

Traitors Setting a War Trap for Trump

Israeli campaign is telling the ignorant president to underestimate Iran, attack it, and face heavy consequences



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Attempts to exploit snapback will be met with Iran's reciprocal response: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baqaei, has issued a warning regarding the potential misuse of the snapback mechanism relating to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which could reinstate suspended sanctions.

"Any attempt to exploit the snapback mechanism will be met with a reciprocal response from Iran," he asserted during the weekly press conference on Monday, underlining Tehran's determination to resist external pressures.

He categorically stated that Iran's defense and military capabilities are non-negotiable, dismissing recent claims that European nations sought limitations on the country's missile program.

Baqaei addressed the matter, saying, "It is not unusual for parties to present their arguments during negotiations. However, Iran has never and will never discuss its defense and military capabilities with any nation." ► Page 2

'Enhancing border cooperation is crucial,' Iran's top general tells Pakistani officials

TEHRAN – Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, highlighted the importance of strengthening security at the borders between Iran and Pakistan during his official visit to Islamabad on Monday.

"We had discussions with our Pakistani counterparts in areas such as education, intelligence, drills, and the defense industry, and we are pursuing these collaborations with seriousness," Bagheri declared.

He emphasized that border security is the paramount issue facing the two countries today, highlighting their ongoing cooperation and the necessity for enhanced collaboration.

"We need more cooperation and coordination," Bagheri said.

Tehran and Islamabad have significantly deepened their military collaboration in recent years. In 2023, the two nations embarked on a joint border security exercise aimed at boosting operational coordination to combat terrorism, drug trafficking, and other unlawful activities.

Additionally, a security cooperation agreement was signed in April 2024, involving the deployment of colonel-rank officers in border areas to bolster counterterrorism coordination efforts. ► Page 2

Iran testing combat robots, developing new models, Army tells Tehran Times

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iran's Army is currently engaged in the testing of combat robots, while simultaneously developing new models, Deputy Commander of the Army Ground Force Brigadier General Nozar Nematy told the Tehran Times.

The high-ranking military official did not provide specific details on the types of robots being tested or developed but said the Army is deploying a range of them in a drill that began Sunday night in northeastern Iran.

The ongoing drill, described as an "offensive" exercise, seems to mark a new stage in a larger series of maneuvers that began nationwide at the start of the new year. The early stages of the national exercise involved a diverse range of forces, encompassing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the Army (Artesh), the Basij, and the Coast Guard. ► Page 3

The implications of defeat in the end of the war on Gaza

By Batool Subeiti

LONDON – Trump hastened to announce the end of the Gaza war before its official declaration, claiming it is an achievement. This proves it was a burden and undesirable, with its conclusion viewed as an accomplishment. Trump sought to end the war and distance himself from it before assuming office to avoid being associated with it or continuing to support it. The Gaza war became a burden and a source of shame for its supporters.

Evil wars invite celebrations over their end. They are embarrassing and blameworthy for those who wage them. All battles tied to the Israeli occupation entity follow this pattern: a desire to quickly complete the task. Such wars are justified endlessly, adorned to appear righteous. Just wars, however, are a source of pride for their initiators. No matter how long they last, steadfastness in a just cause is itself a victory.

Russia-Iran strategic partnership's effects on the resistance front

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The comprehensive strategic partnership agreement between Tehran and Moscow constitutes a remarkable geopolitical step, as it coincides with the resounding defeat of the US-led Israeli aggression on people in certain nations in West Asia.

Following the fall of the Bashar al-Assad government, Russia immediately confirmed that the Syrian developments "will not threaten its relations with Iran."

During an interview with Sputnik, Sergey Lavrov, Russia's foreign minister, declared that the agreement with Iran is "comprehensive and long-term," noting that it attaches importance to strengthening security cooperation and combating terrorism, in addition to confronting "many common challenges and threats."

Resistance pays off: Palestinian women and children walk free from Israeli prisons

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Israel released 90 women and children as part of the Gaza ceasefire deal. Some were jailed for throwing stones or sending posts on social media.

The 69 women and 21 children (some as young as 15) liberated from Israeli prisons by the resistance in Gaza include political inmates who faced various forms of torture or were held under administrative detention.

Here are some of their names and stories:

Tamara Abu Laban

Tamara, 24, was studying to be a medical secretary and was also working at the same time before the occupation regime deprived her of education and work.

Hamas flexes military muscles, leaves Israeli leaders red-faced

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The strong presence of Hamas fighters dressed in their fatigues and balaclavas in the Gaza Strip has left the Israeli leadership with egg on its face.

As a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on Sunday, a sea of Hamas armed men flexed the resistance movement's military muscles.

Hamas fighters handed over three Israeli captives to the Red Cross in Gaza City on the first day of the ceasefire. They were freed in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

But the public re-emergence of Hamas fighters has shaken Israeli leaders and their Western allies to the core.

Israel agreed to the truce agreement after its war plans in Gaza fell through. ► Page 5

New Iran-Russia partnership treaty reflects current state of bilateral ties, says Russian analyst

TEHRAN – During an interview with the Tehran Times, Vladimir Sazhin, a Sputnik columnist and senior researcher at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, stated that the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty recently signed in Moscow by the presidents of Iran and Russia demonstrates the evolving relationship between the two countries by addressing issues less relevant than those addressed in the 2001 strategic pact.

Sazhin noted that the emergence of terrorism and extremism, and the subsequent need for collaborative counterterrorism efforts, are among the issues that have gained prominence since 2001. ► Page 3



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Funeral held for two Iranian judges martyred in terrorist attack

TEHRAN – A funeral ceremony was held on Monday to honor the lives and sacrifices of Ali Razini and Mohammad Moqiseh, two senior judges of Iran's Supreme Court who lost their lives during a Saturday armed attack on their Tehran office.

The procession began at the eastern side of the Supreme Court building in downtown Tehran and made its way to the city of Qom.

Martyred judges' commitment to justice will never be forgotten, Leader says in a message

During the funeral ceremony for the fallen judicial figures, a heartfelt message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

The catalyst for Iran-U.S. negotiations

In an interview with reformist political activist Morteza Alviri, Etemad analyzed possible talks between Iran and America. He said: In recent days and on the eve of Trump's official presence in the White House, significant developments have taken place in the relations between Iran and America. On one side, Masoud Pezeshkian, in an interview with NBC, announced Iran's readiness to conduct honorable negotiations with the United States, and on the other, some news was published that Trump had sent messages through the Omani authorities to negotiate a long-term and sustainable agreement with Iran. Among them is Elon Musk, who some believe acts as a catalyst and tries to remove the obstacles ahead of Iran-U.S. negotiations. Trump's presence in the White House can be both an opportunity and a threat, depending on Iran's reaction. Extremists in Iran and the United States and some regional radical movements are the most important obstacles to the resumption of dialogue between the two countries. To create a positive balance, Iran should try to define stable relations with China and Russia as well as continuous relations with Europe and America.

Jam-e-Jam: Continuity of assassinations and developments in the region

In a note, Jam-e-Jam addressed the issue of the assassination of Iranians by the enemy and wrote: Usually, at any point in time, the enemy tries to harm the Islamic Republic in any possible way to deflect attention from Iran's successes and power. In the past few years, we have seen that whenever we have achieved success, we have faced assassinations, sanctions, and propaganda wars. Therefore, it seems that the assassination of two judges in Iran is related to the success of the Palestinian nation and the entire Axis of Resistance in the region. Apparently, terrorist groups carried out this action and efforts are underway to arrest the perpetrators. The authorities in the country must be very careful because Israel and America will not give in to the blows they received and will take revenge. Therefore, probably in the coming days, we may face other forms of hostile actions by the enemy. In the past month, Iranians have been martyred at border areas and even abroad,

and these are precisely related to the developments in the region.

Sobh-e-No: New balance

In an interview with Hassan Beheshtipour, an expert on international relations, Sobh-e-No dealt with the new partnership agreement between Iran and Russia. He said: The new agreement between Iran and Russia can mark a new chapter in the relations between the two countries with significant effects on the two countries' regional and international cooperation. In addition to creating new economic and security opportunities, this agreement can help strengthen Iran's position in the region and the world. Iran should follow a balanced policy in relations with influential powers. Iran's geopolitics entails balance in relations with influential countries and power blocs such as China, Russia, the United States, and the European Union. Considering Iran's geopolitical situation, the correct policy is to strike a balance in our relations with world powers; this is a kind of balance that can help use to deal with Russia, China, Europe, and America.

Shargh: Will the radicals prevent new round of negotiations?

In an article, Shargh pointed to the moves by radicals who have always tried to prevent talks between Iran and the United States. It wrote: It is enough to hear news of negotiations to witness a flood of radical attacks with various tactics. From threatening the government if it tries to negotiate with the U.S. to say it will produce no results. Therefore, with the smallest opening in Iran's possible negotiations with the West, the beneficiaries of the sanctions use everything in their power to prevent finding a solution to lift the sanctions. These radicals stand against national interests. The efforts of this minority group have always been effective and the consequences of their decisions have caused tensions and economic crises for years. Of course, the direct negotiation between Iran and the United States has always been a controversial issue. These negotiations can have wide-ranging effects on the country's economy, domestic politics, and foreign relations. Therefore, talk of negotiations has come under attack from the very beginning.

Resistance against oppression key legacy of Islamic Revolution: Pezeshkian



TEHRAN – Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian has stressed the importance of resistance against oppression as one key legacy of the Islamic Revolution.

In a meeting with the head and members of the Islamic Development Coordination Council, alongside the Headquarters for the 46th Anniversary of the Victory of the Islamic Revolution on Monday, Pezeshkian highlighted the sacrifices made since the Islamic Revolution's triumph, stating, "We have suffered many martyrs and victims of terrorism. Our enemies have repeatedly targeted our leaders, elites, and prominent figures in attempts to undermine this revolution."

The president also extended his condolences for the martyrdom of Ali Razini and Mohammad Moqiseh, two judiciary judges, describing their deaths as further evidence of the Islamic Republic's enduring battle against terrorism.

"These sacrifices show that Iran and this revolution have consistently been victims of terrorism. The atrocities committed by the Zionist regime and its backers in Gaza—targeting women and children—are clear examples of terrorism. Yet, ironically, they accuse us of supporting terrorism," Pezeshkian remarked.

The president also paid tribute to the people of Gaza, who recently achieved a significant victory against the Zionist regime. "We congratulate the

resilient people of Gaza and Palestine on their triumph. They stood with dignity and courage against oppression and achieved a remarkable accomplishment. Their resilience serves as a lesson to other nations on how to confront terrorism," he stated.

The president underscored the need for unity and inclusivity within Iran, urging officials to avoid creating divisions. "Every citizen must feel a sense of ownership over their homeland. We must not separate people based on baseless pretenses. Piety should be our primary criterion, and those with greater piety should be considered more honorable," he said.

The president also called for a merit-based approach to governance, highlighting efforts to include local and Sunni individuals in key positions in provinces like Sistan and Baluchestan and Kurdistan.

Mohammad-Hossein Mousapour, head of the Islamic Development Coordination Council, opened the session by outlining the council's plans for the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. He highlighted several initiatives aimed at celebrating the occasion, including fostering innovation, engaging youth in analytical discussions, promoting the revolution's achievements, and organizing unity-focused events during the Fajr Decade celebrations.

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He categorically stated that Iran's defense and military capabilities are non-negotiable, dismissing recent claims that European nations sought limitations on the country's missile program.

Baqaei addressed the matter, saying, "It is not unusual for parties to present their arguments during negotiations. However, Iran has never and will never discuss its defense and military capabilities with any nation."

The remarks follow a meeting in Geneva on January 13, where Iranian officials and representatives from the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) discussed lifting illegal sanctions and other nuclear-related issues.

These talks have been part of an ongoing effort to address challenges arising since the United



States' 2018 withdrawal from the JCPOA. Washington's departure from the deal reinstated sanctions against Tehran, further complicating diplomatic relations.

'Iran hopes for a realistic U.S. approach'

On the incoming administration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, Baqaei expressed hope for a shift in Washington's policy.

"We expect the United States to adopt an approach grounded in realism, respect for international law, and recognition of the Iranian people's legitimate demands," he said.

'Gaza ceasefire testament to Palestinian Resistance'

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson also lauded the recent cease-

fire in Gaza as a testament to the strength of the Palestinian Resistance.

"This truce marks another victory for resistance against occupation and oppression," Baqaei stated, emphasizing that Israel's failure to achieve its objectives in Gaza despite devastating losses among Palestinians underscored the resilience of the Palestinian people.

The ceasefire went into effect on Sunday following 470 days of relentless Israeli strikes in the besieged Palestinian territory. It was implemented after a delay of almost three hours during which Israeli forces killed nearly 20 Palestinians and injured dozens of others.

Baqaei condemned the actions

of Israel, highlighting that such crimes were carried out with the backing of the United States and Western allies. He stressed that the Palestinian resistance operates independently of any external influence, rooted instead in the beliefs and determination of the Palestinian nation.

Regarding claims about Hamas' role in post-war Gaza governance, Baqaei remarked, "Hamas represents the heartbeat of the Palestinian people. No one can erase their presence or diminish their role in the future of Palestine."

'FM Araghchi's visit to NY postponed'

Turning to Iran's diplomatic engagements, Baqaei announced changes to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's planned trip to New York. "Due to recent developments in Palestine and the region, the visit has been postponed," he explained.

Iranian officials, including Araghchi, were scheduled to attend a ministerial meeting chaired by Algeria. The session aims to address ongoing crises in West Asia, particularly the situation in Palestine and Gaza.

The agenda includes highlighting the Zionist regime's crimes and supporting efforts to end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

'Enhancing border cooperation is crucial,' Iran's top general tells Pakistani officials



Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri (R) shakes hands with a Pakistani general during an Islamabad visit on January 20, 2025.

TEHRAN – Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, highlighted the importance of strengthening security at the borders between Iran and Pakistan during his official visit to Islamabad on Monday.

"We had discussions with our Pakistani counterparts in areas such as education, intelligence, drills, and the defense industry, and we are pursuing these collaborations with seriousness," Bagheri declared.

He emphasized that border security is the paramount issue facing the two countries today, highlighting their ongoing cooperation

and the necessity for enhanced collaboration.

"We need more cooperation and coordination," Bagheri said.

Tehran and Islamabad have significantly deepened their military collaboration in recent years.

In 2023, the two nations embarked on a joint border security exercise aimed at boosting operational coordination to combat terrorism, drug

trafficking, and other unlawful activities.

Additionally, a security cooperation agreement was signed in April 2024, involving the deployment of colonel-rank officers in border areas to bolster counterterrorism coordination efforts.

The high-ranking talks on Monday also covered Pakistan's involvement in Iran's naval exercises, cross-border exchanges, and issues related to Afghanistan that concern both countries.

General Bagheri's visit marks his third journey to Pakistan, following earlier trips in July 2018 and October 2021.

Funeral held for two Iranian judges martyred in terrorist attack

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Martyred judges' commitment to justice will never be forgotten, Leader says in a message

During the funeral ceremony for the fallen judicial figures, a heartfelt message from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, was read by Hojjat al-Islam Golpayegani, the Head of the Leader's Office.

In his message, the Leader expressed deep sorrow and offered his condolences to the bereaved families of the two martyrs, both

of whom had played crucial roles in the country's judiciary system.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the honored families of the martyr, Ali Razini, and his brave colleague, Mohammad Moqiseh, on their tragic martyrdom.

We pray for patience and strength for their families in this great loss," the message read.

"Martyr Razini, who had been previously targeted by hostile forces, had suffered the consequences of repeated assassination attempts, enduring serious injuries for many years.

His two beloved brothers had also previously attained martyrdom in the service of the nation."

"May the mercy and blessings of God be upon these noble martyrs, and may their families be granted patience and resilience in the face of such an immense sacrifice.

Their dedication and unwavering commitment to justice and the Islamic Revolution will never be forgotten," Leader stated.

Chief Justice says enemies' efforts to sow division, instability in Iran will continue to fail

During the event, the Head of Iran's Judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, extended his condolences to the families of the two martyrs and emphasized the importance of their service.

In his speech, Ejei also condemned the ongoing efforts by Iran's enemies to sow division and instability within the country.

He cautioned against any actions or rhetoric that could provide an advantage to those working to undermine the nation's unity.

"The enemy is relentlessly trying to erode the values that have been the backbone of our revolution, particularly among the youth," he said.

He also rejected claims that the Resistance front had been defeated, insisting that those loyal to the revolution were more determined than ever to see the victory of truth.

"Just look at the situation of the Zionist regime and its allies in the region.

Before the Al-Aqsa Storm, the Zionists were attempting to cleanse their criminal image and sought normalization with some Arab countries. Now, they are the most despised group in the region and the world.

Despite committing genocide in Gaza for 15 months, they failed to achieve their goals," Ejei added.

The Chief Justice also emphasized the critical role of Iran's intelligence and security forces in safeguarding national security.

"The enemy is attempting to create insecurity and division, but our brave intelligence and security forces work tirelessly to counter their plots.

We must never forget the sacrifices and dedication of these forces," he concluded.

The two martyrs were widely respected for their work in fighting terrorism, espionage, and crimes against national security.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$1.4b to India in 9 months



TEHRAN – Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$1.4 billion to India during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20–December 21, 2024), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari said that India was Iran's seventh top export destination in the mentioned nine-month period.

Exporting commodities valued at \$1.1 billion to Iran, India was Iran's fifth top source of import in the first nine months of the present year, the official further added.

Iran exported \$2.217 billion worth of goods to India during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2024), according to an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Hadi Talebian Moghaddam, the director of TPO department for Indian Subcontinent Affairs, said that the figure shows a two percent increase in comparison to the \$2.175 billion reported a year earlier.

Noting that Iran's balance of trade with India turned positive last year, he put Iran's last year's imports from India at \$1.916 billion.

Non-oil export from Golestan province increases 47% in 9 months yr/yr

TEHRAN– The value of non-oil export from Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 47 percent in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 – December 21, 2024), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Amir Yousefi, the head of the Chamber of Commerce of Gorgan city (the center of province), said that non-oil commodities worth \$347.7 million were exported from the province in the nine-month period.

He stated that polystyrene, cement, eggs, dairy products, paste, detergents and chicken were the most items exported from Golestan province.

The official pointed out that the largest export of Golestan province is to Turkmenistan and added that Kazakhstan, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf countries are among the other target markets of Golestan province.

The official further announced that non-oil goods valued at \$63.4 million were imported to the province in the first nine months of the present year, and named oil, soy, cotton, and machinery as the most imported items.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's non-oil exports rose 18 percent in the first nine months of the Iranian calendar year to \$43.14 billion.

Foroud Asgari said imports during the mentioned period, including gold bullion, amounted to \$50.89 billion. The weight of imports declined by 3.16 percent to 27.94 million tons, he added.

Non-oil export volume reached 116.35 million tons in the nine-month period, a 13.77 percent increase from the previous year, Asgari noted. The average customs value per ton of exported goods rose 3.74 percent to \$371.

Petrochemical exports accounted for 50.7 million tons, valued at \$19.7 billion, representing a 33.25 percent increase in volume and a 32 percent rise in value year-on-year.

China remained Iran's top export destination, purchasing \$11 billion worth of goods. Iraq followed with \$9.4 billion, the UAE with \$5.3 billion, Turkey with \$5.2 billion, Afghanistan and Pakistan with \$1.7 billion each, and India with \$1.4 billion. Together, these seven countries accounted for 82.4 percent of the total export volume and 82.85 percent of export value.

The UAE topped the list of Iran's import partners, exporting \$15.3 billion worth of goods to Iran. China followed with \$13 billion, Turkey with \$8.9 billion, Germany with \$1.8 billion, India and Russia with \$1.1 billion each, and Hong Kong with \$1 billion. These seven countries supplied 75 percent of the import volume and 83 percent of import value during the period.

The average customs value per ton of imported goods rose 8.4 percent to \$1,821.

Natural gas in liquid form led the export list at \$6 billion, followed by liquefied propane at \$2.5 billion and methanol at \$1.9 billion. Key imports included raw gold at \$5.6 billion, livestock corn at \$2.1 billion, and smartphones at \$1.7 billion.

Asgari, who also serves as deputy economy

minister, emphasized the role of trade in bolstering the national economy amid ongoing international sanctions.

The 11th session of the Supreme Council for the Development of Non-Oil Exports was held after a four-year hiatus, with the participation of Iran's first vice president on January 1.

In an exclusive interview with IRIB, Alireza Dehghan Dehnavi, head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), highlighted the significance of this council, which had been inactive for nearly four years.

He noted that the council had played a key role in national decision-making processes before falling into disuse.

Dehnavi explained that the revival of the council was prompted during this year's National Export Day event, where Masoud Pezeshkian instructed its reactivation.

With the efforts of the government and the support of the first vice president and the minister of industry, mining, and trade, the groundwork for the council's return was laid, culminating in its 11th session.

The session, chaired by First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, brought together all council members to discuss pressing trade issues. The meeting focused on three main areas:

The council reviewed the statistical performance of the country's non-oil exports. Dehnavi acknowledged that Iran's non-oil trade balance has been negative in recent years, with a \$17 million deficit recorded last year despite a positive overall trade balance. The Vice President tasked the TPO with reversing this trend by boosting non-oil exports.

The council identified several obstacles hindering foreign trade, including excessive regulations, insufficient infrastructure for exports (such as transportation and customs facilities), and challenges in export-related policies.

Dehnavi emphasized the need to align monetary and trade policies, as the former has often overshadowed the latter. The council resolved to reform trade policies to address these issues.

Several proposals were approved, including holding regular council sessions and establishing provincial export development task forces led by governors. These initiatives aim to make export promotion a nationwide campaign.

The council also discussed a strategic roadmap for free trade zones, aiming to transform these areas into export hubs. The TPO is preparing this document with council support.

Additionally, collaboration with the private sector was emphasized to identify and implement high-impact export projects.

Other topics included reforms in re-exports and temporary imports, with a task force comprising customs, agriculture, health, and trade organizations formed to streamline processes. The pricing of export goods at customs was also debated, with calls for a review to enhance coordination among export-related bodies.

The session concluded with plans to establish specialized commissions to maintain continuity between council meetings and ensure effective decision-making in foreign trade.

Gas production increases in phase 13 of South Pars field

TEHRAN – The deputy director of development projects at Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) announced that gas production capacity has increased by 1.7 million cubic meters per day following the completion of one gas well in Phase 13 of the South Pars field.

According to a statement from POGC, Hamidreza Masoudi highlighted the critical role of the South Pars shared field in supplying a significant portion of the country's energy needs, emphasizing that comprehensive and strategic plans are underway to ensure the continued increase in gas production capacity from the South Pars field using advanced and complex mechanisms.

Masoudi underscored the urgency of accelerating the development of this shared field to meet the goals set by the Oil Ministry and the National Iranian Oil Company.

He noted that completing outstanding offshore and onshore operations, as well as addressing 35-month development plans and projects like drilling 35 in-field wells and implementing the strategic gas pressure enhancement project, can help maintain and boost gas production capacity.



These efforts will improve the energy balance and address part of the accumulated gas demand across various sectors.

He added that optimal management of offshore drilling rigs and complex measures undertaken despite sanctions and international restrictions are integral to completing and revitalizing remaining wells.

Masoudi expressed confidence that these wells would come online according to the project timeline.

Development of Phase 13 of South Pars began in 2010 and reached full operational capacity

by late 2018. Known as the most "Iranian" phase of South Pars, Phase 13 has significantly boosted gas supply from the South Pars refineries, raising the share of domestic gas production from the field from 70 percent to 85 percent.

The South Pars gas field, the world's largest gas reservoir, is located in the Persian Gulf and is shared between Iran and Qatar. The Iranian section of the field, which spans 3,700 square kilometers, contains roughly 14 trillion cubic meters of natural gas and 18 billion barrels of condensate. This accounts for ap-

proximately eight percent of the world's total gas reserves and more than 40 percent of Iran's proven gas reserves.

The field plays a critical role in meeting Iran's domestic energy demands and supplying natural gas for export. It is divided into 24 development phases on the Iranian side, with each phase designed to maximize the extraction of gas and condensate resources. Over the years, the South Pars field has not only boosted Iran's energy self-sufficiency but also significantly contributed to the country's revenue generation, particularly amidst international sanctions.

Given its economic and strategic importance, the Iranian government has prioritized the development of South Pars. Projects have focused on modernizing infrastructure, enhancing gas extraction techniques, and collaborating with domestic companies to counteract the challenges posed by international restrictions. These efforts aim to maintain Iran's competitive edge in the global energy market and meet the growing domestic and industrial demand for natural gas.

Gas injection into national network hits new record high

TEHRAN – Iran has set a new daily record of 876 million cubic meters (mcm/d) in gas injection into the national grid, according to Saeid Tavakoli, Deputy Oil Minister and the head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

Tavakoli, speaking at the third specialized meeting on efficient gas consumption management, highlighted a positive shift in addressing the country's energy imbalance, saying: "This year, the issue of energy imbalance, which has long been discussed, has gained unprecedented attention from all stakeholders and has been acknowledged as a critical concern."

He noted that for the first time, the President has been deeply involved in addressing energy imbalance and managing consumption, actively discussing the matter in numerous cabinet meetings. The issue has also been given significant attention in sessions involving the heads of government branches.

Tavakoli described the increased focus on energy management as a promising step, turning the challenge of gas imbalance from a serious threat into a valuable opportunity. He emphasized that the issue has now become a national concern, reflecting the country's determination to resolve challenges and improve its energy sector.

This urgency has spurred several government ministries, including the Ministry of In-



formation and Communications Technology and the Planning and Budget Organization, to accelerate their related initiatives.

Despite significant challenges and the associated costs to the NIGC, Tavakoli noted that gas production and consumption management have been effectively handled this year. This progress indicates a shift in the country's approach to resource management, raising hope for further improvements in energy stability.

He also unveiled plans for new initiatives to enhance energy management and increase gas production. One notable program by the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology involves leveraging data platforms to optimize energy usage.

Tavakoli announced that the daily production and transmission of natural gas have reached

876 million cubic meters, a record-breaking figure. He attributed this achievement to engineering risk-taking during major overhauls, which significantly boosted gas transmission capacity.

The official acknowledged challenges caused by early-November Scandinavian cold air masses affecting 11 northern provinces, which put the system under strain. However, enhanced gas transmission capacities and continuous efforts in energy management mitigated the potential impact of the cold spell.

Efforts to promote energy-saving measures have also gained momentum. These include the launch of national campaigns such as the "Two Degrees Less" initiative, a 10 percent energy-saving drive targeting major industries, educational broadcasts in collaboration with national media, and public awareness efforts. Collaborations with religious leaders, environmental promotions, and the establishment of energy-related companies and policies on the energy exchange market have also contributed to stabilizing the gas network compared to last year.

Tavakoli concluded by expressing gratitude to all personnel involved in these efforts, underscoring the importance of continued collaboration to improve energy management and services. He encouraged colleagues to actively contribute suggestions to further enhance operations.

Thermal power plants' output reaches 300m megawatt-hours

TEHRAN – A senior official announced that this year, thermal power plants' electricity generation grew by 1.9 percent compared to the previous year, reaching 300 million megawatt-hours, while fuel consumption increased by just 0.7 percent.

According to Mehr News Agency, citing the state-owned Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH), Esmail Namazi stated that the gap between production growth and fuel consumption indicates that the country's power plants, along with the Ministry of Energy, are focusing

on enhancing efficiency, utilizing high-efficiency power plants, and expanding the steam sections of combined-cycle power plants. This approach has enabled the generation of more electricity with less fuel.

Namazi highlighted that thermal power plants' electricity production in the first 10 months of this year (March 20, 2024–January 19, 2025) increased by 1.9 percent year-on-year, surpassing 300 million megawatt-hours. Of this output, 57 percent came from combined-cycle units (high-efficiency plants), which generated

170 million megawatt-hours—a 1.4 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

He emphasized that the bulk of this year's electricity generation relied on combined-cycle plants with efficiency rates ranging between 45 percent and 55 percent. These plants are recognized as environmentally friendly electricity producers.

Transforming gas units into combined-cycle units is one of the most effective methods to improve the efficiency of the country's thermal power plants.

This not only benefits the electricity industry but also positively impacts the environment and fuel conservation, with substantial effects expected in the coming years.

Namazi, Director General of the Technical Production Office at the TPPH, noted that 94 percent of the country's electricity is generated by thermal power plants. Over the past 10 months, electricity generation by gas units increased by four percent year-on-year to 58 million megawatt-hours, while steam units contributed 70 million megawatt-hours.

Iran's non-oil exports to South Korea surge 180% in 2024

TEHRAN – According to a report by the Iran-South Korea Joint Chamber of Commerce, Iran's non-oil exports to South Korea surged by 180 percent in 2024, reaching \$8.609 million.

As reported, South Korea's exports to Iran declined by 11 percent to \$142.631 million during the same period.

In 2023, South Korea's exports to Iran totaled \$183.314 million, while Iran's exports to South Korea stood at just \$3.723 million.

The 11-percent drop in South Korean exports to Iran in 2024 has been attributed to factors such as sanctions, banking restric-

tions, changes in South Korea's target markets, and Iran's economic conditions.

Conversely, the sharp rise in Iran's non-oil exports to South Korea is linked to efforts to reduce reliance on oil revenues and meet South Korea's demand for Iranian goods.

In 2023, trade between the two nations was heavily imbalanced in favor of South Korea, with Iran serving primarily as an importer.

However, the substantial increase in Iran's non-oil exports to South Korea in 2024 marks a shift toward more balanced trade relations.

Iran's growing non-oil exports reflect its

push for economic independence and reduced reliance on oil. This growth may also stem from collaborative economic and trade policies aimed at strengthening bilateral trade ties and creating new areas of cooperation.

To sustain this progress, Iran must address challenges such as meeting South Korea's quality standards and overcoming sanctions-related obstacles.

Additionally, exploring ways to streamline trade and financial processes with South Korea will be crucial for further improving trade relations.

Hamas flexes military muscles, leaves Israeli leaders red-faced

From page 1 ▶ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered his army to launch war on Gaza on October 7, 2023 after Hamas carried out the Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise military operation in southern Israel. More than 1,100 people were killed in the Hamas operation, with approximately 250 others being taken captive. Dozens of the captives are still held in Gaza.

Netanyahu had repeatedly promised to continue the war until destroying Hamas and returning all captives.

In April 2024, Netanyahu told the Israeli cabinet, "We are one step away from victory (over Hamas). But the price we paid is painful and heartbreaking. There will be no ceasefire without the return of hostages. It just won't happen."

Almost three months later, he intensified war rhetoric against Hamas.

"I returned yesterday from a visit to the Gaza Division. I saw very considerable achievements in the fighting being carried in Rafah. We are advancing to the end of the stage of eliminating the Hamas terrorist army; we will continue striking its remnants," Netanyahu said on July 1, last year. Speaking to a group of mainly Israeli and international military officials, he again promised that Israel would achieve war goals which mainly included returning captives from Gaza as well as eliminating Hamas' military and governing capabilities.



But the ceasefire deal showed that Netanyahu's war ambitions

blew up in his face. Israel has not succeeded in dismantling the military capabilities of Hamas, and the resistance movement is poised to maintain its governance over Gaza.

Netanyahu and other Israeli officials along with Western leaders who had been dreaming of the elimination of Hamas are now squirming with embarrassment.

The United States and several European countries have extended substantial military assistance to Israel during the conflict in Gaza. Despite this unwavering military backing, the resolve of the Palestinian people in their fight against Israel, which is armed to the teeth, has remained unyielding.

Resistance pays off: Palestinian women and children walk free from Israeli prisons



From page 1 ▶ Tamara's trial was postponed 10 times before she was sentenced to 16 months for social media posts.

She was held in the Damon prison where lawyer Hassan Abadi visited her in January 2024.

Abadi said that Tamara experienced extreme violence, insults, and sexual abuse, as well as repeated strip searches during interrogations, which left her with bruises all over her body.

Jenin Amr

Jenin, 22, was kidnapped by Israeli occupation forces in December 2023 and held under administrative detention without charge or trial. Her administrative detention was extended four times. She was a student at al-Khalil (also known as Hebron) University.

Khalida Jarrar

Among the most notable prisoners freed is Khalida Jarrar, 61. The longtime Palestinian academic and advocate for Palestinian prisoners was held in solitary confinement for more than five months.

Khalida is an academic researcher at the Muwatin Institute at the University of Birzeit.

She was supposed to participate in a conference on 27 December 2023 on imprisonment during the Gaza genocide.

She was arrested at her home the day before her talk.

Elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council in the 2006 elections as a candidate of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Khalida Jarrar was imprisoned multiple times by the occupation regime.

In 2015, she spent 14 months in prison and several months in administrative detention without any charges or a trial.

In 2017 she was incarcerated for 20 months of administrative detention, and in 2019 she was detained for almost two years.

Aseel Shehada

Aseel Shehada, 18, from occupied al-Quds, was jailed since she was shot by the occupation forces in November 2023.

The regime refused to release her in that month's seven-day prisoner exchange on the grounds that she was hospitalized.

Yasmine Abu Srour

Yasmine, 26, from the Aida refugee camp in occupied Bethlehem, was abducted on December 23, 2023.

Since that time, she has been jailed without charge or trial under administrative detention.

Yasmine was first kidnapped by the occupation forces as a minor in 2015 when she was on her way to the Eshel prison to visit her brother, Arafa Abu Srour.

She was imprisoned for three months and

was later arrested three more times, including twice in 2018, before her current imprisonment without charge or trial under administrative detention.

Yasmine's two brothers, Arafa and Khalil, are both imprisoned by Israel.

Alaa al-Arouri, Fatima al-Arouri, and Dalal al-Arouri

On November 21, Alaa al-Arouri, a student at al-Quds University in Ramallah, was kidnapped as she was leaving the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Alaa is the daughter of Fatima Al-Arouri, 47, and the niece of Dalal al-Arouri, 52. They are the sisters of martyr Saleh Al-Arouri, a prominent leader of the Hamas Resistance Movement.

Both women have been imprisoned since January 2024, after they were kidnapped from their homes in Ramallah, during West Bank raids, days after the assassination of their brother in Lebanon by the Israeli regime.

Fatima al-Rimawi

Fatima, 52, from the occupied West Bank city of Jericho is the President of the Jericho branch of the Palestine General Union of Workers in Kindergartens and Private Schools, a member organization of Education International.

A kindergarten teacher for over 30 years was abducted on 2 January 2024 for "incitement" on social media for speaking out against the genocidal occupier.

Dr. Zahra Khadraj

Dr. Khadraj, 52, from Qalqilya, describes herself on X as "a Palestinian writer and novelist, owner of a resistant pen who believes in the justice of our cause and believes in God's victory."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

The implications of defeat in the end of the war on Gaza

From page 1 ▶ The Gaza war has been a moral burden on its proponents.

The relentless efforts by America to provide justifications and support to the Israeli occupation entity with the hostage situation is an apologetic logic for something shameful. America has acknowledged its failure to achieve its goals.

Furthermore, the grimness, shame, failure, and lowered heads of those in the Israeli occupation entity who supported the agreement, despite attempts to justify it by claiming several goals were achieved is evident for all to see.

At the same time, those within the Israeli occupation entity who opposed the deal described

it as disgraceful. The meaning of military victory for the entity would have been for it to achieve its objectives without needing a deal, or what they call "complete victory".

The deals in Lebanon and Gaza signify the resistance's victory that was not defeated, did not surrender and forced an agreement.

The announcement by Khalil Al-Hayya, the unofficial leader of the Palestinian resistance, symbolizes the victory of the Axis of Resistance. The details of the deal are unimportant, as the resistance's further development does not seek permission from anyone.

Historical and contemporary experiences prove that the re-

sistance is stronger than its enemy's ability to dismantle it, despite its modern attempts.

Preparation and readiness are ongoing across all fronts of resistance.

The moral impact of the resistance's victory will take on a new dimension, like a snowball growing in the environment of resistance, the region and the world. The resistance will grow and expand.

Thousands from the resistance's environment are ready to join if mobilized effectively.

Governments linked to the West will slow down normalization efforts.

The West will take account of the war's results and its inability

to dismantle the resistance when shaping policies.

This represents a failure for the occupation entity and the West after a long timeframe of over a year.

The resistance in Gaza, Lebanon, and Yemen remains strong and renewed in terms of manpower, equipment, infrastructure, and combat expertise.

Even if the Israeli occupation entity's aggressions continue, it will not change anything. The moral spirit outweighs material preparation in evaluating the battle's results.

It is this moral spirit that enables the resistance to persevere, innovate, and triumph—and this is what happened.

Finger on the pulse: Yemen warns Israel against violating Gaza ceasefire

Yemen's Ansarullah movement has warned Israel against resuming attacks on Gaza following the implementation of the ceasefire on Sunday.

"We are ready for any stage in which the Israeli enemy will return to escalation and will violate the agreement," the leader of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement said

as he gave a public speech on Monday for the first time since the truce agreement took effect.

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi added, "We are constantly on alert and our hands are on the pulse."

The renewal of our activity is linked to the level of commitment of the enemy."

Health Ministry: 47,035 Palestinians killed in Israel's war on Gaza

At least 47,035 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's brutal war on Gaza since October 7, 2023, the Health Ministry in the besieged enclave said on Monday.

The ministry added that 111,091 others have been wounded in the 15-month conflict.

Meanwhile, Gaza's emergency rescue

agency said efforts are currently underway to search through the extensive rubble of collapsed structures for an estimated 10,000 bodies that are believed to be buried beneath.

A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas went into effect on Sunday which is aimed at ending the war.

China demands full and permanent ceasefire in Gaza

China has called for implementing a lasting ceasefire in Gaza following Sunday's truce deal between Israel and Hamas.

"China welcomes the coming into force of the agreement on ceasefire in Gaza, and hopes the agreement will be implemented in its entirety and without interruption and that there will

be a full and permanent ceasefire in Gaza" the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said on Monday.

Mao Ning added, "China will work with the international community to make unremitting effort for peace and stability in the Middle East."

Russia-Iran strategic partnership's effects on the resistance front

From page 1 ▶ The increased level of coordination between Tehran and Moscow seriously worries political and security decision-makers in Tel Aviv, which is witnessing a critical transitional phase.

An analysis by the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies has warned of Iran's role as an important arms supplier to Russia, which "causes deep concern in Israel and Western capitals."

It pointed out that the occupation entity's increasing involvement in wars of attrition in West Asia "is in line with Russia's interest in occupying American and European resources outside the Ukrainian arena."

2007 marked a turning point in Russian politics following Vladimir Putin's famous speech at the Munich Security Conference in which he warned against "unipolarity."

Since the establishment of BRICS in 2007, Moscow has sought to introduce an alternative currency for international and interstate trade to replace the dollar as one of the most important tools of Washington's hegemony over the global economy that also sponsors the Zionist colonial schemes.

Despite its multiple political and economic contradictions, BRICS seriously worries Washington, especially after the active role played by Moscow — militarily, politically and diplomatically — during the so-called Arab Spring.

The recent Russian-Iranian rapprochement has coincided with the Israeli enemy's nibbling away at large areas of the West Bank and the Golan Heights, and the implementation of the "David's Corridor" plan.

The David's Corridor is an expansionist plan aimed at dividing Syria into a Druze state in the south and a Kurdish state in the north linked by the Tanf Corridor.

This insists on keeping the US occupation forces in northern Syria to plunder its oil and gas reserves.

The declared effort to establish a Kurdish state overlooking the Mediterranean Sea seeks to expand towards the Caspian Sea (rich in natural resources) and later control Armenia and Iranian Azerbaijan.

That is why Ilham Aliyev, the Azerbaijani president, has manipulated the plane crash incident downed by Russia while confronting Ukrainian drones as a justification to exacerbate relations with Moscow, and thus obstruct trade between the port of St. Peters-

burg and the ports of Bushehr and Bandar Abbas, which passes through Azerbaijan.

When discussing foreign policy issues, according to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's analysis, the mainstream media often refers to two axes: the "Eurasian axis" consisting of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, and the "Axis of Resistance" that "Iran leads in the Middle East."

The report adds that despite the differences between the members of each axis and their motivations, both are composed of "strong opponents of the US" who share views that oppose the West and the U.S.-led world order, noting that Iran is the "vital node" at the "intersection between the two axes."

The Washington Institute for Near East Policy notes that Iran makes it difficult for Washington's opponents to reach West Asia.

Therefore, it should be the focus of future Western efforts by: preventing it from acquiring any nuclear weapons; undermining its missile industry and military production capacity; disrupting its supply lines; continuing to undermine the Axis of Resistance; and reducing the resources available to Tehran to support both axes by imposing embargoes and sanctions on its oil exports.

The report points to the need to rely on the Persian Gulf states, which can finance "a regional stockpile of ammunition for US Central Command partners that can serve as a reserve" to confront any potential developments in other regions, along with disrupting the supply chains of the two axes, through tightening export restrictions; sanctions; cyber efforts; and — when necessary — carrying out sabotage and covert operations.

In a world of loose poles, Trump, who — along with billionaire Elon Musk — has begun to turn Western governments against others, will not spare our people if they neglect preparation, readiness, resistance, and alliance with independent forces fighting the US imperialism.

This has further coincided with Trump's provocative intentions to annex Canada, the Panama Canal and Greenland in a bid to tighten control over the European continent, i.e. Russia's borders.

The Russian-Iranian rapprochement also coincides with Israeli concerns about the Turkish-Iranian rapprochement, which suggests a quasi-Turkish withdrawal from the regional confrontation.

151 historical artifacts from Tehran museums to go on show in China



TEHRAN – A selection of 151 historical artifacts from some of Tehran's most prominent museums is set to go on show in a special exhibition at Sichuan University Museum in Chengdu, China.

Mehr reported that the exhibition, titled Land of Kindness, is aimed to help strengthen cultural and artistic exchanges and promote cultural diplomacy between the two nations.

The loan exhibition is organized through a collaboration between Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts; the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage of Tehran province; the Directorate of Museums; and China International Culture Exchange Center.

The exhibition features valuable artifacts from notable Tehran museums, including the Reza Abbasi Museum, the Glassware and Ceramic Museum, the Carpet Museum, the Museum of National Arts, and the Moghadam Museum.

The selected items span a remarkable historical range, from the third millennium BC to the later Islamic periods. They include metal, ceramic, and glass objects, as well as textiles and carpets, reflecting the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Iran.

Tehran, Beijing seeking to expand cultural, tourism cooperation

Both nations have significant potential to expand cooperation in cultural exchanges,

particularly given the strong commitment from both countries' leaderships. This was evident during President Xi Jinping's 2016 visit to Tehran, which elevated bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership. Iran's pivot towards Asia, exemplified by former President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi's state visit to China in early 2023, further solidified this trajectory. As a result, 20 cooperation documents were signed between the two nations, two of which were specifically aimed at advancing tourism and cultural collaboration.

From March 21, 2023, to January 20, 2024, over 54,000 Chinese tourists visited Iran, spending an average of \$1,000 each. To accommodate this, Iran introduced a visa-free policy for Chinese nationals and trained Chinese-speaking guides. The surge in demand was evident as agencies like U Tour sold out 13-day Iran tours, priced at 29,800 yuan (\$4,333), within a day. Iran is enhancing accessibility for Chinese tourists by providing Chinese-language catalogs in museums to help visitors better understand its culture. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage also plans to train hotel staff and chefs in Chinese language and cuisine, reflecting China's importance as a key market for Iran's tourism sector.

The implementation of a visa-free policy, coupled with the expansion of direct flights, has been pivotal in fortifying tourism and business relations between China and Iran. Since June 2019, Iran has unilaterally extended visa-free entry to Chinese nationals, including those from Hong Kong and Macau, for stays of up to 21 days. This initiative, aimed at facilitating both leisure and business travel, significantly streamlines entry requirements, mandating only a passport valid for a minimum of six months. Additionally, dual passport holders may enter Iran visa-free using their Chinese passport, with mandatory travel insurance required for all visitors.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Jesuit Missions of the Guarani

Jesuit Missions of the Guarani is a serial transnational property that consists of the ruins of São Miguel Arcanjo in Brazil, and those of San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto, and Santa María la Mayor in Argentina.

According to UNESCO, these are the impressive remains of Jesuit Mission settlements established in the 17th and 18th centuries on lands originally occupied by Guarani indigenous communities.

In Brazil, the ruins of the São Miguel Arcanjo church constitute the most intact and complete structure among this period's designated heritage properties. In Argentina, the four Jesuit-Guarani Missions, located in the southern Misiones province, provide an exceptional example of systematic and organized territorial occupation.

The properties' surviving ruins depict the

experience of the Society of Jesus in South America, where there emerged a singular system of spatial, economic, social, and cultural relations in 30 settlements – referred to as reducciones – that included ranches, mate plantations, and networks of trails and waterways extending across the Uruguay River and its tributaries.

This particular model of the reducciones also included smaller structures and constructions designed to support the basic functions of the settlements. Together, these elements, each closely integrated within productive lands, and each manifesting the distinct potential and complementary traits of the various settlements and the other Jesuit provinces in the region, inform this underlying interpretation, reflected by the serial heritage property in a singular and specific fashion.

(Source: UNESCO)

Archaeologists discover France's oldest Neolithic settlement on the French Riviera

A rare archaeological discovery reveals one of France's very first Neolithic settlements, attributed to the Early Cardial period. On France's Riviera, excavations conducted by the National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research, Inrap, are currently in progress at Cavalaire-sur-Mer. In advance of an urban renewal program for the city center, the State has requested this massive preventive excavation, covering a 4,200-square-meter zone, which began in May and is expected to continue until late January.

The Neolithic period along the

Mediterranean coastline represents a transformative chapter in human history: transitioning from a nomadic lifestyle to a sedentary one, characterized by agriculture and livestock farming. Just as its name suggests, in the Early Cardial period—around 5800 BCE—the period is characterized by pottery decorated with impressions made using the serrated edges of Cardial shells. This 'cultural current,' believed to have originated in Anatolia, spread rapidly across the coasts of Greece, southern Italy, and eventually into southern France.

The importance of the settle-

ment at Cavalaire-sur-Mer is that it is the second known site of this period in France. Similarities to earlier finds in Greece, Slovenia, and central Italy confirm that the original impetus for this cultural diffusion came from the east and that it played a very significant part in the introduction of agro-pastoral economies into Europe.

Beneath a four-meter layer of alluvial deposits in a small coastal valley, archaeologists found a building that dated from the Early Cardial period. Its position, 1.3 meters beneath Middle Neolithic occupation layers dated to ca. 4800

Fars province's sole Parthian stone relief restored

TEHRAN – The Fars province's sole-surviving Parthian-era stone relief has recently been restored to preserve its historical significance, the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

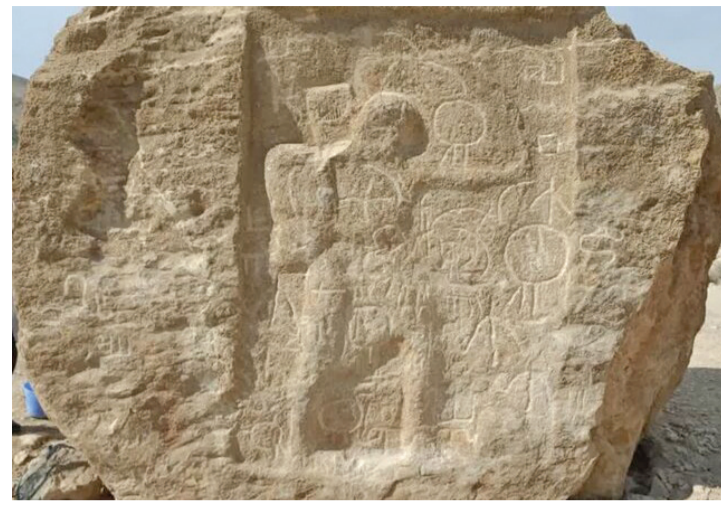
Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi announced the restoration's completion during a visit to the site of the bas-relief, which overlooks the ancient city of Qir, ISNA reported.

The official explained that the relief, which was located in an open environment, had suffered from human and chemical damage. After thorough assessments and initial documentation, a restoration plan was carried out on the relief.

The relief depicts a Parthian soldier in the act of shooting an arrow with a quiver strapped to his back.

He added that the ancient work of art had sustained damage such as cracking, weathering, and biological deterioration. Following precise documentation, initial cleaning was carried out, including the removal of dust and some graffiti from the surface, using restoration materials, the official explained.

Sabet-Eqlidi also mentioned that cracks and other damaged



areas were carefully restored using special strengthening materials by experts in stone restoration, following established conservation principles.

Previous reports revealed a deteriorating condition of the relief, which suffered structural cracks and partial collapse due to years of neglect and exposure to environmental factors.

Carved into a mountainside near Qir, approximately 20 kilometers from Firouzabad, the relief which measures about 1.20 by 2.40 meters was inscribed on Iran's National Heritage List in 1975 under registration number 939.

Glimpses of Parthian era

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power centered in ancient Iran from 247 BC to 224 CE. Its name derives from its founder, Arsaces I, who led the Parni tribe in conquering Parthia, a northeastern region of Iran. At the time, Parthia was a satrapy (province) under Andragoras, a rebel against the Seleucid Empire.

Under Mithridates I (r. 171–132 BC), the empire significantly expanded, seizing Media and Mesopotamia from the Seleucids. At its zenith, the Parthian Empire

extended from the northern Euphrates River (modern central-eastern Turkey) to present-day Afghanistan and western Pakistan. Positioned along the Silk Road, the empire thrived as a hub for trade and commerce, connecting the Roman Empire in the Mediterranean to the Han dynasty in China.

The Parthians assimilated various elements of the diverse cultures within their empire, which included Persian, Hellenistic, and regional influences. Initially, the Arsacid court adopted many aspects of Greek culture but gradually saw a revival of Iranian traditions. Parthian rulers adopted the title "King of Kings", asserting their heritage from the Achaemenid Empire. Unlike the Achaemenids, who governed through centrally appointed satraps, the Parthians often allowed local kings to serve as vassals. The Arsacids did appoint a few satraps, particularly outside Iran, but these territories were smaller and less autonomous compared to the Achaemenid model. As the empire expanded, its central government shifted from Nisa to Ctesiphon, near modern Baghdad, though other cities also served as capitals.

Isfahan seeks to expand tourism ties with African nations

TEHRAN – The Director General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Isfahan province announced plans to enhance tourism cooperation between Isfahan and several countries in the African continent.

Amir Karamzadeh on Monday met with ambassadors and diplomats from Ivory Coast, Niger, and Guinea on the sidelines of the 2025 Kish Expo, which is currently underway in the touristic Iranian island in the Persian Gulf, Mehr reported.

During the meeting, Karamzadeh highlighted the historic and cultural significance of Iran's central plateau, which boasts over 10,000 years of written history and more than 6,000 years of civilizational heritage. He further emphasized the potential for cultural and tourism collaborations between Isfahan and the African continent.

Karamzadeh explained that Iran's ancient plateaus and African countries have long-standing trade and cultural ties through the Persian Gulf, the Oman Sea, and the Indian Ocean. He also pointed out the rich historical exchanges between Iranians and North African countries during antiquity and especially in the Islamic era.



He further noted that both Iran and African nations share a history of resistance against colonialism, and these cultural and economic commonalities create great opportunities for expanding cultural and tourism relations, especially between Isfahan and Africa.

"Currently, there is a public commitment not only in Isfahan but also across the country to foster tourism connections," Karamzadeh added. "We see this exhibition as an excellent opportunity to invite officials from countries like Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Guinea to visit Isfahan, explore its tourism attrac-

tions, and help pave the way for increased tourist exchanges."

At the conclusion of the meeting, an agreement was made for the ambassadors of the three countries to visit Isfahan soon, as per Karamzadeh's invitation.

The ancient city of Isfahan, which serves as the provincial capital as well, is situated at the crossroads of Iran's north-south and east-west trade routes. It reached its zenith between the 9th and 18th centuries. During the Safavid era, it became Iran's capital under Shah Abbas the Great.

Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The Persian proverb "Isfahan nesf-e-jahan ast" (Isfahan is half the world) reflects the city's cultural and historical prominence.

Video clips highlight glimpses of Iran's rich history in Malaysia



TEHRAN – The Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malaysia has produced a series of 90-second video clips to introduce the country's tourism,

historical, and natural attractions.

These films are part of an ongoing effort to use public diplomacy to enhance Iran's image abroad and combat misconceptions about the ancient country.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Iranian Embassy in Malaysia, the video clips have been designed to highlight Iran's rich cultural and historical heritage, as well as its remarkable tourist sites. The initiative is also aligned with broader efforts

to engage with travel agencies, promote sister-city relationships, and utilize cultural weeks and social platforms for international outreach.

Six such films have been produced so far feature key Iranian landmarks, including the Ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil, Shushtar Hydraulic System, Persepolis, the Dome of Soltaniyeh, the historical and natural attractions of the Urmia region, and the introduction of the renowned scholar Imam Muhammad Ghazali.

The video clips, translated into both English and Malay, is approximately 90 seconds long, are set to be broadcast on television networks, streaming platforms, and social media channels in both Iran and Malaysia.

Iran seeks to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 28 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

highly organized.

Understanding Cardial buildings in France is constrained by the extreme rarity of well-preserved remains, particularly from open-air settlements. The architecture of these societies was essentially perishable, and hence discoveries like Cavalaire are extremely rare. Earlier findings, however, including the Peiro Signado site in Languedoc dated to 5800 BCE and that of Courthézon in Vaucluse, have provided partial insights into habitation patterns but are limited in scope.

(Source: Archaeological Magazine)

cultural origin of the areas.

The site also revealed isolated hearths and a concentration of fire-related structures spanning a four-square-meter area, potentially enclosed by postholes. These findings suggest the settlement was both functionally diverse and highly organized, offering insight into the lives of some of France's earliest farmers.

Scattered hearths, and one clustering of fire-relevant features over a four-square-meter space that may have been enclosed by postholes, suggest that the settlement was functionally diverse and

Japan supports WHO in fight against malaria surge in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN –Recognizing the urgent need for taking action to eradicate the surge in malaria cases in southeastern regions, the Government of Japan has provided a generous contribution to support the World Health Organization's efforts.

The donation involved 4,902 mosquito dome tents, offering families protection from infected mosquitos, 50,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), enabling health care workers to quickly identify and treat infected individuals, and 1655 kg of insecticides, deployed to contain mosquito populations at their source. The combined resources are estimated to benefit 77,400 people in the province, the WHO website announced in a press release on January 15.

In 2018 and 2019, the Islamic Republic of Iran appeared to have won the battle against locally transmitted malaria. The victory proved fragile: in 2022, the province experienced a staggering 5-fold increase in malaria cases compared to the previous year.

The dramatic rise in cases has been attributed to the devastating floods in neighbouring Pakistan in September 2022 which led to an expansion of malaria breeding sites. The porous border with Pakistan – infected individuals and mosquitos can easily cross back and forth – poses a significant challenge, as do poverty, limited access to clean water and sanitation and inadequate housing which create ideal conditions for malaria transmission.



In December 2024, the WHO mission observed the proactive approach to malaria control demonstrated by local health workers as they conducted house-to-house screenings, distributed mosquito nets and educated communities on how to use them.

“Active case finding that complements passive surveillance is essential in selected communities in Chabahar, where access to health care can be extremely limited,” said WHO Deputy Representative and Health Emergencies Lead in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mikiko Senga.

“By identifying both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, we can effectively break the cycle of transmission and support efforts towards malaria elimination, particularly in communities with low health literacy which is often associated with low health care seeking behaviour.”

The mission provided valuable insights into Chabahar's health care infrastructure, highlighting capacities and gaps. Social determinants of health were identified as key factors influencing the spread of malaria, underscoring the need for targeted interventions.

The partnership with the Government of Japan serves as an example of how international cooperation in responding to public health emergencies helps protect vulnerable populations.

The fight against malaria in Chabahar, as well as in the rest of Sistan-Baluchestan province, continues. With the combined efforts of WHO, the Government of Japan and local health authorities, there is hope that this outbreak can be contained.

In October 2024, the Government of Japan procured 50,000 malaria rapid diagnostic tests as well as 4,902 mosquito dome

tents to enhance the capacity of the health ministry to address the prevalence of malaria in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

The tests were distributed to health centers and hospitals in Sistan-Baluchestan province through 3 universities of medical sciences, namely Zahedan, Iranshahr and Chabahar – in the province.

The mosquito tents have been distributed to the same 3 universities of medical sciences in the province.

WHO Representative and Head of Mission in the Islamic Republic of Iran Syed Jaffar Hussain highlighted the broader impact of the donations: “The impact of these donations, made with the support of the Government of Japan, extends beyond immediate malaria prevention and diagnosis. By strengthening the capacity of local healthcare systems, these efforts contribute to the long-term goal of malaria elimination in the Region. The availability of rapid diagnostic tests ensures that suspected cases of malaria can be confirmed quickly, reducing the risk of severe illness and death, while the use of mosquito tents provides a practical and effective means of protection for those most at risk, helping to break the cycle of transmission.”

The comprehensive support provided by WHO and the Government of Japan enhances the capacity to combat malaria, protect public health and contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of affected populations.

National campaign to combat cancer being held

TEHRAN – A national campaign to fight against cancer is being held from January 20 to 26 across the country.

The weeklong event is celebrated with the theme of ‘hand in hand, prevent and fight against cancer’, the health ministry's website reported.

Cancer as one of the global health challenges affects the lives of many people annually. They are the leading cause of premature mortality in the country, according to the health ministry.

Cancers account for more than 55 thousand deaths annually. Some 34 thousand deaths out of 122 thousand premature deaths (under 70 years of age) and 11 thousand deaths out of 85 thousand very premature deaths (under 50 years of age) are caused by various cancers.

The latest national cancer census shows that the number of new cancer cases in Iran is expected to increase to 160,000 by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026), indicating an increase of 43 percent.

The first 10 most common cancers in Iran are breast, prostate, colon, stomach, lung, bladder, thyroid, uterus, brain, and spine cancers.

The most common cancers of Iranian women include breast, colon, thyroid, stomach, uterine, leukemia, ovary, brain and spine, lungs and esophagus.

Around 250,000 Iranians are now living with cancer. Half of cancers can be almost treated and the rest can be avoided.

Concerning the importance of prevention, early diagnosis, and timely treatment of cancer, the national campaign aims to raise public awareness about cancer, and risk factors. It also seeks to encourage prevention, early detection and treatment, and promotes support for the patients.

The campaign will raise awareness by educating people on ways to prevent cancer, such as adopting a healthy lifestyle, as well as the risks, symptoms, and the significance

of early diagnosis.

Changing misbeliefs associated with cancer, including the idea that cancer is not treatable; encouraging individuals to get screened for breast and colon cancers; and improving inter-departmental coordination for prevention and treatment of cancer are among the other main objectives of the campaign.

The World Cancer Day is observed every year on February 4 to raise awareness about cancer, encourage its prevention, and mobilise action to address the global cancer epidemic.

The day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and was established in the year 2000 to raise global awareness about cancer and its impact, as well as to encourage action to reduce the burden of cancer worldwide.

The World Cancer Day theme 2025-2027, “United by Unique” places people at the centre of care and explores new ways of making a difference. It emphasises the importance of personalised, people-centred care in the fight against cancer.

Cancer is more than just a medical diagnosis—it's a deeply personal matter. Behind every diagnosis lies a unique human story – stories of grief, pain, healing, resilience, love and more.

That's why a people-centred approach to cancer care that fully integrates each individual's unique needs, with compassion and empathy, leads to the best health outcomes.

Every experience with cancer is unique and it will take all of us, united, to create a world where we look beyond the disease and see the person before the patient. A world where the needs of people and communities are at the centre of health systems.

The campaign will also explore different dimensions of people-centred cancer care and new ways of making a difference. It will offer a three-year journey from raising awareness to taking action.

National clean air day observed

TEHRAN – A ceremony was held on Monday to observe the National Clean Air Day with the presence of President Masoud Pezeshkian, Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi, and the head of the Department of Environment, Shina Ansari.

National Clean Air Week is being held from January 18 to 22, with the theme of ‘National determination for clean air with renewable energy’.

Addressing the event, Ansari said, “We will not deny the air pollution problem. However, it should be noted that air pollution has not evolved overnight to be tackled immediately and easily. It demands logical decisions along with national determination to be dealt with.”

Within the past five months, a national working group for reducing air pollution has been active focusing on the most polluted cities such as Arak, Isfahan, Mashhad, and Ahvaz. In cooperation with the Ministry of Oil, improving fuel quality has been put on the agenda, IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

President Pezeshkian also addressed the



ceremony. Highlighting the theme of the week, he said fundamental changes will be brought about by minimizing fossil fuel consumption and replacing them with renewables such as solar energy.

In August 2024, Ansari stressed that adopting proper policies and monitoring their implementation is the main responsibility

of the Department of Environment to deal with air pollution.

“Decommissioning of worn-out cars, improving the quality of fuels, and vehicles, developing public transportation, providing resources, and reducing industrial emissions are among the key factors to deal with air pollution,” Ansari highlighted.

The Clean Air Law, enacted in July 2017, was supposed to be a solution to ease air pollution across the country. Still, the air is severely polluted, as the responsible bodies neglect their legal duties to implement the law.

Environmental regulations, enforcement of strict laws, and the development of renewable energy are essential to curb air pollution.

Raising public awareness of the harmful effects of pollution and training the ways to deal with it, improving waste management systems, sewage, and water treatment, and improving public health via the development of health services in deprived areas are some other effective measures to address air pollution.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Excessive use of renewable water in Kerman worrisome

Excessive withdrawal of renewable water, equaling 123 percent of the current volume, in the southeastern province of Kerman, has raised great concerns while posing a serious threat to the life of residents and region's biodiversity.

“Currently, there are 5.5 billion cubic meters of renewable water in Kerman province, but 6.8 billion cubic meters equivalent to 123 percent of renewable water resources is being used,” IRNA quoted Reza Jazinizadeh, the head of Kerman province's department of environment, as saying on Thursday.

In the [13]40s (falling on 1960s), concurrent with the establishment of the Ministry of Energy, renewable water resources measured at 90 million cubic meters, and some 50 million cubic meters out of this amount was withdrawn, Jazinizadeh explained.

برداشت ۱۲۳ درصد آبهای تجدیدپذیر در کرمان نگران کننده است

مدیرکل حفاظت محیط زیست استان کرمان گفت: برداشت ۱۲۳ درصد از آبهای تجدیدپذیر در این استان که حیات انسانی و جانوری را با تهدید جدی مواجه کرده، نگران کننده است.

وی تصریح کرد: در حال حاضر در استان کرمان ۵.۵ میلیارد متر مکعب آب تجدیدپذیر داریم که ۶.۸ میلیارد مترمکعب معادل ۱۲۳ درصد آبهای تجدید پذیر برداشت و مورد استفاده قرار می گیرد. رضا جزینی زاده روز پنجشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: در دهه ۱۳۴۰ با تشکیل وزارت نیرو در کشور میزان برداشت آب از سفره های زیرزمینی مورد بررسی قرار گرفت و مشخص شد که در کشور ۹۰ میلیون مترمکعب آب تجدید پذیر وجود دارد و از این میزان ۵۰ میلیون مترمکعب برداشت می شود.

New rare diseases identified in Iran

TEHRAN –Five more rare diseases have been identified in the country, making the total number of rare diseases reach 456, according to the Rare Disease Foundation.

Schwachman Diamond Syndrome, Progressive Muscular Atrophy, Mowat Wilson Syndrome, Leiomyosarcoma, and Melnick Needles Syndrome have been newly identified, Mehr news agency reported.

The incidence of rare diseases is very low to the extent that maybe one or two people with a certain rare disease are present in the country. Some rare diseases such as ‘butterfly skin or EB’, ‘Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA)’, ‘Metabolic diseases’, ‘Autism’, and ‘Dystrophies’ are among the most common cases in the country.

Rare diseases are associated with a high psychological burden for the patient but they can also have a major impact on a patient's family. In addition to the health burden on patients, few of these diseases have effective drug treatment available.

According to WHO, rare diseases are often serious, chronic, and life-threatening. The European Union (EU) definition of a rare disease affects fewer than 5 in 10,000 people. Around 80 percent of rare diseases are genetic disorders and half of them occur during childhood.

Out of a thousand population, 2 people get a rare disease, while the prevalence can be curbed by changing people's culture, screening, identifying, preventing births, and raising awareness.



MOU signed to promote AI in projects

The Ministry of Science and the National Development Fund inked a memorandum of understanding to promote the use of artificial intelligence in national projects.

The agreement was signed by Science Minister Hossein Simeai-Sarraf (R) and NDF Director Mehdi Ghazanfari in Tehran on Sunday.



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JANUARY 21, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

What actions are most excellent? To gladden the heart of human beings, to feed the hungry, to help the afflicted, to lighten the sorrow of the sorrowful, and to remove the sufferings of the injured.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:16 Evening: 17:40 Dawn: 5:43 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:11 (tomorrow)

Iranian films to compete in Santa Barbara Film Festival

TEHRAN- Three Iranian documentaries will go on screen at the 40th edition of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, which will be held in the U.S. city.

Taqi Amirani's acclaimed documentary "Coup 53", "Maydegol" by Sarvnaz Alambeigi and "My Stolen Planet" by Farahnaz Sharifi are among the films competing at the event, running from February 4 to 15.

"Coup 53" tells the compelling story of a documentary focused on the Anglo-American coup in Iran in 1953. Filmmaker Taghi Amirani, along with editor Walter Murch, uncovers an extraordinary trove of never-before-seen archival materials.

Through a combination of documents and 16mm footage, the film recounts this pivotal event in unprecedented detail, revealing explosive secrets that have remained hidden for 66 years. What begins as a historical documentary about four days in August 1953 evolves into a dynamic investigation that sheds light on the deep-rooted tensions between Iran and the United Kingdom, as well as the USA.

A co-production of Iran, the UK and the U.S., the documentary received the audience award at the 14th edition of Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films.

A joint production of Iran, Germany, and France, "Maydegol" follows an Afghan teenager in Iran who challenges her conservative family and a hostile environment to pursue her passion for Muay Thai boxing. The film portrays her journey of empowerment and resilience as she strives for freedom in the face of adversity.

A joint production of Iran and Germany, "My Stolen Planet" is about an Iranian woman who is forced to flee into her own world to be



A scene from "Coup 53" by Taqi Amirani

free. In the form of Super 8 films and sound recordings, she buys other people's memories, archives her own, and uses them to create an alternative history of her homeland.

The Santa Barbara International Film Festival (SBIFF) is a highly acclaimed eleven-day event held annually in February since 1986 in Santa Barbara, California.

This premier film festival showcases a diverse lineup of over 200 feature films and shorts from around the world, providing a platform for cinematic excellence and global cultural exchange.

Alongside its film screenings, SBIFF features celebrity tributes, insightful industry panels, and educational programs. Its rich history boasts a long list of esteemed honorees, including Cate Blanchett, Guillermo del Toro, and Martin Scorsese, among others.

The festival also places a strong emphasis on promoting diversity in film, with a notable focus on Hispanic filmmakers since 2006. Additionally, the SBIFF "Cinema Society" extends year-round programming at the Riviera Theater in Santa Barbara, offering a constant flow of cinematic delights to the local community.

Cartoon of Day



Counting Kids
 Cartoonist: Glen Le Lievre from Australia

Iranian "The Granny & Fishes" to compete in Big Sky Documentary Film Festival

TEHRAN-A documentary from Iran will take part in the 22nd Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, which will be held in Montana, the U.S., from February 14 to 23.

"The Granny & Fishes" directed and produced by Maria Mavati and Ehsan Farokhi Fard is the Iranian film that will compete in the festival, IRNA reported.

A production of 2024, the 28-minute film will have its international premiere at the event. It won the Golden Leaf for best documentary at the 41st Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) last October.

The documentary follows an elderly woman who has been living alone for many years after the Hamoon lagoon has dried up. Every day the Granny retrieves dried up fish from the lagoon as dust storms take over the nearby 300 evacuated villages.

The "Granny & Fishes" is a production of the Documentary, Experimental and Animation Film Center (DEFC).

The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival is the premier venue for non-fiction film in



the American West. It offers an ideal setting for filmmakers to premiere new work and develop lasting relationships with fellow filmmakers and industry. Celebrating 22 years in 2025, the festival draws an audience of 20,000 and film entries from every corner of the globe to a uniquely intimate mountain town setting with local Montana flavor.

The festival hosts over 200 visiting artists, presents an av-

erage of 150 non-fiction films and offers a variety of exciting events throughout downtown Missoula, Montana. In addition to screenings, Big Sky hosts DocShop, a five-day industry event that includes panels, master classes, workshops, and the Big Sky Pitch session.

Big Sky also screens films in schools across the state of Montana reaching over 4,000 students in just four days. Participating filmmakers have

the unique opportunity to visit classrooms to present their films and engage students in discussion.

The Big Sky Documentary Film Festival is an Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences qualifying event for short-form documentaries. The winner of the Best Mini-Doc and Best Short Documentary categories automatically qualifies to compete for a Documentary Short Oscar the following year.

Audiobook of "Savushun" released

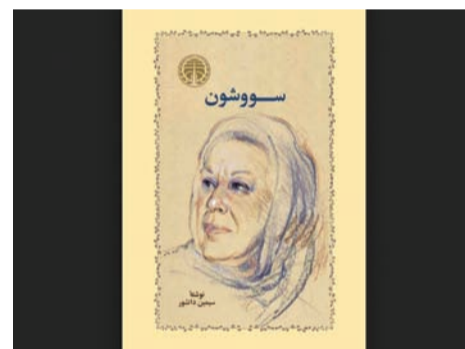
TEHRAN- The audio version of the bestselling novel "Savushun" by Iranian writer Simin Daneshvar has been released in Tehran.

Narrated by Shima Derakhshesh, the audiobook has been produced at Avanameh in collaboration with Kharazmi Publications, Mehr reported on Monday.

Forty more narrators including Sahar Beiranvand, Faryad Mousavian, Fariba Motekhases, Nahid Moslemi, and Hassan Homai have also collaborated with the project.

"Savushun" chronicles the life of a Persian family during the Allied occupation of Iran in World War II.

It is set in Shiraz, a town which evokes images of Persepolis and pre-Islamic monuments, the great poets, the shrines, Sufis, and nomadic tribes within a historical web of the interests, privilege and influence of foreign powers; corruption, incompetence and arrogance of persons in authority; the pa-



ternalistic landowner-peasant relationship; tribalism; and the fear of famine.

The story is seen through the eyes of Zari, a young wife and mother, who copes with her idealistic and uncompromising husband while struggling with her desire for traditional family life and her need for individual identity.

The heroic stand taken by the southern

family against British colonial intrigues ends in the murder of the husband, with the wife determined to carry on the struggle.

Daneshvar's style is both sensitive and imaginative, while following cultural themes and metaphors.

Within basic Iranian paradigms, the characters play out the roles inherent in their personalities.

While "Savushun" is a unique piece of literature that transcends the boundaries of the historical community in which it was written, it is also the best single work for understanding modern Iran.

Although written prior to the Islamic Revolution, it brilliantly portrays the social and historical forces that gave pre-revolutionary Iran its characteristic hopelessness and emerging desperation so inadequately understood by outsiders.

IAF to stage Eugène Ionesco's "Jack, or The Submission"

TEHRAN-The absurdist play "Jack, or The Submission" by Eugène Ionesco will be staged at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran from January 21.

Translated and directed by Bahman Motamedian, the play has Ali Farzan, Mahshid Kazemi, Sahand Rahimbakhsh, Amirreza Hasanpur, Aref Mousavi and Mahrokh Rezaei in the cast among others, IRNA reported.

The play is the first of two about Jack and his family (the second being The Future is in Eggs), all of whom are named

after Jack (Father Jack, Mother Jack, etc.).

Probing some of life's familiar absurdities, it deals with a sulky young man who disappoints his family by refusing to marry the girl of their choice. It provides ample opportunity for imaginative staging.

The thrust of the narrative involves Jack's arranged marriage to Roberta and, when the first Roberta is not satisfactory, Roberta II. The play contains nonsensical exchanges and strings of clichés, similar to "The Bald

Soprano," and the sort of surreal conceits (Roberta's multiple noses, for example) common in many of Ionesco's later plays.

Eugène Ionesco (1909-1994) was a Romanian-French playwright who wrote mostly in French, and was one of the foremost figures of the French avant-garde theater in the 20th century. Ionesco instigated a revolution in ideas and techniques of drama, beginning with his "anti play," "The Bald Soprano" which contributed to the beginnings of what is known as the Theater of the

Absurd, which includes a number of plays that, following the ideas of the philosopher Albert Camus, explore concepts of absurdism and surrealism. He was made a member of the Académie française in 1970, and was awarded the 1970 Austrian State Prize for European Literature, and the 1973 Jerusalem Prize.

"Jack, or The Submission" will be performed through February 14 every night at the IAF, located at Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

"Redesigning Education" available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book, "Redesigning Education" written by Kenneth G. Wilson and Bennett Daviss has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

The book has been translated by Arash Ardehali and Amin Hashemi and has been printed by Akhtaran Publication in 320 pages, Mehr reported.

Wilson, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist and educational reformer, and coauthor Daviss argue that American public education is dangerously out of step with the demands of today's postindustrial, knowledge-based society. "What educators need most is to find an organizing, driving vision - a new paradigm powerful enough to promise a systematic redesign of American public education."

Combining Wilson's experience in science and industry and curriculum design with



Daviss's experience as a journalist specializing in education, "Redesigning Education" shows how the redesign process can produce a series of integrated changes around which a national educational infrastructure can develop. To spread the most effective ideas from school to school, the authors envision a national educational system modeled on the Agricultural Extension Service.

Wilson and Daviss offer evidence to suggest that a basic shift away from a set of century-old assumptions may already be under way. A school-restructuring program devised at Johns Hopkins University, for example, reveals that when detailed authority over curricula is taken away from regulatory bureaucracies and is organized across a network of schools backed by a research and development organization, learning improves markedly.

Several studies demonstrate that groups of students working together learn more than students studying alone. Reading Recovery, a unique method of teaching lagging first-graders to read, indicates that research, development, and ongoing teacher education can - contrary to conventional wisdom - play a crucial part in making teaching and learning more efficient and effective, even in the most difficult teaching situations.