

Ironclad Partnership

Araghchi highlights deepening Iran-China alliance in meeting with Chinese counterpart as both nations pledge unified efforts to foster regional stability



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) shakes hand with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in the Chinese capital, Beijing, on December 28, 2024.

PMF Chief reaffirms commitment to Iran and regional stability

TEHRAN – Faleh al-Fayyadh, the head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), has reaffirmed the organization's steadfast loyalty to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a statement highlighting the deep ties between the two sides, al-Fayyadh emphasized the PMF's commitment to supporting and standing alongside Iran.

"We are loyal to our brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran," al-Fayyadh declared, underscoring the shared history and mutual cooperation between Iraq's PMF and Iran in addressing regional challenges.

Despite the current calm, al-Fayyadh stressed the PMF's vigilance, signaling that the organization remains on high alert to respond to any potential threats. "Although we do not currently sense any danger, we remain fully prepared to confront any potential threat," he stated, reaffirming the group's readiness to act swiftly should the need arise.

Iran and Russia: a strategic alliance under Pezeshkian's presidency

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Iran's ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, announced that the two countries are set to sign a comprehensive cooperation agreement that will strengthen their bilateral relations.

According to Jalali, the pact will be formalized during the official visit of Masoud Pezeshkian to Moscow on January 17, when the presidents of Iran and Russia will sign the document, which will include key areas of strategic collaboration.

This rapprochement underscores the mutual interest in consolidating an alliance that goes beyond economics, extending to educational and cultural management. In an international context marked by uncertainties, Tehran and Moscow are working to solidify their cooperation to face common challenges.

The Iranian ambassador highlighted progress in key economic projects, such as the North-South Transport Corridor, which remains a strategic priority for both countries. In this context, he recalled the recent visit to Tehran of two Russian deputy prime ministers, who met with the Iranian president and other high-ranking officials to discuss advancements in this initiative.

Russia has solidified its position as one of Iran's key strategic partners on both the international and regional fronts. Amid a growing rift with the West, particularly the United States, and in the face of political and military instability in West Asia, ▶ Page 3

For first time Israel uses American THAAD to counter Yemen's missile

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Israeli media reported that "for the first time since its deployment in Israel, the US air defense system, THAAD, was activated to confront the Yemeni missile," which is used to intercept short-, medium-, and high-altitude ballistic missiles.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesman for the Yemeni armed forces, had previously revealed the implementation of a qualitative operation against Ben Gurion Airport, at dawn on Friday, via a ballistic missile, named "Palestine 2", that reaching its target "despite the occupation's secrecy."

Sanaa decided to open a front supporting Gaza in stages, starting with preventing commercial ships from crossing the Bab al-Mandab Strait towards the occupied Palestinian territories and reaching the targeting of the Israeli depth with attack drones and ballistic missiles.

Israel dwarfed by Ansarullah's affordable, abundant arsenal

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The Tel Aviv regime is making desperate attempts to deter Yemen's Ansarullah movement from launching missile and drone attacks toward targets inside Israel.

Shortly after Israel launched its war of genocide on Gaza in October last year, the Yemeni army began to hit strategic and military locations in Israeli cities in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In recent weeks, the Yemeni army has stepped up attacks on Israel firing projectiles, including hypersonic missiles which have forced millions of people to rush to bomb shelters.

Ansarullah has vowed to continue military strikes until Israel stops its genocidal war in Gaza.

Israel has also intensified strikes in Yemen.

An Israeli strike hit the international airport in the capital Sanaa on Thursday just as the head of the World Health Organization was about to board a flight there.

450 days of Israeli genocide: Gaza's health system in free fall

TEHRAN- The death toll from Israel's genocidal war on Gaza keeps rising; 450 days after the regime initiated its aerial assaults on cities and towns across the Palestinian territory.

According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, the Israeli army has butchered more than 45,400 Palestinians in the enclave since October 7, 2023.

The ministry says more than 108,000 other Palestinians have also sustained injuries in the nearly past 15 months.

In addition to targeting civilians and residential buildings, Israel has bombed and raided hospitals.

On Friday, Israeli troops stormed and set fire to one of the last functioning hospitals in northern Gaza.

The Israeli army admitted that it launched a raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital claiming the facility "serves as a Hamas terrorist stronghold". The regime failed to provide any evidence to back up its claim while Hamas dismissed the allegation.

"We categorically deny the presence of any military activity or resistance fighters in the hospital," Hamas said in a statement.

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The most important ideals of martyr Ayatollah Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim

By Sayyed Mohsin al-Hakim

BAGHDAD – Every year, on the first of Rajab (the seventh month of the Islamic calendar), the anniversary of the honorable martyr Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim is designated as Iraq's Martyrs Day.

The first of Rajab (the seventh month of the Islamic calendar), the day Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim was martyred, is designated as Martyrs Day in Iraq.

Throughout his life, Martyr al-Hakim consistently fought against oppression, dictatorship, and tyranny. A summary of the ideals and principles that defined his path is presented below on the occasion of his martyrdom anniversary:

1. Reliance on Almighty Allah and belief in divine tradition for achieving ideals: ▶ Page 5



"Eye to Eye" exhibition at TMoCA: Portraits that capture public attention

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-The exhibition "Eye to Eye," which is underway at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) has been extended again.

The exhibition, showcasing portraits in modern and contemporary art, has been extended for the third time due to high public interest. It will run until January 12, 2025, alongside the exhibition "Marcos Grigorian: A Retrospective," which showcases works of the late Iranian-Armenian artist. ▶ Page 8

Sachs interview with Tehran Times US has long operated like a bully: Jeffrey Sachs

Columbia University professor calls Trump's statement about Canada 'nasty and absurd'

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