

TEHRAN – As the Iranian army rounded off a massive electronic warfare exercise on Friday, a top general hailed the participating units for achieving all objectives of the war game. Deputy Chief of the Army for Coordination Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said more than 95 percent of the war game plans have been carried out successfully. He noted that the combat scenarios and the electronic warfare operations performed in the exercise indicated the army's great progress in the electronic warfare technologies.

TEHRAN -- Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on Saturday reiterated Iran's call on Afghan rulers to provide the country with its water rights in the Hirmand River and its sources in neighboring Afghanistan. Amir-Abdollahian held a phone conversation with the Taliban-run government's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mottaqi. A team of Iranian experts recently visited the Hirmand River for the first time. The Iranian minister said such visits are taking place in accordance with the 1973 water-sharing treaty and would contribute to more transparency in the dispute over the river.

### Viewpoint

## Trump's Conviction Irrelevant, We Want Real Justice

## President Lula: Iran an 'Important Trade Partner'



## Iran's Visually Challenged Powerlifters Win 8 Medals at IBSA World Games



## Resistance Vows Revenge as Palestinian Succumbs to Wounds



## What Iran Has to Gain From BRICS Membership

Iran's membership in the BRICS group of emerging economies is a significant national, regional and international development, which is important both to Tehran and BRICS members, including China and Russia.

In recent years, there has been a lot of focus on Iran's membership in global political and economic organizations, institutions and groups in order to spur economic growth and provide a ballast in the face of geopolitical and structural changes.

BRICS has gained a special place in Iran's foreign policy due to its increasing importance in the international political economy and geopolitical developments.

The Islamic Republic has good political relations with all five main members of the BRICS group consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Tehran is motivated by the international prestige, the geopolitical and geo-economic linkage with the emerging world powers, and the regional and international status which joining BRICS can potentially bring in.

New economic partners are about to come out of the woodwork after membership in BRICS and access to new financial resources, technological findings, knowledge-based production methods in agriculture, food security and trade could enable Iran to better deal with the hobbling impact of sanctions.

BRICS is developing internal institutions for integration and increasing effective economic power in order to support development programs of its members and strengthen their regional and international position.

The establishment of financial institutions independent from Western institutions can be considered the most important success of BRICS in promoting convergence and its most important advantage in the new global economic structure.

Two financial institutions within BRICS are the pillars of the group's power, which also offer opportunities for Iran.

The New Development Bank of BRICS is the most important economic pillar of BRICS, created with the aim of forging convergence among the members in the world economy.

The bank was established in 2014 with the initial authorized capital of \$100 billion to finance infrastructure projects in BRICS countries and other emerging markets. It is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

According to the agreement, the bank "shall support public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments".

Another key institution established with the aim of strengthening financial convergence among the members is the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA).

It is a framework for the provision of support through liquidity and precautionary instruments in response to actual or potential short-term balance of payments pressures.

Although U.S. financial sanctions make it difficult for Iran to access the resources of these two institutions, BRICS has adopted various methods under its de-dollarization scheme to provide loans and services to members, which can reduce the impact of the sanctions.

The New Development Bank uses methods such as providing loans in the national currency of BRICS powers, cryptocurrency and currency swaps.

Bear in mind that Iran's integration into the BRICS economic framework is fraught with challenges as regards alignment with the economic policies, regulatory mechanisms and commercial laws and regulations of the main and new members.

Ensuring the coordination and synchronizing of the domestic bureaucracy with BRICS institutions in areas such as customs, tariffs and investment regulations requires time and complex expert reviews.

Nevertheless, the geo-economic benefits of the membership are so many that any misgivings are roundly misplaced.

As a full member, Iran would have closer economic relations with other member countries, which can gradually lead to increased business and investment opportunities.

This cooperation can include various sectors including energy, production, agriculture and technology and provide access to new markets and potential sources of foreign direct investment.

Joining BRICS would also give Iran the opportunity to diversify its economic partners beyond the current circle.

The BRICS countries have an overall population of more than 3 billion people, which potentially provides a vast consumer market for Iranian goods and services. This diversity would reduce Iran's dependence on a limited set of business partners and increases its economic resilience.

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# Court Orders U.S. Pay \$330 Million for Nojeh Coup



The Nojeh coup was a plot to overthrow the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran.

TEHRAN -- An Iranian court has ruled that the United States must pay \$330 million in damages to the families of the martyrs of the abortive Nojeh coup d'etat in Iran.

The verdict was issued following complaints filed by the survivors and victims of the Nojeh

Coup in July 2022 against the U.S. government and seven other defendants.

The criminal proceedings culminated in a ruling that convicted the United States of "planning and executing" the failed coup.

Mizan news agency, affiliated

with the Iranian Judiciary, said that after hearing the arguments of the survivors of the plot and their lawyer, the court ruled that the U.S. government must pay \$30 million for the "material and moral" damage it caused the plaintiffs and \$300 in "punitive damages."

"Therefore, the U.S. government has to pay a total of \$330 million in financial fines and compensation to the families of the martyrs of the Nojeh coup," the verdict concluded.

The Nojeh coup plot was a plan to overthrow the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran and its leader the late Imam Khomeini after the collapse of the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime.

The plan involved the Iranian army's officers and servicemen from the infantry, air force and intelligence service, and was largely halted by the arrest of hundreds of officers on 9-10 July 1980 at Nojeh Air Base, near the western city of Hamadan.

Back in 2017, the Islamic Revolution's Documents Center revealed that the U.S. had played a main role in designing and implementing the Nojeh coup plot in Iran in 1980.

The revelation came after the confessions made by Nasser Rokni, a pilot, who had collaborated with the coup plotters. Rokni admitted in his confessions to the U.S. role in the coup and its "financial assistance" to the coup plotters in Iran.

## Iranian Tennis Star, Football Player Invent New World Record

TEHRAN – A professional tennis player facing off against a footballer using his feet on the tennis court – that would be an unusual sight anywhere.

But for this footballer, Mehdi Hobe Darvish, such feats are not uncommon as he actively seeks them out in an effort to set world records.

At an exhibition event in northwestern Tehran on Thursday afternoon, he was joined by Amir Hussein Badi, one of Iran's top tennis players, on an open-air tennis hardcourt located at the Espinas Palace hotel, Al Jazeera reported.

After warming up with some keepie-uppies to entertain the cameras airing it on two local streaming services and the dozens of people watching from the stands and an adjacent building, the two athletes kicked it off on the court.

Badi passed the ball over the net gently with a tennis racket, and Darvish returned it with his foot after controlling and briefly juggling it, with the ball allowed to bounce once.

They managed to repeat that 637 times in an hour, which they and Iranian sports officials believe is a world record, and one that has not been tried before.

"I didn't think he would last

even half an hour in this heat and sunlight but he got every ball back, something that's difficult to do even with a racket," Badi said of his partner after completing the feat.

Darvish, who had previously achieved a world record by juggling a tennis ball on his feet 144 times in one minute in Dubai in 2010, said that paled in comparison.

"Hitting the ball over the net required much more power and it completely depleted me. I had never experienced so much physical strain," he said.

Hadi Rezaei, the head of Iran National Records, a committee under the sports ministry, confirmed to Al Jazeera that the feat will first be recorded at a national level before being sent to Guinness World Records for international recognition.

"We are recording everything based on the required Guinness conditions and I believe we can register this internationally within three months," he said.

Guinness did not respond to a request for comment on why it does not currently have any official representatives in Iran.

Inspiration for the exhibition match originally came from a face-off between two of the greatest

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## Niger Gives French Ambassador 48 Hours to Leave

NIAMEY (Dispatches) -- Niger's military government on Saturday ordered the French ambassador to leave the country within 48 hours, amid deteriorating relations between Niamey and former colonialists.

France immediately rejected the ultimatum, stating that it did not recognize the military rulers' authority.

The non-committal stance from Paris came even as hundreds of protesters held a demonstration in front of the French military base in Niamey and threatened to storm the facility if troops did not leave the West African nation within a week.

Meanwhile, French news agency AFP said it had deleted an earlier post that said Niger's military rulers had given the German, U.S. and Nigerian ambassadors 48 hours to leave.

The agency said the statements based on which it had filed its report had been declared "unauthentic by authorities".

A similar post relating to the U.S. ambassador was also deleted, it said.

People in Niger have, on several occasions, come out in force to display support for the military leaders and voice rejection of the country's former Western-backed authorities.

Niger's army generals overthrew the country's pro-Western president Mohamed Bazoum on July 26. Ever

since, they have accused France of seeking to intervene militarily in the West African country to reinstate Bazoum.

The military takeover came amid a growing wave of anti-French sentiment, with the people of Niger accusing the European country of interfering in their affairs.

Niger has strategic significance as one of the world's biggest producers of uranium, where French, American and other foreign troops are deployed under the rubric of fighting militancy in the region.

Earlier this month, thousands of anti-West protesters took to the streets to protest against plans by West African nations to deploy a military force to the country.

The protesters surrounded the French military base in Niger, protesting against years of military intervention by the European country in the West African nation.

The Niger army has accused the African nation's former colonizer France of being the force behind the West African regional bloc ECOWAS' determination to restore Bazoum to office to serve the West's interests.

France was a colonial power in West Africa until 1960. Since independence, the European country has maintained trade relations and a military presence in the region.