

## Turkish FM thanks Iran for quake aid



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## Iran's ta'zieh artist Alaeddin Qassemi dies at 69



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A young girl holds her arms wide open by Maharlu Lake, Fars Province, southern Iran, on February 19, 2023. Water levels in Maharlu and other lakes have risen recently thanks to torrential rains. TASNIM

# Iran, Russia absence questions MSC commitment to objectives

### International Desk

This year's Munich Security Conference (MSC) was surrounded by remarkable marginal issues, casting doubts on the forum's commitment to its main functions and objectives. Not inviting Iran and Russia to the conference in tandem with inviting a

number of anti-Iran figures were among the most noticeable issues that have drawn criticism addressed to the conference's organizers. Over the past years, the conference was a venue for establishing peace and reducing international tensions. Participation of officials from different

countries in the gathering provided numerous opportunities for discussing international issues as well as differences. In addition, the meetings and discussions on the sidelines of the conference were other opportunities for further consultations and bilateral or multilateral meetings on

the resolution of issues of difference. Within the same framework and under a circumstance where the Ukraine conflict, as a phenomenon with large-scale economic, social and humanitarian ramifications, is the main focus of all governments, it was expected that the presence of Mos-

cow's representatives in the conference would give a more realistic aspect to efforts aimed at ensuring peace. Likewise, the participation of the Islamic Republic's representatives could be an opportunity for face-to-face talks between them and their European counterparts. [Page 2 >](#)

## Israel trying to divert public opinion from internal problems

### International Desk

Israel launched yet another airstrike on Syria which has been struggling with the aftermath of a devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake that hit parts of the country on February 6.



REUTERS

While, many countries even those who have not had diplomatic relations with Damascus in recent years, have sent humanitarian aid to the Arab country, Israel continues its attacks on Syria amid deafening international silence.

According to Syria's state news agency, SANA, the Israeli airstrikes targeted a residential neighborhood in the capital Damascus early Sunday, killing at least five people and wounding 15.

Loud explosions were heard over a central area of the capital around 12:30 a.m. local time, and SANA reported that Syrian air defenses were confronting hostile targets in the sky around Damascus. [Page 3 >](#)

# Raeisi: US failed to stop Iran's progress through sanctions

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## Iran's Shahr Bank wins world wrestling club title

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## Utopia puts a heavy responsibility upon our shoulders

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## Fajr Music Festival to become more competitive: Executive

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## IEA's Birol warns of tighter energy supply next winter

International Energy Agency (IEA) head Fatih Birol has warned of possible energy shortages next winter as relatively little new liquefied natural gas (LNG) is coming to the market while China's consumption is set to rise this year.

European governments made many correct decisions over the last year to ensure energy supply, such as building more LNG terminals to replace pipeline deliveries of Russian gas, Birol told Reuters on the sidelines of the annual Munich Security Conference on Saturday.

But they also got lucky, he said, with a mild winter dampening demand while economic weakness in China led to the first drop in consumption there for 40 years. "For this winter it is right to say that we are off the hook. If there are no last-minute surprises, we should get through...maybe with some bruises here and there," said Birol. "But the question is...what happens next winter?" [Page 9 >](#)



IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol  
JOHANNA GERON/REUTERS

## Opportunities for cementing Iran-China ties



Abas Aslani  
Political analyst

The history shows that Iran-China relations have been forged by the two sides' will, and influenced by regional and international developments, particularly Sino-US ties or Iran-West relations. The recent visit Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi paid to China is among the turning points in the relations between the two countries. The relations between Iran and China, the two important countries and influential players in the regional and international arenas, have all the time witnessed the least political controversy, as the two states have

respected political and security issues and focused on economic cooperation. Irrespective of the remarkable history of growing relations between Tehran and Beijing over the past few decades, the two countries will have many opportunities in the future.

### Political cooperation

The main common stance that leads to the expansion of Iran-China ties is their abiding by international law and norms, respecting territorial integrity of countries, and opposing unjust and interventionist policies against nations. [Page 8 >](#)