

Saturday Test for US

Iran to evaluate Washington's true intentions during indirect Oman talks



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (R) and US Special Envoy to West Asia Steven Witkoff (L) will represent their countries during indirect talks in Oman on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Iran, Russia, China convene in Moscow for 2nd round of nuclear talks

TEHRAN – High-ranking diplomats from Iran, Russia, and China met in Moscow for the second time this year to discuss Western pressure on Iran regarding its civilian nuclear program.

The first round of the talks was held last month in Beijing, where the three countries reaffirmed Tehran's right to pursue peaceful nuclear energy as recognized under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). They also pledged to coordinate within BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to advance diplomatic solutions.

Iran, Russia, and China previously took part in negotiations that led to the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015, which also involved Western parties, namely the US, UK, France, and Germany.

The JCPOA has been largely ineffective since Washington unilaterally withdrew in 2018 and reinstated sanctions that had been removed under the pact. Although European signatories have not formally abandoned the agreement, their actions suggest a de facto abandonment.

'War with Iran is suicidal!': Americans unite against a war they believe will serve Israel, not the US

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – As U.S. President Donald Trump amplifies his threats against Iran and orders military posturing around West Asia and beyond, his connections to the Israeli regime and influential Zionist figures have significantly shaped his support for Tel Aviv in Gaza and his military actions in Yemen.

Concurrently, an unprecedented coalition of American voices—spanning conservative, progressive, and libertarian perspectives—is urging an immediate halt to what they believe is an increasingly dangerous trajectory.

Their message is clear: Military action against Iran would destabilize West Asia, drain American resources, and prioritize foreign agendas over domestic needs.

They warn that a possible war with Iran is not only unwinnable but antithetical to U.S. interests. ▶ Page 2

Why the 'Libyan model' is not reproducible for Iran

By Farhad Pashavand

TEHRAN – During a recent meeting between the Prime Minister of the Israeli regime and the U.S. President, Benjamin Netanyahu referred to the "Libyan model" as an ideal way to engage with Iran.

While this reference might appear diplomatic on the surface, it is, in essence, a direct threat against the country.

The "Libyan model" refers to the 2003 agreement between Muammar Gaddafi and Western countries (particularly the U.S. and the U.K.) to dismantle Libya's nuclear, chemical, and missile programs. In exchange for promises to lift sanctions and reintegrate Libya into the international community, Gaddafi abandoned many of the country's strategic capabilities. However, this process not only failed to lead to stability but, with the onset of the so-called "Arab Spring" in 2011, NATO intervened under the pretext of supporting the people and toppled Gaddafi's government. In this note, I will explain why comparing Iran to Libya is not only incorrect but fundamentally lacks strategic value. ▶ Page 3

'Historic, resilient ties:' Araghchi meets his counterpart in Algeria

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, leading a high-ranking delegation to Algeria, held pivotal talks on Thursday with his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Attaf, underscoring the nations' shared vision for regional stability and deepened bilateral cooperation.

The meeting, marked by mutual praise for decades of solidarity, highlighted urgent calls to address the Israeli regime's "law-breaking expansionism" in West Asia and to mobilize Islamic diplomacy to halt the genocide in Palestine.

"Iran-Algeria relations are historic, resilient, and deeply rooted," Araghchi declared upon arrival in Algiers, emphasizing the nations' alignment on regional crises.

"Our Algerian brothers have stood unwaveringly alongside Iran during critical historical junctures and taken commendable steps to improve regional dynamics."

He lauded Algeria's "principled and robust" stance on Palestine, a recurring theme in discussions. ▶ Page 2

Iran ranks second among Islamic nations in SCImago 2024

TEHRAN – According to the recent ranking published by SCImago 2024, Iran, with 75501 documents, ranks second among Islamic countries.

The country ranks 17 globally, dropping one position in the ranking compared to the past year. Turkey (with 82150 documents, and Saudi Arabia (with 72167 documents) rank first and third, respectively, Mehr news agency reported.

In 2022, the country published over 78,000 documents in Scopus, but in 2023 the number of documents declined reaching 74,000. In 2024, the trend has increased but not yet reaching the figure published in 2022.

According to the report, in terms of citations (89,492), Iran ranks second and fifteen in the region and the world, respectively. Over the past five years, the country's global ranking has improved from 19 to 15. Saudi Arabia and Turkey with 121,838 and 81,106 citations, ranked first and third, respectively.

China (with 1215824 documents), The United States (with 743,884 documents), and India (with 351,928) are placed first to third in the SCImago ranking 2024. ▶ Page 7

Lebanon after Ortagus' ill-fated visit

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The detailed discussions of Morgan Ortagus, the US Deputy Envoy to the Middle East, during her ill-fated three-day visit to Beirut, forced an urgent meeting between heads of Lebanon's executive and legislative powers, especially those related to the completion of the implementation of UN Resolution 1701.

The meeting, which brought together President of the Republic General Joseph Aoun and Speaker of Parliament Nabih Berri, also addressed a series of legal amendments — banking in particular — to ensure that they are passed with consensus before embarking on any negotiations with the International Monetary Fund or other international financial institutions that are a source of funding (whether through loans or grants).

As such, the discussion focused on the background of the so-called reform laws addressed by Ortagus. She spoke on behalf of the international community and donor institutions.

Trump's envoy, who complained about what she deemed slow process, said Lebanon must first address the lifting of bank secrecy (with a retroactive effect of 10, not 3 years as proposed by the Lebanese government). ▶ Page 5

How Trump undercut Netanyahu in one visit

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – On April 6, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Washington, D.C., for what was billed as a critical meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump. The visit, hastily arranged following Trump's imposition of new tariffs on Israeli goods, was intended to address a range of pressing issues, including U.S.-Israel trade relations, the ongoing war in Gaza, the release of prisoners, tensions with Iran, and Israel's fraught relationship with the International Criminal Court (ICC). However, as reports from both Western and Israeli media outlets reveal, the visit ended abruptly and without substantive progress, leaving many observers questioning its purpose and effectiveness. ▶ Page 5



Tehran, Baku discuss expansion of economic, transport, energy ties

TEHRAN – Iran's Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh, who also chairs the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee, met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku to discuss bilateral ties and economic cooperation.

According to a statement from Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry on Tuesday, the meeting focused on expanding joint projects across key sectors including transportation, customs, water and energy, oil and gas, and preferential trade. ▶ Page 4