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A positive Muscat Start, but Will it End Well?

Iran, US agree to hold second round of indirect talks in a few days

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Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his accompanying delegation in Oman after the conclusion of indirect talks with the U.S. on April 12, 2025.

Yemen attacks Tel Aviv, US warships

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Despite increasing indiscriminate U.S. attacks on Yemen, the Arab nation has once again retaliated.

Just hours after announcing strikes on the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Truman and several hostile warships in the northern Red Sea, Yemeni forces launched a military operation against two Israeli targets in Tel Aviv, reaffirming their steadfast support for Palestine.

The Yemeni Armed Forces announced that their drone unit carried out a precision strike on two Israeli military targets in Tel Aviv using domestically-manufactured Jaffa-type drones.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, declared, "The ongoing American aggression against Yemen will not deter us from fulfilling our duty to the steadfast people of Gaza until the attacks end and the siege is lifted."

The Yemeni Armed Forces reaffirmed their readiness to confront any escalation, emphasizing their unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause.

They stated that their military operations "will only stop when the aggression ends and the blockade on Gaza is lifted."

50 years after eruption of Lebanon's infamous civil

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — Those who witnessed the bloody events of Lebanon's civil war, which was triggered on April 13, 1975, had no idea that it would spark a series of crises 50 years later!

Historians of Islamic theological sects note that the name given to the Murji'ah sect is derived from the Arabic verb "arja'a," which means to delay.

According to Ibn al-Athir, they were called Murji'ah because they prioritized the importance of one's professed faith over his deeds. They also hold the false opinion that Muslims should practice postponing judgment on committers of major sins to God alone.

The Murji'ite doctrine was a methodology adopted by the Umayyads, following the assassination of Imam Ali and the self-appointment of Mu'awiyah ibn Abi Sufyan as Caliph in a bid to silence opposition to the validity of their caliphate.

This is what Geagea has held to silence the Lebanese. Today, in particular, the victims of the civil war, especially those killed at the hands of the Lebanese Forces militia, have not yet forgotten the devastating horrors caused by Geagea and other civil warlords.

Meta's role in silencing Palestinian narratives

By Sahar Dadjoo

TEHRAN – The current digital age, where social media serves as the primary tool for global communication, is seeing recent revelations about Israel's efforts to block pro-Palestine content on Meta platforms (Facebook and Instagram), stirring widespread anxiety alongside heated discussions and anger.

The deliberate campaign by Israeli authorities to suppress critical narratives emerges from leaked information reported by sources such as Drop Site News, Al Mayadeen, and The Palestine Chronicle which documents an extraordinary effort to silence dissent regarding its actions amidst the Gaza conflict.

On April 12, 2025, The Palestine Chronicle's live blog emphasizes the severe nature of this crackdown by documenting Meta's deletion of 90,000 posts upon Israel's request within one day. This statistic, alongside Al Mayadeen's report about Israel's "directly orchestrated" efforts to suppress pro-Palestine narratives, depicts an intentional information control strategy. Israel's censorship efforts stand out as it targets international conversations instead of domestic content,

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Iran's air defense matrix: Blending indigenous innovation and geography to forge a fortress

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – In a display of technological sovereignty, Iran's defense sector has achieved a milestone that underscores its transformation from a pre-revolutionary dependency to a military innovator.

Iran has redefined its security paradigm, with over 900 indigenous defense systems now operational, according to the Ministry of Defense, blending cutting-edge engineering, asymmetric tactics, and geographic ingenuity to counter existential threats.

Before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran's military relied on just 31 defense systems, largely rudimentary and imported from Western allies.

On Sunday, Rear Admiral Reza Talai-Nik, spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense, asserted that the nation produces a staggering array of 900+ defensive systems –from ballistic missiles to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – all engineered domestically. ▶ Page 2

Transport, transit agreement to be signed in Pezeshkian's visit to Azerbaijan

TEHRAN- Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadegh announced that the transportation and transit agreement will be signed between Iran and Republic of Azerbaijan during the visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Azerbaijan.

She also referred to the upcoming specialized meeting between Iranian and Azerbaijani traders on the sidelines of the president's visit to Azerbaijan, aiming to increase international goods transportation between the two countries and transit of goods in cooperation with Iran's Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, Sadegh and Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev, as the chairmen of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, visited the Port of Baku, along with their accompanying delegation. This visit, conducted at the top levels of the two governments, aimed to explore ways to enhance bilateral trade and economic interactions.

The Iranian minister also announced that the Joint Committee on Transport between Iran and Azerbaijan will be established soon.

She stated, "The purpose of forming the joint committee is to hold regular sessions of this committee and accelerate the process of pursuing joint projects in all aspects of transportation, including rail, road, air, and sea." ▶ Page 4

Iran Film Week opens in Hanoi

TEHRAN-Iran Film Week in Hanoi was launched on Friday at the National Cinema Center in the capital of Vietnam in the presence of Ali Akbar Nazari, Iran's ambassador to Vietnam, and Quang Dong, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam.

Organized by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Hanoi in coordination with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the event is held in honor of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Vietnam, IRNA reported.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Iranian ambassador said: "Iranian cinema has long established itself as a distinctive and influential one in the world. With its minimalist yet emotional, poetic and deeply humanistic storytelling style, ▶ Page 8



Lenj boats: guardians of maritime heritage in Persian Gulf

Tehran – Construction of Lenj boats is an ancient indigenous craft along the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf that has historically played an important role in navigation, trade, and the livelihoods of southern Iran's people.

Skills pertaining to the construction of Lenj boats and sailing them were added to UNESCO's World Heritage List as Iran's intangible cultural heritage in 2011.

Added to UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage, this industry now faces numerous threats and requires concerted efforts for its preservation and revival, IRNA reported. ▶ Page 6



Muscat: Trump's test and Iran's superiority

By Najah Mohammad Ali

LONDON – Amid overlapping crises and competing interests of major powers—and in light of the far-reaching consequences of events following the "Al-Aqsa Storm"—Iran has emerged not as a country seeking to create crises but as a regional power that asserts its presence with confidence and authority.

Despite sanctions and maximum pressure, Iran has managed to establish a paradigm based on national sovereignty and human dignity while insisting on scientific and technological advancement—especially in peaceful nuclear energy. Within this framework, the new round of talks in the Sultanate of Oman is not just another negotiation stop; it marks a fundamental turning point. ▶ Page 3