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SAUDI, IRANIAN OFFICIALS HELD TALKS IN IRAQ TO REPAIR RELATIONS: FT

- 20.04.2021

Daily Sabah (18 April 2021)

Reports have emerged that senior officials from Saudi Arabia and Iran held direct talks, as they were hoping to repair relations after diplomatic ties between the two countries were halted four years ago, the Financial Times (FT) reported Sunday, citing officials briefed on the discussions.

The first round of Saudi-Iranian talks took place in Baghdad on April 9 and included discussions about attacks on Saudi Arabia by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group. An unnamed official cited in the report said the Saudi delegation was led by Khalid bin Ali Al Humaidan, the kingdom's intelligence chief, and another round of talks was also planned. The talks were positive, the official told the FT. After the publication of the report, neither side received comments, while the FT also reported that a senior Saudi official has denied any talks with Iran.

Lebanon's pro-Iran Al Mayadeen television channel and Unews news agency both cited an Iranian source denying talks with Saudi Arabia, Sunday.

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