

TEHRAN PAPERS

Prospects for Chabahar project

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Thursday Iranian newspapers.

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed the challenges of the recent agreement between India and Iran and wrote: For India, Chabahar can be an opportunity to evade the economic pressures of the United States, while for Iran, any foreign investment to counter the sanctions is welcomed. One of the main obstacles is the U.S. sanctions against Iran, including Iran's blacklisting by the FATF and Iran's lack of access to the SWIFT international electronic payments system. Iran's president-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, pointed out these issues, but his ability to solve them is still uncertain. On the other hand, the United States is trying to undermine China's international transportation project that expands to Central Asia, Russia, and European countries through Pakistan, and supports initiatives that start from India and extend from Iran and Central Asia to Europe. For this reason, the United States may ignore any economic gains Iran makes from Chabahar.

Jam-e-Jam: The need to continue the 3 successful strategies of the 13th government

In an article, Jam-e-Jam addressed the need to continue the successful strategies of the 13th government and said: In the first strategy, the 13th government has provided infrastructure to establish relations with neighbors, which can work for the 14th government. The second strategy was balancing the foreign policy and using the existing global capacities. By becoming a member of Shanghai [Cooperation Organization] and BRICS and having economic exchanges with countries that oppose Western sanctions, Iran was able to overcome the isolation they had created for us. The third strategy is to increase the economic cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With this strategy, the embassies had a mission to introduce the economic capabilities of our country to other countries and also gain a good understanding of the economic capabilities of other countries. Therefore, according to the fact that Pezeshkian has raised the slogan of establishing relations with all countries, to realize his slogans, he can use the appropriate strategy that the 13th government has implemented.

Siasat-e-Rooz: No change in the U.S. approach

In a situation where the West has failed

in implementing the scenario of sanctioning Iran's elections, a series of positions have been put forward by American statesmen regarding negotiations with Iran, and it was shown that they are far from any meaningful diplomatic solution. Several points of the Americans' positions can be evaluated. First of all, the emphasis of some presidential candidates on solving the country's problems outside the borders and lifting the sanctions seems to have created the illusion of Iran's need to negotiate with Western countries. Therefore, their claims that they do not want to negotiate without changing Iran's behavior can be seen as the result of these positions. Second, the American authorities' emphasis on nuclear, missile, drone, and regional issues shows that there has been no change in the Americans' approach to the goals of the negotiations, and they all seek to remove all these capabilities and even Iran from the regional equations. Thirdly, it should be noted that the claim of the Americans that they do not want to negotiate is more of a forced thing than a voluntary thing. Due to its elections, the U.S. cannot officially enter into negotiations, and the claim of unwillingness is just a form of deception of public opinion and disturbing the mental relaxation of Iranians.

Shargh: Israel's focus on the strategy of the 14th government

In an interview with Mashaallah Shamsolvaezin, a senior analyst of regional issues, Shargh discussed the foreign policy of the 14th government regarding Palestine and Lebanon and said: First, we need to see what Israel's reaction is to the reformers' regaining power and Dr. Pezeshkian coming to office. This issue depends on where Iran's behavior and decisions will reach in the Middle East region, especially focusing on Palestine and Lebanon. On the other hand, it should also be considered that the Israelis are waiting for the Islamic Republic of Iran to enter a new chapter of negotiations with Europe and the United States of America for an agreement and JCPOA. What is certain is that if the de-escalation foreign policy of Pezeshkian is realized, it can reduce the intense fear of Israelis towards Hamas and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and in this situation, Tel Aviv will have no choice but to change its policy towards Tehran because Israel will finally conclude that with the political dynamics inside Iran, there is no way for them to change the Middle East policy.

Iran rebuts U.S. allegations at UN Security Council over Yemen conflict

TEHRAN – Amir Saeed Iravani, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has strongly refuted claims made by the U.S. representative during a Security Council meeting regarding the situation in Yemen.

The U.S. accused Iran of supplying weapons to the Yemeni Resistance movement, Ansarullah, a charge Iravani dismissed as baseless and politically motivated.

In a detailed letter addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the President of the Security Council, Pedro Comissário Afonso, Iravani expressed deep regret over the dissemination of what he termed as falsehoods aimed at advancing narrow political interests and unjustly legitimizing such claims. This rebuttal was in response to statements made by the U.S. representative during a public session of the Security Council on May 13, 2024, under the agenda item "The Situation in the Middle East."

Iravani criticized the U.S. for perpetuating these accusations without credible evidence, emphasizing that Iran's stance on the Yemen conflict has been consistently misrepresented. He underscored Iran's commitment to supporting a peaceful resolution in Yemen and denounced the politicization of the Security Council platform to propagate misinformation.

The full text of Iravani's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

Excellency,

I wish to respond to yet another allegation made by the representative of the United States against my Country in the UN Security Council's open briefing on the situation in Yemen held on 13 May 2024 under the agenda item of "the situation in the Middle East" (S/2024/9623).

It is regrettable that, once again, the U.S. representative used the Security Council's platform to advance its short-sighted political interests and to justify and legitimize the US's ongoing illegal actions and military aggression against Yemen's sovereignty and territorial integrity by spreading lies and misinformation about the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the situation in Yemen.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally rejects these unfounded allegations.

Similarly, Iran rejects the identical allegations made against itself by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France during the Security Council briefing held on 14 April 2024 on the same agenda item (S/2024/9602).

In the letters dated 15 January, 19 February, and 18 March 2024, (S/2024/64- S/2024/175-S/2024/244), the Islamic Republic of Iran has made it clear that it is committed to the Security Council's relevant resolutions on the situation in Yemen and has not engaged in activities in contravention of these resolutions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

My message to the new world

From page 1 ▶ With this in mind, my administration will pursue an opportunity-driven policy by creating balance in relations with all countries, consistent with our national interests, economic development, and requirements of regional and global peace and security. Accordingly, we will welcome sincere efforts to alleviate tensions and will reciprocate good-faith with good-faith.

Under my administration, we will prioritize strengthening relations with our neighbors. We will champion the establishment of a "strong region" rather than one where a single country pursues hegemony and dominance over the others. I firmly believe that neighboring and brotherly nations should not waste their valuable resources on erosive competitions, arms races, or the unwarranted containment of each other. Instead, we will aim to create an environment where our resources can be devoted to the progress and development of the region for the benefit of all.

We look forward to cooperating with Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and regional organizations to deepen our economic ties, bolster trade relations, promote joint-venture investment, tackle common challenges, and move towards establishing a regional framework for dialogue, confidence building and development. Our region has been plagued for too long by war, sectarian conflicts, terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, water scarcity, refugee crises, environmental degradation, and foreign interference. It is time to tackle these common challenges for the benefit of future generations. Cooperation for regional development and prosperity will be the guiding principle of our foreign policy.

"China and Russia have consistently stood by us during challenging times. We deeply value this friendship."

As nations endowed with abundant resources and shared traditions rooted in peaceful Islamic teachings, we must unite and rely on the power of logic rather than the logic of power. By leveraging our normative influence, we can play a crucial role in the emerging post-polar global order by promoting peace, creating a calm environment conducive to sustainable development, fostering dialogue, and dispelling Islamophobia. Iran is prepared to play its fair share in this regard.

In 1979, following the Revolution, the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran, motivated by respect for international law and fundamental human rights, severed ties with two apartheid regimes, Israel and South Africa. Israel remains an apartheid

regime to this day, now adding "genocide" to a record already marred by occupation, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, settlement-building, nuclear weapons possession, illegal annexation, and aggression against its neighbors.

"As a first measure, my administration will urge our neighboring Arab countries to collaborate and utilize all political and diplomatic leverages to prioritize achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza aiming to stop the massacre and prevent the broadening of the conflict."

As a first measure, my administration will urge our neighboring Arab countries to collaborate and utilize all political and diplomatic leverages to prioritize achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza aiming to stop the massacre and prevent the broadening of the conflict. We must then diligently work to end the prolonged occupation that has devastated the lives of four generations of Palestinians. In this context, I want to emphasize that all states have a binding duty under the 1948 Genocide Convention to take measures to prevent genocide; not to reward it through normalization of relations with the perpetrators.

Today, it seems that many young people in Western countries have recognized the validity of our decades-long stance on the Israeli regime. I would like to take this opportunity to tell this brave generation that we regard the allegations of antisemitism against Iran for its principled stance on the Palestinian issue as not only patently false but also as an insult to our culture, beliefs, and core values. Rest assured that these accusations are as absurd as the unjust claims of antisemitism directed at you while you protest on university campuses to defend the Palestinians' right to life.

China and Russia have consistently stood by us during challenging times. We deeply value this friendship. Our 25-year roadmap with China represents a significant milestone towards establishing a mutually beneficial "comprehensive strategic partnership," and we look forward to collaborating more extensively with Beijing as we advance towards a new global order. In 2023, China played a pivotal role in facilitating the normalization of our relations with Saudi Arabia, showcasing its constructive vision and forward-thinking approach to international affairs.

Russia is a valued strategic ally and neighbor to Iran and my administration will remain

committed to expanding and enhancing our cooperation. We strive for peace for the people of Russia and Ukraine, and my government will stand prepared to actively support initiatives aimed at achieving this objective. I will continue to prioritize bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Russia, particularly within frameworks such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Eurasia Economic Union.

Recognizing that the global landscape has evolved beyond traditional dynamics, my administration is committed to fostering mutually beneficial relations with emerging international players in the Global South, especially with African nations. We will strive to enhance our collaborative efforts and strengthen our partnerships for the mutual benefit of all involved.

Iran's relations with Latin America are well-established and will be closely maintained and deepened to foster development, dialogue and cooperation in all fields. There is significantly more potential for cooperation between Iran and the countries of Latin America than what is currently being realized, and we look forward to further strengthening our ties.

Iran's relations with Europe have known its ups and downs. After the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) in May 2018, European countries made eleven commitments to Iran to try to salvage the agreement and mitigate the impact of the United States' unlawful and unilateral sanctions on our economy. These commitments involved ensuring effective banking transactions, effective protection of companies from U.S. sanctions, and the promotion of investments in Iran. European countries have reneged on all these commitments, yet unreasonably expect Iran to unilaterally fulfill all its obligations under the JCPOA.

Despite these missteps, I look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with European countries to set our relations on the right path, based on principles of mutual respect and equal footing. European countries should realize that Iranians are a proud people whose rights and dignity can no longer be overlooked. There are numerous areas of cooperation that Iran and Europe can explore once European powers come to terms with this reality and set aside self-arrogated moral supremacy coupled with manufactured crises that have plagued our relations for so long. Opportunities for collaboration include economic and technological cooperation, energy security, transit routes, environment, as well as combating terrorism and drug trafficking, refugee crises, and other fields, all of which could be pursued to the benefit of our nations.

The United States also needs to recognize the reality and understand, once and for all, that Iran does not—and will not—

respond to pressure. We entered the JCPOA in 2015 in good faith and fully met our obligations. But the United States unlawfully withdrew from the agreement motivated by purely domestic quarrels and vengeance, inflicting hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to our economy, and causing untold suffering, death and destruction on the Iranian people—particularly during the Covid pandemic—through the imposition of extraterritorial unilateral sanctions. The U.S. deliberately chose to escalate hostilities by waging not only an economic war against Iran but also engaging in state terrorism by assassinating General Qassem Soleimani, a global anti-terrorism hero known for his success in saving the people of our region from the scourge of ISIS and other ferocious terrorist groups. Today, the world is witnessing the harmful consequences of that choice.

The U.S. and its Western allies, not only missed a historic opportunity to reduce and manage tensions in the region and the world, but also seriously undermined the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by showing that the costs of adhering to the tenets of the non-proliferation regime could outweigh the benefits it may offer. Indeed, the U.S. and its Western allies have abused the non-proliferation regime to fabricate a crisis regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program – openly contradicting their own intelligence assessment – and use it to maintain sustained pressure on our people, while they have actively contributed to and continue to support the nuclear weapons of Israel, an apartheid regime, a compulsive aggressor and a non-NPT member and a known possessor of illegal nuclear arsenal.

I wish to emphasize that Iran's defense doctrine does not include nuclear weapons and urge the United States to learn from past miscalculations and adjust its policy accordingly. Decision-makers in Washington need to recognize that a policy that consists of pitting regional countries against each other has not succeeded and will not succeed in the future. They need to come to terms with this reality and avoid exacerbating current tensions.

"The Iranian people have entrusted me with a strong mandate to vigorously pursue constructive engagement on the international stage."

The Iranian people have entrusted me with a strong mandate to vigorously pursue constructive engagement on the international stage while insisting on our rights, our dignity and our deserved role in the region and the world. I extend an open invitation to those willing to join us in this historic endeavor.

Police report arrest of terrorist group in Southern Iranian province

TEHRAN – The Bushehr Province Police Command, through its public relations office, has announced the arrest of a group responsible for a series of vandalism and arson incidents across the province.

Brigadier General Heydar Soosani detailed the crimes, which included the destruction and burning of billboards promoting the Leader's call for public participation in the presidential elections, as well as graffiti in various locations. These actions had raised significant concerns among the local

community, officials, and security agencies.

In response, the Bushehr police formed a specialized operational and technical team comprising experienced experts. By leveraging a network of informants, expanding intelligence efforts, reviewing CCTV footage, and employing technical measures, the police identified the ringleader of the group.

Brigadier General Soosani explained that, following judicial approval, the suspect was captured in a surprise operation and brought

to police headquarters for interrogation and technical investigation.

The Bushehr Police Commander reported that all members of the group were apprehended in a complex operation. Confronted with evidence, they confessed to their plans. The arrested individuals admitted they had intended to attack and throw Molotov cocktails at a police headquarters in northern Bushehr Province. Their capture prevented the execution of this plan, effectively thwarting their conspiracy.