



Israel's irresponsible actions behind regional tensions: Pakistan

Islamabad, IRNA – The Pakistani foreign ministry spokesperson has lashed out at Israeli saying that the reckless actions of the occupying Zionist regime, including its attack on Iran's consulate in Damascus are the root causes of tensions in the region. According to the IRNA correspondent, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during her weekly news conference in Islamabad on Friday, however called for de-escalation of tension in West Asia and demanded effective action by the international community to stop Israel's crimes in Gaza. Recalling Pakistan's condemnation of Israel's airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Zahra called the attack "reckless and irresponsible", saying it aggravated the situation.

OIC: US veto of Palestine's full membership against UN Charter



منظمة التعاون الإسلامي

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

member. Countries with permanent observer status can participate in most meetings and have access to almost all relevant documents, but do not have the right to vote. Other than Palestine, the Vatican also has permanent observer status at the United Nations. Countries are admitted to the UN based on the recommendation from the Security Council and the decision by the General Assembly.

justice, freedom and peace and support colonial and occupation policies. Currently Palestine has a permanent observer status at the United Nations. Palestine applied for permanent membership in the United Nations in 2011, but later decided to remain as an observer for some time. In April, Palestine sent a letter to the UN Security Council requesting that it reconsiders joining the UN as a permanent

this right has been going on for decades and it has been recognized as necessary based on the political, legal, historical and natural rights of the Palestinian people in their land, as well as the resolutions of the United Nations. Appreciating the positions of the countries that voted in favor of the draft resolution on Palestine's full membership in the United Nations, the OIC stated that these countries support truth,

Tehran, IRNA - Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has announced that the failure of the United Nations Security Council to fulfill its responsibilities to approve Palestine's full membership in the UN is a matter of regret, in the situation where the Palestinian nation is under the most severe oppression, aggression and genocide. According to Arab media, the OIC emphasized that the US use of the veto against Palestine's full membership is a violation of the United Nations Charter, according to which all countries that accept the obligations enshrined in this Charter will have the right to join the United Nations. The US recent act in using the right of veto means continuing to prevent the Palestinians from achieving their legitimate rights, and this leads to the prolongation of the historical pains and sufferings of the Palestinian nation that have been imposed on them since 75 years ago. The Palestinian nation has the right to achieve a political and legal status in the United Nations like other countries in the world, and the realization of

KSS: Response awaits perpetrators of Babylon province attack

Tehran, IRNA – The Secretary General of Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS) Abu Ala al-Walaji has reacted to the explosion in a military base in the north of Babylon province of Iraq and threatened to respond to this attack. According to Al Mayadeen, Abu Ala al-Walaji vowed a response for the perpetrators of the attack against Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). The PMF announced earlier in a statement that an explosion occurred at its headquarters in the Kalso military base, northern Babylon province. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance of Iraq announced a drone attack on an important target in Eilat, southern occupied Palestine, on Saturday morning. It also announced that our resistance fighters have attacked an important target in occupied Eilat in response to the Zionists' crimes in Gaza and in support of the Gazans, as well as in response to the attack on the PMF base.

Lebanon's Hezbollah missile attack on gathering of Zionist soldiers

Tehran, IRNA - The Lebanese Islamic Resistance on Friday night announced that a missile attack was launched on the gathering of the Zionist soldiers on the border of occupied Palestine. The Islamic Resistance of Lebanon announced that it has targeted the gathering of Zionist soldiers in the border region of al-Mutla with a missile. After a Hummer military vehicle entered al-Mutla area and the Zionist soldiers gathered around it, «we launched a rocket attack that killed and injured a number of them», Hezbollah said. The Lebanese Islamic Resistance has targeted the positions and military bases of the Zionist regime on 6 occasions since Friday morning.

Amirabdollahian appreciates Algeria's role in helping to stop Israeli genocide in Gaza

New York, IRNA - In a meeting with his Algerian counterpart, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian appreciated Algeria's role in helping to stop the Israeli regime's genocide in Gaza. Amirabdollahian met Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf on Friday local time, in continuation of his diplomatic consultations in New York, and discussed and exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments and bilateral relations. Appreciating Algeria's warm hospitality to Iran's president during his visit to the country to participate in the OPEC gas summit and bilateral meetings, Iran's foreign minister called for increasing consultations and strengthening cooperation in order to establish and stabilize security in the region. Amirabdollahian appreciated Algeria's role in helping to stop the Zionist regime's genocide in Gaza, as well as presenting the Palestinian membership resolution to the United Nations, and strongly condemned the irresponsible and unconstructive vote of the United States in vetoing the said resolution.

Double-sided policies make efforts in Gaza fruitless



concern about the situation in the strip. ICRC makes its all-out effort to dispatch humanitarian aid to Gaza and prevent a humanitarian tragedy, she noted. Regarding the worrisome conditions in regional countries including Palestine, she emphasized that the international body would make serious efforts to contact all influential sides capable of managing the situation. Since the start of the war in Gaza in October 2023, more than 34,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed in Gaza.

New York, IRNA – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Gaza, saying the wrong, double-sided and politicized approaches have hampered political efforts aimed at ending the war. He made the remarks in a meeting held in New York with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger. Amirabdollahian is in New York to attend the United Nations Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East and the issue of Palestine and to hold diplomatic talks. In his remarks, the Iranian foreign minister said what has happened in Gaza is a human tragedy, and Netanyahu's threat to invade Rafah could worsen the aspects of the catastrophe. He further warned about the expansion of the conflict, adding that the Islamic Republic has always followed the policy of restraint. Elsewhere in the meeting, the ICRC president appreciated Iran's endeavor to help cease the war in Gaza while expressing deep

Iran FM says he discussed Gaza with UN chief in New York

package which addresses all aspects including exchange of captives, withdrawal of occupying forces from Gaza, and boosting humanitarian aid to the enclave, Amirabdollahian added. The foreign minister also said that he had talked about Iran's recent punitive attack on the Israeli regime's targets both during the Security Council debate and the meetings he held on the sidelines of it. According to Amirabdollahian, he elaborated on Iran's stance on the attack – which was in response to an Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Syria earlier in April – and warned against any new act of adventurism by the regime.

that Gaza was also a main topic of his discussions with the president of the Security Council as well as top officials from other countries and several international bodies. According to the top diplomat, his talks with the UN officials on Gaza focused on the ways that bring an effective solution to the war and the crisis in the region. Amirabdollahian said he had reiterated Iran's stance that the expansion of the war is in the interest of no party in the region. He told the UN officials that what is necessary to address the crisis is that a political solution comes into focus and the Israeli regime's crimes end in Gaza. The UN secretary general should put on agenda a political

New York, IRNA – Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has said that he discussed the Gaza war and ways to end the crisis unfolding in the region, during talks with UN Chief Antonio Guterres in New York City, the US. "In the meeting with Mr. Guterres, we exchanged views on the ideas which can be pursued by the UN secretary general in coordination with the main players of the Gaza issue", the top Iranian diplomat told IRNA and IRIB reporters late on Friday at the end of his trip to New York where he attended the UN Security Council's quarterly open debate on the situation in West Asia, including Palestine, a day earlier. Amirabdollahian said

Headlines in Iranian English-language dailies on April 20

Tehran, IRNA – The following headlines appeared in English-language newspapers in the Iranian capital on Saturday, April 20, 2024:
** IRAN DAILY

– Iran-EU trade tops €380m in January: Eurostat

The Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) in its latest report put the total value of the trade exchanges between Iran and 27 European Union's member states in January 2024 at over €380.

According to the report, the value of products imported by Greece and the Netherlands from Iran in January registered a three- and twofold hike respectively compared to the same period last year, Tasnim News Agency reported. Spain's export of products to Iran in January 2024 registered a 62 percent rise, the Eurostat added.

– NPC's production capacity to exceed 100m tons by March
Iran's annual petrochemical production capacity will exceed 100 million tons by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025), said the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) managing director. Morteza Shahmirzaei, who made the remarks in the National Oil and Gas Forum in the Russian capital Moscow, added Iran's petrochemical production capacity surpassed 95 million tons in the previous year.

– Iran oil exports hit six-year high
Iran is exporting more oil than at any time for the past six years, giving its economy a \$35b-a-year boost.

Tehran sold an average of 1.56 million barrels a day during the first three months of the year, almost all of it to China and its highest level since the third quarter of 2018, according to data company Vortexa, reported FT. "The Iranians have mastered the art of sanctions circumvention," said Fernando Ferreira, head of geopolitical risk service at the Rapidan Energy Group in the US. "If the Biden administration is really going to have an impact, it has to shift the focus to China."

– Iran Has Upper Hand in the Region
Ground Force commander Brigadier General Kioumars Haydari said here Friday Iran's recent retaliatory operation against Israel had historic achievements which changed the balance of power in the region. Addressing worshippers at the weekly Friday Prayers, Haydari said the operation showed in a practical and decisive way that the Zionist regime is weaker than a spider's web after Iranian drones and precision-strike missiles beat Israel's air defense systems.

– President Raisi Inaugurates 2nd Phase of Semnan Power Plant
Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has inaugurated the second phase of the Semnan power plant with a capacity of 366 MW on a visit to the northern province.

President Raisi, who arrived in Semnan Province on Thursday morning as the second round of his so-called provincial trips he launched since he assumed office in August 2021, visited different parts of the Shahid Bakeri Combined Cycle Power Plant in Semnan, and inaugurated the second phase of this power plant with a capacity of 366 MW.

– First E-Bus Charging Station Launched in Karaj
KARAJ – Iran's first-ever charging station for E-buses has been launched in northern city of Karaj. During the launch of the station in Karaj, 40 home-made E-buses were also added to the city's fleet.

Marathon parliamentary elections kick off in India

Tehran, IRNA - Voting for a new parliament has begun in India, with voters in many states heading to polls in the most polarized elections since India's independence from Britain in 1947. The election has pit the National Democratic Alliance led by two-time Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A.), spearheaded by the main opposition party, Indian National Congress. According to IRNA citing Indian media, Friday's phase is the first and largest of seven phases, covering 166 million voters in 102 constituencies across 21 states and territories, from Tamil Nadu in the south to Arunachal Pradesh on the Himalayan frontier with China. Almost a billion people in the world's most populous nation are eligible to vote in the elections running through the peak of summer until June