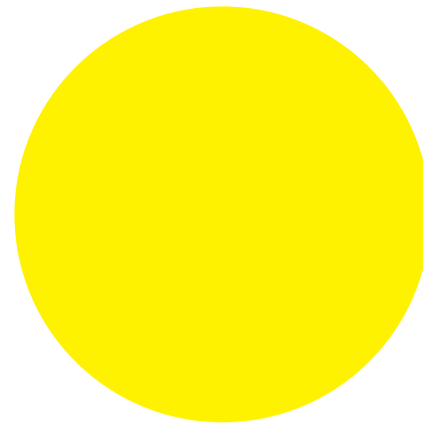




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Iran Daily



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An explosive charge left by Palestinians detonates before an Israeli armored vehicle during an Israeli army raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank on June 19, 2023. **JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP**

Raeisi: Palestinians' resistance brings them closer to victory 'day by day'

International Desk

The leaders of Palestinian resistance groups held talks on Monday with top Iranian officials in Tehran as new Israeli violence against Palestinians claimed the lives of five Palestinians.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi met with Islamic Jihad chief Ziyad al-Nakhalah while Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh held talks with Ali Akbar Ahmadi-

an, the newly-appointed secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC). "The most effective way to end the more than 75 years of occupation of Palestine is resistance," Ahmadian told Haniyeh, who arrived in Iran on Monday at the head of a large delegation. Nakhalah has been in Iran since last week and has met top Iranian officials, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatol-

lah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Raeisi. On Monday, Raeisi told Nakhalah that Israel was seeking to normalize ties with more Arab and Muslim countries "to discourage young Palestinians from [seeking to] liberate the occupied territories," the president's office said in a statement, as he hailed Palestinian "resistance" against Israel. In 2020, Israel established diplomatic ties with the

United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Bahrain under the Abraham Accords, brokered by the United States. Saudi Arabia has declined to recognize Israel. Raeisi insists that acts of resistance by brave Palestinians have brought them ever closer to triumph over the occupying Israeli regime. "With Jihad and resistance, we will approach victory day by day," Raeisi said. The president reiterated the Islamic Republic's sup-

port for the oppressed Palestinian nation and their "just cause," which he said "remains the cause of all Muslims." The Iran-Palestinian talks coincided with Israeli forces launching a raid on Jenin in the West Bank on Monday. The raid left five Palestinians dead and saw five Israeli border police and two soldiers injured. Iran is a staunch supporter of the Palestinians and does not recognize Israel.

Raeisi's possible visit to Saudi Arabia a game changer

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan became the first high-ranking official from his country to travel to Iran in seven years. The visit garnered attention not only from the regional media but also from international analysts and governments at regional and global levels. In order to gain deeper insights into the various dimensions of the landmark visit, Iran Daily spoke with Reza Sadrolhosseini, an expert in regional affairs.



INTERVIEW EXCLUSIVE

IRAN DAILY: Farhan's visit to Iran has received diverse and extensive coverage in both the regional and international media. How do you interpret such media reporting?

SADROLHOSSEINI: Considering the significant power and influence held by Iran and Saudi Arabia, two prominent countries on either side of the Persian Gulf, the renewal of diplomatic relations and the Saudi foreign minister's visit to Iran were bound to attract massive coverage. However, the media attention to this news has varied between regional and international outlets. Israeli and Western outlets, known for their opposition toward Iran, openly expressed their concerns regarding this visit. These concerns stem from several factors including a potential reduction in arms sales to Middle Eastern countries as Tehran and Riyadh further develop ties. **Page 2** >

Iran's economic diplomacy in full force

Economy Desk

Iran's current government has prioritized international negotiations to drive economic development and improve conditions. In the past two years, they have signed over 370 agreements, particularly in the economic sector, with nations worldwide. Upon assuming power in 2021, the government focused on invigorating the country's economic diplomacy, with a crucial strategy being the expansion of commercial and economic relations. Previous shortcomings, such as neglecting neighboring and allied nations' export potential and failing to explore market growth, were acknowledged as hindrances to progress in export development.

To address these issues, the Iranian government has formulated a comprehensive roadmap, aligning with the president's electoral promises, aiming to double non-oil exports by 2025, targeting \$75 billion in exports. The Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Trade attached great importance to signing the Free Trade Agreement with Eurasia and gaining official membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Agreement as measures to enhance the nation's economy. The government delegation has taken multiple steps to achieve these objectives. They convened 23 joint economic commissions, both in Tehran and the target countries' capitals, and dispatched 149 economic delegations abroad, while hosting 41 foreign economic delegations. **Page 6** >



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Volleyball Nations League: Iran seeking revival in Rotterdam **5** >



Mazandaran to set up first-ever environmental protection conservatory: MoU inked **7** >

Australia launches constitutional referendum on indigenous recognition

Australia's Senate voted Monday to hold a referendum this year on creating an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, an advocate aiming to give the nation's most disadvantaged ethnic minority more say on government policy. Dozens of mainly Indigenous people stood up the public galleries and applauded when senators passed the referendum bill 52 votes to 19, according to AP. The Senate vote means the referendum must be held on a Saturday in a two-to-

six-month window. Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, the first Indigenous woman to hold the job, described the Senate vote as the "final hurdle" toward the referendum. "Today the political debate ends. Today we can start a national conversation at the community level about what a Voice is, why it's needed and how it will make a practical difference," Burney told reporters. While the Voice would advocate for Indigenous in-

terests, it would not have a vote on laws, and debate for and against the elected body has become increasingly heated and divisive. Proponents hope the Voice will improve living standards for Indigenous Australians, who account for 3.2% of Australia's population and are the most nation's most disadvantaged ethnic group. If the referendum is passed, it would be Australia's first successful referendum since 1977 and the first ever to pass without bipartisan support.



Australian Senator Dorinda Cox and Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney rejoice after a legislation enabling a Voice referendum passed the Senate. **ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN**