

Iran Has Released Seven More Crew Members of the Portuguese-Flagged Ship MSC Aries, Which Was Seized by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Mid-April

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Elections Headquarters Announced on Saturday the Final List of the Candidates Who Won the Ticket in the Runoff Stage of the Majlis Elections for the Remaining Seats Up for Grabs

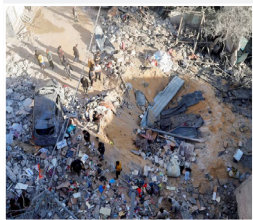
VOL. XXIX, No. 7987 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SUNDAY MAY 12, 2024 ORDIBEHESHT 23, 1403

2

DOMESTIC



Israel's Use of U.S. Weapons May Have Violated Int'l Law

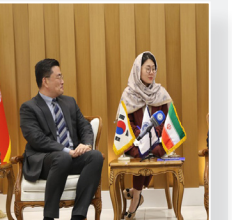
> SEE PAGE 2

3

INTERNATIONAL

Iran, South Korea Urged to Help Expand Bilateral Trade

> SEE PAGE 3



Iran Strongly Condemns Unwise Canadian Motion Against IRGC



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has hit out at an "unwise" motion at the Canadian House, calling on the government to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Saturday highlighted the role which the IRGC plays in countering threats against the country and terrorism in the region. "Along with other elements of the armed forces, the IRGC is responsible for guarding the national security and borders of the country, as well as contributing to lasting security and stability in the region by confronting the sinister phenomenon of terrorism," he said. His remarks came after the Canadian House of Commons on Wednesday adopted a non-binding resolution calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government to blacklist the IRGC and expel an estimated 700 Iranians. Kanaani strongly condemned the move, calling it "unwise, hostile and contrary to the accepted standards and principles of the international law, including the equality of sovereignties and non-interference in the internal affairs of states". The motion is "an example of an attack on the sovereignty and national security of Iran", he said. "This irresponsible step is in line with the mistaken path that Canadian lawmakers have been following over the past decade under the influence of the Zionist regime and certain groups that are outcasts and lack any status and value," Kanaani added. The spokesman advised Canadian parliamentarians to study the position of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps in Iran "in order to get acquainted with the necessary facts". "The IRGC is a sovereign institution derived from the heart of the great and powerful nation of Iran and has an official and legal identity taken from the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Along with other units of the [Iranian] Armed Forces, it is responsible for guarding the national security and borders of the country, and also contributes to security and stability in the region by countering the sinister menace of terrorism," Kanaani stated.

Iraqi Resistance in State of War With Zionist Regime



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - The leader of an Iraqi resistance group has roundly denounced the recent Israeli strikes on Syria that targeted facilities belonging to the fellow Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba group, stressing that fighters from Iraq's anti-terror factions are at a state of war with the occupying Tel Aviv regime. Qais al-Khazali, the secretary-general of the Iraqi resistance movement Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, which is part of Iraq's anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) or Hashd al-Sha'abi, made the remarks in an exclusive interview with the Arabic-language al-Ahad television network on Friday. "The Baghdad government fully supports the cause of the Palestinian nation. Some Arab regimes are not only indifferent to the [crimes] of the Zionist regime, but also serve this occupying and usurping entity," he said. He added, "There is no need for the Iraqi government to take a military stance on the Palestinian issue, as resistance groups have assumed such a role instead of the government and on behalf of the Iraqi people." Khazali underlined that final victory awaits the oppressed Palestinian nation and the Axis of Resistance. Syria's Defense Ministry said that "at around 3:20 a.m. (0020 GMT) on Thursday, the Israeli enemy launched an air attack from the direction of the occupied Syria Golan Heights targeting a building in the Damascus countryside." The attack caused "some material damage," said the statement carried by the official news agency SANA, adding that air defense systems shot down some of the missiles.

Gov't Determined to Establish Cultural Justice, Easier Access to Books

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi called the creation of cultural justice and access to books based on the Spatial Planning Document as one of the central points of the government's cultural policies and said, "Holding an international book fair creates a suitable space for communication between authors, publishers and readers, and the exchange of their ideas. However, in order to create cultural justice, the Popular Administration has tried to provide wider and easier access to books for those who cannot come to this exhibition in Tehran for any reason". Speaking on Saturday morning while visiting a number of booths and some sections of the 35th Tehran International Book Fair, President Raisi described the support of writers, publishers and book readers as a chain that all links should be given good attention and support, and stated, "In order to facilitate the access of the public to books throughout the country, the Popular Administration has tried to advance the policy of building a library and distributing books based on the Spatial Planning Document". The President added, "In this regard, the Popular Administration has sent about 1,700,000 books to various provinces so that those who could not attend the Tehran International Book Fair for any reason could use these books". Raisi continued to mention another axis of the government's cultural policies in the field of book publishing and distribution as paper supply and stated, "Today, with the paper distribution capacity reaching from 5 to 80 thousand tons per year, we can meet a significant part of the country's needs domestically. Of

course, this could have happened in the past years, but it was finally achieved with the efforts of the Popular Administration, so we will plan and take action for the next steps". Referring to the support policies of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for writers, publishers, and book readers, the President said, "The book fair is a great cultural event and a context for establishing useful and effective communication between authors, publishers, and book readers, and a platform for exchanging ideas. Thanks to the Islamic Revolution, the field of book publishing and distribution has been well taken care of, and while before the revolution, the Tehran Book Fair was limited to creating a space in the form of two tents next to the University of Tehran, today, with the support and encouragement of its main encourager, the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, an exhibition of this size and quality is held for books, which promotes everyone's enthusiasm and interest in reading books". Referring to the availability of new information and communication tools and facilities and the spread of cyberspace, Raisi noted, "Despite all these developments, the book still maintains its position as the best possibility for recording, publishing and transferring knowledge, and first, the book itself must be published so that it can be made available to those interested in the book in written or virtual form". The 35th Tehran International Book Fair has been scheduled to take place from May 8th to May 18th, 2024, at the Grand Mosalla mosque of Tehran.

Tehran Welcomes UN Resolution to Revive Palestine's Membership Bid

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani says Tehran welcomes a move by the UN General Assembly to endorse a resolution calling for the reconsideration of Palestine's UN membership bid. The resolution, which was spearheaded by the United Arab Emirates (on behalf of the Arab Group), was adopted on Friday by overwhelming consensus with 143 member states voting in favor, 9 against and 25 abstentions. "The admission of Palestine as a full member of the UN is a first step and a pivotal moment in addressing the historical injustices endured by the Palestinian people," Iravani said in an address to the General Assembly session on Friday. Co-sponsored by Turkey along with nearly 80 member states, the resolution expressed "deep regret and concern" over the veto of the US at the UN Security Council on April 18. The Iranian diplomat added that Tehran acknowledges and supports the General Assembly's decision which represents a "modest yet crucial step" in fulfilling the international community's obligations toward the people of Palestine and restoring some of their inherent rights. He emphasized that the resolution "rightly" underscored that Palestine is qualified to become a UN member by Article 4 of the world body's Charter. The top Iranian diplomat reiterated Palestine's commitment to peace and its ability to fulfill the obligations under the UN Charter, saying, "Consequently, it deserves full membership in the United Nations." "Conversely, the Israeli regime's actions disqualify and render this regime ineligible as a peace-loving entity capable of upholding the UN Charter's obligations," he emphasized. Iravani added that the Tel Aviv regime consistently violates international law, the UN Charter and UN resolutions while it also refused to comply with the legally binding orders of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The regime persists in egregious violations including massacres, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide, he noted. He said mass graves discovered in Gaza "painted a harrowing picture of war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Israeli regime."

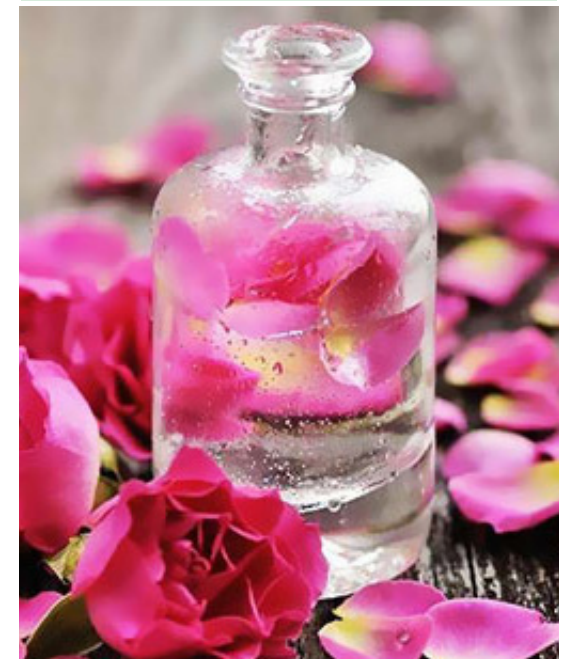


UCMs Hampering Technological Progress of States



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - An Iranian UN envoy denounced the countries that resort to illegal and restrictive unilateral coercive measures against others, saying such arbitrary actions suppress the technological development of other nations and impede their ability to respond to and recover from ICT threats. The representative of Iran to the UN delivered a speech to the high-level Global Roundtable on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Security Capacity-Building, held in New York on Friday. "During the OEWS sessions, we have heard repeatedly from many delegations, especially developing ones, that there is an urgent need for capacity building to occur without delay, but rather as promptly as possible," Hassan Rahimi Majd said. "Capacity building has been rightfully recognized by the OEWS as a cross-cutting element to all issues under its mandate, serving as a prerequisite for all other pillars of the OEWS work. Therefore, it's crucial to address it with the same urgency. With that said, it's disappointing that despite 25 years of discussions on ICT security under the auspices of the United Nations, there has been no tangible progress in capacity-building," the Iranian envoy said. "We voice our concern regarding the delays in implementing capacity-building measures and urge member states to show urgency and commitment to achieving concrete results, rather than adopting a wait-and-see approach. We underline the importance and necessity for the United Nations to play a pivotal role in cybersecurity capacity building. While some measures are happening outside the UN, it's imperative to demonstrate tangible results here within the UN framework. The actions we undertake at the UN complement efforts outside the UN and strengthen the multilateral framework," he added.

Iran Is World's Top Exporter of Damask Rose, Rosewater



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran is ranked first in the world in the production and export of damask rosebuds and rosewater, an official said. The total area of farms in Iran used for cultivating damask rose has increased from 19,000 hectares in 2017 to more than 30,000 hectares in 2023, Agriculture Ministry official Hossein Zeinali told IRNA. Iran exported \$2.6 million in damask rose petals and buds during the previous Persian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), registering a 51 and 24 percent hike in weight and value, respectively, compared to a year earlier, he added. Zeinali added that around 1.85 million tons of Iranian rosewater was exported last year, showing a 15.5 percent growth compared to a year before. The financial turnover of the damask rose and fragrant roses industry in the world is about \$2.5 billion, he noted, estimating Iran's share at \$250 million. The official also stressed the need to acquire the experience of successful countries in the agricultural processing industries, obtaining flower essence, and growing different varieties of damask rose. The provinces of Isfahan, Kerman, Kermanshah, Fars and East Azarbaijan are the main producers of damask rose in Iran, he added.

IRAN NEWS



Investment Opportunities of \$19b Ready for Investors in Refining Industries

TEHRA - The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) managing director announced on Friday that investment opportunities valued at \$19 billion are ready for investors in Iranian refining industries. Speaking in a press conference on the sidelines of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024), Jalil Salari said the largest Izomax unit in the Middle East with a capacity of 42,000 barrels will be operational in the Abadan refinery in the coming two months. He went on to say that with the launch of the Izomax unit and the completion of the development and stabilization plan, about 3 million liters per day will be added to the diesel output capacity as daily gasoline production of the refinery will rise by 1.5 million liters. He also announced the inauguration of the desulfurization and gasoline production units of the Shiraz Refinery until September 19, and said "With the launch of these units, 4 million liters of oil and gas and 1.5 million liters of gasoline will be added to the production of the country." "The quality improvement plan of Tehran Oil Refinery is also being implemented. By the end of the current [Iranian] year (March 20, 2025), the amount of gasoline produced in the refinery will increase from six million liters to 7.5 million liters per day, and furthermore, the quality of gasoline will be up to Euro 5 which currently is Euro 4."

Iran Producing Top-Quality Heavy Water



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The heavy water produced in Iran is among the highest-quality compounds in the world, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami said. The quality of the heavy water produced in Iran is so high that it is ranked first in the world, Eslami said during a visit to the city of Qom on Friday. Only a few countries are capable of producing heavy water, he added. The official noted that Iran uses heavy water and its derivatives for research and development in the pharmaceutical industry and other sectors. The heavy water and its derivatives are widely used in developing new medications and in manufacturing newborn screening kits in demand in the medical sector, Eslami added. Heavy water is chemically the same as normal water, but where the hydrogen atoms are of the heavy isotope deuterium, in which the nucleus contains a neutron in addition to the proton found normally. It can be used to turn natural uranium into plutonium. The AEOI chief also highlighted Iran's progress in producing radiopharmaceuticals, which benefit more than one million people each year. He noted that the nuclear sector has also assisted various domestic industries such as the petrochemical, steel, wood, paper and oil industries by commercializing nuclear instrumentation. Nuclear instrumentation is used for many sophisticated applications, such as precision imaging systems for medical diagnostics, remote sensors for environmental safety or the probing and manufacturing of the most modern materials.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



Iran, South Korea Urged to Help Expand Bilateral Trade

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh has stressed that the private sectors of Iran and South Korea can help give a boost to trade ties between the two countries. Hassanzadeh made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on Wednesday with South Korean Ambassador to Iran Kim Jun-pyo. He highlighted the need for South Korea to ease visa requirements for Iranian economic actors. The Korean economy has been able to intensify its position in the Iranian society with four brands of Samsung, LG, Daewoo, and Hyundai, Hassanzadeh said. Noting that arbitrary sanctions on Tehran are hindering Iran's relations with South Korea, he however stressed that the Iranian private sector expects the private sector actors of other countries to continue with their trade exchanges with Iran despite the pressure of sanctions. Iran boasts high

potentials in techno-engineering services, building refineries, food industries, construction industry, automotive parts and pharmaceuticals, the Iran Chamber of Commerce president said, urging both Tehran and Seoul to focus on these areas. He put the volume of trade between Iran and South Korea at \$800 million which he believed is far behind the potentials of the two countries. In the meantime, the Korean ambassador said that the future of relations between the two countries is promising. He said that although the Korean companies were not present in Iran Expo 2024, he participated in the event and witnessed the Iranian national capabilities. Due to the sanctions on Tehran, the Korean companies cannot easily engage in trade with Iran, the ambassador said, while noting that increasing the level of exchanges is possible and the mechanisms have to be found.

Yemen Keen on Expansion of Energy Ties with Iran



TEHRAN (Shana) - Yemen's Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Mohammed al-Dailami called for expansion of energy cooperation between his country and Iran along with the exchange of scientific and technical oil data. He made the remarks in a meeting with Ahmad Asadzadeh, the Iranian deputy petroleum minister for international affairs and trade on the sidelines of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024) on Friday. Despite the cruel sanctions, Iran has succeeded to have commercial exchanges in the international arena in the field of oil, the envoy said. The diplomat went on to say that private companies in Iran have noteworthy experiences on exploration works, so we can benefit from the capability in Yemen. Speaking for his part in the meeting, Asadzadeh said, "In recent years, talks have been held between the two countries in the field of oil industry, and we will share all our experiences with the country." He expressed his hope that we can witness a strong oil industry in Yemen with cooperation and consultation. In addition to 1,500 Iranian firms, a sum of 250 companies from 12 countries have taken part in Iran Oil Show 2024, whose motto is "Petroleum industry, production leap and technological optimization".

Investment in South Pars Gas Field Vital



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Managing director of the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), Mohammadhosain Motejalli, has said that giant South Pars gas field provides 70 percent of domestic needs to natural gas, which is the reason behind the importance of pouring money in development of the field. Speaking in a specialized meeting of the POGC on attracting investment and providing commodities and new technologies for gas field development plans he said: concurrent with 13th administration's taking office, when the Oil Ministry took the initiative to accelerate implementation of uncompleted projects, among them raising gas production capacity, some effective measures were taken to reinforce energy security including launching production from the giant South Pars gas field phase 11. He continued: Despite launching new phases and rising gas production, the gap between gas production and consumption has been widening increasingly, surfacing natural gas imbalances in some seasons of the year. Over the past 25 years, the Oil Ministry and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) have deployed various approaches to meet the necessary capital for developing upstream sector of the South Pars gas field, he said, noting up to now as much as \$86 billion dollars have been invested in developing the giant gas field mainly through signing buyback and EPC contracts plus newly signed contracts between NIOC and domestic investors and contractors. Elsewhere in his remarks, he said: In addition to accelerating gas field development plans of Kish, Farzad B, North Pars, Golshan, Ferdowsi, Balal, the second phase of oil layers of the South Pars gas field as well as its boosting pressure programs; it is necessary to attract new investments as well as deploying new technologies.

NIOC Inks MoUs Worth \$8b to Develop Joint Oil, Gas Fields

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs), valued at \$8 billion, with a number of Iranian production and exploration companies with the aim of developing joint oil and gas fields in the country. Speaking at the signing ceremony of the MoUs, Chief Executive of the NIOC Mohsen Khojastehmehr said operational steps will be taken in line with the maximum development of the oil and gas fields. The deputy oil minister also said that over the past few weeks, petrochemical companies invested heavily in constructing 20 gas reservoirs, valued at \$7

billion. The National Iranian Oil Company will provide Iranian companies with the necessary facilities to add 85 million cubic meters of gas to the existing capacity, Khojastehmehr noted, BORNA news reported. The eight MoUs, valued at \$8 billion, were inked on the 3rd day of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition dubbed Iran Oil show 2024 between the National Iranian Oil Company and Iranian production and exploration companies, aimed at the daily production of 85 million cubic meters gas and also production of 200,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd).



Iran Produces over 74m Tons of Petrochemicals in One Year

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An official at the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said 74.3 million tons of petrochemical products were produced in the country in the last Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024). Speaking at a specialized meeting on reviewing the strategy of a production jump in the petrochemical industry on the sidelines of the Iran Oil Show 2024, Bijan Chegeni emphasized that the objectives of the production jump should be realized in the petrochemical industry to witness a production hike in downstream industries, exports and currency yielding. The NPC's production control manager noted that 74.3 million tons of petrochemicals were produced in the country last year. Elsewhere in his remarks, he said 20 petrochemical companies get 208 megawatts of electricity from the national electricity grid, stressing that most of these companies have heavily invested on purchasing the gas power plants and supply their need independently, IRNA reported. The 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024) was inaugurated in a ceremony at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Wednesday, May 8, and ended yesterday.

Peru Authorities Investigate President as Brother Arrested

LIMA (Dispatches) - Peruvian authorities said on Friday that they had launched an investigation into President Dina Boluarte for disbanding a special police force that had been investigating her brother, who was detained earlier in the day. Nicanor Boluarte and the president's lawyer were arrested as part of a probe into alleged influence peddling, ramping up pressure on the Andean country's leader, who is already being investigated over how she got pricey Rolex watches and jewelry. Peru's attorney general's office said it was now looking into a potential abuse of authority by President Boluarte and Interior Minister Walter Ortiz for dissolving the police unit. Earlier in the day, Attorney General Juan Carlos Villena said in an a government act that the authority was weighing its options and demanded the police unit be reinstated "immediately." Authorities searched more than 20 properties on Friday, including the Lima home of Nicanor Boluarte, who is accused of leading a criminal organization that influences the appointment of people in high positions on power.



Pyongyang to Deploy New Multiple Rocket Launcher This Year



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea will equip its military with a new 240mm multiple rocket launcher starting this year, state media said, adding a "significant change" for the army's artillery combat capabilities was under way. Leader Kim Jong-un oversaw a live-fire test of the "technically updated" rocket system, Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said. The announcement comes as analysts say the nuclear-armed North could be testing and ramping up production of artillery and cruise missiles before sending them to Russia for use in Ukraine. Pyongyang in February said it had developed a new control system for its 240mm multiple rocket launcher that would lead to a "qualitative change" in its defence capabilities, and last month executed a test-firing of new shells. The updated rocket launcher will be "deployed to units of the Korean People's Army as replacement equipment from 2024 to 2026", KCNA said Saturday. South Korea's defence ministry told AFP it could not confirm the Friday test launches. But Pyongyang said eight shells had "hit point target to intensively prove the advantage and destructive power of the updated 240mm multiple rocket launcher system". Images released by state media showed leader Kim conversing with military officials during an inspection of the launcher, as well as what appeared to be the live-fire test of the system. The tests also proved the power of the "controllable shells for (the) multiple rocket launcher", it added. The largely isolated country has recently bolstered military ties with Russia, and Pyongyang thanked Moscow last month for using its UN Security Council veto to block the renewal of a panel of UN experts that monitored international weapons sanctions on Kim's regime.



Israel's Use of U.S. Weapons May Have Violated Int'l Law

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Biden administration on Friday said Israel's use of U.S.-supplied weapons may have violated international humanitarian law during its military operation in Gaza, in its strongest criticism to date of Israel. But the administration stopped short of a definitive assessment, saying that due to the chaos of the war in Gaza it could not verify specific instances where use of those weapons might have been involved in alleged breaches. The assessment came in a 46-page unclassified State Department report to Congress required under a new National Security Memorandum (NSM) that President Joe Biden issued in early February. The findings risk further souring ties with Israel at a time when the allies are increasingly at odds over Israel's plans to strike Rafah, a move Washington has repeatedly warned against. The Biden administration has already put a hold on one package of arms in a major policy shift and said the U.S. was reviewing others even as it reiterated long-term support for Israel. The State Department's report included contradictions: It listed numerous credible reports of civilian harm and said Israel did not at first cooperate with Washington to boost humanitarian assistance to the enclave. But in each instance it said it could not make a definitive assessment whether any

breaches of law had occurred. "Given Israel's significant reliance on U.S.-made defense articles, it is reasonable to assess that defense articles covered under NSM-20 have been used by Israeli security forces since October 7 in instances inconsistent with its IHL obligations or with established best practices for mitigating civilian harm," the State Department said in the report. "Israel has not shared complete information to verify whether U.S. defense articles covered under NSM-20 were specifically used in actions that have been alleged as violations of IHL or IHRL in Gaza, or in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the period of the report," it said. Because of that, the administration said it still finds credible Israel's assurances that it is using U.S. weapons in accordance with international law. Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen said the administration had "ducked all the hard questions" and avoided looking closely at whether Israel's conduct should mean military aid is cut off. "This report contradicts itself because it concludes that there are reasonable grounds to believe violations to international law have occurred, but at the same time that says they're not finding non compliance," he told reporters.

UN General Assembly Backs Palestinian Bid for Membership



UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - The United Nations General Assembly on Friday overwhelmingly backed a Palestinian bid to become a full U.N. member by recognizing it as qualified to join and recommending the U.N. Security Council "reconsider the matter favorably." The vote by the 193-member General Assembly was a global survey of support for the Palestinian bid to become a full U.N. member - a move that would effectively recognize a Palestinian state - after the United States vetoed it in the U.N. Security Council last month. The assembly adopted a resolution with 143 votes in favor and nine against - including the U.S. and Israel - while 25 countries abstained. It does not give the Palestinians full U.N. membership, but simply recognizes them as qualified to join. The resolution "determines that the State of Palestine ... should therefore be admitted to membership" and it "recommends that the Security Council reconsider the matter favorably." The Palestinian push for full U.N. membership comes seven

months into a war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and as Israel is expanding settlements in the occupied West Bank, which the U.N. considers to be illegal. "We want peace, we want freedom," Palestinian U.N. Ambassador Riyad Mansour told the assembly before the vote. "A yes vote is a vote for Palestinian existence, it is not against any state. ... It is an investment in peace." "Voting yes is the right thing to do," he said in remarks that drew applause. Under the founding U.N. Charter, membership is open to "peace-loving states" that accept the obligations in that document and are able and willing to carry them out. "As long as so many of you are 'Jew-hating,' you don't really care that the Palestinians are not 'peace-loving,'" U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan, who spoke after Mansour, told his fellow diplomats. He accused the assembly of shredding the U.N. Charter - as he used a small shredder to destroy a copy of the Charter while at the lectern.

India's Opposition Jubilant as Modi Critic Gets Bail to Campaign in Elections



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's top court gave temporary bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a graft case on Friday, allowing him to campaign in the ongoing general elections, boosting the opposition alliance of which he is a prominent figure. The Supreme Court said Kejriwal - a fierce critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi - would be out on bail until June 1, the last day of the nationwide seven-phase vote, and would have to return to pre-trial detention on June 2. India began voting on April 19 and elections for more than half of the 543 seats in parliament have now been completed following the third phase of the vote on May 7. The two areas governed by Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) - the National Capital Territory that includes New Delhi, and the northern state of Punjab - go to the polls on May 25 and June 1 respectively. Votes will be counted on June 4 and results are expected to be announced the same day. "It feels good to be back among you," Kejriwal, dressed in a dark collarless T-shirt, told supporters through the sun-roof of a vehicle soon after being released from Delhi's Tihar jail. Thousands of AAP supporters had gathered waving the party's yellow and blue flags, setting off firecrackers, shouting slogans and distributing sweets. "I have only one request for you, we have to come together to save the country from dictatorship," Kejriwal said. "I am fighting with everything I have against this dictatorship. But 1.4 billion people will have to fight dictatorship," he said, referring to India's huge population. The court had said last week that it may consider granting Kejriwal temporary bail "because of the elections" while it heard an appeal against his arrest, as that hearing could take a while to conclude.



China's Consumer Prices Rise for Third Month

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's consumer prices rose for a third straight month in April, while producer prices extended declines, signalling an improvement in domestic demand, as Beijing navigates challenges in its bid to shore up a shaky economy. The closely watched numbers follow better-than-expected imports data for April, suggesting a flurry of policy support measures over the past several months may be helping consumer confidence. Consumer prices edged up 0.3% in April from a year earlier, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Saturday, versus a rise of 0.1% in March and a Reuters poll forecast for an increase of 0.2%. "Strip out food and energy prices, and the consumer inflation data suggests a comeback in demand, especially in services," said Xu Tianchen, senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit. Core inflation, excluding volatile food and fuel prices, grew 0.7% in April, up from 0.6% in March. Overall the consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.1% from the previous month, beating a forecast fall of 0.1% in the poll and reversing a drop of 1% in March. Most China watchers say Beijing still has its work cut out, though, and the momentum might prove unsustainable, as official surveys show cooling factory and services activity, while a lengthy housing crisis shows no sign of easing, boosting the case for more policy support. "Price hikes by utility companies is another potential driver," Xu added.

Russian Forces Attack Ukraine's Kharkiv Region

KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian forces launched an armoured ground attack near Ukraine's second city of Kharkiv in the northeast of the country and made small inroads, opening a new front in a war that has long been waged in the east and south. Ukraine sent reinforcements as fighting raged in the border areas of the region, the defence ministry said, adding that Russia had pounded the frontier town of Vovchansk with guided aerial bombs and artillery. "Russia has begun a new wave of counteroffensive actions in this direction," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told a news conference in Kyiv. "Now there is a fierce battle in this direction." Ukraine had warned of a Russian buildup in the area, potentially signalling preparations for an offensive or a ploy to divert and pin down Ukraine's overstretched and outnumbered defenders. It was unclear if Moscow would develop the attack. In its evening battlefield update, the Ukrainian General Staff said for the first time that Russia was also building up forces to the north of Kharkiv near the Ukrainian regions of Sumy and parts of Chernihiv. Zelenskyy has said Russia could be preparing a big offensive push this spring or summer. Kyiv's forces were prepared to meet Friday's assault, but

Moscow could send more troops to the area, he told reporters. The Ukrainian defence ministry said Russia launched an armoured assault at around 5 a.m. In an update at 10 p.m., the General Staff said battles were continued to prevent Russian offensive efforts to advance in the Kharkiv region. A senior Ukrainian military source who declined to be named said Russian forces had pushed 1 km (0.6 mile) inside the Ukrainian border near Vovchansk. The source said Russian forces were aiming to push Ukrainian troops as far back as 10 km inside Ukraine as part of an effort to create a buffer zone, but that Kyiv's troops were trying to hold them back. The White House said the United States had been coordinating closely with Ukraine on Russia's Kharkiv offensive. "It is certainly possible that the Russians are setting themselves up for a larger assault on Kharkiv," White House national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters. Top Ukrainian officials have repeatedly said they do not believe Russia has the force capacity available to launch a successful operation to capture the city of Kharkiv, home to 1.3 million people.



Switchboard:(+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel:(+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax:(+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website: http://www.irannewsdaily.com
E-Mail Address:info@irannewsdaily.com
ISSN 1024-6053P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan

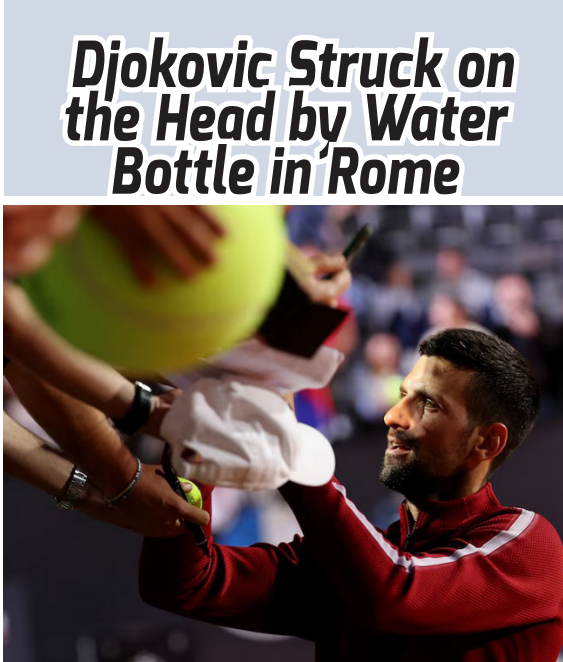
St.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of
IranDistributed by: Cities of Iran Cultural and
Artistic Institute
Managing Director: *Fereydoon Taherpour Asl*



Nikola Jokic, Nuggets Blow Out Wolves in Game 3

DENVER (Dispatches) - Nikola Jokic recorded 24 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists as the Denver Nuggets dominated in a 117-90 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves in Game 3 of their Western Conference semifinals series on Friday in Minneapolis. Jamal Murray finished with 24 points on 11-for-21 shooting for Denver, which cut its deficit to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series. Michael Porter Jr. scored 21 points, Aaron Gordon chipped in 13 and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 12. Murray was booed loudly by Timberwolves fans. "He feeds off that," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "He's a guy that plays with a ton of emotion. I think actually that's when he plays at his best, when he's playing with that emotion. We've seen that time and time again." Anthony Edwards finished with 19 points on 8-for-15 shooting to lead Minnesota, which sustained its first postseason loss after winning its first six playoff games in a row. Karl-Anthony Towns added 14 points, and Mike Conley and Jaden McDaniels put up 10 apiece.

Edwards said of the lopsided defeat, "It's on me, I'll take the blame for this loss. I came out with no energy at all. I can't afford to do that for my team. I let my team down, the fans down." The teams will remain in Minneapolis, where the defending champion Nuggets have a chance to pull even in the series in Game 4 on Sunday evening. After struggling against the Timberwolves' defense in the first two games, Denver broke through in front of a hostile crowd. The Nuggets shot 53.8 percent (43 of 80) overall and 48.3 percent (14 of 29) from 3-point range. Meanwhile, Minnesota shot 43.7 percent (31 of 71) from the field and 30.3 percent (10 of 33) from beyond the arc. The Nuggets led by as many as 34 points in the second half. The Timberwolves were outscored in each of the first three quarters and trailed by double digits for the majority of the game. The Nuggets outscored Minnesota 37-25 in the third to carry a 93-66 lead into the final 12 minutes.



Djokovic Struck on the Head by Water Bottle in Rome

ROME (Dispatches) - World number one Novak Djokovic required medical attention after being struck in the head by a water bottle following his second-round win against France's Corentin Moutet at the Italian Open on Friday. The Serbian was signing autographs after his easy 6-3 6-1 victory against the lucky loser when he was hit in the head by the bottle and he immediately clutched his head as fell to his knees. He remained crouched on the ground for several seconds as staff ran to his aid and was eventually helped off court. Tournament organizers said there was no cause for concern over his condition. "Novak Djokovic on leaving the Central Court at the end of his match was hit on the head by a water bottle while signing autographs (for) spectators," the tournament said in a statement posted on social media. He underwent appropriate medication and has already left the Foro Italico to return to his hotel. "Footage posted to social media showed the bottle had slipped out of a fan's backpack and hit him. Reuters was not immediately able to independently verify the footage. "Thank you for the messages of concern," Djokovic wrote on the social media platform X. "This was an accident and I am fine resting at the hotel with an ice pack. See you all on Sunday." He next plays Chilean Alejandro Tabilo.

Mbappé Confirms He Will Leave PSG at End of Season

PARIS (Dispatches) - Kylian Mbappé confirmed on Friday that he will leave French champions Paris Saint-Germain at the end of the season, with Real Madrid expected to be his next destination. "I wanted to announce to you all that it's my last year at Paris Saint-Germain. I will not extend and the adventure will come to an end in a few weeks," Mbappé said in a video posted on social media. "I will play my last game at the Parc des Princes on Sunday." PSG have already secured the Ligue 1 title, their 10th in the last 12 seasons, and will pick up the trophy after Sunday's game against Toulouse, which will be their last of the campaign on home turf. Luis Enrique's side were eliminated from the Champions League this week by Borussia Dortmund in the semi-finals, a 1-0 loss in Tuesday's second leg at home sealing a surprise 2-0 aggregate defeat. It means Mbappé will not get the send-off he had hoped for in the Champions League final at Wembley on June 1 and will end his seven-year spell at PSG without ever having won Europe's elite club competition. Mbappé informed PSG privately in February of his intention to depart when his contract expires at the end of the current campaign. The 25-year-old has never said as much publicly, though, far less confirmed where he will be going next, but it appears certain that he is bound for Real Madrid. "It's a lot of emotions, many years where I had the chance and the great honour to be a member of the biggest French club, one of the best in the world," said Mbappé. "It allowed me to arrive here, to have my first experience in a club with a lot of pressure, to grow as a player of course, by being alongside some of the best in history, some of the greatest champions," he added. "It's hard and I never thought it would be this difficult to announce that... but I think I needed this, a new challenge, after seven

years." Mbappé did not find the net in either leg of the Dortmund tie but has scored 43 goals in all competitions this season, with 26 of those coming in Ligue 1. He will still hope to add to his club-record tally of 255 goals for PSG and win another medal in the French Cup final - Mbappé has so far won six Ligue 1 titles, three French Cups and the now defunct League Cup twice in his seven years at his hometown team.



Ten Hag Says Man United Owners Have Common Sense to See Reasons for Slump



LONDON (Dispatches) - Erik ten Hag is confident that "common sense" will prevail as Manchester United chiefs consider his future following a disastrous season for the 20-time English champions. The injury-hit Red Devils suffered a club-record 13th defeat of a Premier League campaign on Monday, losing 4-0 at Crystal Palace. The club are languishing in eighth place in the table ahead of Sunday's daunting clash against title-chasing Arsenal, then have two further league games before attention turns to the FA Cup final. The May 25 meeting with Manchester City offers the chance to end a poor season on a high, but FA Cup success was not enough to save compatriot Louis van Gaal's job in 2016. Asked if he was concerned that he could be sacked even if he won the FA Cup, Ten Hag said: "No, I think they have common sense. "They see when you have 32 different backlines, when you lose eight centre-backs, if they see we use 13 partnerships at centre-halves. "When they see we don't have a left full-back, when we have so many injuries, they know that will have a negative impact on results." The Dutchman said United were "still fighting" and the FA Cup final could yet be a highlight of the season, even though City will be overwhelming favourites to win at Wembley. "Of course we are not happy, but we know the reasons why we are underperforming in the ranking now and that is because of the injuries," he said.

Endrick in, Casemiro and Richarlison out of Brazil's Copa America Squad

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - Brazil have included Palmeiras prodigy Endrick in their 23-player strong squad for the upcoming Copa America, but defensive midfielder Casemiro and forward Richarlison have missed out on a place, coach Dorival Junior announced on Friday. Endrick, who is due to join Spanish giants Real Madrid when he turns 18 in July, has scored two goals in four appearances for Brazil since his debut last year. He is the youngest male player to score an international goal at Wembley. Five-times Champions League winner with Real Madrid, Casemiro has lost out on a spot having struggled with form and fitness at his current club Manchester United. The 32-year-old has been capped 75 times. Tottenham Hotspur forward Richarlison was Brazil's top-scorer at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where they were knocked out in the quarter-finals by Croatia, but has failed to make the cut for the Selecao this time. Richarlison, 27, has netted 12 times and provided four assists in 31 appearances across all competitions this season. Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus alongside fellow forward Matheus Cunha, who plays for Wolverhampton Wanderers, were the other notable absentees. Vinicius Jr and Real Madrid team mate Rodrygo will likely lead the forward line, with Raphinha and Gabriel Martinelli also securing a place in the squad. Real Madrid defender Eder Militao has also made the cut after suffering an Anterior Cruciate

Ligament (ACL) injury earlier in the season. Nine-times champions Brazil will kick off their Copa America campaign against Costa Rica on June 24, followed by

Paraguay on June 28 and Colombia on July 2. The quadrennial tournament will be held in the United States from June 20-July 14.

