

Iran Neither Overly Optimistic Nor Overly Pessimistic About Oman Talks



BRICS: An environmental cooperation opportunity for half the world's population

By Dr. Shina Ansari

Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment of Iran

TEHRAN - The modern world is grappling with a series of profound environmental and social challenges. Although these issues are frequently mentioned in diplomatic meetings, negotiations, and media coverage, they remain largely unaddressed on the ground. Problems such as global warming, biodiversity loss, drought, soil erosion, water scarcity, and pollution are not only unresolved by political bias, misconduct, and human conflicts—they are in fact exacerbated by them.

These environmental crises trigger a cascade of further consequences: rising food prices, emerging diseases, forced migration, poverty, economic decline, and more. Crucially, these challenges no longer distinguish between the Global South and North. Their impacts are evident across all nations. They transcend political borders and now threaten the future of humanity as a whole. ▶ Page 7

Shared heritage drives enhanced defense cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan

TEHRAN - The defense ministers of Iran and Tajikistan convened in Tehran on Tuesday to reaffirm their commitment to expanding defense cooperation and strengthening joint efforts to combat terrorism, building upon the long-standing historical and cultural ties between the two nations.

During the meeting, Iran's Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh underscored the strategic significance of Tajikistan to Iran, citing the shared linguistic, religious, and civilizational heritage that binds the two countries. He emphasized that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has consistently advocated for enhanced relations with Tajikistan in all spheres, reflecting Iran's strategic vision for the region.

Tajik Defense Minister Emomali Sobirzoda reciprocated these sentiments, noting the ample social, cultural, historical, and religious commonalities that provide a fertile ground for enhanced cooperation.

Iranian citizen Mahdieh Esfandiari arrested in France over support for Palestine

Xavier Villar

MADRID - The French Government has once again detained an Iranian citizen residing in the country, accusing her of publicly expressing support for Palestine and condemning what rights bodies have described as the genocide perpetrated by the Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip.

Mahdieh Esfandiari, 39, had been living in France for the past eight years and worked as a translator. Alongside her, another individual — whose identity has not been disclosed — was arrested on similar charges. Authorities have not clarified whether the two jointly managed the social media accounts under investigation or operated independently.

According to the Paris Prosecutor's Office, the investigation was launched in November 2024 and focused on several active accounts on platforms such as X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. Prosecutors deemed the content published on these platforms as incitement to terrorism and the dissemination of hate speech based on religious or ethnic grounds. ▶ Page 3

Saudi-UAE plan for ground invasion in Yemen

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Saudi and Emirati-backed forces reportedly plan a ground offensive in Yemen amid U.S. strikes on the country.

Reports indicate a militia force of nearly 80,000, backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, is preparing to advance on the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah from multiple fronts.

The mobilization of these forces for a large-scale attack against the Sanaa-based government comes amid a month of sustained U.S. airstrikes that have failed to weaken the Yemeni Armed Forces.

Since mid-March, the intensified bombing campaign targeting Ansarullah-held cities, including the capital Sanaa, Hodeidah, and Saada, has killed scores of civilians.

Sources cited by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) say the UAE-backed separatist factions in southern Yemen aim to exploit the U.S. bombing campaign by pushing Sanaa's forces out of key coastal territories, particularly the strategic port of Hodeidah.

Saudi team in Beirut to continue external pressure on Hezbollah

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT - In conjunction with the relentless pressure by Deputy U.S. Special Envoy to West Asia, Morgan Ortagus, on Hezbollah, Saudi Foreign Minister Yazid bin Farhan visited Beirut.

Observers described Bin Farhan's visit as a follow-up mission to reassure the international community about the progress of the "reforms" imposed on the new Lebanese authorities, most notably the disarmament of Hezbollah, and that the timeframe is not open-ended.

Bin Farhan's visit focused on the measures being taken by the Lebanese Army in the south and north of the Litani River.

Sources claimed that Washington and Riyadh do not object to the planned dialogue between President Aoun and Hezbollah regarding the resistance's weapons, provided that this dialogue does not serve Hezbollah's interests.

Crushing free speech against Israeli genocide

By Martin Love

NORTH CAROLINA - If a U.S. President can screw up both stupid and also some vaguely well-meaning initiatives given U.S. problems, Donald Trump three months into his time in office (and his last) is doing a pretty good job of it. His shallowness of thought and lack of real thought-out strategies to MAGA are becoming apparent by the week.

The U.S. war Trump unleashed on steadfast Yemen is a case in point and representative of other moves he has so far made. He seems to have imagined that he could bomb the Hell out of Yemenis, whose SOLE aim has been to halt ships to Israel so that Israel might at least consider a halt to pulverizing Gaza. He is not apparently aware of how deep Yemen's resolve has been, and frankly, the entire world outside of even some Arab governments wants to see the genocide ended by any means. Yes, bombs are terrifying but they only ever compound anger and distress and hatred.

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China envoy talks divorce with US, Iran's nuclear fate in Tehran press conference

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - China's ambassador to Tehran, Cong Peiwu, rolled out Beijing's plans on its trade war with the United States, which has yet to show signs of shriveling, and shared his country's stance on the indirect Iran-US nuclear talks during a Tuesday press conference attended by a number of journalists from major Iranian media outlets.

Cong looked calm and collected as he told reporters that his country is not just playing a game of chicken. "We will simply not back down against a bullying entity. That's the mindset China has." ▶ Page 2



"Year Zero" exhibition opens in Tehran, highlighting atrocities of Zionist regime

TEHRAN - The international cartoon and caricature exhibition "Year Zero," focusing on a year marked by the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and Lebanon, officially opened on Monday at the Palestine Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of cultural officials and Iranian artists.

Organized in collaboration with the North Khorasan province's Art Bureau, the exhibition features 700 cartoons by 65 artists from 42 countries, with 60 selected works displayed at the museum. ▶ Page 8