which coincides with the anniversary of the expulsion of the Portuguese Navy from the Strait of Hormuz in 1622 by the legendary Safavid dynasty ruler Shah Abbas I. Persian Gulf is a strategic waterway, surrounded by eight regional countries, known as the world's largest reservoir of oil and gas. Iran borders its northern shores and its territory also forms the northern side of the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most important oil passageway. One of the world's most important waterways, it produces one-third of the world's oil, half of the world's crude oil reserves as well as a significant amount of global natural gas reserves. However, its importance is not confined to oil and gas alone. It has been a scene of political and economic

tension between regional and extra-regional countries for years. The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Monday that Iran's strategy is to promote peace, security and fraternity in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. He added that the national day is the anniversary of the end of Portugal's 117-year occupation of the Persian Gulf. The Persian Gulf — which spans some 251,000 square kilometers — is bounded by the Arvand River in the north, which forms the frontier between Iran and Iraq, and the Strait of Hormuz in the south, which links the Persian Gulf to the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean. The strategic inland sea is an international trade route connecting West Asia to Africa, India, and China.

Sanders blasts Netanyahu for 'ethnic cleansing' in Gaza



International Desk

US Senator Bernie Sanders took aim at Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu again on Sunday, saying that Israel's actions in Gaza are "ethnic cleansing." Sanders reiterated his familiar call on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday to hold Netanyahu responsible for Israel's actions in Gaza, pointing to the staggering death toll and the displacement of Palestinians in the region. He was asked to respond to the ongoing pro-Palestinian protests that have broken out on college campuses across the country and to Rep. Ilhan Omar's remarks last week when visiting Columbia University. Columbia University has had international attention after hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters were arrested earlier this month. CNN played a clip of Omar's comments when she visited campus. "I think it is really unfortunate that people don't care about the fact that all Jewish kids should be kept safe, and that we should not have to tolerate antisemitism or bigotry for all Jewish students, whether they are pro-genocide or anti-genocide," she said. "What I think the essential point that Ilhan made is that we do not want to see antisemitism in this country," Sanders said. "And I think the word genocide is something that is being determined by the International Court of Justice." "But just as what I will say: I don't think there's any doubt that what Netanyahu is doing now — displacing 80 percent of the population in Gaza — is ethnic cleansing. That's what it is. Pushing out huge numbers of people," he added. Sanders has repeatedly criticized Netanyahu for the ongoing war in Gaza and has opposed more US funding to Israel. He also reiterated his calls for an end to US funding to Israel's actions in Gaza. "And now we're looking at the possibility of an attack on Rafah, where people have gone to as a so-called safety zone. So, what's going on there, again, to my mind, is outrageous. And as you've indicated, I strongly oppose US funding for Netanyahu's war machine," he added. The International Criminal Court is considering to issue arrest warrants for Netanyahu and several other officials of the regime. Israel is working through diplomatic channels to try to stop the warrants being issued, an Israeli official said on Monday.

Evil Netanyahu in ...

Furthermore, his ousting from power will likely lead to investigations into corruption allegations, compounded by the looming International Criminal Court verdict, which could result in double jeopardy for him. Hassan Beheshtipour, a university professor and international relations expert, is of the opinion that Netanyahu is on his last legs politically. In an interview with "Iran Daily", he stated: "If the International Criminal Court passes judgment against Netanyahu, not only will it bring international disgrace upon him, but it will also embolden his domestic opposition, setting the stage for his ousting or defeat in the upcoming elections." According to Beheshtipour, "Israel has historically thrived on victimhood narratives and relied on stories like the Holocaust and anti-Semitism throughout its

decades-old existence. While Israel's actions in Gaza have tarnished its victim image, a potential indictment of Netanyahu and other officials will further tarnish the regime's reputation." The professor went on to say that even if the verdict against Netanyahu doesn't materialize, it won't alter his inevitable downfall. It appears unlikely that he will be able to stay in the political arena. Beheshtipour stressed that Netanyahu is heading towards a fate similar to that of Ehud Olmert. Olmert, the former Israeli Prime Minister, was compelled to resign following the fallout from the 33-day war against Hezbollah in Lebanon in 2006. Netanyahu, too, may have no option but to step down if a cease-fire is brokered due to the severe impact of Hamas' strike on Israel on October 7. This is why Netanyahu has been resisting the truce thus far.

According to the professor, a potential conviction in the International Criminal Court could hasten the process of Netanyahu's removal or resignation from power. Netanyahu finds himself in a tight spot, with his problems increasing daily, and no easy way out in sight. The continuation of the war and assault on Rafah have no supporters both domestically and internationally. Promises of releasing captives remain unfulfilled, the Israeli economy has taken a significant hit, the security of occupied territories is compromised, Hamas remains undefeated, college students in the US—traditionally staunch supporters of Israel—have launched an anti-Israel movement, global public opinion increasingly leans towards sympathizing with Palestine, and the looming threat of an International Criminal Court ruling on war crimes charges against Netanyahu spells trouble for him. The evil man is approaching the end of the line.

Over 900 arrested at anti-Israel protests in US universities

International Desk
Police officers detain a demonstrator during a pro-Palestinian protest against the war in Gaza at Emory University in Atlanta, the United States, on April 25.
● ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/AFP



More than 200 protesters were arrested this weekend as demonstrations continued on college campuses across the US to denounce Israel's war in Gaza. So far, approximately 900 protesters have been arrested nationwide. Pro-Palestinian students are calling for a cease-fire in Gaza and an end to college ties with companies supplying weapons to Israel. About 275 people were arrested on Saturday on various campuses, including Indiana University at Bloomington, Arizona State University and Washington University in St. Louis. The Washington Post reported the tally on Sunday, the 10th straight day of the protests that began after Columbia University set up an encampment to demand cessation of the war and press the school to divest from Israeli financial interests.

The crackdown then started when university authorities called in the police, a move that sparked more than 100 arrests on the university's Manhattan campus. Two other highlights in the crackdown saw police forces rounding up roughly the same number of people at New York University and Emerson College in Boston. Protests have also erupted across numerous other seats of learning, including Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, and California State Polytechnic in Humboldt. The ensuing countrywide counter-campaign of suppression has seen law enforcement resorting to riot control methods against the protesters. The methods have featured "the same tools and tactics" that were deployed to confront

the thousands-strong protests that sparked across the country after a Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd four years ago, the daily reported. The United States has been providing Israel with unrestrained military, intelligence, and financial support since October 7, when the regime unleashed the war against the besieged Palestinian enclave. Washington gives Israel \$3.8bn in military assistance every year, and US President Joe Biden has continued to provide staunch support to the illegal entity amid the Gaza war. On Wednesday, Biden signed into law a massive funding package that will provide an additional \$17bn to the occupying regime. Washington has also vetoed several United Nations Security Council resolutions calling for a cease-fire in the brutal military aggression.

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