



Serial Killer Talks Peace

Israeli PM tells Iranian people he doesn't want war after ordering +1800 strikes on Syria, occupying new areas

E3 doubles down on hostile stance toward Iran as it declares readiness to 'snap back' sanctions

TEHRAN – Germany, Britain, and France have told the United Nations that they are ready to trigger the so-called “snapback” mechanism which would bring back anti-Iran international sanctions lifted in 2015 under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Under the JCPOA, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany possess the authority to reinstate international sanctions against Iran if Tehran is deemed non-compliant. The U.S., having unilaterally withdrawn from the agreement in 2018 and subsequently re-imposed its own sanctions, has forfeited this right.

The JCPOA, signed between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries namely the U.S., UK, Germany, France, Russia, and China, aimed to curtail Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. However, this benefit evaporated for Tehran within three years of the agreement's signing, following the U.S. withdrawal and the re-imposition of sanctions. ▶ Page 2

Iran, UAE call for end to Israeli aggression and protection of Syria's sovereignty

TEHRAN – Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have urged the international community to safeguard Syria's national sovereignty and territorial integrity while condemning ongoing Israeli aggression in the war-torn country.

In a phone call on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed the escalating tensions in Syria following the collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's government.

Both ministers stressed the critical need to preserve regional peace and stability and avoid provocative actions that could disrupt cooperation and harmony among neighboring nations during this fragile period.

Since Assad's government fell, Israel has conducted nearly 500 airstrikes across Syria, targeting essential civilian and military infrastructure. Israeli forces have also advanced into the buffer zone east of the occupied Golan Heights, violating the 1974 disengagement agreement with Syria. ▶ Page 2

Iran, Qatar sign comprehensive co-op agreement at joint economic committee

TEHRAN – The 10th Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee meeting concluded on Thursday, December 12, in Doha, with officials from both nations pledging to enhance bilateral economic ties and increase trade to \$1.0 billion annually.

The meeting, co-chaired by Iran's Minister of Energy Abbas Ali-Abadi and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani, focused on expanding cooperation across multiple sectors, including energy, infrastructure, and trade.

The event featured four specialized committees: Trade (covering commerce, banking, and insurance), Infrastructure (transport, agriculture, and ICT), Social and Cultural (tourism, health, and research), and Energy (water, electricity, oil, and gas). Over 60 representatives from public and private sectors of both countries participated in the discussions.

Ali-Abadi emphasized the strategic importance of the partnership, saying, “Today's economic relations between Iran and Qatar require a strategic outlook.” He noted that current trade between the two countries stands at approximately \$200 million annually, with plans to increase it fivefold to \$1 billion in the near future. ▶ Page 4

Will US allow Lebanese Army to deter Israeli violation of national sovereignty?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – The Lebanese army and UNIFIL have completed preparations for a gradual deployment in Khiyam after clearing it of unexploded ordnance and redeploying in the checkpoints that had been evacuated before the Israeli ground incursion.

Following the retreatment of the Israeli occupation forces from the outskirts of the border city towards Sarda in the Wazzani plain, dozens of families are waiting for the moment to reenter their war-ravaged city to retrieve the bodies of martyrs from the rubble and rebuild their homes.

The redeployment of the Lebanese army in northern Khiyam coincided with an Israeli Hermes drone martyring 3 citizens who were checking their homes.

Najib Mikati, the caretaker Lebanese Prime Minister, has described the attack as “a blatant betrayal that violates all the pledges made by the parties that sponsored the ceasefire agreement. The United States and France are required to declare a clear position on what happened and to curb the Israeli aggression.”

From elation to ennui: Syrians may soon regret toppling Assad

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel is pressing ahead with its nefarious plans in Syria as numerous individuals in the Arab country feel an initial sense of elation at having toppled the government of president Bashar Assad.

Israel has carried out large-scale airstrikes in Syria since Assad was ousted by armed groups last weekend. These groups are led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) which began an offensive late last month from Syria's northwest and took over Damascus on Sunday.

Israel appears to be among the HTS supporters but it has hit Syrian military facilities and long-range missiles to prevent them from falling “into the hands of extremists.”

Israel has also carried out a ground incursion into Syria. Israeli troops have been sent both into and beyond a demilitarized buffer zone in the Golan Heights. They have seized towns and villages as well as Jabal al-Shaykh (Mount Hermon) — a strategic peak inside the buffer zone.

UN General Assembly demands Gaza ceasefire

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The majority of UN General Assembly members have called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The Assembly has passed two important resolutions calling for an immediate, unconditional, and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

It has also reaffirmed its strong support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

These measures were taken by the Assembly after the UN Security Council failed to agree on a ceasefire resolution.

Despite receiving 14 votes in favor, the resolution in the Security Council was blocked by a veto from the United States, a permanent member.

The first resolution, titled “Demand for ceasefire in Gaza,” called on all parties to comply fully with international law, including humanitarian laws aimed at protecting civilians and civilian infrastructure.

▶ Page 5

TENDER INVITATION REF. 14039-TIB1

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO) HEREBY INVITES ELIGIBLES TO SUPPLY: **70 MT Aluminum –Titanium Boron (AL-Ti-B) with brand KBM**

To get the tender instruction pack, kindly refer to our website link in below: www.iralco.ir

Closing Time: **28th December 2024, 4:00 PM IRST** (Iran Standard Time)

Send your offers to one the following addresses:
 PO Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Iranian Aluminum Company, Arak city, Markazi province of Iran
 Name of office: Secretariat of the Trading Commission
 Postal code: 3818998116
 Attention: Mr. Abedi
 Tel: +98 86 32162014
 Managing Director Office, 4th Floor, No. 49, Molla-Sadra Str., Vanak Square, Tehran, 1991614581, Tehran Province of IRAN.
 Tel: +98 21 88049024
 Fax: +98 21 88049028

Public Relations Department
 Iran Aluminum Company



Tehran hosting national expo on research achievements

TEHRAN –The 25th exhibition on national achievements of research and technology kicked off in Tehran on Friday and will run until Monday.

The exhibition is being held concurrent with the 12th Iran Lab Expo, IRNA reported.

More than 50 percent of the technologies being showcased in the exhibition cover the three fields of electronics and mechatronics, information and communication technology, and agriculture and food security.

Over 35 percent of the technologies have been developed by science and technology parks. ▶ Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Thursday Iranian newspapers.

Israel worried about Iran's infiltration

In a note, Hamshahri dealt with the increase of Iran's infiltration into Israel's security structures. It wrote: These days, concern about Iran's increasing infiltration into various structures of the Zionist regime has become one of the most important political-security concerns of Tel Aviv in facing the Islamic Republic. It seems that after the implementation of the "True Promise II" operation, the Zionist authorities were more worried about Iran's security infiltration into the occupied territories. Although the Zionists tried to hide the strikes by launching a propaganda campaign after Operation "True Promise I", during "True Promise II", the high volume of hits could not be hidden. More than anything else, the accurate hitting of the missile depots indicated Iran's precise information about the military-security goals of the Zionist regime. An issue that seems to have faced the security authorities of this regime with an important challenge called "Iran's security penetration."

Ettelaat: Plots will intensify against Iran

In an article, Ettelaat addressed the developments in the Middle East, especially in Syria, and the performance of Iran after these events. The paper said: The Middle East has become the center of strange political and social developments. In such a situation, we need to know what direction the future conditions in the region will take and what the Islamic Republic of Iran can do. It seems that threats and sabotage attacks against the Islamic Republic of Iran will intensify based on the expansionist and aggressive strategies of the Israeli regime. In such a situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Resistance Front should put themselves in a position of renewal and strength. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the leader of the resistance groups and more than others it is most exposed to threats and conspiracies. Therefore, it must take serious measures to strengthen its internal power because inciting and equipping forces opposed to the Islamic Republic, launching media wars and cyberattacks, creating public discontent among the people, etc. are on the list of programs of this regime against Iran.

Etemad: Regional states concerned over Turkish influence in Syria

In an analysis, Etemad discussed the role of Syria in the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad. It

wrote: The developments in the Middle East and the confrontation between Tel Aviv and Hezbollah changed the balance of power between Iran and Israel, and now the fall of Bashar al-Assad can affect the position of Iran and the resistance front.

However, the wider consequence of recent developments is a change in the balance of power between Turkey and other regional and extra-regional actors. What is clear is that Turkey's achievements in Syria have been highlighted and Ankara's influence in Lebanon and Iraq may increase. Turkey's achievements may affect Tehran's interactions and have consequences for other regional actors. From Iran's point of view, the fall of Assad may provide the basis for changing Tehran's strategy.

But as observers say, Turkey's achievements in Syria can be worrying signs for the whole region. Iran sees Turkey as a regional competitor. A rival who secretly challenges Tehran's influence in the Middle East and the Caucasus. A geography where the two players have been competing for a long time.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Conditions of Iran after Assad

In an explanation, Arman-e-Emrooz analyzed Iran's future policy after Assad and wrote: Considering the anti-Israeli nature of the Islamist movement in Syria and the closeness of some of them to Hamas, perhaps this channel will provide an opportunity for Tehran to play a role in this regard in the future. The continuation of Israel's attacks on Syria and serious hatred toward the occupation and apartheid regime can increase the chance of creating this opportunity for Iran. Considering the escalation of tension in the future, Tehran may be led to redefine its regional priorities and strengthen relations with Syria's actors to pass this stage.

It is also possible that the Iranian government will focus more on strengthening its internal front and solving its problems and negotiations to lift sanctions. Of course, before the formation of such negotiations, it is not unlikely that Israel will take action against Iran's nuclear program with a green light from the United States. Apart from these goals, another goal may be to remove Iran's nuclear leverage in order to get concessions in the negotiations.



Afghanistan's acting minister for refugees Khalil Haqqani was killed by an ISIS-linked suicide bomber on December 11, 2024.

nificant losses for the Taliban leadership in recent years, particularly as multiple members of the Haqqani clan hold high-ranking positions within the interim government.

Khalil Haqqani's brother, Jalaluddin, was a prominent guerrilla leader who fought against Soviet troops in Afghanistan during the 1980s, and also played a pivotal role in orchestrating many attacks throughout the Taliban's 20-year insurgency against the U.S.

Currently, Sirajuddin Haqqani, the son of Jalaluddin and nephew of Khalil Haqqani, holds the position of interior minister in the Taliban government.

In recent years, ISIS has escalated its activities in Afghanistan, orchestrating numerous attacks on both military and civilian targets, challenging regional stability and security.

E3 doubles down on hostile stance toward Iran as it declares readiness to 'snap back' sanctions

From page 1 ▶ The situation worsened with the European signatories, who not only failed to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions but also implemented their own bans.

The European Troika told the UN Security Council on Wednesday that it would return UN sanctions as well if it deems the move necessary to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. The E3 will lose the ability to take such action on October 18 next year.

Iran argues that while Britain, Germany, and France have not officially left the JCPOA, they lack the moral and legal standing to trigger the snapback mechanism as they have failed to fulfill their commitments since the U.S. withdrawal.

In a letter to the President of the



UN Security Council on Thursday, Russia's UN Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya reaffirmed Iran's stance while blaming the U.S. and three European countries for rendering the JCPOA ineffectual. He said the four states are attempting to falsely portray Iran as responsible

while dismissing their repeated violations of the pact. Nebenzya asserted that Iran remains ready to resume compliance, contingent upon reciprocal action from Western parties, but that this condition has yet to be met.

Although the potential re-impo-

sition of UN sanctions is unlikely to significantly exacerbate Iran's already difficult situation—given the pervasive impact of existing U.S. sanctions—it's widely viewed as a setback for diplomatic efforts to address Iran's nuclear program. Some Iranian officials have said Tehran would look into leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if Europe triggers the snapback.

Growing Iranian skepticism toward dialogue with the West is fueling domestic calls for nuclear weapons development. Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a fatwa (religious decree) years ago that banned the country from developing weapons of mass destruction. He has yet to rescind that fatwa.

Iran, UAE call for end to Israeli aggression and protection of Syria's sovereignty



TEHRAN – Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have urged the international community to safeguard Syria's national sovereignty and territorial integrity while condemning ongoing Israeli aggression in the war-torn country.

In a phone call on Thursday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan discussed the escalating tensions in Syria following the collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's government.

Both ministers stressed the critical need to preserve regional peace and stability and avoid

provocative actions that could disrupt cooperation and harmony among neighboring nations during this fragile period.

Since Assad's government fell, Israel has conducted nearly 500 airstrikes across Syria, targeting essential civilian and military infrastructure. Israeli forces have also advanced into the buffer zone east of the occupied Golan Heights, violating the 1974 disengagement agreement with Syria.

Although the Israeli regime claims it is not advancing toward Damascus, its military operations have raised significant regional concerns.

Israeli forces have reportedly destroyed up to 80% of Syria's strategic military capabilities, significantly weakening the country. This military push has been condemned by the Arab League, which described Israel's actions as illegal attempts to exploit Syria's instability for territorial expansion.

The recent resurgence of armed militants in Syria, led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), has further complicated the situation. The terrorist group launched a swift two-week offensive, capturing Damascus and prompting Assad's government's downfall.

The chaos created by HTS's advance has provided an opening for Israel to escalate its military actions and expand its occupation in Syria. Both Araghchi and Al Nahyan condemned these developments, emphasizing the need to restore stability and prevent further destabilization in the region.

Iran, Qatar highlight efforts to address Syrian crisis

In a separate phone conversation, Araghchi and Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani reiterated the necessity of ending Israel's attacks on Syria and supporting efforts to stabilize the country.

The two diplomats discussed ongoing bilateral and multilateral consultations aimed at helping Syria establish an inclusive political framework that reflects the will of its people.

The Iranian and Qatari foreign ministers highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts to counter foreign aggression and protect Syria's sovereignty. They also condemned Israel's attempts to annex Syrian territory and undermine international agreements.

IRGC forces were the last to leave Syria's battlefield: commander-in-chief

TEHRAN – The commander-in-chief of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Major General Hossein Salami, has commended the sacrifices made by IRGC forces in Syria, emphasizing their pivotal role in resisting militants.

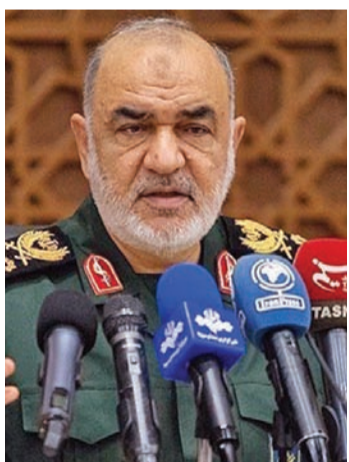
Speaking on Thursday, Salami revealed that IRGC members were the last to leave the battlefield in Syria following the resurgence of armed terror groups such as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which recently led an attack culminating in the collapse of President Bashar al-Assad's government.

Addressing the evolving political and military situation in Syria, Salami rejected the notion that Iran should have shouldered the entire burden of Syria's defense.

"Some expect us to fight in place of the Syrian army. Is it logical for the IRGC and Basij forces to take on full responsibility while Syria's army merely observes? Moreover, our access to Syria was severely restricted, but the Islamic Republic worked tirelessly to offer support," he said. Salami asserted that IRGC forces were the last defenders on Syria's resistance lines.

The IRGC chief stressed the importance of adapting strategies to shifting circumstances, acknowledging that fixed approaches are inadequate for addressing the complexities of global and regional issues.

Responding to claims that Iran's influence has waned following the fall of the Assad government and ongoing Israeli strikes, Salami dismissed such reports, affirming Iran's strength. "We have a strong political logic and unquestionable legitimacy to defend ourselves. If



we were weakened, we wouldn't have carried out successful operations like True Promise," he said.

Salami also lauded Syria's steadfastness, noting it remains the only Arab nation that has neither compromised nor normalized relations with adversarial powers. He described Syria's unyielding resistance to U.S. and Israeli aggression as a hallmark of its strength.

Reflecting on the resurgence of armed terrorist groups, Salami stated that the IRGC had previously warned Damascus about the militants' growing threat.

"The will to change, fight, and show resilience in its truest form was lacking. Sadly, the consequences are now evident," he remarked. Recently, HTS militants stormed Damascus after regaining significant ground in northern Syria in less than two weeks.

Exploiting the chaos, Israel launched a ground offensive in southwest Syria and conducted missile strikes across the region, claiming to have decimated up to 80% of Syria's military capabilities in one of its largest operations to date.

Tehran ready to support Baghdad if holy sites are threatened by terrorists: envoy



TEHRAN – The Iranian ambassador to Iraq has reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to supporting its neighbor in the face of potential terrorist threats, particularly if Iraq's sovereignty or its holy sites are endangered.

Mohammad Kazem Al-e Sadeq, Iran's ambassador in Baghdad, highlighted Iraq's robust security capabilities during an interview with Baghdad Al-Youm.

He praised Iraq's military readiness, noting the significant role played by the Iraqi Army, Iraq's Hashd al-Sha'abi (Popular Mobilization Units), and other security forces in maintaining national stability.

"Iraq possesses a comprehensive range of security and military forces capable of confronting the most dangerous terrorist and armed groups.

With the presence of the army, the PMU, and counter-terrorism forces, there is no reason for concern," Al-e Sadeq stated confidently.

However, the ambassador warned that if terrorist groups target Iraq's cities or its religious sanctities, the situation would demand immediate and decisive action.

"Defending Iraq and its sanctities is both a duty and an obligation. Iran will take all necessary steps to support Iraq in such a scenario," he said.

Al-e Sadeq also reiterated Iran's broader commitment to Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, emphasizing the importance of collaboration to combat any threats posed by terrorism. "Iran will never allow terrorism to attack Iraq.

Together with the Iraqi people, we will confront these threats," he added, referencing Iran's past statements advocating for Iraq's stability and unity.

In addition, the ambassador expressed concern about the escalating situation along Iraq's shared border with Syria.

He noted that Baghdad has intensified efforts to secure its border in response to recent developments in Syria, where armed groups have gained influence and undermined governmental authority.

"The situation along the borders has raised concerns, and Iraq is now working to bolster its defenses against any potential spillover from the Syrian conflict," Al-e Sadeq explained.

Serial killer talks peace

Israeli PM tells Iranian people he doesn't want war after ordering +1800 strikes on Syria, occupying new areas

By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – In his third and latest video message to the Iranian people in 15 months, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed a desire for “peace”, but said the Iranian government is obstructing it.

He alleged that Iran's leaders aim to “conquer other nations” while Israel is seeking only to “defend our state”.

Netanyahu's previous address to the Iranian people preceded the October 26th Israeli airstrikes on military installations inside Iran, which resulted in the martyrdom of four Iranian Army personnel and one civilian. Analysts believe the strikes fell short of their intended destructive capacity due to Iran's effective air defenses, preventing Israeli fighter jets from entering Iranian airspace and precluding the execution of subsequent planned phases of the attack.

The Israeli prime minister made no mention of the October assault in his Thursday address but said Israel has managed to crush Iran's allied forces in Syria, Gaza, and Lebanon. “All this came as President Trump pointed out this week, because of Israel and its fighting success.”

It's hard to label Israel's deadly campaigns in Gaza and Lebanon as successful. The stated goal – the “eradication” of Hamas and Hezbollah – remains a distant



dream. Hamas continues to inflict casualties on Israeli forces from the ruins of Gaza, and Hezbollah's attacks against Israeli positions in the occupied territories continued until moments before the November 27th ceasefire. Israel's only potential victory, the fall of Assad in Syria, is far from a guaranteed win, its contribution debatable and its long-term consequences potentially disastrous for both Israel and the U.S. and their partner in crime, Turkey.

“Netanyahu's latest pronouncements should be viewed within a broader context. These statements are a piece in a bigger puzzle,” explains West Asia expert Abbas Aslani. “A recent Wall Street Journal report on alleged planned U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, and an orchestrated media frenzy about the European Troika's May threat

of snapping back international sanctions against Iran, are other pieces of that puzzle.”

In his latest video message, Netanyahu claimed the Iranian government “has stolen billions of dollars” from the Iranian population to support its allies in the region. He then chanted an infamous slogan rioters used during the 2022 fall unrest inside Iran and said “one day Iran will be free”.

“Netanyahu's strategy is to reignite unrest within Iran. The Wall Street Journal article and the manufactured controversy over the potential ‘snapback’ of UN sanctions are designed to instill fear and weaken the morale of Iranians,” Aslani elaborated. “While Netanyahu likely hopes this will create an opening for Western military intervention, the West's ultimate aim is to

pressure Iran into concessions on its regional influence and nuclear program during potential future negotiations.”

Netanyahu also talked of his alleged willingness to pursue peace with regional countries in the video published right after the fall of Assad's government last week: “We [are] reaching out a hand to whoever wants to live with us in peace, and we will cut off the hand or whoever tries to hurt us.”

Reports show that since Assad's downfall, Israel has attacked over 1800 positions on Syrian soil, destroyed 80% of Syria's military infrastructure, and occupied new regions in the country. Based on the Israeli prime minister's proclamations of peace, none of that was supposed to happen as the regime's enemy – Assad – was no longer in the picture.

Putting Israel's latest move in Syria next to the regime's killing of over 50,000 civilians in Gaza and Lebanon, it is unlikely that Netanyahu's lame show would sway Iranians.

“I don't believe attempts to instill fear in Iran would give the West what they want either,” Aslani said, citing Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's Wednesday statement that the Resistance's reach will expand throughout the region.

Mysterious drone sightings: manufacturing consent for war and beyond

By Garsha Vazirian

TEHRAN – Over the past month, residents across the state of New Jersey in the United States have reported nighttime sightings of unidentified flying objects, including over military bases and President-elect Donald Trump's golf course.

Despite numerous calls, neither local police nor federal authorities have provided an explanation.

Republican Representative Jeff Van Drew, however, claims to have the answer.

“Iran launched a mothership about a month ago, containing these drones. It's off the east coast of America,” the congressman told Fox News on Wednesday, citing unnamed “sources.”

He further suggested that “drones should be shot down, whether they belong to a hobbyist or Iran, which is a very possible scenario.”

Contradicting Van Drew's claims, the U.S. military has denied any such possibility.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh dismissed the Iranian mothership theory, stating, “There is no truth to that. There is no Iranian ship off the coast of the U.S., nor is there a mothership launching drones towards the U.S.”

Why is Iran being blamed?

Even if we assume that a foreign country is behind the recent phenomena, Van Drew's unfounded and now debunked accusations against Iran, rather than other U.S. adversaries like China or Russia, may reflect the current political climate in Washington.

With tensions high in West Asia following the fall of the Syrian government and the imminent

inauguration of Donald Trump, Israeli officials and their supporters in Washington may view the timing as ripe for war with Iran.

Representative Van Drew's statements likely reflect the influence of his primary donor, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a powerful pro-Israel lobbying group known for its significant sway over U.S. foreign policy. Israel's agenda against Iran is known to all; it hopes to involve the U.S. in a destructive war with the West Asian country.

In fact, this isn't the first time Iran has faced unfounded accusations. A U.S. Justice Department indictment in November accused an Afghan citizen of being hired by Iran to assassinate Donald Trump.

In July, a similar case accusing Iran of an assassination plot against Trump was debunked when it was discovered the suspect had no verified ties to Iran and was, in fact, from Pakistan. Tehran argues that such instances demonstrate how unsubstantiated accusations are used to discredit Iran internationally.

Anti-Iran rhetoric from Western politicians and media aims to demonize Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism, thereby paving the way for military engagement

Where else have the drones been seen?

Besides New Jersey, similar sightings have been reported in other locations:

- Langley Air Force Base, Virginia: Home to two F-22 combat squadrons and the CIA's headquarters.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

U.S., Israel exploiting Syria's instability, says IRGC in statement

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has issued a condemnation of the United States and Israel, criticizing their exploitation of Syria's current instability to dismantle the country's infrastructure.

In a statement released on Thursday, the IRGC highlighted the significant damage caused by continued foreign aggression in Syria, including widespread destruction of residential areas, military installations, and critical infrastructure.

The IRGC's statement criticized the “astonishing silence” of international organizations regarding these acts of aggression.

It reiterated Iran's commitment to supporting Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, emphasizing the importance of allowing the Syrian people to determine their country's future political system without external interference.

“This is an indisputable, legitimate, and legal right that must be respected and supported globally,” the statement read.

The IRGC framed the current geopolitical moment as a pivotal turning point in global history, asserting that a new world order is emerging, with Islam, led by the Islamic Republic of Iran, at its core.

The statement claimed that this evolving reality has spurred adversaries to intensify hostilities through a “combined war and media empire” aimed at undermining the influence of Islam and its allies.

The IRGC vowed that the Islamic Resistance Front would actively counter any plans to destabilize the region, weaken its nations, or redraw its borders.

The Resistance movement, the statement added, remains resolute in its objectives, including expelling U.S. forces from West Asia and advancing the liberation of Al-Quds and the Palestinian people.

The statement comes amid escalating tensions in Syria. Armed militants, including Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), launched a major offensive on the Syrian capital, Damascus, following their resurgence in northern Syria.

Following the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's government, Israel has intensified its military operations in Syria, launching a ground offensive in the southwest and conducting extensive missile strikes across the region. The Israeli military has claimed responsibility for what it described as one of its largest operations, boasting that it has destroyed up to 80% of Syria's military capabilities.



On Friday, people across Iran held mass anti-Zionist rallies to express their solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine, voicing their strong opposition to Zionist policies and actions.

IRAN IN FOCUS

DECEMBER 14, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran in Pot 1 of 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup

TEHRAN – The contenders for the AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup Thailand 2025 will discover their path to glory when the Final Draw ceremony takes place on Thursday, December 19 at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur.

Set to be hosted by Thailand for a third time, the 11th edition of the tournament will feature 16 teams in action at the Jomtien Beach in Pattaya from March 20 to 30, 2025.

The cast will be split evenly into four groups at the draw, with the top two finishers from each to move into the Knockout Stage.

Qualification to the FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup is also on offer – the top three teams will fill the three berths allocated to the AFC for the 2025 edition in the Seychelles.

Joint-record three-time champion, Iran, will return to defend its crown, along with 12 other teams that also participated in the previous campaign in 2023.

They include the other four former winners, Bahrain, Japan, Oman and the United Arab Emirates, while India, Iraq and Vietnam will be back after missing the last edition.

The 16 sides have been seeded into four pots based on their final ranking from the 2023 tournament where applicable, with Thailand seeded first as the host association, as below:

Pot 1: Thailand, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Oman

Pot 2: United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, China PR

Pot 3: Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Malaysia

Pot 4: Indonesia, India, Iraq, Vietnam

Alipour snatches bronze at 2024 IWF World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's Ali Alipour won a bronze medal at the 2024 IWF World Championships on Thursday.

Kazakhstan's Nurgissa Adiletuly grabbed gold after lifting 388 kg (174kg+214kg) in total.

Georgia and Iran were on the podium for the first time in the men's contest.

The ultra-consistent Revaz Davitadze finished second and Alipour was third. Davitadze was up to 96kg for the first time, having won countless medals at lower weights, including a junior world title.

He made all six for 177-210-387, his biggest career total by 13kg. Alipour made the biggest jump of the session, up 9kg in clean and jerk, to finish third on 173-214-387.

His team-mate Alireza Moeini had made only one snatch but it was good enough for silver in that discipline.

He was seventh in a close finish on total. Clean and jerk gold, ahead of Adiletuly and Alipour, went to Won Jongbeom from Korea, who missed his last attempt at 221kg and finished sixth.

Esteghlal advance to Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 16

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team defeated Mes Kerman 1-0 in the 2024/25 Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 32 on Thursday.

Gustavo Blanco found the back of the net in Tehran's Shahr-e Qods Stadium four minutes into the second half.

Esteghlal were reduced to 10-men one minute later after Arash Rezavand was shown a red card.

The Hazfi Cup is an Iranian knockout football competition held annually by the Football Federation of Iran.

Sepahan are defending champions.

Tractor to meet Al Khaldiya at ACL Two 2024/25 Round of 16

TEHRAN – The 16 remaining teams discovered the road to glory following the conclusion of the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25 knockout stage draw at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Thursday.

The action promises to be spectacular, with the draw throwing up some fascinating ties.

The West Zone will see runaway Group A winners Tractor FC of Iran playing Bahrain's Al Khaldiya SC, the runners-up from Group B.

Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun FC, who comfortably topped Group B, will meet Al Wakrah SC of Qatar who finished second in Group A while Group C winners Sharjah FC were drawn against Al Hussein of Jordan, the Group D runners-up.

Shabab Al Ahli, the second side from the UAE to advance to the knockout stage after sealing the Group D top spot, will meet Group C runners-up Al Wehdah of Jordan.

The Round of 16 is scheduled to be played in February 2025, followed by the quarter-finals in March and semi-finals in April, before the tournament culminates in a single-leg final on May 17, 2025.

DRAW RESULT

West

- Al Khaldiya SC (BHR) v Tractor FC (IRN)
- Al Wakrah SC (QAT) v Al Taawoun FC (KSA)
- Al Wehdah (JOR) v Shabab Al Ahli (UAE)
- Al Hussein (JOR) v Sharjah FC (UAE)

Iran Club lose to Calicut Heroes at 2024 CAVA Club Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – The Iran Club lost to India's Calicut Heroes 3-1 (21-25, 25-22, 25-20, 26-24) at the 2024 CAVA Men's Club Volleyball Championship on Friday.

The Iran U19 team had defeated Club HDC from Maldives 3-2, Nepal 3-2 and Calicut Heroes 3-1 in their first three matches.

The Iranian team will play for the bronze medal on Saturday.

The five-team competition is being held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Iran's Chadormalou was supposed to take part in the competition but withdrew and Iran U-19 participated in the event instead.

Foolad ease past Praia Clube at FIVB Club World Championship 2024

TEHRAN – Iran's 'Foolad Sirjan Iranian' volleyball team, the only undefeated side in pool play in Brazil, completed their perfect Pool A campaign with a 3-0 (25-16, 25-13, 25-21) victory over hosts 'Praia Clube' on Thursday.

Outside hitter Alireza Abdolhamidi delivered another strong performance, leading the Iranian team with 18 points (16 kills, one block, one ace), followed by opposite Ali Hajipour, who left the court with 14 (12 kills, two blocks).

Outside hitter Maicon Franca and middle blocker Pietro Santos scored eight points each for Praia.

The destination of the second Pool A spot in the semifinals will be determined on Friday, when second-placed Cucine Lube Civitanova of Italy, which has four points, meet third-placed Al Ahly SC, of Egypt, which has three.

The winner will face Trentino for a spot in the gold medal match.

'Private sector crucial for achieving 13% growth in mining sector'



TEHRAN – Mohammad Reza Bahraman, deputy head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has stated that achieving a 13 percent growth in the mining sector is possible if the government assumes a purely supervisory role and leaves the execution of projects to the private sector.

In a recent interview with ICCIMA portal, Bahraman emphasized that the mining sector's growth potential is immense, particularly as Iran holds significant mineral reserves, including copper, lithium, nickel, manganese, cobalt, zinc, iodine, and rare earth elements. These resources, which have seen market growth over the past five years, are expected to see substantial increases in global demand by 2040, requiring global investments of up to \$1.7 trillion.

Bahraman added that for the mining sector to contribute to Iran's economic growth target of 13 percent in the Seventh National Development Plan, the country must attract an additional 55

billion euros in net capital over the next five years.

He pointed to the revitalization of the Mehdiabad mine, which was revived by the private sector after 72 years of closure, as an example of successful private-sector involvement. Bahraman stressed the importance of private sector participation in driving growth, and emphasized that the government should only play an oversight role, allowing private entities to take the lead in economic development.

Reflecting on recent developments, Bahraman noted that the Iranian mining sector had seen an 11 percent increase in investment in 2023 despite a 26 percent decline in global funding for international projects. He added that energy imbalances and regulated pricing were key challenges facing the industry, which were discussed in a meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian during a recent exhibition on the capabilities of the industry.

The exhibition, which was attended by senior officials, including President Pezeshkian and Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak, aimed to explore solutions to the sector's challenges and was a platform for showcasing private sector capabilities. The event also included specialized discussions to explore strategies for achieving the targeted eight percent growth in Iran's industrial and mining sectors.

As part of this ongoing effort, Bahraman highlighted the need for continuous collaboration between industry and academia, pointing out that approximately 320 students are currently involved in mining-related studies across the country.

Non-oil goods worth over \$800m exported from Isfahan province in 8 months

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, 1,252 million tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$836.391 million were exported from Isfahan province in the first eight months of the current Iranian year (March 20–November 21).

Rasoul Kouhestani-Pajouh, the head of the province's Customs Department, said that importing products worth \$224 million, Pakistan was the first destination of Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned eight-month period.

He mentioned Iraq and Afghanistan as the second and third top destinations of the products exported from the province in the first eight months of the present year.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports increased by 18 percent in the first eight months of the current Iranian year, compared to the same period last year, according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Iran exported 103.558 million tons of goods

valued at \$38.152 billion in the mentioned eight months, also registering a 14.66 percent rise in terms of weight, Mehr News Agency reported.

The Islamic Republic also imported 24.525 million tons of commodities worth \$45.127 billion in the said eight months.

The country's trade balance was negative \$7.0 billion in the eight months mentioned, according to IRICA.

China, Iraq, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India were the main export destinations of Iranian goods during the mentioned period.

These countries accounted for 82.29 percent of the weight and 82.94 percent of the value of the country's total non-oil exports.

The UAE, China, Turkey, Germany, the Russian Federation, and India were also the top sources of imports for Iran in the first eight months of the current year.

Tehran, Ankara urged to establish preferential trade agreement

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Mohammad Atabak has emphasized that enhancing trade between Iran and Turkey requires the establishment of a preferential trade agreement and the removal of tariff restrictions.

During a meeting with Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat and his accompanying delegation on Wednesday, Atabak pointed out that the trade potential between Tehran and Ankara surpasses the current volume of exchanges.

He stressed that implementing bilateral agreements, reviving preferential trade, and strengthening interactions would serve as the foundation for increasing bilateral trade, IRNA reported.

Atabak noted that the economic relations between Iran and Turkey, underpinned by deep cultural and historical ties, should yield a higher volume of trade.

The Iranian minister expressed optimism about progress in the joint cooperation framework between the two countries and referred to it as a crucial step toward boosting trade between the capitals. He added that the initial phase of this cooperation, in line with the terms of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee, would significantly enhance trade relations.

In response to a request from Bolat concerning border crossings, Atabak highlighted that Iran's government is working on a comprehensive plan to expand operations and

extend working hours at border crossings and transit routes.

The official further emphasized that increasing trade would accelerate the implementation of facilitative trade programs. The roadmap developed in collaboration with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) would be pivotal in advancing the execution of these plans and deepening bilateral ties.

Atabak also welcomed the formation of specialized committees to address bilateral issues, stressing that most trade-related challenges could be resolved through the Trade Promotion Organization. He elaborated on the preferential trade agreement between the two countries, suggesting that its terms could be revisited to expand preferential trade volumes.

As a further step in improving bilateral trade, Atabak underscored the importance of joint border committees to address border issues and streamline goods exchange between the neighboring countries. He also highlighted the need to remove certain tariff barriers to increase trade flows.

Concluding, Atabak reiterated Iran's readiness to expand cooperation with Turkey, emphasizing the industrial advantages of both countries in joint production.

Turkey invites Iran to attend next year's ECO summit

On the Turkish side, Minister Bolat acknowledged that the current trade volume

Iran, Qatar sign comprehensive co-op agreement at joint economic committee

From page 1 ▶ The official further highlighted a significant energy project involving a 200-kilometer undersea power line to connect Iran and Qatar's electricity networks. Initiated in March 2023, the feasibility study is in its final stages, with implementation set to follow approval.

"This project will revolutionize power transfer between the two nations during peak demand periods and enable electricity transit to third countries," Ali-Abadi stated.

He also expressed Iran's readiness to welcome Qatari investors, envisioning mutual investments of at least \$1 billion annually. Key focus areas include energy, transport, free trade zones, tourism, health-care, and agriculture.

The Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee, established in 1995, has facilitated significant achievements, particularly in water and electricity sectors. The 10th session underlined both nations' commitment to translating agreements into tangible outcomes and foster-



Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi (L) and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Faisal bin Thani bin Faisal Al Thani sign cooperation agreement on Thursday, December 12, in Doha.

ing regional cooperation.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides signed a comprehensive cooperation document to determine the framework of cooperation in the coming year.

The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has said the country seeks to reach one billion dollars in annual trade with Qatar, expressing hope that economic coopera-

tion between Tehran and Doha will take an upward trend with the holding of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Speaking in an online meeting with Saleh Alkhulaifi, the deputy industry and Commerce minister of Qatar, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi emphasized the need to facilitate trade between the two countries.

Referring to the extensive

political and cultural relations between the two countries, Dehghan Dehnavi said: "Despite the efforts of both sides, economic relations between Tehran and Doha have not reached the desired level."

"Fruits and food products are Iran's top exported items to Qatar, and it cannot be expected that the trade between the two countries will exceed one billion dollars with the export of such products, the official said.

According to the TPO head, the challenges in developing trade with Qatar are clear, and Iran is trying to increase the volume of trade with Qatar by developing a well-considered and coherent work plan.

Alkhulaifi for his part stated that the strict customs regulations in Qatar affect all countries, saying: "We will work to expedite the clearance of Iranian goods from Qatari ports and issue visas to Iranian businessmen, and we hope that the prospect of a billion-dollar trade between the two countries will be realized in the near future."

Iran's oil output rises by 37,000 bpd in November: OPEC

TEHRAN – Iran's oil production increased by 37,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November compared to the previous month, according to the latest report from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

OPEC's secondary source data shows that the group's 12 members produced a combined 26.657 million bpd in November, an increase of 104,000 bpd from October's 26.554 million bpd. Saudi Arabia remained the top producer with 8.963 million bpd, followed by Iraq with 4.043 million bpd and Iran with 3.323 million bpd.

The broader OPEC+ group produced 14.008 million bpd in November, up 219,000 bpd from October's 13.788 million bpd. In total, OPEC and its allies raised crude production by 323,000 bpd, bringing output from 40.342 million bpd in October to 40.665 million bpd in November.

The report noted that Iran's heavy crude price fell by \$1.25, or 1.7 percent, to \$72.81 per barrel in November, compared to \$74.06 per barrel in October. The average price of Iran's heavy crude for 2024 stood at \$80.30 per barrel.

OPEC's basket price also fell to \$72.98 per barrel in November, reflecting a \$1.47 (2%)



decline from October.

OPEC's latest monthly report forecasts global oil demand to rise by 1.61 million bpd in 2024, reaching a total of 104.3 million bpd. This represents an upward revision of 110,000 bpd from October's estimate.

Looking ahead, OPEC predicts global oil demand will increase by 1.45 million bpd in 2025, reaching 105.57 million bpd. However, the forecast was revised downward by 30,000 bpd from the previous month's estimate.

Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has been elected as the rotating president of the Organization of the Petroleum Export-

ing Countries (OPEC) for 2025.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday after the 189th OPEC ministerial meeting, held via videoconference, Paknejad said all member states participated in the virtual session.

"The most significant outcome of this meeting was the election of the Iranian oil minister as the president of OPEC for the upcoming year," Paknejad stated.

He added that Iraq's oil minister was elected as vice president for the new term.

During the session, OPEC's budget for the upcoming year was also reviewed and approved unanimously by member states. "It was emphasized that members who have not yet paid their contributions must settle their dues promptly," Paknejad noted.

The meeting also saw the extension of OPEC Secretary-General Haitham Al-Ghais' tenure for another three years. The Kuwaiti official, who was praised for his effective leadership, was reappointed by consensus.

Paknejad reiterated that OPEC currently comprises 12 member countries. He also announced that the exact date for the next ministerial meeting will be decided at the gathering scheduled for late May 2025.

which is also positive for Turkey, mentioned the re-export of some Iranian products through this country as one of the opportunities to optimize the trade relations between the two countries.

Recalling that Turkey has great power and experience in the field of tourism, he mentioned the use of the capacity of Turkish tourism companies to cooperate with the Iranian tourism industry and to increase the attraction of foreign tourists to Iran as another area of development of relations between these two neighboring countries.

Najafi-Arab also pointed to Iran's high power and knowledge in the textile industry and said that by setting up a joint cooperation program, the global expertise of Turkish companies can be used to strengthen the branding of Iranian products in international markets.

The TCCIMA head then pointed to the technical knowledge and expertise of Iranian companies in the pharmaceutical industry, especially in biotech drugs and probiotic industries, and emphasized on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in these sectors.

Addressing the same meeting, TiM Deputy Chairman Ahmet Gulec explained about this large Turkish private sector union and reminded that currently 150,000 Turkish exporters are members of this union and 61 export associations of this country also form the body of this large entity.

The official also announced that exporting goods worth \$1.755 billion to Iran, Turkey was the third source of import for Iran in the seventh month of the present year.

As previously announced by the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of non-oil trade between Iran and Turkey stood at \$9.9 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–October 21).

Mohammad Rezvaniyar said that Turkey was the second top trade partner of Iran among its neighbors in the seven-month period.

During a meeting between a delegation of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and the senior directors of the Turkish Exporters Union (TiM), the two sides explored the ways to improve and develop trade relations between the private sectors of the two countries.

In the meeting, held at the place of TiM in Istanbul, in the first week of September, the areas of development of commercial cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries were discussed and the use of advantages and capacities in the fields of tourism, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries was emphasized, the TCCIMA portal reported.

In this meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab referring to the trade balance of 1.6 billion dollars between the two countries,

From elation to ennui: Syrians may soon regret toppling Assad



Syrians are experiencing a period of euphoria after the downfall of Bashar Assad's government.



Israeli war minister Israel Katz ordered the military to prepare to stay atop the Syrian side of Jabal al-Shaykh (Mount Hermon) during the coming winter months.



The US has defended Israel's airstrikes and ground offensive in Syria.

From page 1 ► The Israeli war minister has ordered troops to prepare to remain throughout winter on Jabal al-Shaykh.

"Due to what is happening in Syria, there is a huge security importance to our holding of the Hermon peak and everything must be done to ensure the IDF's preparations in the area, to allow the troops to stay there in the difficult weather conditions," Israel Katz said in a statement.

Israel had already declared that its military presence in Syria would be temporary with the aim of ensuring that the regions adjacent to the occupied Golan Heights are not exposed to any potential security threats.

Israel's ground offensive in Syria is in violation of an agreement signed between the two sides in 1974.

Israel's aggression on Syria has been met with strong reaction.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been "deeply concerned by the recent and extensive violations of Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity," according to his spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.

"The secretary-general is particularly concerned over the hundreds of Israeli air strikes on several locations in Syria, stressing the urgent need to de-escalate violence on all fronts throughout the country," Dujarric said.

Several countries including Iran have condemned the Israeli aggression against Syria.

Unsurprisingly, the United States has thrown its full weight behind Israeli strikes and ground offensive in Syria.

"What Israel is doing is trying to identify potential threats, both conventional and weapons of mass destruction, that could threaten Israel, and, frankly threat-

en others as well," White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan told a press conference in Tel Aviv following a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Sullivan tries to justify Israel's attacks in Syria under the pretext of eliminating weapons of mass destruction. But he has failed to provide any evidence to back up his claim about the existence of such weapons.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has made similar comments.

"The stated purpose of those actions by the Israelis is to try to make sure that the military equipment that's been abandoned by the Syrian army doesn't fall into the wrong hands -- terrorists, extremists, et cetera. But we'll be talking -- we're already talking -- to Israel, we're talking to others, about the way ahead," Antony Blinken said on a visit to Jordan on Thursday.

The top US diplomat has traveled to the region for the 12th time since Israel launched its war of genocide on Gaza in October 2023.

Blinken also met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan in Ankara on the second leg of his regional tour to discuss ongoing developments in Syria.

"Our country worked very hard and gave a lot over many years to ensure the elimination of the territorial caliphate of ISIS (ISIL), to ensure that that threat doesn't rear its head again," Blinken said after meeting Fidan.

Blinken stressed the importance of supporting a Syrian transition in the wake of Assad's downfall.

Both the United States and Israel stand accused of supporting terrorists who

committed heinous crimes after the 2011 Arab Spring in Syria.

Now, Blinken claims that the US wants to prevent ISIL from raising its ugly head.

On the one hand, the US has designated ISIL and HTS as terror groups, and on the other hand it aids and abets them.

The HTS is a rebrand of the Nusra Front that was founded by ISIL more than 10 years ago and later pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda. The Nusra Front severed its connections with al-Qaeda in 2017 and subsequently rebranded itself as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). But the ideology of the HTS is fundamentally based on the principles espoused by terrorist organizations.

According to revelations by Israeli and American media in 2015, the Tel Aviv regime had also provided treatment to terrorists who had been wounded in fighting against the Syrian government.

The United States and Israel handed over Syria to the HTS. But Israel is destroying Syria's military infrastructure to prevent the rebels from launching any potential attacks against the regime.

On Friday, a large number of people in Syria held celebrations amidst the first Friday prayers after Assad's fall. But their elation will soon wear off when they wake up to the fact that Israel and the HTS are transforming Syria into a vassal state.

Undoubtedly, resentment against Israel will grow in Syria over the occupation of the country.

Besides, discontent will start to boil once Syrians realize that they have lost the benefits they previously enjoyed under the Assad government.

Sooner or later, growing discontent in Syria could spread like a tsunami, at the speed of light, that will engulf rebels and their backers.

Israeli government officials have publicly spoken about annexing northern Gaza and returning settlements to the enclave.

The second resolution adopted by the Assembly focused on providing strong support for UNRWA.

UNRWA has been facing severe challenges from the Israeli regime to provide basic humanitarian aid for Palestinians on the ground.

The Assembly condemned a law passed by the Israeli Parliament (the Knesset) on October 28, 2024, which would prevent UNRWA from operating in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The resolution was passed with 159 votes in favor, nine against, and 11 abstentions. It also called on Tel Aviv to respect international law and ensure the safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

It specifically highlighted the urgent need for basic services for the 2.3 million civilian population.

The Assembly warned against any attempts to reduce or end UNRWA's work, saying this would have terrible effects on millions of Palestinian refugees in the region.

The resolution also called for quick action to fix the agency's

funding and operational issues, which threaten its ability to help those in need.

Amid the diplomatic efforts to end Israeli attacks on Palestinian civilians, the Government Media Office in Gaza reported a devastating Israeli airstrike on the Nuseirat Camp.

The attack killed at least 33 people, with more than 84 others injured or missing. Rescue teams continue to search for survivors, but the area remains under heavy bombardment.

Israeli aircraft struck residential buildings and a post office in the Camp, located in central Gaza.

Following the massacre, more Israeli attacks on the Nuseirat camp have been widely reported.

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli forces have conducted relentless air, land, and sea assaults on Gaza.

The ongoing genocidal war on Gaza has resulted in the deaths of 44,875 civilians, most of whom are women and children. An additional 106,454 people have been injured.

These numbers are likely to rise, as thousands of victims remain trapped under rubble or in areas that Palestinians cannot reach.

Yemenis condemn Israel's aggression against Syria



People held huge protests in Yemen on Friday to condemn Israel's crimes in Gaza and the regime's aggression against Syria.

Demonstrators vent their anger at Israel's genocidal war in Gaza which has claimed the lives of nearly 45,000 Palestinians since October last year.

The protesters also denounced Israel's airstrikes and ground offensive in Syria.

The protests were held in Yemeni cities under the slogan "We remain steadfast with Gaza and continue to confront the Zionist-American

project."

On Thursday, the leader of the Ansarullah movement warned Muslim nations against plots hatched by the United States and Israel to reshape West Asia in their favor.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi also slammed Israel's aerial and ground offensive in Syria.

"Israeli acts of aggression against Syria, which were carried out with impunity and had the US support, are part of the regime's attempts to impose its will on the Muslim world," he said.

Qassam Brigades strikes Israeli forces in Jabalia with mortar fire

The Al-Qassam Brigades announced it had launched a heavy barrage of mortar shells targeting Israeli occupation forces in the Jabalia refugee camp, located in northern Gaza, Middle East Eye reported.

The attack reportedly focused on Israeli units that had advanced into the camp's post

office area. This comes as part of ongoing resistance against Israel's military incursions in the Gaza Strip.

The Qassam Brigades framed the strikes as a direct response to the occupation forces' intensified actions in the area.

Israeli wanted criminal touring US

An arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for former Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant has overshadowed his visit to the United States.

In a show of defiance Gallant has posted non-stop on X, formerly Twitter, about his meeting with US politicians including US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

The ICC issued arrest warrants last month for Gallant and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

On Tuesday, Gallant met with US Middle East envoy Brett McGurk at the White House.

Will US allow Lebanese Army to deter Israeli violation of national sovereignty?

From page 1 ► The steadfast town of Khayyam has an honorable history of defending the Lebanese territory and confronting the Israeli enemy. Every inch of the land in Khayyam tells a story of heroism and the name of an honorable martyr is engraved on every stone.

The city has suffered greatly as a result of the Israeli occupation since the 1982 invasion, when the enemy turned its military barracks into detention centers, and practiced the most heinous forms of torture until the liberation in 2000.

During the 2006 war, the Khayyam plain was the cemetery of the Merkava. Khayyam proved to be resistant to defeat. Since October 2023, the heroic scene has been repeated as Khayyam has sacrificed its best heroes for the sake of Palestine.

After Khayyam, the Lebanese army is expected to be redeployed in all eastern border towns as the enemy postpones the implementation of the truce within 60 days. It is doing what it failed to do during the war as it continues to bombard homes.

In 72 hours, the Israeli enemy destroyed

80% of the capabilities of the Syrian army, which will need an entire generation to rebuild. Will the Lebanese army be able to protect Lebanon?

It is not surprising that the Lebanese army will fail to do so as the Zionist-American colonialism does not want powerful armies in the region, plain and simple. Hence, Observers believe that the re-deployment of the Lebanese army will not prevent the continuation of Israeli violations.

Since the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon in 2005, Lebanon's pro-US political factions have prevented the Lebanese army from cooperating with any country that Washington does not like. The best evidence of this is what happened in 2008 when Vladimir Putin decided to give Lebanon MiG-29 fighter jets, tanks, and artillery with weapons and ammunition. Washington, however, quickly thwarted it along with various other offers.

Instead of confronting the US-Israeli hegemony, Lebanese Army Commander Joseph Aoun presents himself as a presidential candidate who seeks not to anger Washington.

UN General Assembly demands Gaza ceasefire



From page 1 ► This was the second demand for a ceasefire by the General Assembly since the outbreak of the U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war on Gaza since October 2023.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 158 nations in favor, nine against, and 13 abstentions.

Some countries shifted their positions from previous votes. Nations such as Austria, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom, which had abstained or opposed a similar earlier resolution, chose to support it this time.

Meanwhile, countries like Argentina, Hungary, and Tonga, which had abstained previously, opposed the resolution during this session.

The resolution called for immediate and concrete actions. These included an immediate

ceasefire, the exchange of prisoners, the safe return of displaced civilians to their homes, and the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

It also stressed the need for accountability, urging the UN Secretary-General to propose measures for advancing justice through existing or new mechanisms.

In addition, the resolution requested a detailed report from the UN Secretary-General, including an assessment of Gaza's urgent needs.

It reiterated the Assembly's unwavering support for a Palestinian state, emphasizing that the Gaza Strip should remain part of a future Palestinian state.

It also firmly rejected any attempts to alter Gaza's demographics or reduce its territory.

Tehran conference to spotlight new research on Sassanid Persia



TEHRAN – The Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran is set to host the conference titled “Sassanian Persia: Once Upon a Time” on December 18.

The event aims to explore recent discoveries and research related to the Sassanid and post-Sassanid eras in terms of archaeology, linguistics, and historical studies.

Speakers at the conference include a distinguished lineup of experts: Cyrus Nasrollahzadeh, Leila Khosravi, Hamidreza Davand, Abdolreza Mohajernejad, Houshang Rostami, Mehrdad Parsaei, Shahn Aryamaneh, Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki, Hossein Habibi, Mohammadreza Nemati, and Nima Asefi.

Organized in collaboration with the General Directorate of Museums of the Cultural Heritage Ministry, the Research Center of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and the Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the event will also be a free webinar.

The Sassanian Empire, which flourished

from 224 to 651 CE, is celebrated for its remarkable cultural achievements, architectural innovations, and significant contributions to art, science, and governance. During this period, crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving reached new heights of sophistication, supported by state encouragement of scholarship. Many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanian archaeological landscape exemplifies a highly efficient system of land use and strategic exploitation of natural topography, which facilitated the development of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanian civilization.

In 2018, UNESCO inscribed an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran—titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”—onto its World Heritage list. This ensemble includes eight archaeological sites spread across three geographical areas: Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. These sites showcase the optimized utilization of natural terrain and reflect the enduring influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions, as well as Roman art. These elements significantly shaped the architecture and artistic styles that later defined the Islamic era.

With its focus on interdisciplinary research and collaboration, “Sassanian Persia: Once Upon a Time” will highlight significant advancements in understanding this pivotal era in Persian history.

Archaeologists identify a family killed in a house fire nearly 6 millennia ago

Burnt and battered human bones from 5,700 years ago hint at a brutal end for a group of Stone Age people who likely died in a house fire in what is now Ukraine, a new study finds.

But why two of the people had violent head injuries and why one died a century later than everyone else remain unsolved mysteries.

“We can only speculate whether there was a connection between the fire and the act of deadly violence, i.e. killing the people in the house, leaving their corpses, and setting the house on fire,” Katharina Fuchs, a biological anthropologist at Kiel University in Germany, and colleagues wrote in a study published Wednesday (Dec. 11) in the journal PLOS One.

In 2004, archaeologists discovered nearly 100 pieces of human bone in a prehistoric house at Kosenivka, an archaeological site about 115 miles (185 kilometers) south of Kyiv. Kosenivka preserves the remains of a prehistoric “mega-settlement” created by the agrarian Cucuteni-Trypillia societies (CTS), who lived throughout what is now modern-day Romania, Moldova and Ukraine from 4800 to 3000 B.C. These settlements consisted of public buildings and family houses, many of which were deliberately burned down when people left.

But the discovery of human bones within one of the burned houses at Kosenivka surprised archaeologists, who undertook the new detailed study to figure out what happened.

A close look at the bones revealed the remains of at least seven people: two children, one adolescent and four adults. Four of the skeletons were found inside the destroyed house and were heavily burnt, while the other three were unburned and found outside the dwelling. The researchers discovered that two of the adults had suffered violent head trauma just before their deaths, setting up a 5,700-year-old forensic mystery.

To investigate this cold case, the research team used radiocarbon dating to determine that six people, possibly a family, likely died between 3690 and 3620 B.C., while the seventh — an unburned adult — died roughly 130 later, after the house burned and was abandoned. Then, they looked closely at the

bones’ fracture patterns and discoloration to figure out that the bones were scorched while still fresh.

Given the contemporaneous dates of death and the evidence of burning, the team deduced that three people may have died inside the burning house, while others may have been overcome by smoke inhalation or carbon monoxide poisoning and died just outside the house. However, this analysis did not reveal further information about the cause of the skull injuries.

Regardless of how these six Stone Age people died, it is clear that the house and bodies were completely covered with soil and debris within a matter of months and that part of someone else’s skull was placed on top a century later, the study authors explained.

The isolated skull fragment could be a deliberate ritual deposition, the researchers wrote, and the whole collection of bones could be the result of a complex, multistage burial tradition. Unfortunately, Fuchs told Live Science in an email, “although they left us a tremendous amount of archaeological material, there are still so many things we do not know — for instance, how they treated their dead.”

“It seems reasonable that the individuals recovered from Kosenivka were killed during a raid and that their house was lit on fire during the conflict,” Jordan Karsten, an archaeologist at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh who was not involved in the study, told Live Science in an email. “Previous explanations [for burned CTS houses] have focused on ritual house destruction through intentional burning, but these results suggest that intergroup conflict might better fit the data.”

Economically, it makes little sense to burn down a home full of food, ceramics, tools and ritual items, and the CTS people lived in a forested steppe area near nomadic pastoralist groups.

“Rather than destroy their own homes, doesn’t it seem just as likely that these neighbors would do it?” Karsten said.

(Source: Live Science)

Aghazadeh mansion: a gem of Iranian architecture in Abarkouh

TEHRAN – Located in the historical heart of Abarkouh, Yazd province, Aghazadeh Mansion stands as a testament to the elegance and ingenuity of Iranian traditional architecture.

Once the residence of Seyyed Hassan Abarkouhi, a wealthy figure from the Qajar era, this stunning historical house has become a must-visit destination for architecture enthusiasts and cultural travelers alike.

Constructed from adobe, clay, and brick, the mansion is built around a central courtyard with a design optimized for different seasons. The courtyard features a serene stony pool that adds freshness and charm, particularly enhancing the ambiance of the hall.

Aghazadeh Mansion is most renowned for its windcatcher



(badgir) and Kolah Farangi, which are architectural marvels of their kind.

Rising to a height of 18 meters and spanning an area of 18

square meters, the two-story windcatcher is adorned with 19 air vents. These vents are meticulously designed to provide natural cooling to the rooms be-

low, making the mansion a prime example of sustainable architecture from centuries ago.

Adjacent to the windcatcher, the Kolah Farangi features intricate stalactite decorations and serves to brighten the interiors, creating a harmonious balance of light and ventilation.

Aghazadeh Mansion’s iconic windcatcher is so significant that it has been featured on the Iranian 20,000 Rials banknote since 2004 and used to adorn various export products.

Abarkouh itself is steeped in history, located at a crossroads of ancient trade routes connecting Shiraz, Isfahan, and Yazd. Visitors to the city can also marvel at the 4,000-year-old cypress tree, a living relic of the past inscribed on the National Heritage List.

Schoolboy discovers historical engraved brick in western Iran

TEHRAN – A schoolboy in Delfan county of Lorestan province, has accidentally discovered a piece of historical significance: an engraved brick believed to date back to an early historical period.

According to Atta Hassanpour, the provincial tourism chief, the discovery was made by Amir-Reza Mohammadi, an elementary school student, while exploring a historical mound in his village.

Intrigued by the inscriptions on the brick, the boy promptly reported it to his schoolteacher, Morad Ahmadpour, IRNA quoted Hassanpour as saying on Friday.

In an exemplary act of community responsibility, the teacher conveyed the artifact to local cultural heritage authorities, ensuring its proper preservation and study, the report said.



Hassanpour noted that the artifact is part of a larger engraved piece, holding significant cultural and historical value. Experts are currently examining the find to uncover more

details about its exact date and significance.

“This discovery highlights the importance of ‘heritage literacy’ among the general public,” Hassanpour emphasized. He also expressed hope that such awareness would inspire communities to actively participate in protecting Iran’s rich cultural legacy.

The engraved brick will remain under the care of the Lorestan Cultural Heritage Department as studies continue to reveal its historical significance.

According to sources, a historical period is a specific time frame in history that is characterized by commonalities, such as political systems, urban centers, agricultural villages, written scripts, long-distance trade, religious traditions, material living conditions, ideologies, social organizations, and institutions.

Restoration of 17th-century Aveh caravanserai underway



TEHRAN – A new phase of restoration work has commenced on a Shah Abbasi Caravanserai in the historic town of Aveh, located in Saveh county of Markazi province.

The current phase of the restoration involves key activities such as replacing eroded bricks, repointing and paving completed sections, and traditional waterproofing to enhance the structure’s durability and visitor experience, the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Thursday.

During a visit to the site, Hossein Mahmoudi, also emphasized the cultural and historical significance of the once prosperous caravanserai.

The official highlighted the architectural and locational importance of the Aveh caravanserai, noting its potential as a major tourist attraction in the province. “Caravanserais played a vital role in the past as rest stops and supply centers for travelers, contributing to the development of trade and cultural exchange.

“Today, by restoring them, we preserve this invaluable heritage.”

He further noted that the restoration of the Aveh caravanserai not only preserves history and culture but also serves as an economic opportunity to attract tourists. “With proper infrastructure and management, this site can provide a unique experience for visitors,” Mahmoudi

added. “We must maximize these opportunities and prepare the necessary facilities for tourists.”

Moreover, Mahmoudi highlighted the potential for job creation and economic growth in the area, noting that an increase in tourist numbers would help local businesses thrive, ultimately improving the quality of life for residents.

It is one of the 999 caravanseerais constructed upon the order of Shah Abbas the Great, who was the fifth Safavid shah of Iran from 1588 to 1629.

The monument enjoys a symmetrical plan of four iwans, representing the classic form of a caravanserai. It consists of various sections, including a vast central courtyard, entrance, lodging chambers, and stables.

For long, Iranian caravanserais have been a testimony to the rich circuits of traveling and trade in ancient Iran, providing shelter,

food, and water for caravans, pilgrims, and other trekkers.

Caravanserais, derived from the compound of “caravan” and “Sara,” symbolized a haven for groups of travelers. These structures typically boasted massive portals supported by sturdy walls, with guest rooms encircling a central courtyard and stables tucked behind them, often accessible through yard corners. The earliest caravanserais in Iran trace back to the Achaemenid era (c. 550 - 330 BC).

Last year, a selection of 54 centuries-old roadside inns won a UNESCO label under the name: The Persian Caravanserai. The registration was made at the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia’s capital Riyadh, after carefully examining the proposed caravanserais located in 24 provinces across the country.

Tourism as a driver of rural empowerment: UN Tourism Global Conference concludes in Vietnam

UN Tourism joined with the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Vietnam to host the First Conference on Tourism for Rural Development in the historic town of Hoi An. The event brought together government officials, international and regional financial institutions, development agencies, tourism professionals, rural community leaders, researchers and NGOs to explore policies and strategies to maximize the role of tourism in progressing development in rural areas.

Empowering communities

Sessions spotlighted the power of tourism to create jobs, safeguard nature and cultural heritage, and promote social inclusion, with a focus on empowering local communities, women and youth. Key discussions included topics such as policy frameworks for rural tourism development, growing agriculture and tourism synergies to drive sustainability, market access and integration, innovative digital tools and funding mechanisms to sup-

port rural destinations, entrepreneurs and community-led initiatives.

Opening the conference Zoritsa Urosevic, Executive Director, UN Tourism said: “This landmark event has demonstrated the immense potential of tourism to transform rural communities. By placing people and planet at the center of our discussions, we have fostered meaningful connections and actionable strategies that will ripple across rural areas worldwide. Together, we have sown the seeds for a more inclusive and sustainable future.”

Le Thanh Long, Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, said: “The Tourism for Rural Development Program by UN Tourism is consistent with Viet Nam’s development strategy and distinct potentials, competitive advantages, and outstanding opportunities with the orientation of rapid, sustainable development, green growth, digital transformation, and circular economy.”

Placing tourism on the rural development agenda

The conference emphasized the importance of placing tourism firmly on the rural development agenda ensuring that it is fully integrated into funding for rural development and infrastructure planning.

The event stressed the importance of partnerships across sectors to ensure tourism not only drives economic growth but also preserves cultural heritage and natural resources. The panels collectively aimed to explore transformative strategies for leveraging rural tourism as a driver of sustainable development. Discussions included crafting effective government policies, addressing infrastructure challenges, and fostering public-private partnerships to amplify local initiatives.

(Source: UN Tourism)

Foreign students studying in Iran rise to 35,000

TEHRAN –A total of 35,000 foreign students are studying in Iranian universities in the current academic year that started on September 22, compared with 27,000 students last year, an official with the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology has said.

“Last year, students from 90 countries were studying in the country. Iranian universities are hosting students from different nations including Japan, China, Palestine, Syria, Bahrain, Iraq, India, Lebanon, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey, as well as European countries, IRNA quoted Kianoush Suzan-chi as saying.

He made the remarks at the graduation ceremony of foreign students held in the city of Shiraz on Thursday.

“Almost 62 percent of the students who are studying in Iran are post-graduate students; we are about to fulfill our goals in scientific authority,” the official noted.

The official called foreign students to promote Persian language in their homelands.

New services to be provided for foreign students

In March, Hashem Dadashpour, the former head of the Organization of Student Affairs, said that the organization would offer new services to foreign students studying in the country's universities, ISNA reported.

Moreover, online language learning systems would be launched for applicants to take Persian language courses before entering Iran and prepare to study in universities, he added.

In September 2023, Dadashpour said the ministry of science was planning to increase the number of international students to some 320,000 from currently around 100,000 by 2026.



“There was an increase in the number of international students over the sixth National Development Plan (2017-2021). The seventh development plan (2022-2026) has also put increasing the figure to around 320,000 on the agenda,” he explained.

“Strengthening scientific authority, developing public diplomacy, and expanding the Persian language are the three main reasons for attracting international students,” Dadashpour said, IRIB reported.

He went on to say that the principle of attracting international students is a major strategy and plan for the Ministry of Science.”

Dadashpour stressed that the international campus of universities is the center of attracting international students and managing their affairs, but all university vice-chancellors are responsible for international students as much as Iranian students.

He pointed out that “International students' attendance at the cultural events of the university helps Iranian students to get more familiar with them and their culture.”

“Also, international students can have their own cultural and

artistic organization.”

The infrastructure of the university, educational and cultural planning, and the university staff should all attract students in a way that gives them a different positive view of Iran as they get back home.

The deputy head of the student affairs organization considered it important to provide suitable centers and platforms for teaching the Persian language to international students in universities.

Dadashpour stated, “Learning the Persian language is an important precondition for studying in Iran.”

The 61st meeting was held with the motto of cultural transformation of the university and smart governance.

Iranian universities recent global ranking

For the second consecutive year, Iran ranked second with 87 universities included in the D-8 group universities in 2023.

D-8, also known as Developing-8, is an organization for development cooperation among eight Islamic nations, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) placed 29 Iranian universities among top institutions worldwide for interdisciplinary science research.

ISR is a project launched in association with Schmidt Science Fellows; it ranked a total of 749 universities from 92 countries.

University of Tehran with a global ranking of 77 was placed first in the country.

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings placed 32 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2025, compared to 31 universities in 2024.

Published annually since 2009, the QS Asia University Rankings highlight the top universities in Asia each year.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 87) is placed first among Iranian universities, followed by Sharif University of Technology (ranking 97 globally) and Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 114 globally), Mehr news agency reported.

Isfahan University of Technology, Shiraz University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, University of Tabriz, Shahid Beheshti University, and University of Isfahan are ranked fourth to tenth, respectively.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 placed 85 Iranian universities among the top institutions compared to 75 universities in 2024.

The 2025 rankings include 2,092 ranked universities from 115 countries.

Sharif University of Technology ranked first in the country with a global ranking of 301-350.

Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranking globally 351-400) were placed second.

WHO helps Iran enhance disaster, emergency preparedness

TEHRAN –The World Health Organization (WHO) has donated four trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESKs) to health centers in vulnerable provinces to enhance disaster and emergency preparedness in the face of health emergencies.

Supported by funding from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), each kit contains medicines and equipment to perform 100 surgeries, enabling 400 emergency surgeries across Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Kerman, and Khorasan Razavi provinces, the UN website announced in a press release on December 9.

According to the International Disaster Database, since 2023, out of 12 natural disasters in the Islamic Republic of Iran meeting the criteria for database registration, 7 were reported in provinces covered by the project, including 4



hydrological disasters (floods), 2 meteorological events (storms) and 1 geophysical occurrence (earthquake).

Limited access to emergency care in the target provinces – among the biggest in the country, they contain a large number of refugees who either live there or travel through the provinces to reach other areas – has led to high fatality

and injury rates among affected populations.

Together with efforts to improve capacity in prehospital care, previous donations of ambulances, automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and mass casualty management care training, the TESKs will enhance emergency preparedness and disaster response.

These kits will help ensure that people injured in emergencies can get the critical care they need when they need it,” said WHO Representative and Head of Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran Syed Jaffar Hussain. “By strengthening the capacity of local health care providers, we are helping to build resilience and save lives.”

Early reports by the health facilities that have received the lifesaving medical equipment indicate that the support provided has been instrumental in saving critical patients among refugees and host communities.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries worldwide

Some 105 medical equipment produced by 23 Iranian companies are exported to 55 countries across the world, Reza Masaeli, an advisor to the health minister said on Sunday.

“Currently, a total of 280,000 medical equipment is produced in the country,” Fars quoted Masaeli as saying.

“In recent years, the production of medical equipment in Iran has increased by 9 percent,” he added.

One of the main strategies of the Health Ministry is to boost exports, he said, adding that Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries including Russia, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Croatia.

تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی به ۵۵ کشور دنیا صادر می شود

مشاور وزیر بهداشت گفت: در حال حاضر ۱۰۵ محصول تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی که توسط ۲۳ شرکت ایرانی تولید می شود، به ۵۵ کشور جهان از جمله کشورهای روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود.

به گزارش گروه اجتماعی خبرگزاری فارس، رضا مسائلی، اظهار داشت: در کشور بیش از ۲۸۰ هزار قلم تجهیزات پزشکی در کشور وجود دارد و در سال های اخیر، تولیدات تجهیزات پزشکی در جمهوری اسلامی ایران، ۹ درصد افزایش داشته است.

وی توجه به صادرات را یکی از مهمترین راهبردهای اساسی وزارت بهداشت در راستای حمایت از تولیدات داخلی دانست و افزود: در حال حاضر تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی به ۵۵ کشور جهان از جمله کشورهای روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود.

Climate change mounting pressure on mountains

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Since climate change intensifies environmental pressures on mountains, adaptation becomes essential to build resilience and reduce vulnerability.

The adaptation strategies encompass solutions like implementing ecosystem-based methods to reduce the risk of disasters and integrating these approaches with local knowledge, Shideh Atri, an official with the Department of Environment, has said.

The official made the remarks on the occasion of International Mountain Day, which is observed every year on December 11.

Mountains are home to 15 percent of the world's population and a quarter of the world's land animals and plants, they provide fresh water to half of humanity, so their conservation is critical for sustainable development.

Unfortunately, mountains are under threat from climate change and overexploitation.

Due to the precious metals and stones, coal, and other raw materials hidden in the mountains, they have always been encroached on by humans; also due to agricultural lands which are used for forage production, herbs, livestock breeding, production of meat, dairy and all kinds of food.

To address these problems, mountain communities have developed solutions to adapt to their harsh environments, deal with climate change, reduce poverty, and protect or restore biodiversity and ecosystems in mountain regions.

The International Mountain Day serves as a platform for sharing expertise, and best practices and taking collective action.

This year, the day was celebrated with the theme of 'Mountain solutions for a sustainable future – innovation, adaptation, and youth'.

Utilizing innovation, adaptation, youth empowerment, and collaborative approaches guarantees a more sustainable and resilient future for mountain communities and ecosys-

tems. Innovation is critical to be able to tackle complicated mountain-related issues, Atri added.

It includes technological progress, such as digital solutions for monitoring and conservation, as well as creative problem-solving such as climate-smart agriculture and novel approaches to livelihoods, resource management, and financing.

The active, meaningful, and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making is essential for ensuring the long-term sustainability of mountain solutions.

Young people are committed to climate action, gender equality, social justice, innovation, the promotion of culture, and inclusion.

International Mountain Day 2024 promotes decent work and quality employment for young persons, universal and accessible training, as well as entrepreneurship opportunities that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain resources.

As one of the prominent mountains of the country and the world, Mount Damavand is also grappling with many challenges.

Located in the middle of the Alborz range, near the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, in Amol County, Mazandaran province, mount Damavand is the 12th most prominent peak in the world and the second most prominent in Asia after Mount Everest. It is part of the Volcanic Seven Summits mountaineering challenge.

Considering the significance of the mountain, in the Iranian year 1381 (2002 –2003), environmentalists named July 4 Damavand Day to highlight the importance of the iconic mountain in preserving the valuable biodiversity of the region.

It is home to a diverse collection of wildlife, including goats, rams, and sheep. However, with the presence of large numbers of livestock in the pasture and human-induced activities, their habitat is moving closer to the peak of the mountain where food scarcity is endangering these species.

Tehran hosting national expo on research achievements

From page 1 ▶ Also, in terms of technology readiness level (TRL) and commercialization capability, more than 50 percent of the technologies are at TRL 7, 8, and 9.

TRLs are a type of measurement system used to assess the maturity level of a particular technology. Each technology project is evaluated against the parameters for each technology level and is then assigned a TRL rating based on the project's progress. There are nine technology readiness levels. TRL 1 is the lowest and TRL 9 is the highest.

Moreover, a total of 35 best technological

achievements are scheduled to be unveiled during the exhibition.

Supported by the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, the Iran Lab Expo is featuring 10,085 innovative products, IRNA reported.

A total of 278 knowledge-based companies are presenting their latest achievements, laboratory equipment, and advanced testing. The exhibition mainly focuses on advanced testing to expand the domestic and international markets for the companies.



Students attend innovation, technology festival

A festival on innovation and technology was held for students from Tuesday to Friday in the city of Tabriz.

The event included artificial intelligence, robotics, aerospace, and civil engineering.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

DECEMBER 14, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is deserted by friends and relatives will often find help and sympathy from strangers.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:59 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:37 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:07 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

*Etemad Gallery 2 is showcasing paintings by Saeid Gholami in an exhibition named "Flowers".

The exhibition will be running until January 7, 2025 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

* Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Narges Pakmanesh. Entitled "Painting Game", the exhibit runs until December 27 at the gallery that can be found at 10 Mirza Taraj opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.



* Maryam Farmani is displaying her latest paintings in an exhibition at Binesh Gallery.

The exhibit named "Pasar" will run until December 22 at the gallery that can be found at 22 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave.

* White Line Gallery is displaying paintings by Milad Salari in an exhibition named "Portraiture".

The exhibit will be running until December 23 at the gallery located at 22 Parvin Alley, off Jame Jam St. off Vali-e Asr Ave.



* Paintings by Javad Alimohammadi are on view in an exhibition at Shamis Gallery.

The exhibition named "Universe" will run until January 3 at the gallery located at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgu Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.

* Paintings by Pardis Shafieyon are currently on view in an exhibition at Shokuh Gallery.

Entitled "Sublime", the exhibit will continue until December 23 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.



Sculpture

* Yalda Jamali is showcasing a collection of her latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "Hasmik" will run until December 25 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

* 009821 Projects Gallery is showcasing a collection of sculptures by Hadi Mohit.

The exhibition titled "Ahana" will run until December 24 at the gallery located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Sculptures by Homa Tavakkoli are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "Out of Circle", the exhibition runs until December 27 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iran-shahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of sculptures by Minoos Mahin is currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition will run until December 27 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.



National libraries of Iran and Russia sign cooperation agreement

TEHRAN-A memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) and the Russian State Library on December 11 in Moscow, to expand cultural and scientific cooperation.

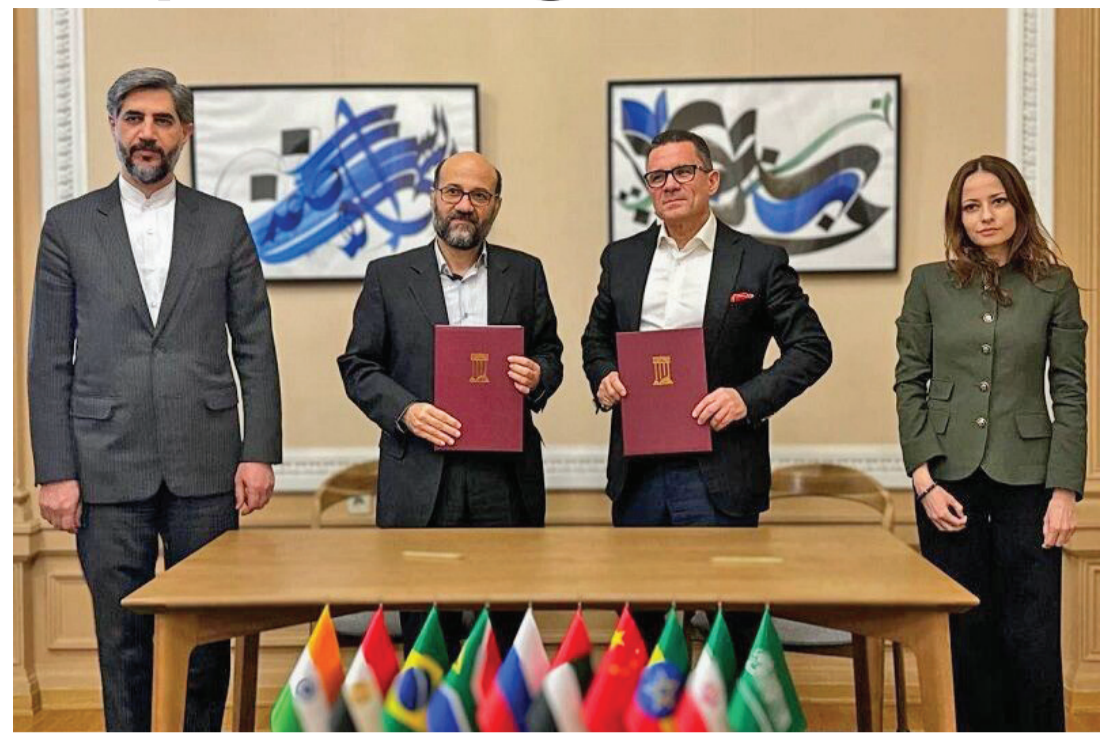
The cooperation agreement was concluded during an official meeting between Gholamreza Amirkhani, president of the NLAI, and Vadim Duda, director general of the Russian State Library, on the sideline of the BRICS National Libraries Summit, which was held in Moscow, Russia, on December 10 and 11, IRNA reported.

In the meeting, both parties emphasized the importance of expanding bilateral cooperation in cultural, scientific, and research fields, as well as multilateral collaborations within the BRICS framework.

Highlighting the importance of promoting and preserving cultural diversity, Duda stated: "A basis should be provided to introduce the cultural values of all countries to each other so that cultures can grow through positive and balanced interactions."

He also proposed organizing programs related to the great romantic Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi by Iran at the Russian State Library and a program on the great Russian poet Alexander Pushkin by Russia at the National Library and Archives of Iran.

Welcoming the proposals, Amirkhani underscored the significance of such collaborations, stating: "This MoU will not only



Gholamreza Amirkhani (2nd left) and Vadim Duda (2nd right) inked an MoU in Moscow on December 11, 2024.

strengthen the cultural and scientific relations between Iran and Russia but can also serve as a model for fostering global cooperation within the BRICS framework."

Key provisions of the memorandum included the exchange of scientific and cultural resources, organizing joint literary and cultural events, and developing research projects between the two countries. The agreement also encompassed exchanging specialists to work on shared historical documents, as well as advancing cataloging and digitization efforts.

Amirkhani participated in the BRICS National Libraries Summit in response to an invitation from Duda. The visit aimed at discussing the cultural and scientific potential of BRICS member countries and explore library initiatives, including the development of shared databases and the provision of comprehensive digital services to users.

The NLAI is an educational, research, scientific, and service institute in Iran. It is the largest library in West Asia and includes over 15 million items in its collections.

BRICS is an international or-

ganization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran. Initially established to highlight investment opportunities, BRICS has evolved into a geopolitical bloc, with its member states holding annual formal summits since 2009 to coordinate multilateral policies.

Relations among BRICS members are based primarily on non-interference, equality, and mutual support. Together, the member states account for approximately 45% of the world's economic capacity.

Tehran cinemathèque to review Alfred Hitchcock's "Spellbound"

TEHRAN- The Cinemathèque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen English film director Alfred Hitchcock's 1945 movie "Spellbound" on Monday.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian film critic and scholar Mohammad Hashemi.

"Spellbound" is a psychological thriller that delves into themes of identity, obsession, and the subconscious mind through the unfolding love story of Dr. Constance Petersen and a mysterious man who assumes another's identity.

Set in a mental hospital in Vermont, the film introduces Dr. Constance Petersen, a dedicated psychoanalyst who is perceived as cold and unfeeling by those around her, including an unsuccessful suitor and colleague. The hospital undergoes significant changes when Dr. Murchison, the director, is forced into retirement due to a nervous breakdown, making way for the young and charismatic Dr. Anthony Edwardes. Constance is unexpectedly drawn to Edwardes, and their mutual attraction blossoms into a romantic relationship.

However, the enchantment is disrupted when Constance observes Edwardes' peculiar phobia concerning parallel lines against a white background. When she realizes that his signature on an autographed book does not match the one on hospital documents, a sudden dread arises, leading her to confront Edwardes. He reveals himself to be an impostor, confessing to her that he has killed the real Dr. Edwardes and taken his place, but suffers from amnesia concerning his true identity. Constance believes he is an innocent man bur-

dened with guilt.

As the plot unfolds, the impostor, who adopts the name "John Brown," mysteriously disappears overnight. Concerned for his well-being, Constance tracks him down to a hotel in New York City, where she persuades him to allow her to analyze him, convinced that psychoanalysis might unlock his memories. They visit Dr. Alexander Brulov, Constance's mentor, who helps them interpret a vivid and enigmatic dream that "Brown" recounts, revealing hidden truths about his psyche.

The dream sequence serves as a pivotal moment, hinting at the traumatic events that led "Brown" to assume Edwardes' identity, including a tragic childhood accident resulting in his brother's death. As Constance and "Brown" continue their psychoanalytic journey, they deduce that "Brown" is indeed and was originally John Ballantyne, who witnessed the death of Edwardes in a skiing accident.

Their investigation leads them to the Gabriel Valley ski lodge, where the truth begins to unravel. Constance learns the real circumstances of Edwardes' death and ultimately predicts that Murchison, the former director, harbored animosity toward Edwardes. In a gripping confrontation, Murchison reveals his culpability in Edwardes' murder, which had been obscured by the impostor's narrative.

As tensions escalate, Murchison takes a tragic turn, seemingly attempting to silence Petersen. However, the tables turn when she deftly manipulates the confrontation, leading to Murchison's self-inflicted suicide. This climax serves as a cathartic release for both Petersen and Ballantyne.

Book on Michel Foucault published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Michel Foucault's Archaeology of Scientific Reason" written by Gary Gutting has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Kargadan Publication has published the book in 424 pages with a translation by Farhad Ghorbanzadeh, Honaronline reported.

The book is an important introduction to and critical interpretation of the work of the major French thinker, Michel Foucault.

Through comprehensive and detailed analyses of such important texts as "The History of Madness in the Age of Reason," "The Birth of the Clinic," "The Order of Things," and "The Archaeology of Knowledge," the author provides a lucid exposition of

Foucault's "archaeological" approach to the history of thought, a method for uncovering the "unconscious" structures that set boundaries on the thinking of a given epoch.

The book casts Foucault in a new light, relating his work to Gaston Bachelard's philosophy of science and Georges Canguilhem's history of science. This perspective yields a new and valuable understanding of Foucault as a historian and philosopher of science, balancing and complementing the more common view of him as primarily a social critic and theorist.

An excellent guide for those first approaching Foucault's work, the book will also be a challenging interpretation and evaluation for those

already familiar with his writings.

Gary Gutting was an American philosopher and holder of an endowed chair in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

Gary Gutting (1942-2019) was an American philosopher and holder of an endowed chair in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame.

He was an expert on the philosopher Michel Foucault and an editor of Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews. Through his publications in such media outlets as The New York Times and The Stone, he adopted the role of a public intellectual. He dealt with both continental and analytic philosophy and had written on bridging the analytic-continental divide.

Michel Foucault (1926-1984) was

a French historian of ideas and philosopher who was also an author, literary critic, political activist, and teacher. Foucault's theories primarily addressed the relationships between power versus knowledge and liberty, and he analyzed how they are used as a form of social control through multiple institutions.

Though often cited as a structuralist and postmodernist, Foucault rejected these labels and sought to critique authority without limits on himself. His thought has influenced academics within a large number of contrasting areas of study, with this especially including those working in anthropology, communication studies, criminology, cultural studies, feminism, literary theory, psychology, and sociology.