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Why Resistance Groups Are Not Iran's Proxies

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'Detailed strategy, private sector's contribution required in maritime-oriented economy'

TEHRAN- President Masoud Pezeshkian said that a detailed strategy and private sector's contribution is necessary for transformation in the maritime-oriented economy.

Making the remarks in the Sunday's session on the development of maritime-oriented economy, the president, while emphasizing the development of a detailed strategy in this field, addressed the necessity of the presence of the private sector in the industries related to the sea and stated: "For the presence of the private sector, it is necessary to prepare and compile the economic frameworks and commercial annexes of the development plans of the sea economy."

He further put emphasis on the high importance of sea-oriented industries, especially the shipbuilding industry, and said the 14th government pays special attention to sea-related industries and is doing its best to comprehensively examine the issues, problems and opportunities facing the country in this field.

President Pezeshkian has referred to the government's prioritization of the maritime-oriented economy and the importance of the prosperity of this sector on the country's growth, development and prosperity, and stated that the government is determined to implement maritime-oriented development plans. ► Page 4

What's Israel's goal in spreading false narratives about Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran?

TEHRAN – The Hamas Resistance movement has refuted Israeli claims about the assassination of its late political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, stating that he was killed by a guided missile targeting his mobile phone, not a planted bomb as Israel alleges.

In a statement on Sunday, Hamas rejected all "fabrications" by Israel, clarifying that joint investigations with Iranian authorities revealed a missile containing 7.5 kilograms of explosives was used. Hamas also condemned the assassination as a violation of Iranian sovereignty.

"The claims made by the Zionist regime are only a desperate attempt to divert public opinion from this multi-layered crime, which has been committed by clearly violating the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and targeting one of the country's official headquarters," the group's statement added. ► Page 2

Swedes, Brits denounce Europe's silence on Israeli genocide in Gaza

Hundreds of Palestine supporters led silent marches on Saturday evening in Swedish and British cities to protest the European silence on the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Protesters in the Swedish city of Uppsala carried dolls covered in red-stained shrouds to denounce the killing of children in Gaza and the attacks on civilians in tents and hospitals, and the forced evacuation of workers at Kamal Adwan Hospital by the Israeli military.

They also held pictures of people killed and wounded to denounce the genocide. The scene was repeated in the British city of Leeds to urge Prime Minister Keir Starmer to stop arming Israel and adhere to implementing the decisions made by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to arrest Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant.

Anti-war and pro-Palestine activists staged a rally in central London on Thursday, coinciding with Boxing Day.

Since the start of the Gaza conflict, many countries across the world have seen anti-war protests. People from all walks of life have frequently held rallies in cities across Britain, EU countries, the United States, and beyond calling for an end to Israel's brutal war on Gaza.

Will Israel resume aggression on Lebanon after truce expires?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — Various media analyses dissect what will happen after the end of the 60-day truce between Lebanon and the Israeli occupation regime. No wonder Netanyahu may commit unprecedented or familiar aggression, however, that would not be in his favor, nor even in the favor of his US and Western allies.

Following the vague fall of the Syrian government under Bashar al-Assad, Netanyahu and other Zionist officials have been intoxicated with an alleged "victory", thinking that cutting off Hezbollah's supply route through Syria would result in a complete elimination of the resistance front.

After 66 days of aggression on Hezbollah, the occupation regime realized that there was no point in a ground war, knowing that it was very costly in terms of lives and equipment. The Zionist regime is in dire need of rehabilitating its army exhausted by the Gaza and Lebanon wars. Netanyahu himself raised this issue to justify his approval of the ceasefire.

In parallel, the occupation regime has allocated 200 million shekels to facilitate the return of its colonial settlers to the occupied Palestinian territories in the north and to rebuild their demolished colonial settlements.

Israel spinning a tale to justify its occupation of southern Lebanon

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel appears to be making a cock-and-bull story to prolong its occupation of southern Lebanon.

Israeli media has revealed that the regime is considering the option of keeping its forces in southern Lebanon following the conclusion of a two-month ceasefire agreement reached with Hezbollah in late November.

According to Israel Hayom, senior political and military officials have engaged in multiple discussions in recent days concerning the possibility of an extension.

Israeli officials have cited an alleged slow deployment by the Lebanese army in the south, and the "abundance of Hezbollah's weapons and infrastructure that are still exposed in the field".

Israel and Lebanon began trading cross-border fire on October 8, 2023. That was a day after Israel initiated its genocidal war on Gaza. The Lebanese resistance movement struck Israel's strategic and military sites with drones and missiles in a show of solidarity with Palestinians in the enclave.

On September 23 this year, Israel launched a massive bombing campaign in Lebanon and a week later sent its troops into southern Lebanon.

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12 Iranian films to be shown at Dhaka International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Twelve films from Iran will participate in the 23rd Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF), due to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, from January 11 to 19, 2025.

The Iranian films have been selected to be shown in different sections of the festival, which is organized by Rainbow Film Society.

In the Asian Film Competition section, three films from Iran will compete for the top awards. They include "Summer Time" directed by Mahmood Kalari, "Projectionist" by Ghorbanali Taherifar, and "Melody" by Behrouz Sebt Rasoul. The latter is a joint production of Iran and Tajikistan.

There will be five Iranian films in the Cinema of the World section including "This Controllable Crowd" by Mohammad Matin Ojani, "Barren" by Mansour Vosoughi, "Maybe Somewhere Else" by Ali Tasdighi, "Winter Threshold" by Soudabeh Bezaei, and "Maria" by Mahdi Asghari Azghadi. ► Page 8



Israeli forces assault hospitals, sexually abuse women and girls

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The World Health Organization (WHO) says it is horrified by the Israeli assault on Kamal Adwan Hospital, confirming that it had lost contact with the hospital's director.

The WHO clarified that "Kamal Adwan Hospital is now empty. Last night, 15 critically ill patients, 50 caregivers, and 20 healthcare workers were transferred to the Indonesian Hospital, which lacks the equipment and supplies necessary to provide adequate care." It added that "moving these patients and treating them under such conditions poses severe risks to their survival." ► Page 5

Tehran, Moscow set to explore new avenues in upcoming strategic agreement: Lavrov

TEHRAN – Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has announced that a forthcoming strategic cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia is poised to open new avenues for the expansion of bilateral partnerships in various areas, including defense and security.

In an interview with Russia's RIA Novosti on Saturday, Lavrov highlighted that the comprehensive agreement will bolster security and defense relations between the two nations while also having notable global ramifications.

"Naturally, such a comprehensive and all-encompassing document also has an international dimension," the Russian Foreign Minister stated. ► Page 2