

Chancellor of the Supreme National Defense University Esmail Ahmadi-Moghaddam Has Emphasized the Importance of Strengthening Relations Between Iran and Oman

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian Held Discussions With His South African Counterpart Naledi Pandor, Over the Ongoing Situation in Palestine

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If Israeli Crimes Continue, No One Can Stop Muslims

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says if Israeli crimes against Palestinians in Gaza continue, no one can stop Muslims and resistance forces. Speaking in a meeting with a group of Iranian elites and top scientific talents on Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei said that Muslim nations are angry at the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip. "If these crimes continue, the Muslims and the resistance forces will become impatient, [and] no one would be able to stop them," he said. "This is a fact that exists. Of course, whatever the Zionist regime does, it will not be able to make up for the scandalous failure it suffered." The Leader also said that what is in front of the eyes of the whole world in Palestine is the Israeli regime's crime of genocide. Claims by some countries that the Palestinians have killed civilians are false as all those living in settlements across the occupied territories are armed, he asserted. "Now let's suppose that they are civilians. How many civilians were killed? This occupying regime is killing a hundred times more civilians; women, children, the elderly and

youth. The armed forces are not living in Gaza buildings. They are in their own place. They (the Israelis) know it too. These are all people. They choose crowded sites and hit them... The occupying government of the Zionist regime must be put on trial today." Ayatollah Khamenei also noted that numerous pieces of information suggest that the US is formulating the current policy within the Zionist regime. "The Americans should consider their responsibility [regarding Israeli crimes in Gaza]... The bombings must stop immediately," he added. Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader urged scholars and scientists not to remain indifferent towards the situation in Gaza. "Today, in the case of Gaza, all of us have the responsibility to react. We must show a reaction. Some people are hungry, some are under bombardment, and some are being martyred in hundreds. A scholar, a university, or a seminary scholar must try to recognize the truth and stand by it. Looking indifferently [at issues] is not permissible for scholars and scientists," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

Top EU Diplomat Urges Iran to Use Sway to Prevent Regional Escalation of Gaza War

TEHRAN (pressTV) - European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has called on Iran to use its influence to prevent the spillover of Israel's war on the Gaza Strip into the entire West Asia region. Borrell said that he had a telephone conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, during which they discussed the situation in the blockaded Palestinian territory, which is under heavy Israeli bombardment. "EU position is clear on condemning terrorism. And on the protection of civilians at all times," he wrote in a post on his X account on Tuesday. "It is in everyone's interest to prevent a regional spillover. Urged Iran to use its influence to avoid regional escalation." On Monday, Iran's foreign minister warned that a possible expansion of the Gaza war is becoming inevitable. Speaking with Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin over the phone, Amir-Abdollahian condemned the crimes of the Zionist regime that has put Gaza under a siege to block the entry of humanitarian aid. "The possible expansion of the war to other fronts is nearing an inevitable stage. It is necessary to establish suitable corridors as soon as possible to send water and food, as well as pharmaceutical and medical items to the people of Gaza," he added. Between 300 and 700 civilians are being killed in Gaza every day, the Iranian foreign minister said, stressing that the Zionist regime must immediately end its terrorist acts and genocide against Martin, for his part, voiced concerns about the spillover of tensions in the occupied territories and noted that it was necessary to observe international human rights during the war. He underlined the need for opening humanitarian corridors to send aid and essential items to Gaza, calling for measures to reduce increased tensions in the region. The Irish foreign minister further expressed hope that the Islamic Republic can play its unique role in the region and present an initiative to ease the crisis.



Tehran, Minks Target \$1b of Annual Trade

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted an Iran-Belarus business forum on Monday in which the two sides stressed the need to take necessary measures for reaching an annual trade of \$1.0 billion, the TCCIMA portal reported. During the forum, which was attended by a delegation from the Minsk Department of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of several Iranian companies, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation between the two chambers in order to achieve the above-mentioned trade target. At the beginning of this meeting, Hessameddin Hallaj, the TCCIMA deputy head for International Affairs, noted that the two sides need to increase the level of interactions and exchange more delegations. According to the official, the signed MOU is a positive step to accelerate the implementation of the previously reached agreements. Iran and Belarus signed a comprehensive cooperation roadmap and seven memorandums of understanding in mid-March, as Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko made a visit to Tehran. The cooperation roadmap and MOUs include various commercial, transportation, agricultural and cultural fields. The roadmap was signed by the presidents of the two countries, while the MOUs were inked by senior officials from the two sides. As part of the Belarusian delegation's schedule in Tehran, the country's Minister of Industry Rogozhnik Alexander Nikolaevich met with former Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin to discuss ways of developing mutual ties. During the meeting with Nikolaevich, who was accompanied by a group of industrial officials, Fatemi-Amin referred to the cooperation of the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) with its Belarusian counterpart and also an agreement between banks of the two countries, emphasizing that the infrastructure needed for the development of trade between the two countries has been created. He stated that an agreement on the possibility of barter trade between the two countries is also going to be signed soon, adding: "With the full accession of Iran to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in less than a year from now 80 percent of the tariffs between the two countries will be zeroed. The minister further invited Nikolaevich and his team to visit the exhibition of Iran's export capabilities, which will be held with the presence of ministers and trade delegations from more than 50 countries in Tehran on May 7-10.



200 million tons over the next 10 years. In this regard, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Ouyi said that more than 100 petrochemical projects with a total investment of about \$70 billion have been defined and will be implemented across the country.

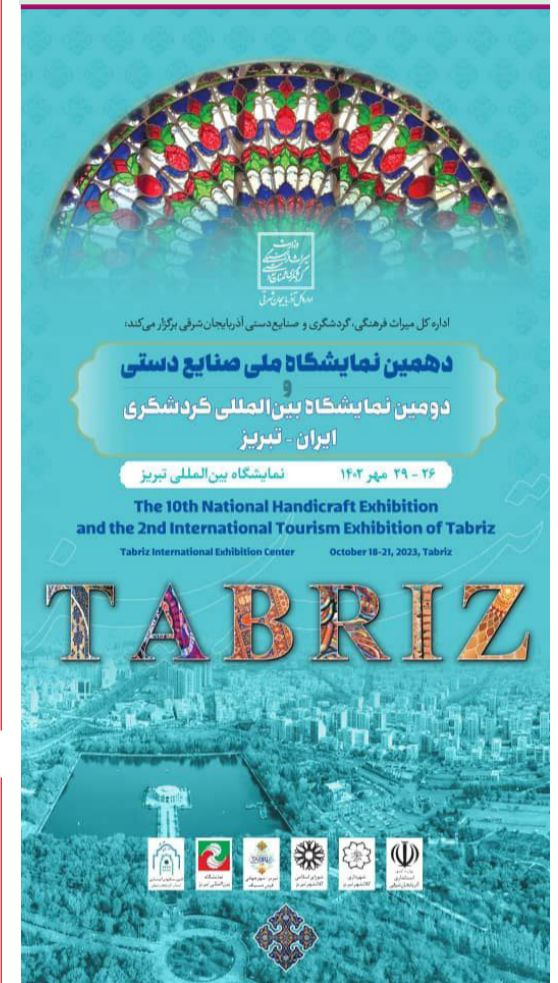
Petchem Output Rises 7% in 6 Months yr/yr

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's petrochemical production in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) has risen seven percent compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official in the National Petrochemical Company (NPC). Bijan Chegeni, the NPC's director for production control, put the six-month petrochemical output at 38.5 million tons, noting that the country's petrochemical output is planned to reach 77 million tons by the end of the year (late March 2024), IRNA reported. According to the official, the country's petrochemical production also increased by seven percent in the previous Iranian year to reach 69.6 million tons. The official noted that 27.6 million tons of petrochemical products were exported in the past year, registering a four percent growth compared to the preceding year, in terms of weight. Pointing out that overhaul operations were carried out in 21 petrochemical complexes in 1401, he added: "Basic repairs are very necessary for petrochemical units, and if it is not paid attention to, the possibility of damaging the facilities and increasing costs increases." The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports. According to NPC Head Morteza Shah-Mirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to



2nd Int'l Tourism Exhibition to Open in Tabriz

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN – The Second International Tourism Exhibition as well as the 10th National Handicraft Exhibition will be inaugurated in Tabriz on Wednesday. According to reports, Deputy Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Marayam Jalali Dehkordi is to open the event on Wednesday at Parvin Etesami Hall of International Fairground of Tabriz. This event on October 18-21 at Tabriz International Exhibition Center. The Second International Tourism Exhibition will be held in the form of some 160 pavilions and some foreign countries like Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iraq are of the participants in the event. The event is aimed at promoting capacities of Tabriz and East Azarbaijan and presenting tourist attractions and talents of the region. It will also provide opportunity for health tourism, excursion, historical and cultural tourism for the participants. Many provinces of the country will have their own pavilions in this exhibition where they will put on display tourism attractions of their own regions.

Tehran to Host Exclusive EAEU Exhibition in Early-Dec



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The second exclusive exhibition of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which is a platform to showcase the capabilities of the EAEU members and their Iranian counterparts, is scheduled to be held in Tehran from December 4-7, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced. "This exhibition will be held from December 4 to 7, with the presence of officials from the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and some member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds," Mehdi Zeyghami said on Monday. He noted that the exhibition is going to cover a variety of areas including industry, mining, and agriculture, and several specialized conferences are also scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition. Iran and EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items are currently subject to preferential tariffs. The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019. Back in July, the minister in charge of trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) said that the EAEU's cooperation with Iran is actively expanding in various fields, and trade between the two sides has doubled over the past four years. Andrey Slepnev also said that trade between the union and the Islamic Republic of Iran rose 22 percent in 2022. The important thing is that bilateral trade exchanges are balanced, that is, almost as much as the Eurasian Economic Union supplies goods to Iran, Iran also exports goods to the member countries of this union, the official noted.

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UN Security Council Rejects Russian Resolution on Israel-Hamas War



UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - The UN Security Council on Monday rejected a Russian resolution condemning spiraling violence in the Middle East, with delegates refusing to back a motion that did not single out Hamas for its surprise attack on Israel that left at least 1,400 people dead. The council huddled as Israel readied for an expected ground assault on the Gaza Strip, after air and artillery strikes that officials say have killed at least 2,750 people. It also came as the White House said President Joe Biden would visit Israel on Wednesday, in a visit that is designed to balance support for a key ally with calls for restraint in its operations in Gaza. Just four countries voted with Russia on its proposed text. Four others -- including the US -- voted against, while six abstained. A second text proposed by Brazil with unequivocal language condemning the Islamist group appeared to have broader support, and was expected to come to the vote on Tuesday evening, diplomats said. Russia's UN ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, said despite the failure, the resolution had spurred the council to action. "It has contributed to launching a substantive discussion in the Security Council on this topic. Without our encouragement, everything would probably have been limited to empty discussions," he said. The United Kingdom, which

joined the US in voting down the Russian proposal, criticized Moscow's lack of consultation, and accused Russia of not making a serious attempt to find consensus. "We cannot support a resolution which fails to condemn Hamas' terror attacks," Barbara Woodward told the council. Israel's Gilad Erdan said the Security Council, which has not adopted a resolution on the situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories since 2016, stood at "one of its most pivotal crossroads" since its founding in the aftermath of World War II. "Will the council support the fight for civilization? or will it incentivize the genocide of Jihadists who aim to murder all the infidels?" he said. Palestinian ambassador Riyad Mansour said the council had a moral duty to act in a bid to restrain an Israeli

assault on the Gaza Strip he said was claiming 12 lives every hour. "Don't send the signal that the Palestinian lives don't matter," he said. "Don't dare say Israel is not responsible for the bombs it is dropping over their heads." "What is happening in Gaza is not a military operation. It is a full scale assault against our people. It is massacres against innocent civilians." Israel has cut off supplies of water and power to the isolated Gaza strip, and warned more than a million people to leave the north of the densely populated enclave. The UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees has warned that the Gaza Strip faces an "unprecedented human catastrophe" if water and other vital supplies are not restored.

North Korea Accuses U.S. of Stoking Tension With Nuclear Supremacy



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea's nuclear program is a self-defensive move to head off a nuclear war in the face of the U.S. pursuit of "nuclear supremacy," state media KCNA said on Tuesday. Kim Kwang Myong, whom KCNA described as a researcher at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Disarmament and Peace, accused the U.S. of stoking regional tension with its nuclear program and blamed it for strategic instability destroying world peace. The comments come as nuclear-armed North Korea has raised alarm in the region with regular launches of missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that can strike the continental United States. Kim singled out the recent findings by the U.S. Strategic Posture Commission calling for enhancing the country's nuclear weapons modernization program in preparation for potential simultaneous wars with Russia and China, as yet another "extremely risky" sign and a "hegemonic move." "The U.S., the world's biggest nuclear weapons state and the world's first nuclear user which adopted the preemptive nuclear attack on other countries as its national policy, is talking about 'nuclear threat' from someone. This is a sophism," Kim said. Kim said Washington was seeking to improve its preemptive nuclear strike capability against North Korea by building a missile defense system, while sending strategic assets to the region and "ultra-modern military hardware" to its allies. "The reality urgently requires the DPRK, which is standing in confrontation with the U.S. imperialism, the most aggressive nuclear war criminal force, to bolster up its self-defensive military capabilities for deterring a nuclear war," Kim said. DPRK, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, is North Korea's official name. In another KCNA article, Kim Tong Myong, a researcher of the Society for International Politics Study, criticized NATO's annual nuclear exercises, called "Steadfast Noon", which kicked off on Monday to practice the use of U.S. bombs based in Europe. "The reality goes to prove once again that the dark clouds of a dreadful thermonuclear war can never be wiped out as long as the U.S., a heinous nuclear war killer which regards nukes as the key for its hegemonic foreign policy, exists," Kim said.



Vladimir Putin Arrives in China to Meet Xi Jinping

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in China on Tuesday to meet his "dear friend" Xi Jinping, bolstering their relationship at a summit that will be overshadowed by the Israel-Hamas war. China this week welcomes representatives of 130 countries for a forum of President Xi's landmark project, the Belt and Road Initiative, that Beijing is using to extend its global influence. Putin is at the top of the invitation list, with the Russian leader on his first trip to a major global power since the Ukraine invasion threw his regime into international isolation. His plane landed in China just before 09:30 am, an AFP journalist on the tarmac saw. He is due to meet Xi for talks on Wednesday, the Kremlin said.



Two Swedes Killed in Brussels Shooting

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - Two Swedish nationals were shot dead in Brussels late Monday by a suspect who remains at large, in an attack the Belgian prime minister described as "terrorism". The gunman fled on a scooter and Belgium's security observatory raised its terror alert to level four or "very serious" -- the highest -- for Brussels, and level three nationally. Belgium's premier, Alexander De Croo, said the shooting had targeted Swedes -- the attack came just before a Belgium-Sweden soccer match -- and European leaders were quick to offer their solidarity. Sweden expressed its devastation. In a video posted on social media, a man identifying himself as the attacker said "he was inspired by the Islamic State" (IS) extremist group, the spokesman for the federal prosecutor's office, Eric Van Duyse, said on the LN24 news channel. Several Belgian media named the suspect as Abdesalem L., aged 45 of Tunisian origin who lived in Brussels. De Croo said he had "offered my sincere condolences to the Swedish PM following tonight's harrowing attack on Swedish citizens in Brussels" in a social media post. "Our thoughts are with the families and friends who lost their loved ones. As close partners the fight against terrorism is a joint one." Several Belgian media outlets said the two individuals killed were wearing football shirts belonging to the Swedish national team ahead of the game between Sweden and Belgium. The Group F European qualifier match between the two

countries was suspended at half-time "due to incidents," the Belgian side posted on social media accounts. Around 35,000 fans attended the match and police began to evacuate the stadium. Officers provided extra protection for Swedish nationals at the game, escorting Sweden's national players directly to the airport to leave safely, Belgium's football association CEO told the country's RTBF channel. The UEFA website said the match had been halted at half-time at one goal apiece. A third individual had been hurt in the attack but officials said the person was not in a critical condition. A video of a man speaking Arabic and claiming responsibility for the shooting has been circulating on social media. The federal prosecutor in charge of terrorism cases launched an investigation. Police are only investigating one suspect at the moment based on preliminary information. The individual claiming the attack said the Swedish nationality of his victims was a motivation, Van Duyse said but added there appeared to be no links with the conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Middle East. "Devastated by the news of two Swedish football supporters murdered in Brussels tonight and a third person being seriously wounded. All my thoughts are with their families and loved ones," Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom said. "Swedish authorities work closely with their Belgian partners to find the murderer," he added on social media.

Noboa Wins Ecuador Presidential Election



QUITO (Dispatches) - Business heir Daniel Noboa won Ecuador's presidential election, vowing to rebuild the South American country, which is struggling with a weak economy and rising crime and violence. Thirty-five-year-old Noboa, a surprise qualifier for the run-off in the early election, has pledged to improve the economy and create jobs for young people, as well as to house dangerous criminals on prison ships. "Tomorrow we start work for this new Ecuador, we start working to rebuild a country seriously battered by violence, by corruption and by hate," Noboa told supporters during brief remarks in the seaside town of Olon. "From tomorrow Daniel Noboa starts work as your new president," he added. Noboa will face the significant challenge of righting an economy - which has struggled since the coronavirus pandemic and motivated many thousands of Ecuadorians to migrate - and sharply rising crime, including increases in murders, robberies and prison riots. The violence, which the outgoing government blames on drug gangs, reached a crescendo during the campaign with the murder of anti-corruption candidate Fernando Villavicencio, who was shot dead while leaving a Quito campaign event in August. Ecuador has all the elements needed to be a global example of progress, Noboa has said. He will have just 17 months to govern, serving a truncated term from December this year until May 2025. Noboa, who has said he will be Ecuador's youngest-ever president, would be able to run again in the regularly-scheduled 2025 contest. His victory fulfills a long-held family ambition - he grew up accompanying his banana baron father Alvaro during the latter's multiple failed attempts to become president.

Venezuelan Gov't, Opposition Agree to Resume Talks

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela's government and opposition said they will restart talks seeking to end the country's political and economic crisis, after a nearly year-long suspension. In a joint statement, the two sides said that the Norway-facilitated negotiations will resume Tuesday in Bridgetown, Barbados, with participation of the United States -- the destination for millions of Venezuelans who have fled economic hardship at home. In his weekly television appearance, President Nicolas Maduro said his government was "on the verge of starting a new round of signing agreements" with the opposition. "We are on the threshold of beneficial agreements for the country... I can say that these agreements will be very beneficial for peace, because peace must be taken care of, they will be very beneficial for the upcoming elections," he said. The opposition, backed by several countries including the United States, did not recognize Maduro's 2018 re-election in a vote widely dismissed as fraudulent. The following year, Washington ramped up sanctions against Caracas first imposed in 2015 over the brutal repression of anti-government protests. On Monday, the United States welcomed the announcement of fresh talks. "Along with likeminded partners and other friends of Venezuela, the United States will continue its efforts to unite the international community in support of the Venezuelan-led negotiation process," US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said. Talks seeking to end the impasse began in August 2021 but were suspended in October after the extradition to the United States of businessman Alex Saab, a Colombian national accused of acting as a money launderer for Venezuela's socialist leader. The negotiations briefly resumed but in November 2022 there was a new break after the government said continued dialogue was conditional on the release of

\$3 billion in frozen funds abroad. The opposition, for its part, wants guarantees for free and fair elections next year. In March, a Venezuelan official said free presidential elections in 2024 were dependent on the lifting of sanctions by the United States and European Union. Observers hope the Barbados talks will yield an agreement through which, in exchange for sanctions easing, an election timetable will be drawn up for 2024 and the opposition allowed to hold primary elections later this month. They also hope it will yield the release of political prisoners and the lifting of political disqualifications of presidential candidates. The energy crisis sparked by Russia's war on Ukraine saw global efforts renewed to solve the crisis in Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves. Last year, US delegates went to Caracas to meet Maduro, even though it does not recognize him as a legitimate leader. After talks initially resumed between the government in Caracas and the opposition, Washington granted a six-month license to US energy giant Chevron to operate in Venezuela and has voiced a willingness to ease sanctions further in return for progress.

