

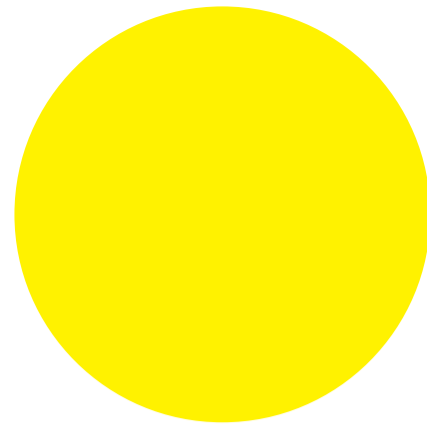
Oil minister: Six contracts worth \$14.5b signed on joint fields' development

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Vol. 7441 • Wednesday, November 22, 2023 • Azar 1, 1402 • Jumada al-Awwal 8, 1445 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages



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Mohammad Ali Rajabi/Cartoonist



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Arab countries need to settle their arguments with US



By Hassan Beheshtipour
International Relations Expert

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

A delegation comprising diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Indonesia, Palestine, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation met with Wang Yi, a senior Chinese diplomat, in China on Tuesday. The aim of this diplomatic mission was to bring an end to the war on Gaza, establish a ceasefire, and provide humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. The delegation is also planning to travel to other permanent member countries of the United Nations Security Council.

While diplomatic efforts to end the war and establish a ceasefire are commendable, it appears that the Arab-Islamic delegation may have the wrong address. China fundamentally lacks influence over Israel to exert pressure and has limited connections with Hamas or other resistance groups in Palestine. Despite China's coordination with Russia in the UN Security Council on blocking the unilateral resolutions proposed by the United States that condemn Hamas without emphasizing a "ceasefire", it seems beyond China's reach to intervene in the Gaza conflict on behalf of either side. Apart from China, the other permanent members of the Security Council — England, France, and Russia — also lack significant influence over Israel. The only country among the permanent members with influence over Israel is the United States, which is incidentally its main supporter. Therefore, the Arab-Islamic diplomatic delegation should have initiated their diplomatic journey not from Beijing but from Washington. Previously, the US Secretary of State had meetings with authorities in some Arab countries, but none proved fruitful and did not lead to a ceasefire. What matters most in Gaza is the establishment of a ceasefire and the cessation of Israel's atrocities. The level of destruction and the killing of non-combatant civilians are unjustifiable.

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Benefits of railroad development in Iran for regional growth

The expansive and ambitious railroad development initiatives in Iran are proving to be a game-changer not only for the country, but for the entire region. As Iran has plans to invest in expanding and modernizing its railway network, the ripple effects are positively impacting neighboring nations in various strategic and economic ways.

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EXCLUSIVE