



## U.S. sanctions blamed for thalassemia deaths in Iran

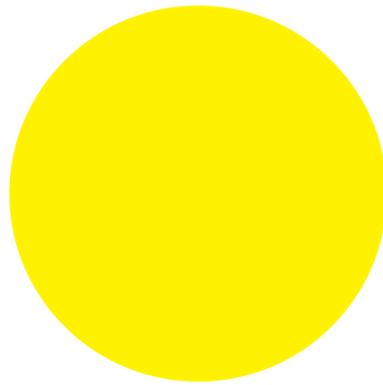
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## Elamite carvings in Izeh under threat

EXCLUSIVE

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# Iran's crude output rises by 600k bpd: **NIOC**

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Family members and residents of the two villages affected by the floods look up at the damage caused by the disaster in Nyamukubi, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, on May 8, 2023. **GUERCHOM NDEBO/AFP**

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## Arab League's new stance on Syria



By Sa'dollah Zare'i  
An expert on regional affairs

EXCLUSIVE

Following multiple diplomatic visits to Syria and discussions about bilateral relations, the Arab League has agreed to reinstate Syria's membership. This decision signifies the acknowledgment of past mistakes made by Arab member states towards Damascus, including the irrational and wrong expulsion of Syria from the league.

While a member of the union in the past, when Syria was in dire need, the Arab League turned its back on the country and became complicit in Western countries' plans to overthrow the legitimate government of Bashar al-Assad, which would have led to the disintegration of Syria. However, after 12 years of resistance by the Syrian people and government, the overthrow of the Assad government and the division of the country have been ruled out. Thus, the Arab League has accepted the membership of Damascus again.

The renewed membership, of course, is more beneficial to the Arab League than to Syria, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Arab relations. Syria does not necessarily need the Arab League, as the processes in West Asia have shifted from tension to dialogue and interaction. Syria's return to the Arab League, along with the normalization of Arab countries' relations with Damascus, the normalization of Iran-Saudi ties, and peace in Yemen, are beneficial to the stability and security of the region.

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## Raeisi hails IRCS efforts in Türkiye-Syria quakes

National Desk



IRNA

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi appreciated the Iranian Red Crescent Society for its role in relief operations during the recent earthquakes that shocked Türkiye and Syria.

Addressing a ceremony held in Tehran on the occasion of World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the Iranian president also lauded the efforts made by the organization during the coronavirus pandemic.

The president noted that the organization should be equipped with new technologies in an effort to make it more efficient. He also said that the IRCS should modernize its aerial and ground fleet.

He also underlined that the Iranian Red Crescent Society has no political, geographical, ethnic or religious boundaries. In April, the Iranian Red Crescent Society was honored by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for their efforts during the February 17th earthquake which killed more than 50,000 both in Türkiye and Syria.

In 2022, the IRCS was granted Henry Davison Award, the prestigious humanitarian prize.

# Iran ready to equip Syria with advanced arms: Defense minister

Iranian Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said Tehran is prepared to equip the Syrian military forces with sophisticated weapons and open "strategic defense gear" factories in the Arab country.

The Iranian defense minister, who was accompanying the Iranian president during a visit to Syria last week, held a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Ali Mahmoud Abbas in Damascus on Monday to weigh plans for closer

cooperation between the two states, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Highlighting Iran's support for Syria in a full-fledged war against the Daesh terrorist group, Ashtiani said Iran's Defense Ministry is prepared to arm the Syrian armed forces with the most advanced defense weapons.

Voicing Iran's readiness to establish "defense and multilateral infrastructures" in Syria and strengthen the Arab nation's military capabilities,

the defense minister said Iran can cooperate with Damascus in the construction of factories and production of "strategic defense equipment" in order to improve the Syrian people's security. For his part, the Syrian defense minister expressed gratitude to Iran for contributing to security and stability in his country.

General Mahmoud Abbas underlined that reinforced defense power will prepare Syria as a member of the axis of resistance in the war on

terrorism. Warning of hostile attempts to undermine the brotherly ties between Syria and Iran, the Syrian defense minister stated that the bilateral relations are growing to the benefit of regional security and stability.

In July 2020, Iran and Syria signed a comprehensive agreement to enhance their cooperation in the military and defense sectors.

Iran began providing Syria with advisory military assistance after numerous coun-

tries, at the head of them the U.S. and its Western and regional allies started funding and arming militants and terrorists with the aim of deposing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government in 2011.

Despite initially losing considerable areas to Daesh and other terror outfits, the country, however, rallied with the help of Iran and Russia, another ally of Damascus, and reversed the balance in favor of itself on the battleground.



## EU's Borrell says Iran, IAEA cooperation 'gained momentum'

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## Daryasar Plain to become a tourism magnet in Mazandaran Province

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## Iran's Tayebi, Palma win UEFA Futsal Champions League

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GETTY IMAGES

International Desk

Taliban's acting foreign minister said that the Taliban recognizes Iran's water rights from the Hirmand River, known as Helmand River in Afghanistan, saying that Afghanistan has never sought to create problems for its neighbor in this field. Amir Khan Muttaqi made the

remarks on the sidelines of a conference on Afghanistan, which was held in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, on Monday, according to IRNA.

He hoped for more rain in the coming months, which would help both countries increase their water reserves and resolve their water shortages.

Muttaqi underlined that Af-

## Taliban recognizes Iran's water rights from Hirmand River: **Muttaqi**

ghanistan is determined to develop relations with Iran, especially in the fields of trade and economy.

The two countries signed a water-sharing accord on the Hirmand River in 1973, under which Afghanistan pledged to deliver an average of 820 million cubic meters of water per annum to Iran. Iran has repeatedly criticized Afghanistan for failing to honor the agreement in letter and spirit.

Hirmand River originates in the Hindu Kush Mountains near Kabul and flows 700

miles (1,126 kilometers) south before flowing into Hamoun wetlands, located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Iran has repeatedly asked Afghanistan to commit to the water treaty. Tehran also insists that the Taliban-led government in Kabul needs to do more to implement the terms of the agreement.

Since taking control of Kabul in August, 2021, the Taliban government has vowed to implement the terms of the agreement and reverse

a trend set by a previous administration, which had failed to commit to the treaty. However, Taliban ministers have blamed drought and technical issues for low supply of water from Afghanistan to Iran in the past months. What has made the dispute bitter is the construction of many hydroelectric projects on the river, most importantly the Kamal Khan Dam in Nimrouz Province, and the Kajaki Dam 100 miles (160km) northwest of Kandahar Province.