

# Iran says arms embargo lifted

- The embargo on the sale of conventional arms to Iran
- US withdrew from the nuclear deal in 2018

AFP | Tehran

Iran said a longstanding UN embargo on arms sales to and from the Islamic republic expired yesterday in line with a 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers from which Washington has withdrawn. “As of today, all restrictions on the transfer of arms, related activities and financial services to and from the Islamic Republic of Iran... are all automatically terminated,” the foreign minis-



A file photo taken on February 2, 2019, shows Iranians visiting a weaponry and military equipment exhibition in the capital Tehran

try said in a statement. The embargo on the sale of conventional arms to Iran was due to start expiring progressively from Sunday, October 18, under the terms of the UN resolution that blessed the 2015 nu-

clear deal between the Islamic republic and world powers. “As of today, the Islamic Republic may procure any necessary arms and equipment from any source without any legal restrictions, and solely based on its defensive needs,” the ministry added in the statement sent out on Twitter. It insisted that under the terms of the deal, struck with the United States, China, Britain, France, Germany and Russia, “the lifting of arms restrictions and the travel ban were designed to be automatic with no other action required.” US President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the nuclear deal in 2018 and has unilaterally begun reimposing sanctions on Iran. It was “a momentous day for the international community,”

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IRAN

the Iranian ministry said. But it stressed that “unconventional arms, weapons of mass destruction and a buying spree of conventional arms have no place in Iran’s defense doctrine”.

# “Come on, Grandpa”

Egyptian grandfather becomes world’s oldest soccer pro



Ezzeldin Bahader, a 74-year-old Egyptian football player in action during a soccer match against El Ayat Sports Club of Egypt's third division league at the Olympic Stadium in teh Cairo suburb of Maadi, Egypt

Reuters | Cairo

Egyptian grandfather Ezzeldin Bahader has been recognised as the world’s oldest professional soccer player after completing a second full match just short of his 75th birthday. Bahader was awarded the title by Guinness World Records on Saturday evening after missing a penalty kick as his team, 6th October, lost 3-2 to El Ayat Sports club in the Egyptian third division. The former amateur player, who turns 75 on Nov. 3, scored a goal from the penalty spot in his debut match on March. He planned to play a second 90-minute match the same month to claim his record, but the suspension of sports activities to contain the spread of the coronavirus put his plans on hold. Bahader had previously told media he was 75, which he attributed to “rounding up”. Having him on the team had allowed 6th October to gain sponsors and publicity, he said. Some of Bahader’s six grandchildren attended Saturday’s match, chanting “Come on, Grandpa” from the touchline. “I dream of being able to break my own record one more time, just to make the competition a little harder,” Bahader said, though he is now out of contract. The record was previously held by 73-year-old Israeli Isaak Hayik. Ezzeldin Bahader speaks with Dr Ashraf Sobhi, Minister of Youth and Sports



# Armenia, Azerbaijan truce breaks down within hours

Reuters | Yerevan/Baku

Armenia and Azerbaijan accused each other yesterday of violating a new humanitarian ceasefire in fighting over the mountain enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, hours after it was agreed. The truce agreed on Saturday came into force at midnight (2000 GMT) after a week-old Russian-brokered ceasefire failed to halt the worst fighting in the South Caucasus since the 1990s. At least 750 people have been killed since fighting began on Sept. 27. At 1010 GMT, the Azeri defence ministry said the Aghdam region, adjacent Nagorno-Karabakh, was under Armenian shelling. It said overnight Armenian military units opened fire from large-caliber weapons along the border, which Armenia denied. Armenia said the Azeri army had fired twice during the night



Local resident Alexei Agadzhanov holds a rifle while showing a crater following recent shelling in the settlement of Shosh in the course of a military conflict over the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh

and used artillery and accused Baku of rejecting its request to withdraw the wounded soldiers from the battlefield. “This step ... was categorically rejected by Baku,” the foreign ministry said in a statement. Baku called the statement misinformation. The Azeri defence ministry

said: “The enemy fired at the vicinity of the Jabrail city, as well as the villages of this region ... using mortars and artillery”. It added that the Azeri army “took adequate retaliatory measures”. The ministry said that Azeri military units downed Armenian Su-25 warplane, “which was

attempting to inflict airstrikes on the positions of the Azeri army in Jabrail region.” Yerevan swiftly denied that. Officials in Nagorno-Karabakh said Azeri forces had launched an attack on the enclave’s military positions and there were casualties and wounded on both sides.

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Nagorno-Karabakh is a mountain territory that is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated and governed by ethnic Armenians

# Saudi woman makes world’s ‘largest coffee painting’

- The artwork, titled “Naseej 1” (meaning “Woven Together”) was created in the Saudi city of Jeddah on a canvas of seven connected cloths.

AFP | Jeddah | Saudi Arabia

A Saudi artist has created the world’s “largest coffee painting”, becoming the first woman from the country to achieve a record title single-handedly, the Guinness World Records announced yesterday. Ohud Abdullah Almalki used expired coffee to illustrate renowned leaders from the kingdom and the neighbouring United Arab Emirates for the 220 square metre (around 2,370 square feet) piece. “It took me 45 days of continuous work to complete, under the watchful eyes of two witnesses,



Almalki used approximately 4.5 kilograms of expired coffee granules to complete the painting

video recording and drone footage,” Almalki said, according to a Guinness World Records statement. The artwork, titled “Naseej 1”

(meaning “Woven Together”) was created in the Saudi city of Jeddah on a canvas of seven connected cloths. It features the founding fa-

thers of Saudi Arabia and the UAE -- the late King Abdul Aziz bin Saud and the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, respectively.

Below them is a series of smaller portraits of other leaders from the two Gulf countries, while the whole work is bordered in the traditional “Al-Sadu” style of Bedouin decoration. “My aim is to remind the world of the centuries-old entente between the two nations,” Almalki said. The artist used approximately 4.5 kilograms of expired coffee granules to complete the painting, according to the Guinness World Records statement. Almalki expressed hope that

4.5kg

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“It took me 45 days of continuous work to complete, under the watchful eyes of two witnesses, video recording and drone footage”

ALMALKI

her accomplishment “will contribute to empowering the women in Saudi Arabia and beyond.” It is the first time a Saudi woman has achieved a record alone, Guinness World Records said, though others have taken part in previous attempts. In 2015, 8,264 women came together in Riyadh to make the largest “human awareness ribbon”, to raise awareness about breast cancer.