



On the Path to Friendship

Pezeshkian's one-day visit to Baku results in seven cooperation agreements and commitment to strategic relationship program

- Iran's President calls Azerbaijan 'second home' as he urges deeper Tehran-Baku ties
- Between the East and West: Azerbaijan's playbook for strategic pragmatism
- Diplomatic dawn in the Caucasus: How Iran-Azerbaijan unity exposes Israel's fraying playbook
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Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian(L) meets Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev during his official visit to Baku on April 28, 2025.

Detention of Iranian citizens in France violates freedom of expression: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the detention of Iranian citizens in France, calling the actions a violation of freedom of expression and urging French authorities to resolve the matter promptly.

Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei expressed serious concern over the detention of Iranian citizen Mahdiah Esfandiari and another Iranian citizen in Paris, describing the arrests as a violation of freedom of expression and a form of complicity with crimes occurring in the region.

Baghaei said Tehran had formally raised the issue with French authorities and pursued it through relevant diplomatic channels. He announced that Iran had secured agreement for a consular meeting with Esfandiari and called on the French government to swiftly clarify the situation.

"Our citizens have committed no crime other than expressing their emotions regarding the atrocities currently unfolding in the region," Baghaei stressed. ► Page 2

'Future of Iran-Tunisia relations holds great promise'

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iran and Tunisia may not be close in distance. But between the two capitals located in West Asia and North Africa exists deep mutual respect and common interests.

Both countries have endured years of foreign intervention in their modern history, only reclaiming control over their destinies in recent decades. Alongside shared religious and humanitarian values, this historical parallel has fostered a friendship between Iran and Tunisia—one that still holds untapped potential for deeper ties.

One area where cooperation remains underdeveloped is economic relations. Trade volumes between the two nations fall far short of their true potential, analysts say. In an interview with Tunisia's Minister of Trade and Export Development, Samir Abid, the Tehran Times explored the reasons behind this stagnation and how economic collaboration can be strengthened. Minister Abid arrived in Tehran earlier this week to attend the 3rd Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit. ► Page 2

The New Horizon of Nader Talebzadeh

By Sander Hicks

Nader Talebzadeh hosted hot debates on Iranian TV shows, and made films on the front lines of wars. He was an active participant in the Iranian Revolution of 1979. Ayatollah Khomeini was a bit like Gandhi, he said, in that he told people, "Stay home, don't work, stop the economy, and the Shah will leave, without violence," and he did. He told me stories about how the US Embassy takeover there was utterly spontaneous. He made it sound like something from Occupy Wall Street.

Nader's contribution to world peace was his international conference, called "New Horizon." Here, he annually brought together American and international dissidents. His team flew us into Iran, for speeches, interviews, dialogue, creating a vantage point from which one could see a new kind of horizon beyond war and empire. It was a chance to see Middle East politics up close, and to see how much Iran wanted to help the people of Palestine. I participated in Tehran in 2017. ► Page 8

New stage of Israel's pressure on Lebanon

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — In a flagrant violation of the ceasefire and the Lebanese sovereignty, and in continuation of the U.S.-Israeli strategy pursued since the ceasefire agreement last November, the Israeli regime launched an aerial attack on the southern suburbs of Beirut on Sunday evening. The air raid comes as both Tel Aviv and Washington are convinced that the September-November war on Lebanon failed to weaken Hezbollah or end its threat.

The focus initially was on bombing all vital facilities, homes, infrastructure, and houses in the villages on the front line with occupied Palestine. The attacks then extended north of the Litani River, reaching the Bekaa Valley and the southern suburbs of Beirut.

Undoubtedly, the new aggression coincided with massive political and media propaganda led by Lebanon's anti-Resistance team. ► Page 3



Rescue, relief operations underway at Shahid Rajaee Port

Medical staff are providing rescue and relief services to people who were injured during the massive explosion that occurred at Shahid Rajaee Port on Saturday.

The tragic incident has left 70 dead and some 1,200 injured so far. The strategically important port lies around 15 kilometers southwest of the port of Bandar Abbas on the northern shore of the Strait of Hormuz.

The exact cause of the explosion has yet to be known. However, Fatemeh Mohajerani, the government spokeswoman, said some containers that had been stored at the port and contained chemicals had probably exploded.

The government declared Monday a day of mourning across the country.