



Composite image shows Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, commander of the IRGC Navy, with the backdrop of an Iranian naval vessel engaged in military maneuvers on January 24, 2025, in Iran's southern waters

Exclusive

IRGC Navy commander talks to Tehran Times as he oversees drills in Persian Gulf and Hormuz Strait:

## 2,400km of Iran's Coast Fortified with Network of Hardened Underground Bases

► Page 3

### Iran-Russia treaty signals indifference to external pressures: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian says the strategic agreement between Iran and Russia marks a significant moment in both countries' efforts to secure their sovereignty and resist external pressures from powers with expansionist ambitions.

In an exclusive interview with Russia's TV Channel 1, Pezeshkian underscored that Iran is a long-established nation and will not be shaped by the frameworks or desires of those seeking to impose their will on the region.

"We are here to stay," he declared, stressing that the comprehensive agreement signed with Russia signals a commitment to long-term partnership and regional stability.

Pezeshkian elaborated on the details of the agreement, which encompasses 47 clauses addressing political, security, and economic cooperation between the two nations. ► Page 2

### Fractured alliances: Trump's divided coalition on Iran

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Since Donald Trump took office as the 47th U.S. president, the supposed unity that once characterized his support base against the Democratic Party has begun to fracture, revealing deep-seated divisions over the country's foreign policy, particularly concerning Iran.

The Trump administration, now navigating its second term, faces a pivotal moment where past policies and new appointments could either mend or widen these rifts.

The recent act of U.S.-Iran relations under Trump has been shaped by the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), from which Trump, under the enormous influence of the Israel Lobby, withdrew in 2018, reinstating harsh sanctions against Iran and waging economic warfare against its population.

This move set the stage for a policy of "maximum pressure" that supposedly aimed to curb Iran's civilian nuclear program and regional influence.

In a separate series of actions, the Trump administration designated the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization and, in early 2020, assassinated General Qassem Soleimani, a highly venerated Iranian military leader who was in Iraq on a peace mission. ► Page 3

### Iranian short animation "In the Shadow of the Cypress" receives nomination at Oscars 2025

TEHRAN-The Iranian short animated movie "In the Shadow of the Cypress," co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani received a nomination for the Best Animated Short Film at the 97th Academy Awards.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced nominations on Thursday for the Oscars 2025, where the Iranian flick will compete with four other short animations including the Belgian-French-Dutch short "Beautiful Men," "Magic Candies" from Japan, Dutch animation "Wander to Wonder," and "Yuck!" from France.

A 2023 production of the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (known as Kanoon), the animated movie has participated in many international festivals and grabbed several awards, ISNA reported. ► Page 8

### Double defiance: US, Israel team up to violate Lebanon's territorial integrity

TEHRAN – Israel's decision to prolong the occupation of Lebanon has underscored its expansionist aspirations, particularly in light of what appears to be tacit approval from the United States.

The Israeli premier said on Friday that the regime's army will not withdraw from southern Lebanon by the 60-day deadline set under a ceasefire agreement with the Hezbollah resistance movement.

"The IDF withdrawal is conditional upon the Lebanese army deploying in southern Lebanon. Since the ceasefire agreement has not yet been fully enforced by Lebanon, the gradual withdrawal process will continue, in full coordination with the United States," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

### Israel refuses to withdraw from south Lebanon

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – On the eve of the expiration of the 60-day truce, and in conjunction with the formation of the new Lebanese cabinet, attention is focused on south Lebanon as Beirut continues to demand decision-makers in Washington and Paris to pressure Tel Aviv to withdraw from the occupied territories.

During his meeting with US General Jasper Jeffers, head of the 5-member committee, Nabih Berri, Speaker of Parliament, refused to extend the truce "even for a single day." Berri informed Jeffers that Israel "would not dare to proceed with the extension without the approval of the US administration."

Meanwhile, the Lebanese army and UNIFIL are on alert in anticipation of any developments on Sunday morning as the deadline expires, as residents insist on returning to their border villages and towns.

### Israeli regime expands Jenin invasion

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Israeli forces expanded their deadly assault on Jenin in the occupied West Bank on Friday, marking the fourth consecutive day of the ongoing invasion.

Armed clashes have taken place between Palestinian resistance fighters and Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in Qabatiya, a town more than ten kilometers south of Jenin city.

Residents said an explosion shook the town on Friday amid intense drone activity in the area.

Reports say the IOF surrounded a house in Qabatiya, firing Energa shells at it as troops raided nearby homes.

The IOF deployed additional reinforcements to Qabatiya, accompanied by an Apache helicopter.

The occupation forces have turned the vicinity of Jenin's refugee camp, adjacent to the city, into a launching pad for raids against the towns of Qabatiya as well as Ya'bad, which is located 20 kilometers west of Jenin.

### Hamas wins war, Israel takes the wooden spoon

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Israeli officials are spilling the beans on their army's failed strategy in the Gaza Strip in the wake of the implementation of a ceasefire with Hamas.

A former general has emerged as the most recent individual who has admitted that the Israeli army finished up with the wooden spoon after failing to defeat Hamas in the course of the 15-month war against Gaza.

Retired Major General Itzhak has debunked claims about undermining Hamas' combat capabilities, describing such assertions as mere "pipe dreams".

"Today, the army is small after being downsized for 20 years, so it is incapable of defeating Hamas or Hezbollah. All the celebrations, as if we have won and destroyed them, are nonsense," he told the Israeli media.

The former general acknowledged Israel had to agree to the ceasefire out of desperation.

► Page 5

### Over 80 Iranian universities in THE WUR by subject 2025

TEHRAN –The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) 2025 has placed 81 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas, compared to 73 universities in 2024.

These ten subject rankings include arts and humanities; business and economics; clinical and health; computer science; education; engineering; life sciences; physical sciences; psychology; and social sciences. The eleventh subject is Law.

The Ranking includes 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across five core pillars of evaluation: teaching (evaluates teaching reputation, student-to-staff ratio, doctorate-to-bachelor ratio, doctorate-to-bachelor ratio and institutional income). ► Page 7



### President participates in construction of a school in Ahvaz

TEHRAN- On his third provincial visit, President Masoud Pezeshkian and his cabinet traveled to Khuzestan province, in the southwest of Iran, on Thursday (January 23). In addition to inaugurating and visiting several development projects in the province, the president, while visiting the project to build a 15-class school in one of the deprived and densely populated areas of Ahvaz, the capital city of Khuzestan, personally participated in the construction of a part of the wall of this school.