



Raisi: Iran unsanctionable

Iran Expo 2024 kicks off in Tehran

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi speaks at the opening of the 6th Export Potential Exhibition of Iran (Expo 2024) in Tehran on April 27, 2024. president.ir

National Desk

President Ebrahim Raisi said Iran cannot be sanctioned and Western plots to isolate the country have failed thanks to the nation's steely resolve. Raisi made the remarks at the opening of the 6th export potential exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Expo 2024) in the capital Tehran on Saturday. "This exhibit shows that Iran is unsanctionable and sanctions against the coun-

try have never yielded any results thanks to the strong will of the people and will not be successful after this either," the Iranian president said. Underlining that sanctions are regarded not just as a method of oppression against one nation but all nations, Raisi said, "If a nation is deprived of achieving its goals and amenities by creating constraints, this is not an injustice to one region but to all nations and regions."

Localization of technology

Raisi also pointed to Iran's localization of technology over the past years and said the West's attempts to deter Iran's progress by assassinating its scientists are in vain. Touching on the country's level of output and export, Raisi said, "The power of production and export is not less than military power. What can make a country strong in addition to the military power is the power of production and economy

and the ability to export." According to the Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mehdi Zeyghami over 400 companies are showcasing their trade capacities in this event, IRNA reported. "The goal of this exhibition is to increase the country's exports by two billion euros in a certain period," Zeyghami said.

Region's economic hub

Iran's Industry, Mining, and

Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi also said Iran is now one of the economic and industrial hubs of the region. Aliabadi put the country's foreign trade value at more than \$153 billion, noting that one-third of the mentioned figure is related to non-oil exports. The minister noted that neighboring countries, African nations, as well as Islamic and friendly countries are Iran's priority in developing relations and economic cooperation. The exhibition will cov-

er seven major groups of commodities including food industries, agriculture and fisheries, handwoven carpets, handicrafts and tourism, medicine, medical equipment and chemical products, the construction industry, technical and engineering services, and also the petrochemical group. The 6th Export Potentials Exhibition of Iran kicked off on Saturday and will be open until May 1. The first edition of the exhibition was held in 2013.

Iran to free crew of seized Israeli-linked ship



International Desk

Iran said Saturday it would release the crew members of a Portuguese-flagged ship linked to Israel that its forces seized this month in the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps took over the MSC Aries with 25 crew members on board near the Strait of Hormuz on April 13.

Tehran later said the ship belonged to Israel and was being investigated for alleged violations of international maritime law. "The humanitarian issue of the release of the ship's crew is of great concern to us," Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in a phone call with his Portuguese counterpart Paulo Rangel. "We have given consular access to their ambassadors in Tehran and announced to the envoys that the crew members will be released and extradition," he was quoted as saying in a statement from his ministry.

The MSC Aries, operated by Zodiac Maritime, is owned by Israeli real estate, energy, technology and shipping magnate Eyal Ofer. Zodiac Maritime is part of the Israeli billionaire's Zodiac Group.

Following the ship's seizure, Portugal summoned Iran's ambassador to demand its immediate release. On April 18, India said one of the 17 Indian crew members had returned home and that the others were granted consular access. "They are in good health, and they are not facing any problems on the ship. As for their return, there are some technicalities involved in it," an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

Pro-Palestinian student protests spread across world

International Desk

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations continue in universities across the United States, as they also spread to schools in Europe and Australia. In the second week of protests calling for a cease-fire in Israel's war on Gaza, which has killed more than 34,000 Palestinians, thousands of students are calling on dozens of universities to divest from Israel. The students at a growing number of US colleges are gathering in protest encampments with a unified demand of their schools: Stop doing business with Israel — or any companies that support its ongoing war in Gaza. The demand has its roots in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

movement, a decades-old campaign against Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. Some universities have been forced to cancel their graduation ceremonies, while others have seen entire buildings occupied by protesting students. One of the latest to join the movement is The City University of New York (CUNY), where hundreds of students have set up an encampment on campus with banners with slogans like "No More Investment in Apartheid." "Young people are really starting to show up and demand that schools are held accountable for their relationship with the Israeli colonization," Gabby Aosse, a student organizer at the CUNY protest told Al Jazeera. Across the US, university

leaders have tried, and largely failed, to quell the demonstrations. The police have intervened violently, with videos emerging from different states showing hundreds of students — and even faculty members — being forcefully arrested. At Columbia University, where more than 100 pro-Palestinian activists were arrested by armed police officers on campus about a week ago, university leaders said in a statement on Friday that if the university calls the New York Police Department again, it would "further inflame what is happening on campus".

Jewish activists join protests

Some university leaders and state officials have strongly condemned the protests, calling them

"anti-Semitic". Demonstrators reject the accusation, with many Jewish activists and some Orthodox Jews joining the ranks. "As a child of Holocaust survivors, it disturbs me to my core to see my own people perpetrating something that we've been through," Jewish antiwar protester Sam Koprak told Al Jazeera at a campus gathering. The protests, which have sprouted all around the globe in the near seven-month period since the start of the war on Gaza, continue to spread this week outside the US as well. In Iran's capital, students and staff of Tehran University have held a rally in support of growing protests on US campuses. The demonstrators on Saturday also con-



AFP

demned violent US police attacks on students. In Berlin, activists set up a camp in front of parliament to demand the German government stop exporting arms to Israel. At the renowned Sciences Po university in the French capital Paris, protesters on Friday blockaded a central campus

building, forcing classes to be held online. The latest pro-Palestine rally in Sweden on Saturday saw people marching in the streets to chants of "Free Palestine" and "Boycott Israel". Hundreds gathered on Saturday afternoon in central London in solidarity with Palestinians.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Iran condemns new sanctions by US, Britain, Canada

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman denounced the latest sanctions the United States, Britain and Canada slapped against a number of Iranian individuals and firms, stressing that such moves could by no means undermine the Iranian government and nation's determination. Nasser Kanaani, in a statement released on Saturday, condemned the trio's coercive measures against several real and legal entities linked to the Iranian armed forces, Press TV reported. He also decried the European Parliament's resolution

against Iran, sharply criticizing certain European countries for following the vicious policies of the US administration. "The Islamic Republic of Iran's military capacities are being developed in accordance with its requirements in order to protect national security and interests, safeguard territorial integrity and sovereignty, and create a legitimate and deterrent defense against foreign threats and acts of aggression," Kanaani said. The Iranian diplomat stressed that sanctions

against Iran's defense sector could by no means erode the Iranian government and the nation's determination to enhance national sovereignty for the sake of defending territorial integrity and national interests. Contrary to the will of those imposing them, sanctions will turn into an opportunity for the promotion of self-sufficiency as well as military and defense capabilities, Kanaani highlighted. He also sternly criticized the European Parliament's double standards toward the Israeli regime's attack on the consular section of

the Iranian Embassy in the Syrian capital city of Damascus, arguing that the legislative bodies of the European Union simply expressed regret over the airstrike whilst strongly condemning Iran's legitimate response to the Israeli act of aggression which came within the framework of inherent right of legitimate defense. Kanaani went on to roundly dismiss Western allegations over Russia's deployment of Iranian-made drones against Ukraine, stating that the US and some European countries insist on going in the wrong direction of history, fueling crises and leveling accusations against others than to help stop the Gaza and Ukraine wars.