

Ironclad Partnership

Araghchi highlights deepening Iran-China alliance in meeting with Chinese counterpart as both nations pledge unified efforts to foster regional stability



Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi (L) shakes hand with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in the Chinese capital, Beijing, on December 28, 2024.

PMF Chief reaffirms commitment to Iran and regional stability

TEHRAN – Faleh al-Fayyadh, the head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), has reaffirmed the organization's steadfast loyalty to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a statement highlighting the deep ties between the two sides, al-Fayyadh emphasized the PMF's commitment to supporting and standing alongside Iran.

"We are loyal to our brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran," al-Fayyadh declared, underscoring the shared history and mutual cooperation between Iraq's PMF and Iran in addressing regional challenges.

Despite the current calm, al-Fayyadh stressed the PMF's vigilance, signaling that the organization remains on high alert to respond to any potential threats. "Although we do not currently sense any danger, we remain fully prepared to confront any potential threat," he stated, reaffirming the group's readiness to act swiftly should the need arise.

Iran and Russia: a strategic alliance under Pezeshkian's presidency

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Iran's ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, announced that the two countries are set to sign a comprehensive cooperation agreement that will strengthen their bilateral relations.

According to Jalali, the pact will be formalized during the official visit of Masoud Pezeshkian to Moscow on January 17, when the presidents of Iran and Russia will sign the document, which will include key areas of strategic collaboration.

This rapprochement underscores the mutual interest in consolidating an alliance that goes beyond economics, extending to educational and cultural management. In an international context marked by uncertainties, Tehran and Moscow are working to solidify their cooperation to face common challenges.

The Iranian ambassador highlighted progress in key economic projects, such as the North-South Transport Corridor, which remains a strategic priority for both countries. In this context, he recalled the recent visit to Tehran of two Russian deputy prime ministers, who met with the Iranian president and other high-ranking officials to discuss advancements in this initiative.

Russia has solidified its position as one of Iran's key strategic partners on both the international and regional fronts. Amid a growing rift with the West, particularly the United States, and in the face of political and military instability in West Asia, ▶ Page 3

For first time Israel uses American THAAD to counter Yemen's missile

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – Israeli media reported that "for the first time since its deployment in Israel, the US air defense system, THAAD, was activated to confront the Yemeni missile," which is used to intercept short-, medium-, and high-altitude ballistic missiles.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesman for the Yemeni armed forces, had previously revealed the implementation of a qualitative operation against Ben Gurion Airport, at dawn on Friday, via a ballistic missile, named "Palestine 2", that reaching its target "despite the occupation's secrecy."

Sanaa decided to open a front supporting Gaza in stages, starting with preventing commercial ships from crossing the Bab al-Mandab Strait towards the occupied Palestinian territories and reaching the targeting of the Israeli depth with attack drones and ballistic missiles.

Israel dwarfed by Ansarullah's affordable, abundant arsenal

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The Tel Aviv regime is making desperate attempts to deter Yemen's Ansarullah movement from launching missile and drone attacks toward targets inside Israel.

Shortly after Israel launched its war of genocide on Gaza in October last year, the Yemeni army began to hit strategic and military locations in Israeli cities in a show of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

In recent weeks, the Yemeni army has stepped up attacks on Israel firing projectiles, including hypersonic missiles which have forced millions of people to rush to bomb shelters.

Ansarullah has vowed to continue military strikes until Israel stops its genocidal war in Gaza.

Israel has also intensified strikes in Yemen.

An Israeli strike hit the international airport in the capital Sanaa on Thursday just as the head of the World Health Organization was about to board a flight there.

450 days of Israeli genocide: Gaza's health system in free fall

TEHRAN- The death toll from Israel's genocidal war on Gaza keeps rising; 450 days after the regime initiated its aerial assaults on cities and towns across the Palestinian territory.

According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, the Israeli army has butchered more than 45,400 Palestinians in the enclave since October 7, 2023.

The ministry says more than 108,000 other Palestinians have also sustained injuries in the nearly past 15 months.

In addition to targeting civilians and residential buildings, Israel has bombed and raided hospitals.

On Friday, Israeli troops stormed and set fire to one of the last functioning hospitals in northern Gaza.

The Israeli army admitted that it launched a raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital claiming the facility "serves as a Hamas terrorist stronghold". The regime failed to provide any evidence to back up its claim while Hamas dismissed the allegation.

"We categorically deny the presence of any military activity or resistance fighters in the hospital," Hamas said in a statement.

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The most important ideals of martyr Ayatollah Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim

By Sayyed Mohsin al-Hakim

BAGHDAD – Every year, on the first of Rajab (the seventh month of the Islamic calendar), the anniversary of the honorable martyr Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim is designated as Iraq's Martyrs Day.

The first of Rajab (the seventh month of the Islamic calendar), the day Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim was martyred, is designated as Martyrs Day in Iraq.

Throughout his life, Martyr al-Hakim consistently fought against oppression, dictatorship, and tyranny. A summary of the ideals and principles that defined his path is presented below on the occasion of his martyrdom anniversary:

1. Reliance on Almighty Allah and belief in divine tradition for achieving ideals: ▶ Page 5



"Eye to Eye" exhibition at TMoCA: Portraits that capture public attention

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-The exhibition "Eye to Eye," which is underway at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMoCA) has been extended again.

The exhibition, showcasing portraits in modern and contemporary art, has been extended for the third time due to high public interest. It will run until January 12, 2025, alongside the exhibition "Marcos Grigorian: A Retrospective," which showcases works of the late Iranian-Armenian artist. ▶ Page 8

Sachs interview with Tehran Times

US has long operated like a bully: Jeffrey Sachs

Columbia University professor calls Trump's statement about Canada 'nasty and absurd'

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TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Negotiating from position of weakness doomed to failure

In an interview with Hamidreza Gholamzadeh, an expert on international issues, Farhikhtegan discussed the conditions of possible negotiations with the United States. He said: In the current situation, there are no necessary factors for such negotiations. This means that there is no ground for negotiations with America. One of the main reasons for the impossibility of negotiation and agreement is the internal atmosphere in America. In addition, America's perception of Iran's current situation is another reason that prevents negotiations from reaching fruition. America will enter into real negotiations with Iran when it has a powerful image of Iran. But in the current situation, America's image of Iran is closer to weakness than to power. Therefore, there is not even a motivation to negotiate to gain points. They look more towards striking and closing the nuclear file, not a serious agreement. Therefore, even in the current position of weakness, if there is any willingness to negotiate, it will be more to get points than to give points. If we enter into negotiations with America in the current situation - as we made this mistake in negotiations with Europe - the result will be a failure.

Jam-e-Jam: Hostage-taking due to desperation

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed why two innocent Iranian citizens were arrested on the order of the United States, one in Italy and another in Massachusetts. It wrote: Last week, news was published about the arrest of two Iranians on the charge of circumventing U.S. sanctions against Iran and sending drone parts to Iran. The desperation of the West against Iran's increasing influence has led to media scenarios. These scenarios usually involve arresting unsuspecting people and introducing them as spies or professional assassins who claim to have been hired by Iran. Although these types of news are repetitive and old, they are considered necessary for Western intelligence agencies. In this way, they try to be accountable to their political authorities and to give the impression that they are dealing with the expansion of Iranian influence. Another goal of these measures is to create fear among those who cooperate with Iran. However, experts believe that a major part of Iran's influence, even in the West, is cultural and not through the usual

methods of recruiting spies.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Supporters of terrorism accuse Iran

In a commentary, Siasat-e-Rooz dealt with the developments in Syria and the remarks of the new rulers of Syria against Iran. It wrote: These days Syria has become the center of global developments. One of the noteworthy points is the claims and movements of the Damascus rulers against Iran. In line with the Western media campaigns, they have adopted a kind of exceptional policy against Iran. These remarks are made while the world acknowledges that if it were not for the presence of Iran's military advisers in Syria and Iraq and the formation of the resistance front in the region, terrorism would have taken over the entire region and its crimes would have even reached other parts of the world, including Europe. Also, those who have stayed silent or welcomed the claims of the terrorist rulers of Damascus against Iran have once again shown their terrorist and anti-security nature, and a global consensus is necessary to deal with them. The main point is that in a situation in which the Zionist regime has extended its occupation of Syria, Turkey is dominating other parts, and the Americans are expanding their occupation, the leaders of Tahrir al-Sham are making false claims against Iran, which has no presence in Syria.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Trump's scenarios for interaction with Iran

Arman-e-Emrooz wrote in a note: When Trump returns to the White House, he will face an Iran that is different from 8 years ago, both economically and geopolitically, but its missile and nuclear programs have progressed greatly. Some analysts predict that Trump will agree to carry out a military attack on Tehran's nuclear facilities, but others believe that the Trump administration will once again apply the policy of maximum pressure on the Islamic Republic. Whether Trump turns to imposing forced diplomacy or putting maximum pressure, his goal is to press the Islamic Republic to stop enriching uranium with high purity for possible production of nuclear weapons. However, in recent decades, Tehran has shown that it may be willing to retreat tactically against the West at times, but it is never willing to stop its inalienable right to nuclear technology.

FM Araghchi advocates for peace, stability in Syria amid Arab League allegations

TEHRAN - On Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to peace and stability in Syria in response to recent accusations from the Arab League.

In its recent statement, the Arab League accused Iran of interfering in Syria's internal matters, urging Tehran to "respect Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Responding to these allegations, Araghchi released a comprehensive statement in Arabic on X, outlining Iran's regional objectives and underscoring the nation's commitment to maintaining stability and order.

"Like you, we aim to achieve stability, calm, and prevent chaos and disturbances in Syria," he stated.

The top diplomat elaborated on Iran's goals, highlighting the importance of preserving Syria's unity and territorial integrity, ensuring the security of all ethnic and sectarian groups, and protecting holy sites.

Araghchi also emphasized the need to limit illegal arms, reject foreign intervention, and prevent Syria from becoming a base for terrorism.

He demanded the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the territories they had unlawfully seized and called for the establishment of a truly representative government in Syria.

Moreover, the top diplomat emphasized that the ongoing regional chaos necessitates

rational, inclusive, and collaborative strategies, cautioning against provocations that could incite sectarian conflict and justify foreign intervention.

"Iran shares with other countries in the region a vision for a safe and peaceful transition towards an inclusive government in Syria with the participation of all ethnic groups," Araghchi asserted.

The foreign minister criticized those stirring up discord, pointing out that they attempt to fulfill their desires by blaming external forces for Syria's problems.

He argued that such actions aim to legitimize continued occupation by the Israeli regime and the United States, justify foreign interference, and exclude certain Syrian groups from political participation.

The foreign minister also highlighted the importance of avoiding divisiveness and sectional interests, stating, "Navigating the current turbulent period in the region requires rationality, participation, cooperation, and avoiding the stirring of conflicts and temporary interests."

Araghchi concluded by reiterating Iran's commitment to collaborating with other regional countries to create an inclusive government in Syria, indicating a readiness to support efforts in achieving this aim.

Since the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government earlier this month, recent developments in Syria have heightened uncertainties about the country's political future.

Tehran vehemently condemns Israeli assault on Gaza hospital, urges global action

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign ministry has strongly condemned the military assault by Israeli regime's forces on Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, describing it as a recent instance of the regime's crimes against humanity.

"The savage attack by the Israeli military on Kamal Adwan Hospital, resulting in its destruction by fire, is a blatant violation of international laws and norms," Spokesperson Esmail Baqaei asserted in a statement on Saturday.

He further emphasized that this crime was committed with the intent to dismantle the healthcare system in Gaza, depriving injured and sick children, women, and men of even the most basic medical facilities.

Baqaei noted that Kamal Adwan Hospital was one of the last semi-functional medical centers in northern Gaza.

He labeled the assault on the hospital, the forced evacuation



of patients and medical staff, and the subsequent explosion of the facility as a heinous war crime and part of the ongoing genocide in occupied Palestine.

"This attack is an atrocity and part of the systematic genocide happening in occupied Palestine," he added.

He criticized the silence of relevant international bodies regarding this crime, asserting

that their inaction is indefensible, and establishes international responsibility on their part.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the Israeli forces' storming of Kamal Adwan Hospital has rendered the last functional health facility in northern Gaza out of service, with key departments destroyed by fire during the raid.

Gaza's Ministry of Health also

reported that the Israeli regime's forces have taken dozens of Kamal Adwan Hospital staffers, including its director, Hussam Abu Safia, for interrogation.

On October 7, 2023, the Israeli regime launched a brutal war against Gaza following the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas's execution of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, a direct response to escalating violence and oppression against the Palestinian people.

The campaign has claimed the lives of over 45,000 Palestinians, a majority of whom are innocent women and children while injuring more than 108,000 others.

Since the onset of this aggression, Israeli forces have deliberately blocked the entry of critical food supplies, medicine, medical supplies, fuel, and basic necessities into the besieged Palestinian territory, exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe.

IRGC chief lauds Yemeni Resistance, anticipates their victory



TEHRAN - Major General Hossein Salami, the Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), has praised the Yemeni Resistance movement, Ansarullah, for its steadfastness in the ongoing conflict with the Israeli regime.

During an interview with Yemen's Al-Masirah TV on Saturday, Salami emphasized the resilience and strength of the Yemeni people, saying, "Today, the motivations of the Resistance are stronger than ever."

He refuted claims from adversaries that the Resistance Front has lost strength, insisting that Ansarullah's power is as strong as ever.

"Ansarullah has so far performed brilliantly, and no particular incident has occurred that would change this," he stated.

Salami also highlighted the massive gatherings of the Yemeni people in support of Gaza,

affirming, "Today, Yemen is strong and victorious, thanks to the will and faith of the Yemeni people."

Further praising the Yemeni nation for their courageous defense of the Palestinian people amid the Israeli onslaught in Gaza, Salami said, "The Yemenis will continue their Resistance and will ultimately emerge victorious."

In a recent military advancement, the Yemeni Armed Forces have successfully initiated a hypersonic ballistic missile strike on an airport in Tel Aviv.

Yemen's Military Spokesperson Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced that the operation led to casualties and disrupted air traffic.

Moreover, Ansarullah has targeted vessels associated with the Israeli regime, the United States, or the United Kingdom, as part of efforts to compel Tel Aviv to cease its brutal actions in Gaza.

Resistance is an enduring ideology, not bound to worldly measures: Iran DM



TEHRAN - Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh has reiterated that Resistance is not just a tactical approach but a deeply rooted ideology and school of thought.

Speaking on Friday at the commemoration of the first anniversary of Seyyed Razi Mousavi's martyrdom, a military advisor, Nasirzadeh honored Mousavi and General Qassem Soleimani as emblematic figures of conscious sacrifice.

Nasirzadeh drew attention to the atrocities in Gaza, where over 50,000 people have been killed by the Israeli regime. He affirmed that Resistance martyrs willingly chose their path, rejecting the notion that their sacrifices were forced or accidental.

Addressing critics questioning the relevance of Resistance in light of recent events, Nasirzadeh dismissed claims that the movement has weakened. "Resistance is an enduring ideology rooted in the legacy of Karbala, and it cannot be understood or measured by worldly standards," he emphasized.

The defense minister firmly rejected assertions that Gaza's Resistance has faltered, asserting that its steadfastness has thwarted the Zionist regime's objectives.

"Resistance means standing for righteousness against the forces of falsehood. It is a powerful will that transcends material limitations and achieves the impossible," he said.

Citing global protests against Zionist crimes in countries such as the U.S., South Africa, and East Asia, Nasirzadeh noted the growing international awareness of the resistance movement's ideals. "The crimes of the Zionist regime are being exposed worldwide, thanks to the resilience of the Resistance," he added.

He responded to suggestions that Iran could be targeted after Syria and Yemen, announcing upcoming military exercises to demonstrate Iran's defensive and offensive capabilities.

"Our mission is clear: to build strength and stand prepared for any challenge," he stated.

Poised to counter any threat, Iranian armed forces assert in statement

TEHRAN - The General Staff of Iran's Armed Forces issued a statement on Saturday emphasizing the military's readiness to safeguard the country from any threats or acts of aggression.

The General Staff of Armed Forces, the main command authority responsible for coordinating and supervising all military branches, including the Army, Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), and Law Enforcement Force, plays a vital role in Iran's defense strategy, national security policy, and military operations.

"We are always prepared for a firm and crushing response to any threat or aggression from Iran's enemies," the statement read.

The statement reiterated that Iran's well-prepared and equipped military will utilize its experience and latest defensive inno-



variations, supported by the Iranian people, to secure a formidable defense and maintain national security.

It also criticized the actions of the "arrogant powers," led by "the wicked U.S." and

"the malevolent and child-killing Zionist regime," which have consistently opposed Iran.

Referring to recent events in the region, particularly developments in Syria, the statement highlighted the persistence of "mischief, insecurity, and the deep-seated enmity" of the U.S. against freedom-seeking nations.

The statement suggested that the situation in Syria is the result of "a collaborative U.S.-Zionist plot," asserting that they will not succeed there.

The statement concluded by commemorating the fifth martyrdom anniversary of Iran's anti-terror icon General Qassem Soleimani, reaffirming the armed forces' commitment to utilizing all their strength, experience, and advanced defenses in support of the Iranian nation.

Ironclad partnership

Araghchi highlights deepening Iran-China alliance in meeting with Chinese counterpart as both nations pledge unified efforts to foster regional stability

TEHRAN – The strategic partnership between Iran and China is described as “ironclad” by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who emphasizes that it is built on deep cultural and civilizational ties and rooted in shared values and common interests.

Araghchi, who is currently on an official visit to Beijing, made the statement after a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday.

The two ministers discussed a broad range of regional and international issues, including the latest security developments in West Asia.

They both agreed that the region should not become a battleground for external powers seeking to advance their own geopolitical agendas. Araghchi and Wang underscored that the future of West Asia must be determined by the people of the region, free from outside interference.

Araghchi and Wang expressed mutual concern over the escalating instability and terrorist activity in West Asia, particularly in Syria, and called for efforts to preserve the country's national unity and territorial integrity.

Both ministers highlighted the necessity of a peaceful and inclusive transition in Syria that would reflect the aspirations of all segments of its society.

The two diplomats also pledged to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, which remains a significant threat to regional security. Additionally, they touched on critical international issues such as the ongoing nuclear talks, the lifting of sanctions against Iran, and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation within the frameworks of the BRICS group of emerging



economies and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Araghchi noted that Iran is committed to leveraging every available capacity to deepen its strategic partnership with China, particularly through the landmark 25-year cooperation agreement signed in March 2021. This agreement serves as a solid foundation for expanding ties in various sectors, including trade, energy, and technology.

China, which is Iran's largest trading partner, continues to stand by Iran, particularly in the face of illegal sanctions imposed by the United States. Wang, reaffirming Beijing's position, declared that China supports Iran's legitimate rights and interests, especially in the context of the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The meeting also provided an opportunity for both sides to assess the progress made in the implementation of the strategic partnership agreement and explore further opportunities for cooperation.

The two sides also insisted that the international community must respect the sovereignty

and territorial integrity of West Asian nations and not allow the region to become a playground for geopolitical competition.

Araghchi and Wang also emphasized the importance of resolving regional conflicts through peaceful dialogue and adherence to international law. They particularly stressed the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon and a comprehensive approach to counterterrorism, reconciliation, and humanitarian efforts in Syria.

Furthermore, the two ministers called for the international community to support the Palestinian cause by recognizing the legal rights of the Palestinian people and working towards an end to the occupation.

They reiterated the importance of humanitarian aid for the region and agreed that peace in West Asia can only be achieved through a political process that respects the rights of all parties involved.

SCO offering a counterbalance to Western-dominated institutions

In a separate meeting in Beijing, Araghchi also met with Nurlan Yermekbayev, the SCO

secretary general.

The discussion centered on the growing role of the SCO in promoting multilateralism and securing the political and economic interests of member states.

Araghchi highlighted the significance of the SCO, which includes major global players like China, Russia, and India, as a vehicle for enhancing cooperation in areas such as security, trade, and development.

Yermekbayev welcomed Iran's full membership in the SCO, which was granted in 2023, and expressed appreciation for Iran's initiatives to expand the organization's activities in economic and banking sectors.

Both sides agreed on the importance of increasing coordination within the SCO to address global challenges, especially in relation to regional stability.

The SCO has increasingly become an influential platform for global diplomacy, offering a counterbalance to Western-dominated institutions. Araghchi's visit further solidified Iran's commitment to its partnership with China and its growing role within the SCO.

In a message shared on social media, Araghchi also emphasized the deep-rooted cultural and civilizational ties between Iran and China, noting that their strategic partnership is based on shared values and mutual interests.

He reaffirmed the joint commitment of both countries to promoting stability and rule of law, particularly in West Asia, which, according to both ministers, must be determined by the people of the region free from foreign interference.

Iran and Russia: a strategic alliance under Pezeshkian's presidency



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) shakes hand with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan on October 23, 2024.

From Page 1 ▶ Iran has intensified its efforts to strengthen ties with Moscow. This partnership, bolstered by mutual interest in countering U.S. influence, has been pivotal in areas such as the Caspian region, further strengthening the bond between the two nations.

This strategic alignment has fostered a convergence of interests and positions on several fronts, particularly highlighting their collaboration in Syria. Both countries have aligned in their support for Bashar al-Assad's regime, allowing them to coordinate efforts in the fight against extremist groups and consolidate their influence in the region.

However, both external and internal factors pose challenges to the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Russia. The economic dependence of both countries on energy exports, their economic difficulties, and cultural and social differences have been significant obstacles to the development of their political and economic relations.

The impact of these obstacles is complex. On one hand, for Iranian leaders, even under Vladimir Putin's leadership, Russia has demonstrated that, despite its tensions with the West, it seeks to maintain peaceful and advantageous relations with the United States. On the other hand, the Iranian government views its hostility with Washington as “endless,” a confrontation rooted in a political vision that challenges the traditional Western order.

During periods of rapprochement between Russia and the United States, such as during Dmitry Medvedev's presidency, the ties between Tehran and Moscow suffered a noticeable cooling, and Russia failed to fulfill some of its commitments. A clear example of this was the refusal to deliver the S-300 missile systems to Iran. These dynamics highlight that any shift in relations between the United States and Russia can have significant repercussions on the ties between Moscow and Tehran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Dey 9: the day Iranians ended foreign-instigated 'sedition'



By Faramarz Kouhpayeh

TEHRAN – Dey 9 falls on December 29 this year, marking the end of the 2009 post-presidential election unrest in Iran.

On this day, Iranians from all walks of life gather in Tehran and other cities across the country to demonstrate their support for the Islamic Republic and reject foreign interference in Iran's internal affairs.

“The 9th of Dey was a day when our dear people displayed such greatness that it astonished the world,” remarked Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He continued: “The most powerful governments in the world, even with their best efforts, cannot bring a hundred thousand people to the streets of their cities in just two days. For tens of millions to come out across a country, even under government orders, would signify an exceptionally strong government.”

The origins of Dey 9

The events leading to Dey 9 began after Iran's election headquarters declared Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the winner of the 2009 presidential election. The two main opposition

candidates, Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi, rejected the results, alleging electoral fraud. They called on their supporters to protest, sparking months of unrest.

While the Iranian constitution allows peaceful and authorized protests, Western-based Persian-language media amplified doubts about the election results, fueling riots. Foreign operatives were reportedly sent into Iran to destabilize the country. Despite the escalating unrest, Mousavi and Karubi refused to dissuade their supporters, prompting Ayatollah Khamenei to label the events as “sedition.”

Dey 9 is considered an “epic” due to the sheer scale of pro-Islamic Republic rallies held that day, which overshadowed the earlier protests and effectively brought an end to the unrest.

Investigations revealed that claims of election fraud and the subsequent riots had been premeditated. As protests continued, some foreign-backed rioters escalated the situation by damaging public and private property and attacking religious values.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Head of weightlifting federation lauds youngsters

TEHRAN – Head of Iran weightlifting federation Sajjad Anoushiravani praised the country's young weightlifters.

Iran snatched 10 medals at the 2024 IWF World Championships held in Bahrain in mid-December and the weightlifters won 47 medals in the 2024 Asian Youth & Junior Weightlifting Championships held in Doha, Qatar in late December. The event featured 237 athletes, with 127 men from 19 countries and 110 women from 16 countries.

“As you see, we sent young weightlifters to the world championship and I am satisfied with what they did in the competition. I see a bright future ahead of the sport,” Anoushiravani said in an exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

The 2024 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, which took place in Doha, are a key event for young athletes. This competition offers them a vital chance to display their skills and gain valuable international experience.

“The competition is a crucial step in their journey toward future Olympic dreams. Our weightlifters shone in the competition and so many female weightlifters won medals in the event.

“I believe that our investment has been fruitful and there is a bright future ahead of them. They have to continue their rise and we see them as the weightlifting's backup for the future,” he added.

“I would like to thank the weightlifters' families for their supporting us during the years. Also, I am grateful to the local coaches, who discover the talented weightlifters and train them,” Anoushiravani concluded.

Iran to send three players to 2025 ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Brothers Nima and Noshad Alamiyani and female player Neda Shahsavari will represent Iran at the 2025 ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup.

The competition will be held in Shenzhen, China, from February 19 to 23, 2025.

The ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup is an annual table tennis competition held by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU).

The first edition was held in 1983. The competition features men's and women's singles events, with 16 players qualifying to take part in each event, subject to a maximum of two players per association.

The Asian Cup is not only a prestigious tournament but also serves as a crucial qualifying event for various international competitions. With a dynamic schedule of matches and activities planned, the 2025 edition promises to be an exhilarating showcase of skill, sportsmanship, and camaraderie among participating nations.

Persepolis linked with former Dortmund coach Terzic

TEHRAN – Several German media outlets reported that on Saturday Persepolis football club have been linked with former Borussia Dortmund head coach Edin Terzic.

The 42-year-old coach led Dortmund to the final match of the 2023/24 UEFA Champions League, where the German side lost to Real Madrid 2-0.

The record of German coaches in Iran is not exactly brilliant. Pierre Littbarski, Hans-Jürgen Gede, Rainer Zobel and Winfried Schäfer have had little success in their engagements in recent years.

Persepolis parted company with Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido last week by mutual consent following poor results in the domestic league and AFC Champions League Elite.

The team are headed by Karim Bagheri as interim coach.

Defending champions Persepolis are third, five points behind leaders Sepahan in the 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

Persepolis defeated Kheybar 2-1 in a hard-

fought match on Friday and the win kept them in contention for a top spot in the League.

The Iranian giants have been previously linked with former Croatia coach Slaven Bilic and ex-Bayern Munich head coach Niko Kovac.

Terzic is a candidate to replace Ange Postecoglou at Tottenham.

The Australian is under increasing pressure at Spurs after the 1-0 loss against Nottingham Forest on Boxing Day and has been deemed “arrogant” for his refusal to adapt his tactical approach at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Dabir meets Chinese Taipei Wrestling Association president JANG

TEHRAN – Alireza Dabir, head of Iran Wrestling Federation, met with Chinese Taipei Wrestling Association president Tsong-Rong Jang.

Tsong-Rong Jang, who is a member of United World Wrestling's Refereeing Commission, came to Shiraz to attend Iran's Greco-Roman wrestling championship.

On Saturday, Tsong-Rong Jang was welcomed by Dabir in the Iran federation's headquarters.

In this meeting, they talked about Asian wrestling, the United World Wrestling, the refereeing of Asian and Iran's wrestling, as well as Shiraz championship.

We deserved victory against Persepolis: Daghighi

TEHRAN – Kheybar Khorramabad football team head coach Saeid Daghighi says that his side deserved victory over Persepolis.

Kheybar lost to Persepolis 2-1 in Tehran's Shohada-ye Shahr-e Qods Stadium. Kheybar could have scored several goals against Persepolis but their strikers failed to capitalize on their chances.

“First of all, I would like to congratulate Persepolis for the win but I think we could have won the match. Our players missed so many goalscoring chances,” Daghighi said.

“I think they didn't believe in their ability to win the match. Persepolis is a great team but we could have won the match,” he added.

Persepolis moved up to third with 26 points, while Kheybar sits 14th with 13 points.

Nourollahi to extend deal with Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Emirati side Al Wahda are going to extend Ahmad Nourollahi's deal.

The 31-year-old midfielder has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis in January transfer window but Al Wahda has shown interest in extending his contract.

Nourollahi was a member of Persepolis from 2014 to 2021 and scored 19 goals in 156 matches for the Iranian team.

Persepolis have recently parted ways with Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido.

The Iranian league defending champions are going to strengthen in the January window.

Persepolis captain Alishah fit for Havadar match

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team captain Omid Alishah will be fit for the match against Havadar.

Alishah broke his nose after collision with an Al Rayyan player in late November.

The 33-year-old midfielder has started his training and will be eligible for Havadar match.

Persepolis, who have recently parted ways with Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido, sit third, five points adrift of 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League leaders Sepahan.

They will face Havadar in a must-win match on Wednesday.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$4.4b to Turkey in 8 months

TEHRAN – Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$4.4 billion to Turkey during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–November 20), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari said that Turkey was Iran's fourth top export destination in the mentioned eight-month period.

Exporting commodities valued at \$7.8 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third top source of import in the first eight months of the present year, the official further added.

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 December 13, 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.

On the Turkish side, Minister Bolat acknowledged that the current trade volume between the two nations does not meet expectations. He expressed confidence that with the revised cooperation framework and agreements with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, economic exchanges between the two countries would accelerate.

He also extended an invitation to Atabak to attend the next Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit, scheduled to be hosted by Turkey in the spring of 2025.

He emphasized the importance of deepening trade and economic ties within the framework of bilateral agreements, particularly focusing on collaboration among Islamic countries.

Bolat identified the joint development of border crossings, transportation routes, removal of transit restrictions, and tariff barriers as key components of further strengthening Iran-Turkey cooperation.

The upcoming ECO summit will bring to-

gether the ministers of member countries and will be hosted by Turkey in the spring of 2025.

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 (TİM), 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 TİM 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, 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, TİM 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.

According to him, this union covers 27 product groups in the agricultural, industrial, mining and service sectors, and supporting Turkish exporters for their greater presence in the world markets is one of the main goals of the union.

He further put the export value of Turkey in 2023 at \$357 billion and the import value at \$410 billion, and reminded that the country plans to rise the value of products export to \$375 billion and the value of services export to \$200 billion by 2028.

He called the joint investment and the construction of Turkish factories in Iran and vice versa, among the capacities of joint cooperation and reminded that the TİM is ready to cooperate and interact with the TCCIMA to strengthen and develop the exports of the companies of the two countries.

In early July, Director of Asia and the Pacific Office of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) International Affairs Department Niloufar Asadi said a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and Turkey should replace the previous trade agreements between the two countries to boost economic exchanges.

In a meeting with the Consul General of Iran in Istanbul, Asadi referred to a previously reached preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey under the framework of the Group of Eight Developing Islamic Countries (D8) and said: "Considering the shortcomings of the previously signed preferential trade agreement and the necessity to improve and develop it, I suggest that a free trade agreement between the two countries replaces the previous agreements."

During a meeting on October 29 between Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh and Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Hicabi Kirlangic, the Iranian minister said Iran and Turkey play a fundamental role in regional transit and freight transportation as the bridge between East and West.

Iran produces over 28m tons of steel in 11 months: WSA

TEHRAN - Iran's crude steel production reached over 28 million tons in the first 11 months of 2024, registering a 0.5 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to the latest report by the World Steel Association (WSA).

According to the WSA's report, Iran maintained its position as the world's 10th largest steel producer during the mentioned period, Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization reported.

Iranian steel mills produced a total of 3.1 million tons of steel in November, registering a 0.1 percent increase compared to the same month of 2023.

The world's 71 steel-producing countries 146.8 million tons of steel in November 2024, indicating a 0.8 percent yearly rise.

Production of steel in Iran increased by 5.8 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), as compared to the preceding year, according to the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

According to the data released by the ISPA, the country's steel production reached 29.334 million tons in the previous year.



Of the mentioned amount, 18,452,000 tons were billet and bloom and 10,882,000 tons were slabs; Billet and bloom production increased by 9.2 percent and slab production increased by 0.7 percent in the previous year.

According to the ISPA data, the production of sponge iron also increased by 8.5 percent in the previous year in comparison to the figure for the preceding year.

Iran improved its global standing in steel production, becoming the ninth-largest producer in January 2024, according to the data released by the WSA.

The Islamic Republic produced 31.1 million tons of crude steel in 2023 to account for 58.4 percent

of West Asia's total production in the mentioned year, according to the WSA.

The West Asian nations reviewed in the WSA report, including Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, managed to produce 53.2 million tons of steel in 2023.

The country's steel production increased by 1.8 percent in 2023 as compared to the previous year, when the production stood at 30.6 million tons, based on the WSA data.

West Asia's total crude steel output increased by 1.3 percent in the mentioned year as compared to 2022.

Based on the WSA data, Iran was the world's 10th largest steel producer in 2023.

The world's steel producers managed to produce more than 1.888 billion tons of steel in 2023, which is a very slight decrease compared to 2022, and as a result, the World Steel Association has declared the percentage of change to be zero.

China with a production of 1.019 billion tons, India with a production of 140.2 million tons, and Japan with a production of 87 million tons were the top three steel-producing countries in the world in 2023.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

Iran's steel production is estimated to reach 32 million tons in the current year.

'Petchem industry plays a vital role in promoting Iran's status in intl. economy'



TEHRAN- The head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said the petrochemical industry plays a vital role in promoting Iran's status in the international economy.

Hassan Abbaszadeh wrote in a message on the occasion of the National Petrochemical Industry Day: "Today, this industry is not only the supplier of an important part of the domestic needs of the country, but with its powerful presence in the world markets, it plays a vital role in maintaining and improving Iran's position in the international economy."

Based on Iran's seventh National Development Plan (2022-2027), the country's petrochemical production capacity is planned to increase by eight percent to reach 130 million tons.

The Islamic Republic is also going to invest over \$40 billion in the petrochemical industry for the eighth National Development plan to further expand the mentioned sector and complete its value chain.

Currently, Iran accounts for 2.8 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity and about 28 percent of the capacity of this industry in

the region, and with the plans made, the capacity of the petrochemical industry will increase significantly in the horizon of the seventh development plan.

According to the latest data released by the NPC, the capacity of Iran's petrochemical production will reach 103 million tons by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2025).

Also, considering that about 60 petrochemical projects are planned to go operational during the seventh National Development Plan, 35 million tons will be added to the country's petrochemical capacity by 2027.

The head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has said that completing the value chain and developing complementary industries is going to ensure a balanced and sustained development of the country's petrochemical industry.

"The development of the industry in all sectors must be pursued seriously, and for this purpose, all the people active in the petrochemical industry must pay attention to the development of complementary industries according to the existing capacities in the country," Hassan Abbaszadeh has stated.

Stating that the provincial development of complementary industries, in addition to job creation, can create more added value, he said: "The development of downstream industries should be pursued and implemented seriously, and the National Petrochemical Company is ready for any cooperation in this regard."

Emphasizing the existence of suitable capacities for investment in complementary

industries, Abbaszadeh said: "The portfolio of petrochemical products can be diversified with the cooperation of holdings and petrochemical companies.

Iran's petrochemical sector is set to increase its foreign exchange revenue to over \$25 billion, bolstered by new investments in natural gas production, according to Ahmad Mahdavi, Secretary-General of the Iranian Petrochemical Employers' Association.

Speaking to local media on December 24, Mahdavi revealed that 10 agreements have been signed to address the country's natural gas supply imbalance and invest in gas fields.

These agreements, totaling \$8.0 billion in investment, are expected to enhance daily gas production by 200 million cubic meters.

As Tasnim News Agency reported, the new projects are slated to be completed by the end of Iran's Seventh National Development Plan (2026).

Once operational, they are projected to significantly boost the foreign currency income generated by the petrochemical sector, positioning it as a key contributor to Iran's economy.

Mahdavi urged the Oil Ministry and government to streamline licensing processes to expedite investments in this critical sector.

He emphasized that these initiatives could substantially mitigate the nation's gas supply shortfall while supporting industrial growth.

'Smartening mining sector necessary to improve productivity'

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said smartening is the only solution to improve the productivity of mines and mining industries.

Mohammad Aghajani stated that according to the Leader's order, mining sector has the ability to replace oil sector in the economy, adding: "To achieve this, this sector must be equipped with the necessary tools."

Iran's mining sector plays a pivotal role in the country's economy, contributing significantly to non-oil export revenues.

With over 68 types of minerals, including large reserves of iron ore, copper, zinc, and rare earth elements, the nation ranks among the world's top 15 mineral-rich countries.

The country boasts more than 10,000 active mines, employing hundreds of thousands

of workers directly and indirectly. Key mining hubs such as Yazd, Kerman, and East Azerbaijan provinces are home to extensive operations, including extraction and processing facilities for metals and minerals critical to domestic industries and global markets.

Recent years have seen substantial investments in the sector to boost production capacity and modernize infrastructure.

The government has also prioritized the development of downstream industries, particularly in steel and aluminum production, to maximize value addition and reduce reliance on raw material exports.

Moreover, Iran's strategic location, with access to both the Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea, positions it as a key player in regional and international trade of mining products.

Despite challenges posed by international



sanctions, the mining industry continues to demonstrate resilience and adaptability, leveraging domestic resources and fostering collaborations with friendly nations.

With the ongoing focus on sustainability and technological innovation, the mining sector is poised to maintain its upward trajectory and further cement its status as a cornerstone of Iran's economic development.

65,000 tons of cotton expected to be produced by late Mar. 2025

TEHRAN- The director of the cotton plan of the Ministry of Agriculture said: "Harvesting of cotton has started in the country since September and it is expected that we will produce 65,000 tons of cotton by the end of the cur-

rent Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2025)."

In an exclusive interview with IRIB, Ebrahim Hezarjaribi said about half of the cotton needed by the textile industry is supplied through domestic producers, and the rest of the coun-

try's needs are imported.

"The demand of the domestic market is 150,000 to 180,000 tons, of which we can supply about 40 percent by the end of the year," he further announced.

Israel dwarfed by Ansarullah's affordable, abundant arsenal

From page 1 ▶ Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a post on X that he was just meters away from the attack, which killed at least three people at the airport, according to local media, and injured a World Food Program-contracted aircrew member among dozens of others.

In response, the Yemeni army attacked the airport in Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv. It fired a missile at Ben Gurion airport and launched drones at Tel Aviv as well as a ship in the Arabian Sea.

Israel has carried out four rounds of airstrikes against Yemen since July. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his war minister Israel Katz have vowed to crush the Ansarullah movement.

The US and UK have also carried out airstrikes in Yemen in response to Ansarullah's attacks on Israeli-linked ships in the Red Sea.

But such attacks have so far failed to stop the Yemeni army from targeting Israel for a number of reasons.

First of all, Yemen is more than 1,000 miles away from Israel. It is almost impossible for Israel to incapacitate the Ansarullah movement whose positions are located



The Yemeni army said on Saturday that it carried out a successful strike on the Israeli Nevatim Airbase with a Palestine-2 hypersonic ballistic missile.

in a mountainous country.

Second, the Yemeni army has successfully developed indigenous missiles, drones, and various other weaponry. Should Israel strike the military assets of the resistance movement, it would have the capacity to restock its supplies.

Third, the Yemeni army's drones and missiles are priced at several thousand dollars each, whereas the cost for Israel to intercept them amounts to tens of thousands of dollars per interception. Ansarullah's drones and

missiles are successfully bypassing Israel's previously esteemed air defense systems. This has thrown a spotlight on Israel's ongoing military challenge: finding a way to overcome an adversary equipped with a more affordable and significantly larger arsenal of weaponry.

For now, Israel's plan to stop Yemen from launching attacks is like a flight of fancy. This is because the US and UK, Israel's main supporters, have failed to deter the Yemeni army through military action. It appears that these two

Western countries are retracting and possibly conserving their missile and drone interception capabilities. The shortage of interceptors will make it impossible for Israel and its Western allies to engage into a war of attrition with the Yemeni army.

Besides, the United States was Saudi Arabia's main supporter when it launched war on Yemen in 2015. But Washington and Riyadh failed to bring Ansarullah to its knees through extensive bombing campaigns.

Above all, Katz has warned that Israel would "hunt down all the Houthi leaders", as it had done with the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah.

Reports suggest that Israeli spy agencies penetrated Hezbollah and Hamas movements, which provided an opportunity for the regime to assassinate resistance leaders and commanders.

It is quite challenging for Israel to consider a similar scenario in Yemen. The considerable distance between Israel and Yemen, coupled with the strong allegiance of Yemeni tribes to Ansarullah, complicates matters significantly. Consequently, Israel's attempts to penetrate the Ansarullah movement are likely to be exceedingly difficult.

For first time Israel uses American THAAD to counter Yemen's missile

From page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, Hebrew media quoted a US soldier confirming that the American air defense system "THAAD" was used in an attempt to intercept the missile alongside the Hetz, the Israeli air defense system.

On October 21, at the direction of President Joe Biden, his Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin authorized the deployment of the THAAD system to enhance "Israeli air defenses, following Iranian ballistic missile attacks on Israel."

It is clear that the US-UK and Israeli attacks have failed to push the Ansarullah movement to retreat as the pace of attacks increases. Sanaa is more motivated to attack Tel Aviv and to continue intercepting and preventing the passage of ships and containers to and from Israel.

Accordingly, there are alternative scenarios, including targeting Yemeni leaders and experienced cadres; combat equipment; weapons manufacturing and storage centers and technicians; infrastructure and energy facilities,

especially in Sanaa, as the stronghold of the Ansarullah movement, and Saada, given its position in Yemen's public consciousness (the birthplace of both Al-Houthis and the Ansarullah movement).

This is followed by supporting and arming mercenaries in the south (supported and orientated by the Saudi-Emirati coalition) to invade the northern regions and overthrow the Sanaa government, just as happened in Damascus.

However, this approach seems impossible, knowing that what is being circulated among Zionist analysts is the resumption and escalation of the Saudi-Emirati aggression against Yemen by using Israeli weaponry.

Nevertheless, for a decade, the Saudi-led coalition and their mercenaries failed to achieve a military victory in Yemen. Now there is a question: Will they succeed this time?!

Some Zionist analysts believe that the Trump administration may adopt a different and more extreme approach to deter the Yemeni threat, i.e. direct military intervention, to achieve the US desired result.

Other analysts urge refraining from targeting Yemen, as subjugating the Yemeni people is thorny and shrouded in much ambiguity. Instead, they urge targeting Iran, the instigator and financier of Ansarullah, as they claim.

Undeniably, such a foolish claim reflects a lack of knowledge of the Yemeni mentality. After a decade of "a limited operation waged for weeks to eliminate Ansarullah," Yemen only became a capable and independent political and military power that constantly humiliates the "Abrahamic" imperialism.

The most important question now is: Why do these imperialist projects not dare to attack Iran first, considering it the "engine" of all resistance forces in West Asia?

450 days of Israeli genocide: Gaza's health system in free fall

From page 1 ▶ The resistance movement added, "The enemy's lies about the hospital aim to justify the heinous crime committed by the occupation army today, involving the evacuation and burning of all hospital departments as part of a plan for extermination and forced displacement."

Citing Hussam Abu Safia, the director of Kamal Adwan Hospital, health officials in Gaza said Israeli troops had "set on fire all surgery departments of the hospital" and that there were "a large number of injuries" among the medical team.

This was confirmed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Initial reports indicate that some key departments were severely burned and destroyed during the raid," the WHO said in a statement on X on Friday evening.

The UN agency denounced the Israeli storming of the Kamal Adwan Hospital.

"Such hostilities and the raids are undoing all our efforts and support to keep the facility minimal[ly] functional. The systematic dismantling of the health system in Gaza is a death sentence for tens of thousands of Palestinians in need of healthcare. This horror must end and healthcare must be protected."

The Israeli army also detained

the hospital's director and some other medical staff.

"The occupation forces have taken dozens of the medical staff from Kamal Adwan Hospital to a detention center for interrogation, including the director, Hussam Abu Safia," the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza said.

As of Friday morning, the hospital housed about 350 people, including 75 patients and 180 medical staff, according to Al Jazeera.

Israel has already committed massacres at several hospitals in Gaza after storming them.

Earlier this year, hundreds

of bodies were recovered from mass graves at the Kamal Adwan Hospital and two other hospitals in the Gaza Strip which showed signs of mutilation and torture.

The mass graves were found at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis and al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

Palestinian officials and several international organizations say the Israeli army has committed war crimes at these medical sites.

Attacks on medical facilities are prohibited under international humanitarian law. Israel's raids on health facilities amount to a complete disregard for international law.

considered himself a servant of religious authority and jurisprudence, aligning his efforts with their directives.

5. Self-discipline and spiritual nurturing of followers:

One of Martyr al-Hakim's unique traits was his devotion and special attention to fostering committed Islamic cadres.

Alongside his political and social activities, he worked daily to instill ethical and spiritual values in his followers. Today, the political, religious, cultural, and social structures stemming from his school of thought serve as a positive influence in Iraq and the broader Islamic world.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

From page 1 ▶ Martyr al-Hakim always relied on Allah and remained steadfast in pursuing divine goals, even in the most difficult times of his blessed life.

He never despaired of Allah's support despite immense hardship and pressure. By Allah's grace, this divine promise was fulfilled with the fall of the despised Iraqi Baathist regime on April 9, 2003.

2. Trust in the Iraqi people and rejection of foreign promises:

Another key principle in the life of Martyr al-Hakim was his complete trust in the will of the Iraqi people and his avoidance of relying on foreign initiatives.

This trust in the people and his efforts to inspire resistance against oppression strength-

ened the Iraqi popular resistance, leading to the overthrow of the Baathist regime and the failure of foreign schemes to define Iraq's future according to their designs.

3. Persistent effort and tireless struggle:

Martyr al-Hakim never grew weary of work, struggle, and holy war. In every phase of his fight, he tirelessly worked toward the lofty goals of the Iraqi people. His relentless and uninterrupted efforts became one of the most significant factors in his success in toppling the Baathist regime.

4. Firm belief in religious authority and esteemed Islamic scholars:

Although Martyr al-Hakim was himself a prominent jurist and an intellectual leader in both political and religious affairs, he always

The most important ideals of martyr Ayatollah Sayyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim

Sachs interview with Tehran Times

US has long operated like a bully

Columbia University professor calls Trump's statement about Canada 'nasty and absurd'

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN - Jeffrey Sachs, a world-renowned economics professor, says the United States has behaved like a bully after the Second World War and now under Donald Trump it is bullying both "allies" and "adversaries".

"I believe that we are in an endgame regarding such US bullying - albeit a very, very dangerous endgame," Sachs tells the Tehran Times when asked to give his opinion that Trump has floated acquiring Greenland, reclaiming the Panama Canal, and claiming if Canada became the 51st state, taxes would be cut.

Sachs, a Columbia University professor who has served as Special Advisor to UN Secretaries-General Kofi Annan (2001-7), Ban Ki-moon (2008-16), and António Guterres (2017-18), also says "the US hand in extreme violence is often very visible, as in Ukraine and in Gaza."

The following is the text of the interview:

Trump has threatened to reclaim the Panama Canal. The Panamanian president has declared his country would not hand over a single square meter of the canal. However, Trump has replied on Truth Social: "We'll see about that!" and showed an image of an American flag being planted in the middle of the Panama Canal. What does such a language and behavior suggest? Wouldn't such approaches intimidate countries or present the U.S. as a bully?

Yes, this language is designed to bully. Trump's method is to make an outrageous demand or statement and expect that the other side will meet Trump "half way." I doubt that the US will seize the Panama Canal. There is no point in that. US interests in the Canal are in no way threatened, not in the least. If the US does so, it would create a massive geopolitical crisis for the US of exceptional severity with no benefit.

Yet, perhaps Trump believes that Panama will cut the canal fees for US ships, or will contract with US companies instead of with Hong Kong companies, or will support the US in some other way. Or perhaps Trump was just having "fun" with threats to see the reactions of a little country, a kind of cat and mouse game.

Trump also referred to Canadian PM Trudeau as governor of America's 51st state. Though such remarks cannot be serious, they cannot also be ignored. What is your opinion?

No, such statements should not be ignored. Trump's statement about Canada, nasty and absurd as it was, seems to have played some role in accelerating the collapse of the Canadian Trudeau government, because Canada's finance minister resigned, reportedly saying that Canada was not yet ready to meet the US threat under Trump.

In his first term, Trump floated the idea to buy Greenland but his offer was rejected and he canceled his visit to Denmark. Again, the incoming president doubled down in 48 hours on taking over Greenland, saying "the ownership and control of Greenland is an absolute necessity" for national security and global freedom. He insisted on acquiring the Arctic territory although Greenland's PM said, "Greenland is ours. We are not for sale and will never be for sale. We must not lose our long struggle for freedom." Aren't his comments suggest that he has a covetous eye on Greenland?

I have no doubt that the US will actually expand its military presence in Greenland, as part of the US military strategy to counteract the rising importance of the northern (arctic) sea route and other arctic resources for China and Russia. Trump's bluster vis-à-vis Greenland will therefore work to an extent, forcing Denmark into a subservient position.

After Trump's comments, Denmark announced a huge boost in defense spending for Greenland. What does this defense spending suggest?

Denmark, in my guess, is trying to curry favor with the US by increasing military purchases from the US, so there are probably some arms deals wrapped up in this. This was

perhaps part of Trump's motivation. I'm surmising, but it seems plausible. Denmark's increased military outlays of course have nothing to do with protecting Greenland from the US, which it could not do.

In general, don't you think such statements about the Panama Canal, Greenland, or even Canada show that the U.S. under Trump is openly challenging the global order and that he is openly coercing countries even if they are American allies?

The "global order" from the point of view of the US is US hegemony. There is nothing new about this with Trump. Trump just plays these cards with "allies" as well as with "adversaries." It's US hegemony all the same.

US hegemony through threats and through force of course goes back to the end of World War II, for example, including the US overthrow of Mossadegh (1953) and Arbenz (1954) and the US assassination of Lumumba (1961). The US manages its imperial system through CIA-led subversion (such as Iran, Guatemala, Congo, Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine), Israeli wars backed by the US (most recently in Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria), NATO-led wars (Serbia, Libya and many others), assassinations, coercive economic sanctions, and other forceful means.

Trump is no different from Biden in this. Biden after all went all in on the Ukraine War, and also on Israel's genocide in Gaza. Biden

played a personal role in overthrowing Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in 2014 (as we know from the intercepted Nuland-Pyatt phone call), which triggered the war. The US under Trump will actually now gear up to fight China, crazy as that might sound, and could well support an Israeli attack on Iran. On the other hand, Trump is actually likely to end the Ukraine War, something that Biden was too violent and unwise to do.

For years American officials have been floating the idea that the U.S. is the leader of the "free world", however, such remarks show that the U.S. is emerging as a "bully of the world". Please give your own opinion.

The US always uses an iron fist when it wants - in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Afghanistan, Iran (both in 1953 and in arming Iraq to invade Iran in 1990 and other times), Gaza, Lebanon, Serbia, Libya, Iraq, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and countless other places.

There used to be a US joke. "Why is the US the only country that has never had a coup?" "Answer: The US is the only country without a US embassy." Sadly, however, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy looks very likely to have been an internal coup, though the evidence was of course suppressed and never properly investigated. (An excellent book on the topic is David Talbot, *The Devil's Chessboard*, 2014).

The US is therefore not becoming a bully; it has long operated like a bully. Of course, it prefers verbal threats, bribes, and other means in place of military actions and violent coups. Yet the US hand in extreme violence is often very visible, as in Ukraine and in Gaza. Under Trump, the threats will also involve US "friends" such as Canada and Europe.

I believe that we are in an endgame regarding such US bullying - albeit a very, very dangerous endgame. The US cannot realistically bully the entire world, nor can it defeat Russia or China in war. So, the bullying is bluster, yet very dangerous bluster since it can spin out of control. If the US provokes China over Taiwan, for example, the result could be a devastating war. There are many other such global tripwires. I'm not sure that US "strategists" acknowledge such tripwires. They are playing with fire. Trump's attacks on US "friends" will accelerate the endgame. But please, recognize how dangerous all of this is. It is not a game.

Let us hope that there is no further expansion of the war in the Middle East under Trump. This, sadly, cannot be ruled out, given the unlimited backing that the US gives to Israel, and given Netanyahu's clear hope to enlarge the war.

Iran drafts roadmap for tourism dedicated to ACD member states



TEHRAN - Iran has prepared a draft roadmap to bolster tourism among member states of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), according to Moslem Shojaei, chair of the ACD Tourism and Culture Committee.

Speaking at an online meeting of senior ACD experts, Shojaei highlighted Iran's active engagement in promoting tourism collaboration within the forum, Mehr reported on Saturday.

He cited milestones such as Hamadan being named ACD's Tourism Capital in 2018, and Iran hosting pivotal tourism ministerial meetings in Tabriz in 2016 and Hamadan in 2018. These initiatives have fostered economic exchange and strengthened private-sector partnerships across member countries, he said.

Shojaei, who presides over the office for Foreign Tourism Marketing and Development at Iran's tourism ministry, explained that the country's approach has been to organize and systematize ACD documentation over the next five years.

As part of this effort, the draft roadmap was reviewed during the online meeting held on September 16, 2024, with representatives from over 30 member countries participating, Shojaei said.

According to the official, the finalized ACD tourism roadmap focuses on seven key areas: Expanding tourism cooperation among member states; facilitating easier access for tourists; promoting tourism across the region; integrating innovative technologies into tourism services; enhancing workforce capacity in the tourism

sector; encouraging sustainable tourism practices, and establishing robust tourism business networks.

"To support these objectives, 21 specific activities have been identified for implementation by member states."

In recognition of Iran's current ACD presidency, the historic city of Yazd has been designated as the ACD Tourism Capital for 2024.

Shojaei also announced Iran's proposal to establish networks of tourism professionals, including tour operators and guides, to strengthen private-sector engagement under the theme of "a more connected and empowered Asia through emerging technologies."

To support these objectives, 21 specific activities have been identified for implementation by member states.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Shojaei invited all member states to participate actively in the 18th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition and Related Industries, scheduled for February 11-14, 2025, at Tehran's Permanent International Fairgrounds.

in a workshop area where artisans made terracotta, bronze, and marble objects points to a legal dispute among craftspeople as the motivation for the curse.

"The large number of names indicates it might pertain to a court case," she notes. "The idea wasn't just to curse a single litigant but to target all parties that could impact the proceedings, including witnesses, supporters, or even the magistrate."

This finding reveals much about the wider participation in Athens' legal system around 300 BC.

"This pot is not restricted to elite male citizens," Lamont argues. "It captures voices from a broader spectrum of Greek society, including women and craftspeople, segments of the population that often remain invisible in historical records."

The artifact provides a rare window into the socio-political dynamics of ancient Athens, highlighting how both magic and legal processes extended beyond the elite to encompass a more varied section of the community.

(Source: greekcitytimes.com)

Ancient Greek curse pot highlights diverse Athenian society

A recently discovered artifact provides a unique glimpse into the ancient Greek practice of magic and the Athenian legal system. The object, a small pottery vessel dating back to 300 BC, was unearthed near the Athenian Agora and is thought to have played a role in an ancient cursing ritual.

Jessica Lamont, a historian from Yale University, explains that cursing was a common way for Greeks to deal with competition and risk.

Unlike the perception of magic as an exclusive domain for specialists with secret knowledge, in ancient Greece it involved everyday people across different social classes.

This particular pot features inscriptions with 30 complete male and female names, along with fragments implying an additional 25 names, all of which were meant to harm identified adversaries.

The vessel, only 4.3 inches tall, was found pierced with an iron nail and contained the bones of a young chicken—indicators of malicious intent.

Lamont suggests that the pot's discovery

Iran seeks UNESCO recognition for the art of mirror work in architecture

TEHRAN - Iran has submitted the dossier for "Ayeneh-kari in Iranian architecture" to UNESCO, aiming to inscribe this intricate art form on the Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The announcement was made by Atousa Momeni, head of the Tehran Center for Intangible Heritage, who emphasized the cultural and historical significance of Ayeneh-kari as a hallmark of Iranian architecture, Mehr reported on Saturday.

A glimpse into Ayeneh-kari's rich history

The origins of mirror-making in Iran date back 2,700 years to the Achaemenid era, when polished stones and metals were transformed into reflective surfaces.

These early mirrors laid the groundwork for Ayeneh-kari, a decorative art that flourished during the Safavid and Qajar periods.

In these eras, mirrors were artistically cut into geometric and floral shapes, then meticulously



A view of Talar-e Ayeneh (mirror hall) at the UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran

arranged to adorn walls, ceilings, and columns of royal palaces, mosques, and mausoleums.

Notable examples include the Chehel Sotun Palace in Isfahan and the Shams-ol-Emareh in Tehran, where the interplay of light and reflection creates a mesmerizing effect.

A national treasure on the global stage

Ayeneh-kari has transcended its origins in sacred and royal spaces, finding applications in modern architecture. In recent decades, it has adorned theaters, restaurants, and private residences, reflecting its evolving role in Iranian culture.

Momeni highlighted Iran's proactive approach in submitting the dossier, noting that other nations, such as Portugal, have expressed interest in similar claims. "By registering Ayeneh-kari, we pave the way for other countries influenced by this art to join the initiative," she stated.

The dossier now awaits review at the 20th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, scheduled to take place in India next year.

A labor of love

Crafting Ayeneh-kari is a meticulous process that begins with designing intricate patterns inspired by Persian aesthetics. Artisans then cut mirrors into precise shapes, embedding them into plastered surfaces to form dazzling mosaics. These reflective works are imbued with symbolic meanings, often associated with divine light and spiritual illumination, enhancing the grandeur and serenity of the spaces they adorn.

Traces of large-scale Sasanian agricultural estate discovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN - A significant Sasanian agricultural estate, or *dastgerd*, featuring multiple gardens and *kushks*, has been identified in Mohammadabad-Baghdasht Plain, situated in Fars province, southern Iran.

The discovery was made through the integration of remote sensing data from ancient aerial photographs, satellite imagery, and intensive field surveys.

According to Dr. Parsa Ghasemi, a Ph.D. in Archaeology from Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University and an expert in landscape archaeology, the estate was first noted during field surveys in 2005. Over the past decade, ongoing documentation has revealed that the estate spans nearly 37 square kilometers, making it one of the largest agricultural estates from the Sasanian period (224-651 CE) in the Pars region.

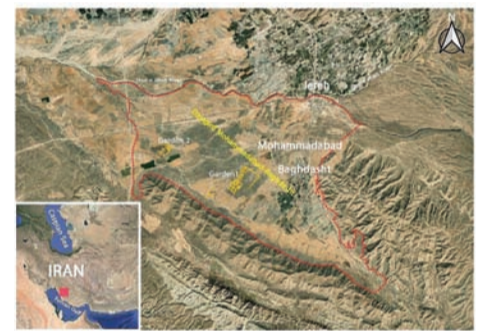
The estate originally included two large gardens, three *kushks* (palaces), and numerous other structures, all designed to support large-scale agriculture and water management. Water for the estate was sourced from the *kariz* (qanat) system, the Shur-e Jereh River, and seasonal rainwater. The estate stretches across almost the entire Mohammadabad-Baghdasht Plain, extending from the Mansourabad Pass in the east to the Shur-e Jereh River in the west.

Ghasemi pointed out that the Nargeszar-e

Jereh, a popular tourist attraction in the region, is also part of this vast agricultural estate. Archaeological evidence suggests that this area was cultivated during the Sasanian era, and the estate continued to be utilized well into the Timurid period (1370-1507 CE). A recently uncovered endowment document indicates that, during the reign of Shahrokh Timurid, a farm named Nasirabad was situated within the estate and its income was donated to the Khan School in Shiraz. This suggests that the estate's agricultural use persisted long after the fall of the Sasanian Empire.

The estate's extensive water management systems, including over 134 stone clearance mounds ranging from 2 to 4 meters high, showcase the sophisticated infrastructure of the Sasanian agricultural program. These mounds were created by collecting stones from the plain, and they played a crucial role in enhancing the agricultural productivity of the region.

In addition to the Mohammadabad-Baghdasht discovery, Ghasemi's research has led to the identification of other significant Sasanian garden complexes, including the royal gardens at Bozpar in Dashtestan, Bushehr province, previously only known for their associated palaces, such as Kushk-e Ardeshir and Zendan-e Soleiman.



The research significantly sheds new light on large-scale agriculture in the Pars region, particularly during the Sasanian period, and reveals the lasting impact of these agricultural estates into the post-Sasanian eras. These large, cultivated landscapes, often described as earthly paradises, were integral not only for agricultural production but also served as centers of leisure, hospitality, and regional economic development.

Unfortunately, many of these ancient gardens have been severely damaged over time due to intensive modern agricultural activities.

Ghasemi hopes that this research will draw attention to the urgent need for conservation efforts by authorities, particularly the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, to preserve these valuable historical sites before they are lost entirely.

Kam Duzi: a traditional embroidery long practiced across Hormozgan province

TEHRAN - Kam Duzi, also known as Kameh Duzi or Kaman Duzi, is a unique form of embroidery practiced in various regions and villages of Hormozgan province in southern Iran.

Although the craft lacks a detailed historical record, it has been popular since the Safavid era and remains an enduring tradition among the region's artisans.

Historically, Kam Duzi was used to embellish scarves, collars, skirt edges, Bandari trousers (a traditional garment of southern Iran), "Kon-dureh" (a type of women's dress), cuffs, and sleeves across many cities and villages in the province.

Materials and tools

Creating Kam Duzi requires an array of specialized materials and tools, including: large round sequins with holes; small golden or occasionally silver sequins; Golabatoon threads (gold- or silver-plated yarns); and needles and hooks; a large wooden embroidery hoop, known as a "Kaman" in local dialect or "Kam", and velvet, blue or black broadcloth, and satin fabric.



The embroidery hoop, "Kaman," plays a vital role. The fabric is tightly stretched across the hoop, then secured with rope, giving it a drum-like appearance, similar to the musical instrument "Daf." However, instead of animal skin, fabric is stretched over the hoop.

The process

Once the fabric is fixed onto the hoop, designs are either drawn freehand, inspired by the artist's memory, or traced using carbon paper from pre-designed patterns. After completing

the embroidery, the fabric is removed from the hoop, and the decorative pieces are often cut and sewn onto trousers, bags, or other items.

The designs feature shiny sequins sewn onto fabric using Golabatoon threads. The typical technique involves attaching small sequins around a larger, central sequin, forming intricate floral patterns. These designs are repeated to create elegant strips or motifs.

A living tradition

Kam Duzi remains a vital part of the cultural identity of Hormozgan. Most artisans are young girls and women, and in cities like Bandar Lengeh, Minab, and other rural areas, it is rare to find families where the women are not familiar with this traditional craft.

The enduring appeal of Kam Duzi lies in its shimmering beauty, creative versatility, and its deep connection to the heritage of southern Iran.

This version enhances readability, organizes the content into clear sections, and provides a polished narrative suitable for a broader audience.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Cultural Landscape of Bamiyan Valley

Enclosed between the high mountains of the Hindu Kush in the central highlands of Afghanistan, the Bamiyan Valley opens out into a large basin bordered to the north by a long, high stretch of rocky cliffs.

The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley comprise a serial property consisting of eight separate sites within the Valley and its tributaries. Carved into the Bamiyan Cliffs are the two niches of the giant Buddha statues (55m and 38m high) destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, and numerous

caves forming a large ensemble of Buddhist monasteries, chapels and sanctuaries along the foothills of the valley dating from the 3rd to the 5th century CE. In several of the caves and niches, often linked by galleries, there are remains of wall paintings and seated Buddha figures. In the valleys of the Bamiyan's tributaries are further groups of caves including the Kakrak Valley Caves, some 3km south-east of the Bamiyan Cliffs where among the more than one hundred caves dating from the 6th to 13th centuries are fragments of a 10m tall standing Buddha figure

and a sanctuary with painted decorations from the Sasanian period. Along the Fuladi valley around 2km southwest of the Bamiyan Cliffs are the caves of Qoul-i Akram and Lalai Ghami, also containing decorative features.

Punctuating the centre of the valley basin to the south of the great cliff are the remains of the fortress of Shahr-i Ghulghulah. Dating from the 6th to 10th centuries CE, this marks the original settlement of Bamiyan as stopping place on the branch of the Silk Route, which linked China and India via ancient Bactria. Further to the

east along the Bamiyan Valley are the remains of fortification walls and settlements, dating from the 6th to 8th centuries at Qallai Kaphari A and B and further east still (around 15km east of the Bamiyan Cliffs) at Shahr-i Zuhak, where the earlier remains are overlaid by developments of the 10th to 13th centuries under the rule of the Islamic Ghaznavid and Ghorid dynasties.

The Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley represent the artistic and religious developments which from the 1st to the 13th centuries characterized ancient Bactria,

integrating various cultural influences into the Gandharan school of Buddhist art. The numerous Buddhist monastic ensembles and sanctuaries, as well as fortified structures from the Islamic period, testify to the interchange of Indian, Hellenistic, Roman, Sasanian and Islamic influences. The site is also testimony to recurring reactions to iconic art, the most recent being the internationally condemned deliberate destruction of the two standing Buddha statues in March 2001.

(Source: UNESCO)

Tehran, Riyadh to foster co-op in ICT sector

TEHRAN –The head of the Information Technology Organization of Iran, Mohammad-Mohsen Sadr, and the head of Saudi Arabia's Communications, Space & Technology Commission, Mohammed Altamimi, have explored the potential for enhancing collaborations between the two countries in different fields.

The officials met on the sidelines of the Saudi Arabia Internet Governance Forum (Saudi IGF) which took place from December 15 –19.

The two sides expressed interests in boosting joint activities in information and technology (ICT) sector, and exchanged views on existing capacities in the two countries, Mehr news agency reported.

Utilizing mutual infrastructures, sharing experiences in native information technology, and messaging platforms, expanding cooperation in post-services, and optical fiber, conducting joint projects in artificial intelligence, as well as joint activities by start-ups and knowledge-based firms were among the main focuses of the meeting.

The officials also emphasized using Iranian private sector's capacities in Saudi-Arabia's ICT projects. A memorandum of understanding will be provided to follow up on the agreements.

The 19th annual IGF was held in a hybrid format, accommodating participants onsite in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and online.

The main objectives of the fo-



rum were to advocate for an open, globally connected, trustworthy Internet for everyone by highlighting the current risks of Internet fragmentation, and to provide the knowledge and skills needed to a new generation of Internet leaders to defend the Internet and empower them to take action.

It also spotlighted and showcased the important work of the global Internet Society community.

The theme for this year's IGF was "Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future".

The program was centered around the following sub-themes: Harnessing innovation and balancing risks in the digital space, enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development, and sustainability, advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age, and improving digital governance.

Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT

in the country. All activities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people's lives.

The two sides expressed interest in boosting joint activities in the information, communication, and technology (ICT) sector.

The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite show the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

Space technology has been considered a tool to expand prosperity, peace, scientific-cultural development, and economic progress in human societies.

Different nations of the world exploit this technology in some way based on their capacity, capabilities, and efforts.

Currently, 13 universities and a research institute affiliated to the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology are offering aerospace majors, thus Iran has a high capability in training specialists and experts in the aerospace sector and is a leading country in the region.

Access to telecommunication services in rural areas of the country had improved over the period as the overall number of villages with access to communication services rose to 52,182, around 93 percent of all villages, while 47,837 villages had access to home land-line services.

Moreover, the number of Iranian mobile users reached nearly 135.890 million, according to the CRA which put the mobile phone penetration rate in the country at 161.67 percent.

The figures showed, however, that fixed broadband adoption in Iran had stalled at 14 percent with nearly 11.921 million customers having access to the Internet via those services.

This statistic shows that fixed broadband internet has grown by less than 2 percent compared to last year and mobile internet has experienced a growth of 10 percent.

However, it can be said that the speed of mobile internet expansion is 5 times the speed of fixed internet.

Conference on Management of Technology, Innovation slated for January

TEHRAN – The 14th Conference on Management of Technology and Innovation is scheduled to be held on January 8 and 9 in Tehran.

The Iranian Association for Management of Technology (IRAMOT) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that has been established with the aim of promoting education, training, and research in the fields of technology and innovation management.

On the sidelines of the conference, an exhibition on innovation and technology will be held.

Attracting over 1,000 companies and institutions engaged in innovation and knowledge-based economy, the exhibition will serve as a platform for recruiting human forces in these institutions.

This exhibition is supposed to be a job fair for students of science and technology policy, and technology management. It will be an opportunity for networking and attracting experts in the technology and innovation ecosystem.

IRAMOT

Founded in 2003, IRAMOT is the country's top scientific association, with over 5000 members. The association brings together the best of industry and academia in the field and conducts various activities including organizing conferences and workshops, publishing newsletters and books, as well as acting as a national information exchange hub on teaching and research issues in MOT.

The IRAMOT Annual Conference stands as the premier gathering of leaders from industry, academia, and policy-making in the fields of Innovation and Technology Management across the West Asia.

Each year, this prestigious event attracts over 500 participants, facilitating invaluable discussions and insights on the latest challenges and trends in specific sectors.

High-ranking managers from national and international companies actively engage in expert panels, sharing their perspectives and experiences to drive forward the conversation on innovation and technology management.

Iran moves up in GII 2024 ranking

According to the 2024 edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) report, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ranking in knowledge and technology output, as well as business sophistication has improved from 55 and 117 in 2023 to 49 and 110 in 2024, respectively.

Health minister condemns Israeli attack on Gaza hospital, urges Guterres to take action

TEHRAN –Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi in a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, has condemned the renewed attacks by the Zionist regime on Kamal Adwan Hospital, the only active medical center in northern Gaza, calling for immediate action by the United Nations.

Israeli soldiers stormed Gaza's last functioning hospital on Friday and forced Palestinian medics and patients to leave on foot to an unknown destination.

"The wild, renewed raid on Kamal Adwan hospital, the only functioning medical center in northern Gaza, and Sana's airport in Yemen, by the Israeli forces in the presence of Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus the Director-General of the World Health Organization, are other typical examples of violation of international laws and human rights.

Over the past year, the world has witnessed Israel's fatal attacks on health facilities killing and wounding health officials, physicians, nurses, and rescuers, while the United Nations has failed to address these violations effectively.

Hereby, I strongly condemn these attacks, and call on the United Nations to makes its best efforts to boost synergy among international organizations in condemning ongoing attacks and take serious, immediate actions against Israel," the letter reads.

The Israeli army issued a statement confirming it launched a raid on the Kamal Adwan Hospital.

It claimed that Hamas uses the hospital as a command center without providing any evidence.

A wave of Israeli air attacks hit Yemen's



Also, the country's ranking in market sophistication and infrastructure has risen by two positions from 19 and 97 in 2023 to 17 and 95 in 2024.

The Global Innovation Index ranks the world's leading economies according to their innovation capabilities.

According to this year's report, Iran ranks second among the countries of the Central and Southern Asian region, unchanged compared with the last two years.

India and Kazakhstan ranked first and third, respectively.

Iran ranks 5 among the 38 lower-middle-income group economies, which has improved compared to the 2023 ranking (6).

As stated in the 2024 edition, over the past four years (2020-2024), the statistical confidence interval for the ranking of Iran in the GII 2024 is between ranks 56 and 80.

Iran performed better in innovation outputs (48) than in innovation inputs (85) in 2024.

Published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the report ranks Iran first in Market capitalization, and Trademarks by origin.

It ranks 3, 5, 8, 17, 19, 23, and 35 in Software spending, Gross capital formation, Graduates in science and engineering, market sophistication, Domestic market scale, Intangible asset intensity, and Tertiary education, respectively.

Iran (Islamic Republic of) ranks highest in Market sophistication (17), Knowledge and technology outputs (49), Creative outputs (52), and Human capital and research (64).

The GII has ranked Tehran as the world's 38th-largest science and technology (S&T) cluster this year, down from 35 last year, according to a report released on Tuesday by the UN's WIPO.

Simulated UN session helps Iranian youth develop critical thinking, negotiation skills



TEHRAN –The International Studies Journal (ISJ) non-governmental organization with support from United Nations Information Center (UNIC) in Tehran has organized a simulated session of the UN General Assembly for Iranian Youth to promote critical thinking and negotiation skills.

The event was held at the Humanities House of Thinkers on 31 October 2024, UN website announced in a press release on December 26.

More than 200 Iranian students and scholars from across the country participated in the simulated session.

The participants played the roles of diplo-

mat during the Model UN Conference, learning more about the important role of the United Nations and its General Assembly and replicate real-world challenges.

UNIC Tehran organized a preparatory session a few weeks before the event.

UNIC Tehran regularly cooperates with Dr. Mehdi Zakerian, head of the ISJ, and his team, as well as with other national partners on various outreach activities, including Model UN Conferences.

Participants also improved their communication, negotiation, and diplomatic skills while representing different UN Member States.

Stefan Priesner, the UN Resident Coordinator in the Islamic Republic of Iran, delivered a keynote speech at the event and thanked the organizers for bringing the UN closer to Iranian youth.

He said it was a pleasure for the UN to support this important youth-oriented activity and emphasized the importance of understanding global issues and diplomacy.

Another distinguished keynote speaker, Mohammad Javad Zarif, who made signifi-

cant contributions to Iran's foreign policy and international relations during his tenure as Foreign Minister and currently as Vice President for Strategic Affairs, shared his firsthand diplomatic experiences.

Ambassador Asadi, a seasoned Iranian diplomat with extensive experience in multilateral negotiations, who represented Iran in various UN bodies, explained the specifics of Member State participation in General Assembly sessions to the youth.

Zahra B., a participant, said: "Looking around this room, I imagine it is the real General Assembly hall in New York, where I, along with other world leaders, discuss potential solutions to global challenges.

This simulation offered us a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of diplomats and experience the complexities of international negotiations firsthand."

The UN in Iran works closely with the government, civil society organizations, and communities across the country on a wide range of issues, including poverty reduction, health, education, equality, disaster risk reduction and management, drug control, and environmental sustainability.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Men with obese wives at higher risk of cardiovascular disease

The results of a 16-year study at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran showed that men whose wives were obese or overweight had a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.

Farzad Hadaegh, the lead researcher of the study, said that couples share socioeconomic status, dietary patterns, and other environmental and lifestyle factors, but are genetically unrelated.

The results of this study emphasize the role of environmental factors, especially lifestyle behaviors of family members in the incidence of cardiovascular disease, and this may help to identify early at-risk individuals in the community and family to implement prevention programs, he explained.

خطر ابتلا به بیماری‌های قلبی در مردان با همسران چاقی بیشتر است

نتیجه یک پژوهش ۱۶ ساله در دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شهید بهشتی تهران نشان داد خطر ابتلا به بیماری‌های قلبی عروقی در مردانی که همسران آنها چاقی یا دارای اضافه وزن بودند، نسبت به مردانی که همسران شان وزن طبیعی داشت، بیشتر است.

فرزاد حدائق، مدیر این تحقیق، می‌گوید: زوجین در موقعیت‌های اقتصادی - اجتماعی، الگوهای غذایی و سایر عوامل محیطی و سبک زندگی مشترک اند، اما از نظر ژنتیکی بی‌ارتباط هستند.

نتایج این مطالعه به نقش عوامل محیطی به ویژه رفتارهای مربوط به سبک زندگی اعضای خانواده در بروز بیماری‌های قلبی عروقی تأکید می‌کند و این موضوع ممکن است به شناسایی زود هنگام افراد در معرض خطر در جامعه و خانواده برای اجرای برنامه‌های پیشگیری کمک موثری کند.



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
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DECEMBER 29, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 5:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:09 (tomorrow)

Ammar Popular Film Festival kicks off in Tehran

TEHRAN- The 15th edition of the Ammar Popular Film Festival was inaugurated during a ceremony on Friday at Behnam Cinema in Tehran.

The event brought together cultural officials, artists, and families of martyrs, as well as several Lebanese families, Mehr reported.

During the ceremony, awards were presented to winners in categories such as music videos, screenplays, animation, film productions, television programs, and digital content.

Speaking at the ceremony, Marzieh Hashemi, the secretary of the event emphasized the efforts of the organizers of the event in creating a space for resistance artists and stressed the responsibility to continue this path.

"In a world that is in turmoil, we must seek out a model. You artists, especially the younger generation, can serve as suitable role models in this regard, and it is vital to articulate the truth."

"As we provide cultural products to the world concerning the resistance front, it is imperative that these productions be shaped in the best possible way amidst this ongoing genocide," she added.

She further stated, "Genocide should not merely be a news headline, and we artists carry a considerable responsibility to voice these issues."

"We must first have sufficient self-confidence, which, thanks to the quality artistic works produced and presented annually — though still insufficient — we are progressing," she noted.

"Regarding the oppressed people worldwide, especially in Gaza, I must say that the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for these oppressed individuals undoubtedly provides them with encouragement."

Discussing the ongoing soft war against the resistance front, she added, "Given the intense

media war globally aimed at undermining the resistance front, we must strive to prevent division within the Muslim community.

I also wish to express my condolences over the martyrdom of five Muslim journalists."

"Through this festival, we have shown the world that the resistance front of the Islamic Republic of Iran is significantly more steadfast than our enemies believe," she remarked.

The Ammar Popular Film Festival seeks to showcase diverse artistic contributions and support movements that transcend borders through art.

The festival's mission is to amplify voices that challenge oppressive narratives and encourage active engagement from all sections of society.

Over its 14 previous editions, the Ammar Popular Film Festival has focused on elevating the voices of people who have remained resilient against agendas aimed at promoting apathy and distortion.

It regards art as a vehicle for unity, urging individuals to gather around the common principles of justice and equity.

This year, the festival aims to further explore the dynamic interplay between societal struggle and artistic expression, emphasizing that all communities, regardless of geographic, ethnic, or social boundaries, have a vital role in creating and consuming art.

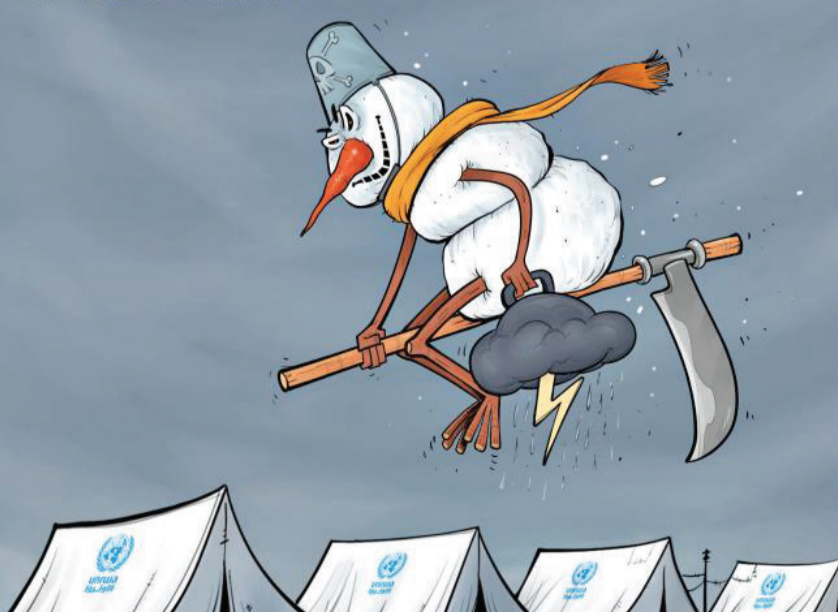
Ammar Popular Film Festival was established in 2010 by a number of Iranian revolutionary figures to honor film and art products promoting topics such as resistance and revolution.

It was named after Ammar Yasir, a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

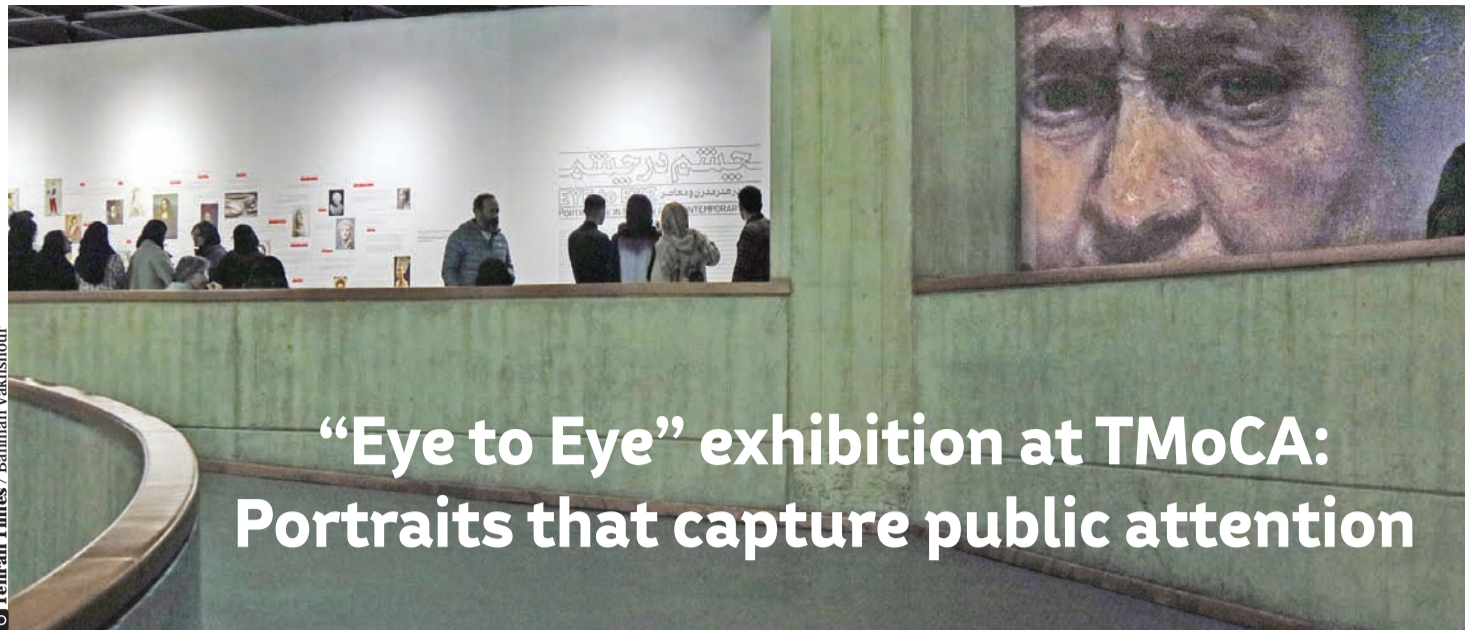
The 15th Ammar Popular Film Festival will be running until January 2, 2025 in Tehran and several other Iranian cities.

Cartoon of Day

DEADLY COLD IN GAZA CAMPS



Deadly Cold in Gaza Camps
 Cartoonist: Fahd Bahady from Syria



"Eye to Eye" exhibition at TMOCA: Portraits that capture public attention

From Page 1 ▶ The "Eye to Eye" exhibition features over 120 pieces from TMOCA's treasured collection, including selected works by Iranian and international artists in various mediums such as painting, sculpture, and photography.

Highlighted artists include Francis Bacon, Toulouse-Lautrec, Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh, Andy Warhol, Alberto Giacometti, James Ensor, Claude Monet, Jim Dine, Robert Rauschenberg, Fernand Léger, Joan Miró, Kamal-ol-Molk, Bahman Mohasses, Mahmoud Javadipour, Jazeh Tabatabai, Kambiz Derambakhsh, Gholamhossein Nami, Mehdi Sahabi, Farshid Maleki, and Kourosh Golnari, among others.

Initially launched on October 6, the exhibit was originally set to run until November 17. However,



its duration has been extended multiple times, first until November 24, then December 20, and now into the new year due to its popularity among art enthusiasts.

Curated by Jamal Arabzadeh, a faculty member of the University of Art, the exhibition is organized with a research and educational approach.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Arabzadeh explained about selecting the works and designing the exhibition.

"The plan was for all the works to be selected from the items in the museum's treasured collection, so we did not include any external works, except for two minor cases in the form of sculptures. These were added to bring some formal variety to the space to avoid the monotony of only viewing paintings on the walls. Apart from that, all the other works on display belong to the museum's treasured collection," Arabzadeh said.

"I had to find a framework around which to shape the exhibition. We faced various challenges in this regard because the works were highly diverse—ranging from modern to contemporary and encompassing significant differences between Western and Iranian pieces. I needed to find a way to categorize them around the theme of portraiture. Ultimately, I settled on a psychoanalytic approach, as it provided a rationale for the diversity and variety in the works," the curator added.

Regarding the widespread public interest in this exhibition, Arabzadeh noted: "In my opinion, a specific mechanism drove this popularity.

It began with the passionate reception of the younger generation of visual arts enthusiasts and their interest in the

exhibition. The spread of news and positive feedback from this generation drew the attention of other groups within the visual arts community.

Following that, the exhibition gained traction on social media, which caught the attention of the general public. As a result, many of them visited the museum for the first time and became acquainted with this segment of its collection".

Arabzadeh curated "Hyper-realism: From Image to Reality" exhibition last year at the TMOCA, and "Eye to Eye" is his second curatorial experience at the museum.

He told the Tehran Times that other sections of the museum's treasured collection can also be showcased in other exhibitions in the future.

History of Portraiture," and "The Bright Room and a Tool for Precision".

Simultaneously, the exhibition "Marcos Grigorian: A Retrospective" is underway at the TMOCA. It marks the 100th birth anniversary



of the renowned artist. This exhibition provides a scholarly overview of five key phases of Grigorian's career, highlighting his contributions to the history of art.

The retrospective features his expressionist paintings, as well as his iconic "earth art" and works created with straw and clay.

This is the debut solo exhibition of Marcos Grigorian's works at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in over four decades of operation. The exhibit is organized by Marcos Grigorian Foundation in Yerevan, Armenia.

This exhibition seeks to contribute to introducing this artist and his considerable influence on



the evolution of Iranian contemporary painting to the current generation of painters and art enthusiasts.

Notably, the current exhibition features only a selection of Marcos Grigorian's works, framed within the context of art historiography and approached

Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome, graduating in 1954, and subsequently established the influential Galerie Esthétique in Tehran.

He was instrumental in organizing the first Tehran Biennial

in 1958 and was a dedicated educator at the Fine Arts Academy. In the 1960s, he relocated to the United States, establishing Universal Galleries in Minneapolis.

In 1975, Grigorian helped organize the Group of Free Painters and Sculptors in Tehran and was a founder member.

Other founding artists included Gholamhossein Nami, Masoud Arabshahi, Morteza Momeyaz, Mir Abdolrez Daryabeigi, and Faramarz Pilaram.

His series "Earthworks" was on canvas and it used a mixture of clay and straw called "kah-gel," which is commonly found as a building material in villages in Iran. He exhibited his clay and

straw works in Yerevan in 1991. Grigorian was also an early artist with land art in Iran.

In his later years, he settled in Yerevan, Armenia, where he created the Museum of the Middle East and donated thousands of artworks. His legacy was marred by tragedy when he was fatally assaulted in 2007.

Established in 1977, the TMOCA has more than 4,000 items that include 19th and 20th century's world-class Iranian, European and American paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures. Being the biggest collection of western art in the eastern world, it includes works from almost all artistic periods and movements.

The museum was designed by Iranian architect Kamran Diba who employed elements from traditional Persian architecture.

The building itself can be regarded as an example of contemporary art, in a style of an underground Guggenheim Museum. Most of the museum area is located underground with a circular walkway that spirals downwards with galleries branching outwards. Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte and Moore can be found in the museum's gardens.



Arabzadeh's work spans fields such as art history and cultural studies, and his innovative curatorial perspective enhances public understanding and appreciation of contemporary art.

"Eye to Eye" comprises different sections including "Mind and Portrait," "Self-Portrait," "Portrait and Melancholy," "Historical Portraiture," "Portrait of Women," "The Dark Room and the

through research. Marcos Grigorian (1925–2007) was an impactful artist and gallery owner, celebrated as a pioneer of modern Iranian art.

Born in Kropotkin, Russia, to an Armenian family fleeing massacre, he moved to Iran in 1930, where he later opened the Apadana gallery in Tehran in 1949. Grigorian studied at the