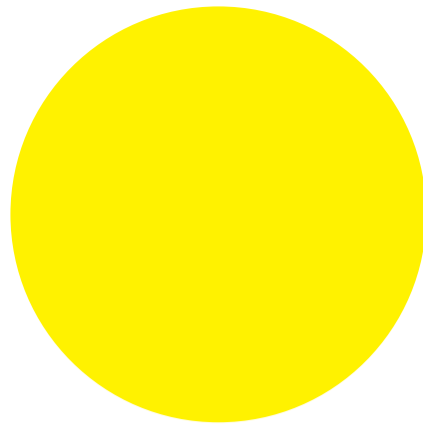


Iran Daily



Iran MP calls for preserving Shiraz's historical fabric

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IRCS shows modern face of Islamic altruism

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Iran Expo 2023 to boost trade, investment prospects

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Iranian women win historic Asian ice hockey silver

Sports Desk

Iran suffered a 3-1 defeat against the defending champion and host, Thailand, and settled for the runner-up spot at the 2023 Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship in Bangkok.

Supitsara Thamma got the home side off the mark two minutes into the contest, only to see her goal canceled out by Zahra Rezaei in the second period.

Thipwarintorn Yannakornthantun restored Thailand's lead in the 42nd minute, before sealing the victory with five minutes left on the clock. The result will still go down as a precious achievement for the Iranian women, who made it to the final showdown on their debut at the competition, grabbing a first-ever medal for the country in the women's team sports in the continent.

This was the first defeat at the event for the Iranian debutantes, who marched past India, Kuwait, and Kyrgyzstan to win Group B and then defeated the UAE and Singapore for a place in the final. Earlier on Sunday, Singapore beat India 3-1 for the bronze.



iihf.com

Raeisi: Iran's exports break four-decade record

Economy Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi said the country has managed to export more than \$50 billion worth of commodities during the last 21 months, breaking a 40-year record.

The notable figure demonstrates that the country is fairly determined to support production, the Iranian president said. According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRI-

CA), Iranian non-oil exports had increased 40% year on year in the year to March to reach a total value of \$48.6 billion.

Overseas shipments had increased by 9% in volume terms to 122.7 million metric tons (mt).

The figures come as economic experts have hailed the unprecedented surge in Iranian non-oil exports over the past calendar year, saying it is a sign of the country's growing resilience to the

impacts of the U.S. sanctions. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Iran Expo 2023 in Tehran on Sunday, Raeisi said his administration intends to upgrade the level of most of its commercial and economic interactions. He added that his administration's foreign policy is focused on strengthening ties with neighbors and allies and developing economic diplomacy. "Iran is generally recognized as a country that is rich in oil

and gas. However, heavy emphasis on these two sectors has overshadowed other capabilities of the country. The first step in this regard is to introduce the Islamic Republic's export capabilities and get familiar with those of other countries," Raeisi said. Highlighting Iran's growth in different spheres including exports, he maintained that such achievements were made despite U.S. pressures and Western sanctions. Raeisi noted that Iranian

scientists and industrialists have achieved anything that got banned under the sanctions. He added that Iranian economic operators have circumvented and offset the sanctions regime. He called on executive agencies and businessmen not to stop at this stage, but rather complete the added-value chain in the mining industries, prevent the sale of raw materials, and boost employment, production, and exports.

Familiar psychological operations against Iran



By Hassan Beheshtipour
Expert on international affairs

EXCLUSIVE

In the past days, some American and Israeli officials have taken anti-Iranian positions regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program. For example, the Israeli minister of defense

has claimed that Tehran has enriched uranium to the extent of five nuclear bombs. Similarly, U.S. national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said on Friday, "As President Biden has repeatedly reaffirmed, he will take the actions that are necessary to stand by this statement, including by recognizing Israel's freedom of action."

These claims are nothing new and are made for the sole purpose of psychological operations (psycho-ops) and media war against the Islamic Republic of Iran to intensify the pressure.

Iran's nuclear activities are under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and this international organization presents the status of these activities in its quarterly reports. There is no mention of the exaggerated claims of the Israelis in the IAEA's reports.

Building a nuclear bomb is different from the amount of enriched uranium; increasing uranium enrichment does not mean achieving an atomic bomb. If a country intends to build a nuclear bomb, it will take at least one to two years from the time of reaching the required

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level of uranium enrichment to the process of building the bomb. However, the Islamic Republic of Iran insists that it does not intend to build a nuclear bomb.

IRGC tests homegrown rocket with thermobaric warhead



TASNIM

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Ground Force successfully tested a homegrown rocket equipped with a thermobaric warhead.

Experts at the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC Ground Force have furnished the 'Fajr-5' rocket with a thermobaric warhead, Tasnim news agency reported.

Fajr-5 is a 333mm rocket, whose guided version, dubbed 'Fajr-5C', had been already delivered to the IRGC Ground Force units. The new thermobaric warhead, which uses oxygen to generate a high-temperature explosion, has increased the Iranian rocket's destructive power. The new warhead's power is reportedly 1.5

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times greater than that of trinitrotoluene (TNT), enhancing the rocket's blast radius and thermal effect.



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EXCLUSIVE

Arab states vote for Syria's return to Arab League

Arab government representatives in Cairo voted Sunday to return Syria to the Arab League after a 12-year suspension, according to the organization.

The vote in the Egyptian capital came days after regional top diplomats met in Jordan to discuss a roadmap to return Syria to the Arab fold as the conflict continues to de-escalate, and soon before Saudi Arabia hosts the upcoming Arab League Summit on May 19, according to AP.

Syria's membership in the Arab League was suspended

12 years ago early on in the foreign-backed war, which has killed nearly a half million people since March 2011 and displaced half of the country's pre-war population of 23 million.

All 13 of the 22 member states that attended the session endorsed the decision. There is still no Arab consensus on normalization with Damascus. Several governments did not attend the meeting. Among the most notable absentees was Qatar, which continues to back opposition groups against Syrian government,

and continues to resist normalization with Damascus. The decision for Syria to return also includes a commitment to ongoing dialogue with Arab governments to gradually reach a political solution to the conflict, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254. The Arab League in the decision also set up a communications committee consisting of Saudi Arabia and Syria's neighbors Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq to follow up on developments. In addition to commitments to a gradual resolution to



REUTERS

the conflict, the decision also welcomed the Syrian government's willingness to cooperate with Arab countries to resolve "humanitarian, security, and political" crises that affected Syria and the region due to the conflict — namely refugees, "the threat of terrorism and drug smuggling."

Many anticipated Syria's imminent return to the organization. The Arab rapprochement with Damascus accelerated after a deadly earthquake on Feb. 6 that shattered parts of the war-torn country, most notably from Saudi Arabia, which once backed opposition groups trying to overthrow the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.