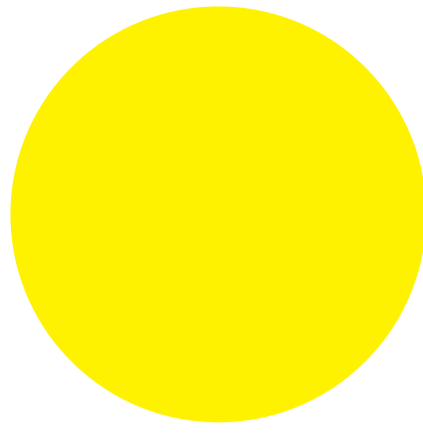




Finland NATO membership 'an assault on our security': Kremlin 3 >



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Iran Daily

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Tens of thousands of people hold a funeral procession in Tehran, Iran, on April 4, 2023 for two Iranian military advisors who were killed in Syria during an Israeli strike last week. IRNA

'New chapter' opened in Iran-Saudi ties: MP



Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

A senior Iranian lawmaker praised the ongoing talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, describing them as a "new chapter" in the development of relations in the region. In an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Shahriar Heidari suggested that these negotiations could be a model for resolving disputes and promoting bilateral cooperation between other countries in the region including Saudi Arabia and Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, Yemen and Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain and Iran. The legislator, who is the vice chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commit-



tee, blamed regional disputes on the efforts made by the United States and Israel to divide the countries of the region. "The regional nations are moving toward greater interaction and cooperation and intend to use their resources in the region to make progress and achieve mutual benefits instead of paying heavy expenses brought upon by the arrogant policies and conspiracies of Israel and the United States," the deputy pointed out. Page 2 >

Israel fears Iran's growing influence in Palestine



Javad Mohammad Ali
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Israel's apprehension over Iran's increasing influence in Palestinian territories has been heightened following the release of a statement by Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant during his visit to the occupied West Bank. "All our fronts are tense. The Iranians are extending their outreach to (the West Bank) and Gaza and are attempting to entrench themselves in Syria and Lebanon," said Gallant Sunday. Apparently, Iran's attempt

to establish a foothold in those areas has fueled fears in Israel. As a sign of Iran's growing influence in Palestinian territories, the Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami declared last August that the West Bank was being armed similarly to Gaza. Salami's statement added to Israel's anxiety over Iran's presence in the region. However, Iran's rising support for Palestinian resistance groups has been welcomed by many Palestinians who view Iran as a valuable ally in their struggle against Israeli occupation. Page 3 >

UN rights resolution a 'foreign policy tool': Iran

International Desk

Iran on Tuesday rejected as "unacceptable" a resolution by the UN Human Rights Council that voiced "deep concern at the reported surge in the number of executions" in the Islamic Republic. Iran's ambassador to the UN in Geneva Ali Bahreini slammed the resolution as a "weaponization of human rights as a foreign policy tool". Such "use of human rights

is unacceptable and endangers the common cause of human rights," Bahreini told the meeting in Geneva. The top United Nations rights body approved a resolution with 23 of the council's 47 members voting in favor. Another 16 abstained, and eight opposed the text, including China, Cuba, Pakistan and Vietnam. The resolution, proposed by Britain and Iceland, also extended the mandate of

Javaid Rehman, the UN special rapporteur on the rights situation in Iran, for another year. "This approach does not help to preserve and promote human rights, nor is it compatible with the facts on the ground, history of Iranian culture and civilization," the Iranian envoy added. Tuesday's resolution called on Tehran to "take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures" to ensure no one is

executed for "offences that do not meet the threshold of the most serious crimes". Bahreini accused the advocates of anti-Iranian resolution of "abusing" the UN Human Rights Council for "political purposes". "Iran sees the resolution a malicious attempt to target and deliberately destroy its human rights image through distorted narratives, negative stereotypes and false accusations," he pointed out.



IRNA



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Road casualties more than mere statistics

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Iran's handmade carpet output up 10% in year to March

The Persian carpet industry witnessed a 10-percent increase in the production of hand-woven carpets in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, announced the head of Iran National Carpet Center (INCC). Farahnaz Raafe' told IRNA that Iran had exported four million square meters of handmade carpets to 15 countries around the world over the past Iranian year. Raafe' said that 40,000 new jobs related to the hand-woven carpet production sector were created over the same period. She said that the United Arab Emirates was the top buyer of



Iranian carpets last year, followed by Japan, Germany, Pakistan, China, Australia and India. According to the official, the INCC has issued certificates of authenticity for hand-woven carpets produced in Iran, in a bid to prevent other countries such as China, Pakistan and India from presenting their carpets as Persian carpets.

What is Macron looking for in Beijing?



Mohsen Shariatnia
Chinese affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE

French President Emmanuel Macron is heading to Beijing to meet his Chinese counterpart. At the same time, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is to join him for a trilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping. The Spanish prime minister and German chancellor are among the high-ranking officials of the European Union who have also traveled to the Asian country in the past

months. These official trips show that China has always been of significance to the EU, the Asian country's first trading partner. In 2022, China was the third-largest exporter to the union and the largest importer of European goods. Taking their long-standing and extensive relations into account reveals that the recent exchange of visits between European and Chinese officials has been a regular occurrence — although the trips were halted for a while due to the COVID-19 pandemic — and is therefore, not unusual for the two sides. Page 3 >