

Iranian Judiciary's Deputy Chief for International Affairs and Secretary General of the Council for Human Rights Has Called on France to Release an Iranian Citizen Detained by French Police for Expressing Support for the Palestinians

IRAN NEWS

Iran Has Produced \$1b More Agricultural Products Over the Past Calendar Year to Late March Than That Produced a Year Earlier, According to Minister of Agriculture Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht

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Iran, Pakistan Urged to Exercise Free Trade

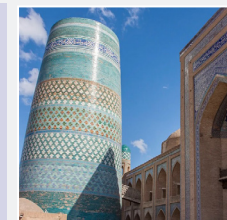
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IRGC Vows Revenge on Israel After Martyrdom of Adviser in Syria



TEHRAN - The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the Israeli regime has to pay the price and await response for the martyrdom of one of the elite force's military advisors in a recent act of aggression by the illegal entity against Syria's northwestern city of Aleppo. Major General Hossein Salami made the stern warning on Wednesday after Israel's airstrikes on Aleppo claimed the lives of at least 17 people and injured 15 others in the wee hours of Monday. Among those martyred was Saeed Abyar, an IRGC military advisor in Syria. Expressing his condolences on Abyar's martyrdom in a criminal attack by the Israeli regime, Salami said, "The child-killing Zionist criminals should know that they will pay for the innocent blood that was shed in this crime; they should wait for the response." Meanwhile, Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani, commander of the IRGC Quds Force, praised the capabilities of the resistance front in the West Asia region and said the force is a decision-maker and boasts power of discretion. "Today, each part of the resistance [front] throughout the region, has its own independent and appropriate structure and has grown step by step," Qa'ani said in a commemoration ceremony in the northern city of Babolsar. "Today, all elements of the resistance front are on the path of good against evil." The Israeli regime has carried out hundreds of attacks against Syria since 2011, when the Arab nation found itself in the grip of rampant foreign-backed militancy and terrorism. The Iranian military advisors, who are present in Syria at the official invitation of the Syrian government, have played an important role in helping the Syrians fight terrorism and establish peace, stability, and lasting security in the Arab country. Tel Aviv has significantly ramped up its strikes since last October, when it began a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, in what has been described by observers as a reckless bid threatening to further fuel tensions throughout the region. Israel has been the principal supporter of terrorist groups that oppose the democratically-elected government of President Bashar al-Assad since the foreign-backed militancy erupted in Syria.

Palestinians' Resistance Bringing Israel to Its Knees



TEHRAN (Press TV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has censured the silence and inaction of international organizations over the Israeli regime's crimes in the besieged Gaza Strip, stressing that Palestinians' resistance will undoubtedly bring the occupying regime to its knees. Nasser Kanaani made the remarks in a post on X social media platform on Tuesday, as Israel's genocidal war on Gaza continues unabated. "In the shadow of the inaction of countries and international organizations, the destruction and mass killing in the Gaza strip continues insanely and non-stop by the Israeli regime," Kanaani said. He went on to say that 55% of the buildings in Gaza have been annihilated or hit due to the silence and passivity kept by the international institutions and the world countries. The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the Israeli regime's attacks have brought nothing but massacre, destruction, drought and starvation. "Undoubtedly, the oppressed but resistant Palestinian nation, despite all the countless and heartbreaking pains and sufferings, will bring the criminal regime of Israel to its knees, and surrender and defeat are the inevitable fate of the rootless occupiers," Kanaani said. "But the regime's supporters and those who remain silent in the face of all these crimes will be put to shame and will go down in history," he added. Meanwhile, at least 66 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks on central Gaza in the last 24 hours. According to a report by Al Jazeera, dozens of other people have been injured in these attacks, mostly children and women.



IAEA's Non-Constructive Approach Will Undoubtedly Harm Its Identity

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has warned that any non-constructive measure by certain member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will certainly harm the agency's identity and role. "The agency is a technical institution and all countries, including the member countries of the Board of Governors, are expected to act based on its technicality," interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani told reporters on the sidelines of the Iranian administration's weekly cabinet meeting in Tehran on Wednesday. "The non-constructive approach of some member countries in abusing the agency's capacity for their political goals will undoubtedly harm the identity and role-playing of the organization," he added. On Monday, Britain, France and Germany formally submitted a draft resolution against Iran to the IAEA Board of Governors for it to be voted on later this week. The draft resolution reportedly would require Iran to explain uranium traces found at alleged undeclared sites. Meanwhile, a group of Iran's allies have warned against adoption of an anti-Tehran resolution during the ongoing meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA in the Austrian capital, Vienna. They say such a miscalculation would have counterproductive repercussions. Adoption of a resolution against a country which has recently recovered from the tragic passing of its president and foreign minister is out of diplomatic etiquette. Political brinkmanship in light of international efforts to handle Iran's nuclear case is not constructive, they said in a statement. The group went on to call upon the Board of Governors to work towards putting Iran's nuclear issue back on the rails, and encourage further dialogue and constructive cooperation between the IAEA and the Islamic Republic. The non-constructive and confrontational approach of the authors of the draft resolution against Iran sends a message to the international community that a slender majority is enough to exploit the decision-making process in the Board of Governors, the statement also read. But the U.N. nuclear watchdog's board on Wednesday censured Iran for failing to cooperate fully with the agency, diplomats said, calling on Tehran to provide answers in a long-running investigation and reverse its decision to bar several experienced U.N. inspectors. The vote by the 35-member board at the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters in Vienna sets the stage for a likely further escalation of tensions

between the agency and Iran, which has reacted strongly to similar previous resolutions. Earlier, Iran, Russia, and China in a trilateral statement about the 2015 Nuclear Deal, affirmed that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) provisions remain in effect. The statement declared that "the three countries have spared no effort to reach the nuclear agreement and continue to protect this agreement, remaining committed to all obligations." They reiterated their readiness to do whatever is necessary to revive the agreement. It reads, "Our countries have consistently supported the JCPOA... Our support for the nuclear deal had not changed since 2018, when the United States illegally and unilaterally withdrew from this agreement, while the imposition of unilateral illegal sanctions and the implementation of a policy of maximum pressure on Iran became a turning point for this agreement." The three countries expressed regret towards the other countries involved, namely France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States, (E3+US) for choosing a different path concerning the nuclear agreement. This statement follows that E3 submitted an anti-Iran draft resolution ahead of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s Board of Governors meeting. There are reports that Washington had earlier abstained from joining the European troika, known as the E3, over fears that the resolution could further escalate the regional tensions whose ripple effects could rock the US presidential election in November. Mohammad Eslami, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Agency, on Monday warned E3 of Iran's reaction. "We act within the framework of national law, safeguards, and the NPT. They report contradictories because they failed to fulfill their obligations. They need to resume their obligations so that we can fulfill ours. If they issue resolutions or exert political pressure, we will react for sure." The meeting of the IAEA Board of Council was launched in Vienna with the participation of 35 member states. In the meeting three European countries, namely Britain, France, and Germany, presented a draft resolution to the Board of Governors, requesting an increased level of collaboration between Iran and the agency. The document asks Tehran to take immediate and urgent measures to address safeguard claims. Meanwhile, it has been said that the document will be voted on in the next few days at the meeting of the Board of Governors.

Hamas Warns Israel Against Any Foolish Act During Provocative Flag March in al-Aqsa

GAZA (Dispatches) - The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has warned Israel against committing any "foolish act" against the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied al-Quds during the so-called flag march. Hamas made the remarks in a statement on Wednesday, as Israeli settlers are expected to commence their annual march later in the day. "The march of flags in occupied al-Quds is an aggression against our peoples and holy sites," Hamas said. It went on to say that authorizing the 'fascist' march indicates that the occupying regime seeks to Judaize the holy sites of Palestinians and hurt the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims in the world. The resistance group further urged Palestinians, particularly in the occupied West Bank, to mobilize in a "day of anger" ahead of Wednesday's flag march parade in al-Quds. It also called for increased international pressure over Israel's actions in the besieged

Gaza Strip and the occupied territories. The flag march marks Israel's occupation of the West Bank and East al-Quds in 1967. The annual march is organized by far-right Israeli settlers at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied East al-Quds. The march, staged through al-Quds flashpoints, is an attempt by extremists to slam what they call the Tel Aviv regime's failure to deal with the Palestinians and affirm their presence in the occupied Palestinian city and its holy sites. The latest development came after hundreds of Israeli settlers broke into al-Aqsa Mosque under heavy protection from the regime forces, to secure the provocative march. Palestine's Wafa news agency reported that some 800 extremist settlers, divided into groups, entered the courtyards of the holy site through the Moroccan Gate, also known as the Mughrabi Gate, and made a provocative tour of the premises on Wednesday.



Iran, Syria Discuss Regional Issues, Gaza Crisis



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The president of Syria and Iran's caretaker foreign minister talked about the latest developments in the region, particularly the situation in the Gaza Strip. In the meeting, held in Damascus on Tuesday, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the Iranian caretaker minister discussed the relations between Syria and Iran, the latest developments in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the regional and international issues of mutual interest. Assad reiterated that resisting the occupation in all its forms is a fundamental principle and a strategic choice as the resistance has always been on the right track in confronting the occupiers, SANA reported. "Whenever the occupation approaches its failure in the face of the steadfastness of the resistance men, it increases its bloody violence", the Syrian leader added. For his part, the Iranian diplomat said the relations between the two countries will remain deeply rooted and strategic, as they are based upon firm principles and common interests. Caretaker Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Baqeri traveled to Damascus on Tuesday after a trip to Beirut, where he met senior Lebanese officials, including Secretary General of Hezbollah resistance movement Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah. Meanwhile before leaving Beirut for Damascus, Baqeri Kani said the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia are on the right track. Asked about the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Ali Baqeri said at a press conference in Beirut on Monday that the relations between the two countries are on the upward trajectory. Since Iran and Saudi Arabia resumed their diplomatic relations, they have taken effective strides to broaden cooperation in all fields, he said, adding that officials of the two countries are determined to enhance interaction for the sake of regional stability. Baqeri also pointed to cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia on Palestine, saying constructive steps should be taken to stop the Israeli regime's heinous crimes against the oppressed Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Hezbollah Says Ready for All Scenarios



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - A Lebanese lawmaker from Hezbollah's political wing says the resistance movement is fully prepared for any possible scenario. Mohammad Raad, head of the Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc in the parliament, made the remarks in an interview with Iran's Arabic-language al-Alam television news channel broadcast on Tuesday evening. He dismissed the Zionist regime's threat of military action against Lebanon, stressing that such intimidation is simply meant to improve the Israeli forces' morale amid the Gaza war. "The Zionist entity knows that these threats are on object of ridicule among the parties that are well aware of its [military] ... weaknesses. The enemy may opt to commit a folly against Lebanon, but such an action will be tantamount to its suicide," Raad pointed out. The senior Lebanese legislator added that Israel cannot restore its lost security, noting that its sole available option is to end its aggression against Gaza. Hezbollah stands firmly committed to its solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing bloody military offensive against the Gaza Strip, he emphasized. Meanwhile, the Israeli military Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi claimed that the regime is prepared to "shift to offense" in its fighting with Hezbollah along the Lebanese border. "We are approaching the point where a decision will have to be made, and the [Israeli army] is prepared and very ready for this decision," Halevi said while touring an army base in Kiryat Shmona. He said, "We have been attacking for eight months and Hezbollah is paying a very, very high price. It has increased its strengths in recent days and we are prepared after a very good process of training ... to move to an attack in the North." "[We have] strong defense, readiness to attack, [and] we are approaching a decision point." Raad's comments came on the same day that Sheikh Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary general, warned the Israeli regime against expanding the scope of its aggression against Lebanon, asserting that the group is impervious to the regime's threats and that the enemies are lined up in crosshairs.

IRAN NEWS



India to Earmark \$1b for Development of Iran's Chabahar

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's deputy minister of roads said India has agreed to allocate \$1 billion to the project on the development of Iran's southeastern Chabahar Port. Implementation of the contract with India on developing Chabahar Port is the priority of the programs of the Ports and Maritime Organization, Ali Akbar Safaei said. Negotiations were held with the Indian investors three months ago and signing the contract on the provision of the relevant parts and equipment at Chabahar Port is at the final stage, the deputy roads minister added. Pointing to the launch of a joint shipping company between Iran and India, he noted that the Indian company has agreed to finance the development of Chabahar by allocating between \$250 million and \$1 billion. Last month, Iran and India signed a contract for partnership with India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) in equipping and operating the freight and container terminals of Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

Iran Non-Oil Exports to Africa Hit \$1.2b in 2 Years



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran exported \$1.2 billion worth of non-oil products to the African countries during the first two years of late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's term, an official said. According to Ruhollah Latifi, the spokesman for the trade promotion commission of Iran's House of Industry, Mine and Trade, the total value of non-oil trade with Africa reached \$54.4 billion in the mentioned two years. President Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash on May 19, adopted the policy of establishing relations with African countries based on mutual respect and shared benefits. After taking office in August 2021, the late president adopted a new foreign policy oriented towards neighbors, Muslim states, Asian countries and the members of the Non-Aligned Movement.



Iran, Pakistan Urged to Exercise Free Trade

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh has stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade so as to materialize a target for increasing bilateral exchanges to \$10 billion. Hassanzadeh made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran on Sunday with Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassar Tipu. Noting that Tehran and Islamabad can cooperate on different areas including pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, energy, auto parts, techno-engineering services and electronics, he said that the ground is also prepared for cooperation on health tourism. Hassanzadeh further stressed that an agreement for activating a joint trade council between the two neighboring countries is still in place. The Iran Chamber of Commerce president said that the two countries have had many talks on the launch a barter trade system while no practical step has been taken. He called

on the Pakistani government to ease visa requirements for Iranian businesspeople. The Pakistani ambassador, for his part, referred to his country's agreement with the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi for increasing bilateral trade to \$10 billion, adding that Islamabad continues to pursue this agreement. The Pakistani government has decided for the joint border customs to work round the clock, the ambassador said, adding that it would be very effective if Iran also decides to do so. He noted that the trade balance is one of the main obstacles on the way of trade between the two neighbors, as he said Iran's exports to Pakistan stand at \$1.6 billion while Pakistan's exports to Iran are so insignificant. He believed that the exercise of free trade rests upon win-win connections. The ambassador added that if the Iran Chamber of Commerce recommends businesspersons to the embassy, there would be no problem for issuance of visa.

Iran Exports \$650m Aquatics in One Year

TEHRAN (MNA) - The director general of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Quality Improvement, Processing, and Aquatic Market said \$650 million of aquatics was exported from the country in the previous Iranian year (1402). Abbas Mokhtari said 139,000 tons of fishery products, valued at \$528 million, were exported from the country between March 21, 2020 and March 20, 2021. Regarding the trade of aquatics and fishery products during President Ebrahim Raisi's administration's term, he said that 210,000 tons of the fishery products, valued at \$650 million, were exported from the country in the previous Persian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024). Mokhtari further pointed out that effective steps were taken in the administration of the late President Raisi to spur the production and export of aquatics. Last month the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Iran Water Industry Federation said the country exported \$1.8 billion worth of technical and

engineering services over the past two years. Stressing the importance of exporting technical and engineering services, Reza Haj Karim said giant steps have been taken in the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi in the field as compared to the previous years. Domestic knowledge-based companies have a high potential to export technical and engineering services and can do even better with due support from the government, he underscored, IRNA reported. Haj Karim further noted that Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and East Asian countries are among those whose economic growth is higher than the world average so this Asian market can be a lucrative market for Iranian domestic companies. As a leading country in the water and electricity industry, Iran stands in the first rank in the region in the export of technical and engineering services in this industry, and this shows the high technical and engineering knowledge and ability of Iranian specialists and companies.



Acting President to Inaugurate Natural Gas Projects

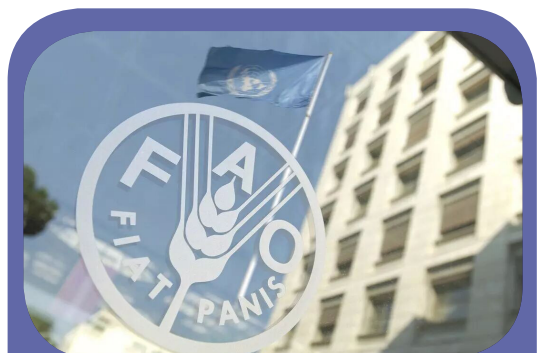


TEHRAN (Shana) - Oil Minister Javad Owji says a number of gas supply projects will be inaugurated in the southeastern province of Sistan-o-Baluchestan in the presence of the acting president Mohammad Mokhber. Speaking here on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, he said that supplying Sistan-o-Balouchestan with natural gas was something like occurrence of a great revolution. In view of having access to natural gas, it could be said that Sistan-o-Balouchestan was a deprived and ignored region, Owji noted, adding fortunately during the 13th administration, which took office in August 2021, a considerable number of towns and villages of the province as well as its power plants and industries were connected to the nationwide gas pipeline network. "A number of gas supply projects of the province will be inaugurated in the future in the presence of the acting president Mohammad Mokhber," Owji said. Iranian president Ibrahim Raisi, the head of the 13th administration, lost his life in May in the tragic incident of a chopper crash while was returning from the opening ceremony of a dam built on Aras River, flowing along the common border of Iran and Azerbaijan Republic.

Turkey Returns 55 Historical Artifacts to Iran



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Turkish officials have repatriated 55 historical artifacts to Iran, recognized as Iranian heritage, through the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Erzurum, Turkey. The return of 55 historical artifacts to Iranian authorities was carried out under an agreement aimed at banning and preventing the illegal import, export, transit, and transfer of ownership of cultural property. The authorities of Iran and Turkey signed an agreement to prohibit and prevent the illegal import, export, transit, and transfer of ownership of cultural property during the visit of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Ankara. In this framework, 55 historical artifacts recognized as Iranian were transported to Erzurum and handed over to the Iranian consulate during a ceremony held at the Erzurum Archaeology Museum. Birol Incecikoz, the Director General of Cultural Heritage and Museums, stated that Ankara is undertaking extensive efforts to combat the smuggling of artifacts. He emphasized that each cultural artifact should definitely be exhibited in its country of origin and be repatriated accordingly. The Consul General of Iran in Erzurum, Mohammed Ebrahimi, expressed gratitude to Turkiye for the detection and repatriation of artifacts, highlighting that Iran, as an ancient country, possesses a significant number of monuments registered with UNESCO.



FAO to Discuss Issue of Iran Becoming Hub for Regional Food Security

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran in association with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is scheduled to hold talks on turning the country into a hub for food security in the West Asia region, an Iranian official said. Deputy agriculture minister of Iran Hooshang Mohammadi said on the sidelines of the 34th Executive Committee (EC) and 24th Governing Council (GC) meeting in Thailand, which is being held June 4-6. In meetings with the FAO deputy secretary-general and the director-general of the Asia-Pacific Integrated Rural Development Center (CIRDAP), Mohammadi said given the development of the knowledge-based food security document in Iran, the Islamic Republic proposed to be placed at the center of food security for the countries in the region, adding that Iran's request is planned to be placed on the agenda for FAO's discussions. If agreed upon, the UN food agency would invest in Iran and pave the way for providing the country with technical know-how and scientific findings, the deputy minister said, adding that the Islamic Republic is ready to transfer its experiences, studies, and policies regarding rural development. The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) is a Bangladesh-based intergovernmental organization involved in rural development and poverty alleviation. The CIRDAP includes states such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Tokyo Gov't to Launch Dating App to Boost Birth Rate

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's capital will launch its own dating app as early as this summer as part of government efforts to boost the plunging national birth rate, a Tokyo official said Tuesday. Users will be required to submit documentation proving they are legally single and sign a letter stating they are willing to get married. Stating one's income is common on Japanese dating apps, but Tokyo will require a tax certificate slip to prove the annual salary. "We learned that 70 percent of people who want to get married aren't actively joining events or apps to look for a partner," a Tokyo government official in charge of the new app told AFP. "We want to give them a gentle push to find one," he said. It's not unusual for municipalities to organize matchmaking events in Japan, where births dropped to a new low in 2023, but it is rare for a local government to develop an app. An interview will be required to confirm a user's identity as part of the registration process for the Tokyo app, which has been on a test run for free since late last year. Many social media users expressed scepticism over the plans, with one saying, "is this something the government should be doing with our tax?"



U.S. Lawmakers Advance Bill to Sanction ICC Over Israel Probe



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. House of Representatives voted yesterday to advance a largely symbolic bill calling for sanctions on the International Criminal Court after its prosecutor applied for an arrest warrant against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The Hague-based court's prosecutor has said Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant should be arrested on charges relating to the war in Gaza, along with three leaders of militant group Hamas. The U.S. House's Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act — backed by almost every Republican and around a fifth of the Democrats — would bar US entry for ICC officials involved with the case, revoking their visas and restricting any US-based property transactions. "Today's vote draws a line in the sand for lawless action by ICC officials," Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said in a statement. "The U.S. firmly stands with Israel and refuses to allow international bureaucrats to baselessly issue arrest warrants to Israeli leadership for false crimes." The legislation is considered a "messaging bill," however, as it is unlikely to be taken up by the Democratic-run Senate and could be vetoed in any case by President Joe Biden, who has said he "strongly opposes" it. ICC prosecutor Karim Khan said last month he was seeking warrants for the two Israelis — as well as Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Ismail Haniyeh and Mohammed Deif — on suspicions of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The ICC's 124 member states will ultimately decide whether to enforce any warrants issued by its judges. Neither Israel nor the United States are members. While the White House has criticised the ICC, and Biden called the application for arrest warrants "outrageous", U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said last week that sanctions were not "the right approach". State Department spokesman Matthew Miller reaffirmed the policy on Tuesday, telling reporters ahead of the vote: "Our position as the administration is we don't support sanctions. We don't believe it is appropriate at this time."

Khiva, the Amazing Tourism Capital of the Islamic World

KHIVA, Uzbekistan - On June 2, 2024, the historical and cultural city of Khiva in Uzbekistan hosted the OIC Tourism Ministers session where this city officially started its activities as the tourism capital of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) by the presence of representatives of the OIC members and many local and international journalists gathering to cover this major tourist event in the OIC region and covering the beauties of Khiva. The theme of the 12th session of the OIC tourism ministers was: "Development of the Tourism Industry in Sustainable and Resilient Way". Khiva, located in Uzbekistan, is indeed a fascinating city with a rich history and cultural significance, especially as a former center of the Islamic world. Khiva, one of the most ancient cities in the Khorezm region, has a history spanning more than 2,500 years. It is famous for its medieval Itchan Kala (Ichon-Qal'a) Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990. The city is famous for its minarets and the biggest minaret of the world is located there. This carefully preserved open-air museum offers a glimpse into the illustrious past of the region, from its vast culture and scientific progress, to its contributions to enriching Islamic civilization. The Khorezm region of Uzbekistan was a beacon of learning and science between the 9th and 12th centuries, with the famous Al-Ma'mun Academy in Khorezm promoting pioneering works in astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and chemistry. Prominent scholars have emerged from this region, such as Muhammad bin Musa Al-Khwarizmi (the Father of Algebra), and Abu Al-Rayhan Al-Biruni, the scholar of astronomy and philosophy. Khiva, one of the most ancient cities in the Khorezm region, has a history spanning more than 2,500 years. It is famous for its medieval Itchan Kala (Ichon-Qal'a) Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1990. Nestled within the enchanting landscape of Uzbekistan lies the historic city of Khiva, where time seems to stand still within the walls of its ancient citadel, Itchan Kala. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a treasure trove of history, culture, and architectural marvels, offering visitors a glimpse into the rich tapestry of Central Asian heritage. At the heart of Khiva, Itchan Kala stands as a testament to the city's illustrious past, dating back over two millennia. Enclosed within imposing walls, Itchan Kala served as a vital center along the legendary Silk Road, connecting East and West in a flourishing exchange of goods, ideas, and culture. Stepping through the gates of Itchan Kala is akin to entering a time capsule, where every cobblestone and minaret whispers tales of bygone eras. The city's skyline is adorned with majestic monuments, including the towering Islam

By: F. Taherpoor

Khodja Minaret, which offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Wandering through the labyrinthine streets of Itchan Kala, visitors are greeted by a wealth of architectural wonders, from the intricate tilework of the Tosh-Hovli Palace to the serene courtyards of the Juma Mosque. Each structure bears the imprint of Khiva's rich heritage, reflecting influences from Persia, Turkey, and beyond. One cannot help but be captivated by the vibrant bazaars that line the narrow alleyways of Itchan Kala, where artisans ply their trade amidst a kaleidoscope of colors and aromas. From handwoven carpets to exquisite ceramics, the bazaars offer a glimpse into the traditional crafts that have been passed down through generations. But Itchan Kala is more than just a relic of the past; it is a living, breathing community where modern life intertwines with ancient tradition. Amidst the historic monuments, bustling cafes and shops offer a taste of contemporary Uzbek culture, while traditional music and dance performances provide a window into the region's artistic heritage. As the sun sets over the sandstone walls of Itchan Kala, casting a golden glow upon its time-worn facades, one cannot help but feel a sense of awe and reverence for this timeless city. In a world that is constantly changing, Itchan Kala stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of Uzbekistan's cultural legacy, inviting visitors to embark on a journey through the annals of history. By the way the other part of Khiva is called ditchan kala. Ditchan Kala stands as a timeless testament to the enduring spirit of Khiva, a city that has weathered the sands of time and emerged as a beacon of Islamic civilization. As visitors meander through its labyrinthine streets and marvel at its architectural wonders, they are transported to a world where the past and present converge, where history comes alive in every crumbling facade and weathered stone. In the heart of Uzbekistan, amidst the shimmering desert sands, Ditchan Kala beckons travelers on a journey through the annals of time, inviting them to uncover the secrets of Khiva's enigmatic citadel and bask in the splendor of its storied past. Uzbekistan's tourism industry is on the cusp of a renaissance, as travelers from around the world discover the country's hidden treasures and Khiva is one of the tourist destinations of this country. With its rich history, diverse culture, and stunning landscapes, Uzbekistan offers an unforgettable experience for those willing to venture off the beaten path. As the country continues to invest in its tourism infrastructure and promote itself on the global stage, the future looks bright for Uzbekistan as a premier destination in Central Asia.



Ukraine Claims It Hit Missile System Inside Russian Territory

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian forces claimed Monday that they had successfully hit a Russian S-300 missile system using Western-supplied weapons inside Russian territory. "It burns beautifully. It's a Russian S-300. On Russian territory. The first days after permission to use Western weapons on enemy territory," Ukrainian government minister Iryna Vereshchuk posted on Facebook alongside a picture purporting to show the strike. This comes just days after US President Joe Biden gave Ukraine permission to carry out limited strikes using US weapons in Russian territory around Kharkiv, after several European nations had removed restrictions on how the weapons can be used. It is unclear if the weapons used in the strike described by Vereshchuk were US-supplied. Ukraine had for months pleaded with Washington to allow it to strike targets on Russian soil with US weapons, as Moscow launched a brutal aerial and ground assault on Kharkiv, safe in the knowledge that its troops could retreat back to Russian soil to regroup and its weapons depots could not be targeted with Western arms.

Modi Declares Victory in India Election But Party Will Need Coalition

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's transformative yet divisive Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared victory in national elections on Tuesday evening but his goal of winning an unassailable majority lies in tatters with early results showing voters delivered a shock result that reduces the extent of his party's grip on power. "Today is a glorious day... National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is going to form the government for the third time, we are grateful to the people," Modi told cheering supporters at his party headquarters in New Delhi, referring to the initials of his political alliance. "This is a victory for the world's largest democracy." Modi is set to form a government with the help of his NDA allies — a third consecutive term and a landmark that makes him one of the most successful politicians in post-independence India. While final votes are still being tallied, India's election authority has confirmed that the NDA coalition had secured the majority needed with 272 seats. But preliminary figures from the election commission indicate Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party falling short of securing the 272 seats needed to win an outright majority in parliament, a stunning upset that leaves them reliant on coalition partners to form a government. This is a personal blow to Modi, who had triumphantly vowed to win a 400-seat supermajority in this year's election — and romped to victory the last two contests with a simple majority for the BJP, turning his Hindu nationalist right-wing party into an electoral juggernaut. India's opposition, who had largely been written off in the polls and by many analysts, portrayed the result as a rejection of Modi's divisive style.



Slovenia Becomes Latest EU Country to Recognize Palestine as a State

LUBLJANA (Dispatches) - Slovenia recognized a Palestinian state on Tuesday after its parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of the move, following in the recent steps of three other European countries. Slovenia's government endorsed a motion last week to recognize a Palestinian state, and sent the proposal to the parliament for final approval, which was needed for the decision to take effect. Lawmakers on Tuesday voted with 52 in favor and no one against recognition in the 90-seat parliament. The remaining lawmakers were not present for the vote. "Dear people of Palestine, today's final decision of Slovenia is a message of hope and peace," Slovenia's Foreign Minister Tanja Fajon said on the social media platform X. "We believe that only a two-state solution can lead to a lasting peace in the #MiddleEast. Slovenia will tirelessly continue to work on the security of both nations, Palestinians and Israelis." Slovenia's decision came days after Spain, Norway and Ireland recognized a Palestinian state, a move that was condemned by Israel. Previously, only seven members of the 27-nation European Union officially recognized a Palestinian state. Five of them are former East bloc countries that announced recognition in 1988, as did Cyprus, before joining the EU. Sweden's recognition came in 2014. "We started talking with our allies about the



recognition of Palestine in February this year," Prime Minister Robert Golob told lawmakers before Tuesday's vote. "At the time, the assessment was — the time is not yet ripe ... we warned that we, Europe, have a ... duty to act." The ruling coalition led by Golob holds a comfortable majority in Slovenia's assembly and the vote was expected to be a formality. Golob also evoked Slovenia's independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991 in his remarks to parliament. "We Slovenians have dreamed of this right for 1,000 years. We got it 33 years ago," Golob said. "Unfortunately, the Palestinian nation has not yet received this right." Slovenia's main opposition party, the Slovenian Democratic Party, opposes the recognition. The right-wing party has demanded a referendum on the issue that would delay the vote, but on Tuesday withdrew the bid before again filing another one that was rejected by parliament. Slovenia first began the recognition process in early May, but said it would wait until the situation in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in Gaza improved. Golob has explained he was speeding up the process in reaction to Israel's latest attacks on the southern Gaza city of Rafah, which have caused more than 1 million Palestinians to flee. More than 140 countries recognize a Palestinian state — more than two-thirds of the United Nations.

Djokovic Withdrawal Shocks Fans in Paris



PARIS (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic's worst fears materialised as a knee injury forced him out of the French Open on Tuesday, while women's reigning champion Iga Swiatek surged into the semi-finals with another ruthless display. Carlos Alcaraz served a convincing reminder of his Roland Garros title credentials after Djokovic's pull-out ensured there will be a new name on the men's trophy. World number one and 24-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic withdrew ahead of his quarter-final against Casper Ruud after a scan revealed a torn medial meniscus in his right knee. The 37-year-old Djokovic had blamed the "slippery" Roland Garros courts for aggravating the problem during his last-16 win on Monday. "I am really sad to announce that I have to withdraw from Roland Garros," Djokovic wrote on social media. "My team and I had to make a tough decision after careful consideration and consultation." Ruud, who lost to Djokovic in last year's final, will receive a walkover and play Alexander Zverev or Alex de Minaur in the semi-finals on Friday. Djokovic's injury-enforced exit from the tournament also means that Jannik Sinner will become Italy's first number one in the sport next week. For the first time since 2004, the men's final in Paris will not feature Djokovic, Rafael Nadal or Roger Federer. Second seed Sinner reached his first Roland Garros semi-final shortly after the news of Djokovic's withdrawal, beating Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3). "It's every player's dream to become number one in the world. On the other hand, seeing Novak retiring (from the tournament)

is disappointing, so I wish him a speedy recovery," said Sinner. The Australian Open champion goes through to a blockbuster clash with Alcaraz, a 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 winner over Stefanos Tsitsipas in a repeat of last year's quarter-final. Alcaraz is looking increasingly assured in Paris after an injury-hit preparation, and has now won all six encounters with Tsitsipas. The 21-year-old Spaniard is seeking to become the youngest man to win Grand Slams on all three surfaces by adding to his Wimbledon title from a year ago and the 2022 US Open crown. "It's going to be a really difficult challenge for me, but I'm ready to take that challenge," Alcaraz said of facing Sinner. "It's the match everybody wants to watch... Let's see who's going to win." The pair have split eight previous matches, with Alcaraz winning a five-set US Open quarter-final classic en route to the title two years ago in their most recent duel at a major. Earlier in the day, Swiatek thrashed Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova 6-0, 6-2 to set up a last-four showdown with American third seed Coco Gauff, the player she beat in the 2022 Roland Garros final. World number one Swiatek improved her career record in Paris to 33-2 and is on course to become the first woman to lift the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen three years in a row since Justine Henin in 2005-07. After Swiatek's 40-minute rout of Anastasia Potapova in the last 16, the only consolation for Vondrousova was her snapping the Pole's incredible run of 20 consecutive games won early in the second set.

Mbappe Says People Made Him Unhappy at PSG



METZ (Dispatches) - Real Madrid attacker Kylian Mbappe said on Tuesday "things and people made me unhappy" at Paris Saint-Germain before he signed a five-year deal with the Spanish club. France's Mbappe, 25, will join the La Liga champions for next season in a long-rumoured move having spent seven campaigns in the French capital. During PSG's tour of Japan and South Korea last summer, the club's management threatened to ban Mbappe from playing after he had told them he was planning on leaving the Parc des Princes this year. "I was told that, I was made to understand that, I was spoken to violently," Mbappe told reporters ahead of Les Bleus' friendly with Luxembourg on Wednesday. "At PSG I wasn't unhappy, that would be biting the hand that feeds you, and spitting in the face of all the people who defended me, but things and people made me unhappy," he added. Mbappe left PSG at the end of the season having lifted the Ligue 1 title and the French Cup under Spanish coach Luis Enrique and advisor Luis Campos, who he also worked under while playing for Monaco. Despite the domestic success he failed to guide his hometown club to a Champions League crown, a major ambition for Qatari-owned PSG and their president Nasser al-Khelaifi. "The people who saved me are Luis Enrique and Luis Campos," Mbappe said. "Without them I would not have put a foot on the field again." Madrid announced Mbappe's arrival two days before Les Bleus' game against Luxembourg in the northern French city Metz, their penultimate match ahead of their Euro 2024 opener against Austria on June 17. "I have a responsibility as captain. I think it overshadowed the national team," Mbappe said.

Italy Held to Goalless Draw in Euro Warm-Up With Turkey

BOLOGNA (Dispatches) - Italy were held to a goalless draw by Turkey on Tuesday as the Azzurri gear up for their European Championship title defense later this month. Luciano Spalletti's side were frustrated by Turkey in a low-key friendly in Bologna which featured little in the way of goalmouth action. Italy play one more friendly against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Empoli on Sunday before travelling to Germany for Euro 2024. They begin their campaign on June 15 against Albania in Group B, where they have also been drawn with Spain and Croatia. "We weren't amazing but the team pushed forward and tried to attack. However it was the classic match you need to play in order to put things right," Spalletti told broadcaster RAI. "We'll take all the time we need to make the necessary decisions (for the Euros)." There was little on display on Tuesday to suggest a repeat of Italy's thrilling triumph at the last Euros three years ago could be in the offing. The most noteworthy moment of a drab opening period was Ozan Kabak having to be stretchered off shortly before half-time with a knee injury which may be serious enough to have ended his hopes of playing at the finals with Turkey. Hoffenheim



midfielder Kabak fell awkwardly in an innocuous looking challenge with Mateo Retegui and writhed in agony on the sidelines until he was carried away to warm applause from the home crowd. "It's sad when something like this happens at this stage of the season when there are dreams at stake," Turkey boss Vincenzo Montella told reporters. "We hope it's nothing serious even if it doesn't look very good." In stoppage time Baris Yilmaz sent a free header over the bar before Bryan Cristante thumped the post from Roma teammate Lorenzo Pellegrini's corner with the last action of the half. Italy livened up after the break following the introduction of Andrea Cambiaso and Mattia Zaccagni, and just before the hour Retegui miscued a bicycle kick from Pellegrini's inviting cross. Although Italy were the better team a lack of inspiration in the final third made Tuesday's tournament warm-up an unsatisfying one for the 25,000 fans at the Stadio Renato Dall'Ara. Turkey, managed by former Italy striker Montella, play Poland in Warsaw on Monday in their final pre-Euro friendly. They take on Georgia in their first Group F match in Dortmund on June 18 before facing Portugal and the Czech Republic.

Perez Signs New Two-Year Contract to Stay at Red Bull



LONDON (Dispatches) - Sergio Perez has signed a new two-year deal with Red Bull that will keep him at the Formula One team until the end of 2026, it was announced on Tuesday. The 34-year-old Mexican's contract was up for renewal at the end of the season but the extension will keep him at the world champions into a sixth campaign. "I am really happy to commit my future to this great team," said Perez, who has won six races in his career. "It is a challenge like no other racing for Red Bull Racing, both on track and off track. I am delighted to be staying here to continue our journey together and contribute to this team's great history for two more years." Perez has played second fiddle at Red Bull to world champion Max Verstappen and is currently fifth in the standings, 62 points behind his team-mate ahead of this weekend's Canadian Grand Prix. Verstappen has indicated he will honour a contract that runs until 2028, despite interest from Mercedes following the fallout from allegations of sexual harassment involving team principal Christian Horner earlier this year. Horner, who denies the allegations, was cleared in February of wrongdoing by an internal investigation carried out by Red Bull's parent company. Red Bull's dominance has been threatened this season, with McLaren's Lando Norris winning in Miami last month, while Charles Leclerc triumphed in Monaco. "Now is an important time to confirm our line-up for 2025 and we are very pleased to continue working together with Checo (Perez)," said Horner. "Continuity and stability are important for the team and both Checo and Max are a successful and robust partnership, securing our first-ever one-two finish for the team in the championship last year."

Doncic and Irving Lead Mavs Against Celtics for NBA Crown

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - NBA scoring champion Luka Doncic and sharpshooter Kyrie Irving spearhead the upstart Dallas Mavericks against the favored Boston Celtics when the NBA Finals begin on Thursday. Ex-Celtics standout Irving is bracing for a hostile road reception in Boston, five years after quitting the franchise for Brooklyn, leaving Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown to turn the Celtics into the league's top club with an NBA-high 64 wins this season. "They're the best team in the NBA," Doncic said. "They have by far the best record, some incredible weapons on offense and defense so we're going to have to play really hard and amazing basketball to beat them." Tatum lifted the Celtics into the 2022 final, where they lost to Golden State but planted seeds that could bring a trophy starting with the best-of-seven opener in Boston. "There's a lot myself, and we, can learn from the experience of being in the finals and this go-around is a lot different," Tatum said. "I'm really just looking at it as a second chance and trying to simplify things as much as we can." The Celtics seek an unprecedented 18th all-time NBA crown, one more than the record they share with the Los Angeles Lakers. Boston's most recent title came in 2008. The Mavericks won their only NBA title in 2011 after reaching the 2006 final, losing to Miami. Irving will be the emotional heart of the series after his Boston stay and a playoff return with



Brooklyn that went poorly. "I'm better at consolidating the emotions now," Irving said. "You call it animosity. We call it hate. We call it, 'It's going to be hell in Boston.'" "The last time in Boston (in the playoffs with Brooklyn), I don't think that was the best... everyone saw me flip off the birds and kind of lose my (cool) a little bit. "I wasn't my best self at that time. I've been able to grow since then... I'm looking forward to it. I'll take the brunt of it, all the yells and all the remarks. "That wasn't a great reflection of who I am and how I like to compete on a high level." He's on a high now, averaging 22.8 points in the playoffs as Slovenian guard Doncic, who averaged 33 points in the regular season, averages 28.8 points, 9.6 rebounds and 8.8 assists in the playoffs. Boston counters with two of the NBA's top defensive guards in Jrue Holiday and Derrick White. "There's really no stopping them. You just try to make it difficult for them," White said. "They're going to take tough shots and they're going to make tough shots. Just trust that over 48 minutes what we're doing is going to work." Tatum averages 26.0 points and 10.4 rebounds in the playoffs with Brown averages 25.0 points with White and Holiday providing strong support and the team leading the NBA in 3-point shots and baskets. The Celtics are 9-0 when hitting 14 or more three-pointers.