

## President Stresses Resolve to Fight Corruption



President Raisi presides over a cabinet session in Tehran.

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday underlined his administration's determination to tackle corruption in all sectors, saying that what matters the most in this endeavor is to prevent the grounds for corruption.

Addressing a cabinet session, Raisi described efforts to root out corruption as one of the main features of his administration.

Fighting corruption in the gov-

ernment and all administrative organizations requires the correction of the grounds that allow for the creation of corruption, he said.

"When the grounds are eliminated, even if one has the intention and motive for corruption, they won't be able to perform it," the president noted.

He also urged executive bodies to be highly sensitive toward

reports of corruption and meticulously take action against corrupt elements.

Las year, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said a main characteristic of a revolutionary parliamentarian is "carefully avoiding and preventing discrimination and corruption, both the corruption of others and being vigilant of oneself in the face of this peril."

### FM: Iran Pleased by Syria-Turkey Reconciliation

ANKARA (Dispatches) — Iran welcomes steps toward a reconciliation between Turkey and Syria and is ready to help move the efforts forward, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian has said.

The Iranian minister made the comments in Ankara, weeks after the Turkish and Syrian defense ministers held talks in Moscow. It was the first ministerial-level meeting between Damascus and Ankara since relations broke down with the start of the war on Syria nearly 12 years ago.

"We are very pleased that the relations between Damascus and Ankara have undergone a change recently," Amir-Abdollahian said during a joint news conference with his Turkish counterpart, Mev-

lut Cavusoglu.

"We think that any development between Ankara and Damascus — this positive development — will benefit our region, the two countries and (Iran). Considering its close relationship with these two countries, as the Islamic Republic of Iran, we will do our best to achieve this goal as soon as possible."

Turkey and Iran have stood on opposing sides of the Syrian conflict, with Turkey backing militants trying to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad. Iran, along with Russia, has supported the government to beat terrorists.

Pressed by Russia, Turkey has agreed to engage with the Syrian government. Cavusoglu has said

he could meet Syria's foreign minister next month.

Damascus has denounced Turkey's hold over stretches of northern Syria seized in a series of military incursions since 2016. A statement from Assad's office last week said that Moscow-backed talks with Turkey should aim to "end the occupation and the support of terrorism" -- a reference to Turkey's backing of insurgents in Syria.

"In today's meetings we emphasized that Iran's contributions (to rapprochement with Syria) are very important," Cavusoglu said. "In the process ahead, we will work in close cooperation with Iran on next steps and on steps that will bring solutions."

### Saudi FM Says Trying to Find Path to Iran Dialogue

DAVOS, Switzerland (Dispatches) -- Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud said the kingdom was trying to find a path to dialogue with Iran as the best way to resolve differences.

He said a decision by Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states to focus on their economies and development was a "strong signal to Iran and others in the region that there is a pathway beyond traditional arguments and disputes towards joint prosperity."

"I think the more we can build a sense of cooperation in the region, the more we can work together, the more we can deliver not just prosperity for our people, but also for our immediate region and beyond."

Riyadh and Tehran cut ties in 2016 but officials from the two countries have held five rounds of direct talks hosted by Iraq since last year, the last of which was in April, without achieving any diplomatic breakthroughs.

The Saudi foreign minister,

speaking at a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, also said attention on the Middle East was needed, citing Syria as well as regional concerns over "provocative policies" by Israel's new regime headed by Benjamin Netanyahu in an alliance with extremists.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian expressed hope on Friday during a visit to Lebanon that diplomatic ties between Tehran and Riyadh could be restored through dialog between them.

"We are ready to restore ties, and such a move would have positive repercussions on the entire region," he told a news conference in Beirut.

He said the first steps should be resuming talks on reopening Iran's consulate in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, and Saudi Arabia's consulate in the holy northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad for citizens interested in religious travel.

"But as we see it, Saudi Arabia is not completely ready to work on...

normalizing ties," Amir-Abdollahian told reporters.

Last month, Amir-Abdollahian held a meeting with his Saudi counterpart on the sidelines of a conference in Jordan.

### Ministry Slams 'Racist Treatment' of Minorities in U.S.

TEHRAN -- Iran says the American police's grisly murder of an unarmed Black teacher bespeaks the dire human rights conditions that minorities face across the United States.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the remarks in a tweet, commenting on the death of the victim, Keenan Anderson, after he was repeatedly tasered by police officers in Los Angeles, a development that has sparked a massive outcry throughout the United States.

Anderson, 31, cousin of Patrisse Cullors, a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, died at a hospital in Santa Monica, California, after suffering a cardiac arrest following the incident on the afternoon of January 3 in Los Angeles' Venice neighborhood.

Kanaani described Anderson's death as "tragic," reminding that it coincided with the day that marks the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., the legendary American civil rights leader, who dedicated his life to the realization of equal treatment for the United States' African-American community.

The murder, the spokesman said, indicated that "despite the passage of five decades following Luther King's murder, his dreams of the Black Americans' equal entitlement to civil rights... have not been realized."

"The people of color," he added, "are still subject to severe violation of basic human rights and racist treatment."

The Holy Qur'an

From the (earth) did We create you, and into it shall We return you, and from it shall We bring you out once again.

The Holy Qur'an 20:56

#### PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:15
Evening (Maghreb)	17:38
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	07:12
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:44

#### Interior Minister: IRGC Will Steadily Press On

TEHRAN – Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi on Wednesday hit out at the European Parliament's plan to designate the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist organization," saying the move is a testimony to the political and moral weakness of its initiators.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a weekly cabinet meeting here, Vahidi said the decision by a number of Western governments to brand an official military force of Iran as a terrorist organization contravenes international norms and indicates their mental, moral and political weakness.

Lauding the IRGC as the most important force in the fight against terrorism, the Iranian minister said such a glorious entity is threatened by supporters of terrorism, including the Zionist regime and the U.S.

"There is no need for concern about the European Parliament's plan to designate the IRGC as a terrorist organization. The IRGC will press on strongly," Vahidi stated.

The move comes after Iran executed Alireza Akbari for spying for Britain.

Earlier on Wednesday, an Iranian lawmaker warned the European Union of "unbearable" consequences of its decision.

MP Muhammad Esmail Kowsari warned the European governments against falling into the trap of the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

"The consequences of the European Union's plot against the IRGC might be unbearable for the European countries," he said.

Kowsari said such a sinister plot won't restrict the IRGC by any means. He called on the EU and the European governments to maintain their independence from the U.S. and avoid taking any action against the IRGC, because such a hostile move could ruin any chance of negotiations with Iran.

## Is Turkey Ready to Bury the Hatchet Regarding Syria?

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

"Turkey was on the same page with Iran that the territorial integrity of Syria should be preserved."

Encouraging words indeed by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlud Cavusoglu in Ankara on Tuesday during his meeting with his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

This is indicative of the anticipated thaw in relations between the two neighbours after over a decade of death and destruction Damascus had to endure because of infiltration of terrorists of all hue and colour from Turkey, especially the US-created macabrely murderous Daeshis.

It seems reason has at last begun to prevail in the corridors of power in Turkey, which had unnecessarily allowed itself to be duped by the West and the Zionists to discard its friendly relations of zero problems with Syria, and adopt hostile postures that included sending troops across the border.

Although Cavusoglu said that he intends to hold his first official meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Faisal Mekdad probably next month to pave the path for a summit between Presidents Rajab Tayyeb Erdogan and Dr. Bashar al-Assad, Damascus has made it clear that any such meeting requires the withdrawal of all Turkish forces from Syrian soil.

Amir-Abdollahian for his part welcomed these development, saying: "We are very pleased by the fact that relations between Damascus and Ankara are undergoing change. We believe any positive development in relations between Ankara and Damascus will benefit our region and our countries."

He said the Islamic Republic is to make every effort to achieve this goal, given its close relationship with both Turkey and Syria.

The Iranian foreign minister who earlier visited Syria and Lebanon discussed a variety of issues of common interest with the Turkish authorities.

Hopefully, Ankara will review regional developments that require its distancing from the illegal Zionist entity, which is indeed an impediment to healthy ties and cooperation among the countries of the region.

It is too early to say Turkey will join the Resistance Front, but the trend of developments in the region and cooperation among the Muslim countries augurs well for peace in this part of the world.

Israel and the US are the archenemies of the Islamic Ummah and the moment this truth dawns on the countries of the region, whether Turkey or Arab states, Muslim unity will indeed flourish.

The Islamic Republic of Iran for its part will never spare any effort to foster solidarity among the countries of region and the world.

It was the first direct talks between Ankara and Damascus since the outbreak of the Syria war over a decade ago.

Turkey cut off its relations with Syria in March 2012, a year after the Arab country found itself in the grip of rampant and deadly violence waged by foreign-backed militants and terrorists.