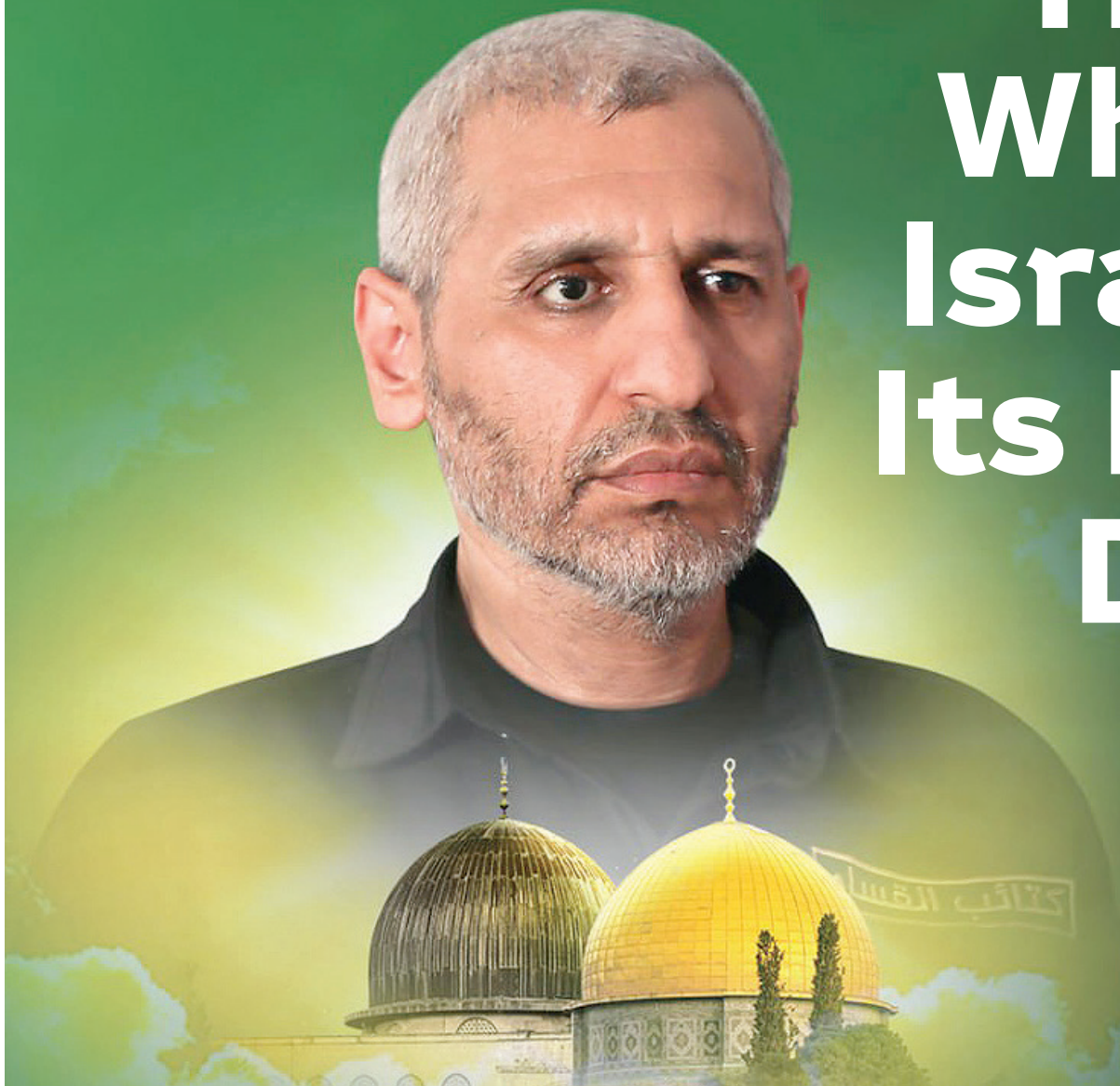


Hamas confirms Mohammed Deif's martyrdom, the legendary commander of Qassam Brigades and architect of Al-Aqsa Storm

The Man Who Made Israel Taste Its Bitterest Defeat



► Page 5

Iran's VP attends Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Almaty

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref arrived in Kazakhstan's capital Almaty, on the head of a high-ranking delegation, on Thursday to attend Eurasian Intergovernmental Council and visit the Almaty Digital Summit 2025.

This visit came in response to an official invitation from Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Oljas Bektenov.

The first vice president was welcomed by the deputy prime minister of Kazakhstan and senior officials of the country upon her arrival at Almaty International Airport. ► Page 4

Knowledge-based companies attend Arab Health 2025

TEHRAN – Supported by the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, and the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, seven Iranian Knowledge-based firms have participated in Arab Health Exhibition 2025, held from January 27 to 30, at Dubai World Trade Center.

The event, held under the theme 'Where the World of Healthcare Meets', brought together over 3,800 exhibitors and welcomed more than 60,000 visitors, serving as a unique platform for innovation, collaboration, and education in healthcare.

Exhibitors from more than 40 countries including Germany, the US, England, China, India, Iran, and France have participated in the exhibition, ISNA reported. ► Page 7

43rd Fajr Film Festival honors 3 distinguished figures in Iranian cinema

TEHRAN-The 43rd Fajr Film Festival commenced on Thursday, with an opening ceremony at Tehran's Vahdat Hall. The event was attended by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Abbas Salehi, along with numerous artists and cultural figures.

At the ceremony, the festival paid tribute to three veteran figures in Iranian cinema including filmmaker Sirius Alvand, actor Reza Babak, and voice actor Manouchehr Valizadeh, IRNA reported.

The first tribute was dedicated to honoring Sirius Alvand, which coincided with his 74th birthday. After a video clip showing his work as a screenwriter and director was played, he was honored on stage with the presence of filmmaker Fereydoun Jeyrani, movie critic Javad Tusi, the festival secretary Manouchehr Shahsavari, and the honoree's daughter Mahoor Alvand. ► Page 8

Nationwide festivities begin to celebrate Ten-Day Dawn marking victory of Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN – Iranians across the country have officially launched the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, commemorating the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that led to the fall of the US-backed Pahlavi monarchy and the establishment of the Islamic Republic.

The celebrations began on Friday, coinciding with the 12th day of Bahman, the 11th month of the Iranian solar calendar. This date marks a pivotal moment in Iranian history—the homecoming of the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, after years of exile. Imam Khomeini's return to Iran in 1979 signaled the beginning of the revolution that toppled the Pahlavi regime.

Across the country, the streets of Tehran and other cities were filled with motorcycle parades, a symbol of the people's enthusiasm and patriotism in celebrating this significant anniversary. One of the central ceremonies

During the ceremony in capital Tehran, Hamidreza Hajibabaei, the Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, emphasized the lasting impact of the Revolution, stating, "After 46 years, we have established resistance on the world stage and pushed for a multipolar world."



© Mehrzad Mohtasen Rastkhani/Kamran

took place at Behesht-e Zahra, Tehran's largest cemetery, where Imam Khomeini's burial site was decorated with flowers. Thousands of Iranians, including several high-ranking officials, gathered at the site to pay their respects to the founder of the Republic.

During the ceremony, Hamidreza Hajibabaei, the Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, delivered a powerful address. He emphasized the lasting impact of the revolution, stating, "After 46 years, we have established resistance on the world stage and pushed for a multipolar world." He reflected on the resilience of the Iranian people in the face of external pressures, particularly from the United States.

"The Iranian people have been in a constant defensive position in the war that America has waged against us for over four decades," Hajibabaei continued. ► Page 3

Araghchi's diplomatic engagements in Doha focus on Iran-Qatar relations, regional stability

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, during his visit to Qatar, held significant diplomatic meetings on regional developments, strengthening bilateral ties, and ongoing conflicts in West Asia.

In a high-level meeting held in Doha, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani discussed a broad range of regional and international issues. ► Page 2



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On the eve of the Ten-Day Fajr, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited mausoleum of Imam Khomeini and paid homage to the memory of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran and martyrs of the Revolution in Behesht Zahra Cemetery, January 30, 2025.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

America, Israel concerned about Iran-Russia ties

In a note, Kayhan addressed America's and Israel's concerns about Iran-Russia relations and wrote: It is assumed that Iran is a country on the verge of acquiring a nuclear bomb. Senior Iranian government officials have warned that if Israel attacks the country's nuclear facilities, Tehran may review its nuclear doctrine. The American magazine Foreign Affairs emphasized that Western sanctions pressure has led to stronger economic and technical exchanges between Russia and Iran. Israeli officials have expressed concern that Russia may help Iran in the field of weapons technology. In the short term, it seems Iran wants to strengthen its air defense system. Masoud Pezeshkian, during his recent meeting with Putin, finalized a strategic cooperation treaty with Russia that will deepen bilateral cooperation. Iran is seeking to counter the new U.S. administration's promises of maximum pressure.

Iran: Talks with those looking for excuses useless

In an interview with Esmail Baghaei, the Iran newspaper discussed Europe's view of Iran due to the war in Ukraine. He said: Concerning Ukraine, a series of accusations were unfairly made against Iran from the beginning. About two months ago, American officials announced that a series of Iranian missiles had been transferred to Ukraine, and based on that, the European Union imposed sanctions on Iran. But a few days later, the Ukrainian president announced that no missiles had been transferred. Therefore, it was expected that the Europeans would immediately correct their views and change the practical sanctions measures against Iran, but this did not happen. Therefore, when they make unsubstantiated accusations against a country, it is not very possible to resolve issues through negotiations, because the other side is trying, based on its whims, to insinuate that an alliance and coalition has been formed against Western democracy or European countries.

Ham Mihan: The course of the new world or a new opportunity

In a commentary, Ham Mihan wrote: From a political point of view, Iran's membership in BRICS will help the country's position on the

international stage. From an economic point of view, Iran can expand its trade relations with BRICS members (that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates). From a practical point of view, the United States faces a significant challenge in imposing sanctions on several countries after entering into trade with Iran, as BRICS will form almost half of the world's population. Among the six newly invited countries, the addition of Iran could be of unique importance. Iran is obviously a complicated choice. It is conceivable that some other members are concerned that Iran's membership may increase geopolitical tensions with Western powers. The Iranian government still has the potential to increase its oil and non-oil exports to BRICS countries by using the Chinese yuan, local currencies, and barter arrangements. This strategy could reduce a significant part of the pressure from U.S. sanctions.

Jam-e-Jam: Negotiations with America are not justified

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam addressed the upcoming negotiations between Iran and America. It wrote: Negotiations between Iran and America are not such that America gives up its claims to control and manipulate others. All negotiations, both before and after the revolution, have ended to the detriment of the Iranian nation, and no negotiations have been in the interest of the Iranian nation. Therefore, there is no justification for negotiations with America. Of course, we may only negotiate at some points and on minor issues to see what the outcome would be, but we must be sure that in negotiation, no matter how unimportant, we do not expect the other party to fulfill its obligations. Of course, America is not ready to negotiate at the moment because it has primarily focused on domestic issues, so our officials should not talk about negotiations in a hurry. If this country fulfills its previous obligations at some point, we can enter into negotiations with them. If they return to the JCPOA, we can begin negotiations, but what is the use of negotiations when they are not willing to return to the JCPOA?

Legacy of Mohammad Deif continues to haunt Israelis, IRGC declares



TEHRAN – In a statement issued on Friday, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) offered condolences on the martyrdom of Mohammad Deif and other commanders of the al-Qassam Brigades.

The IRGC described the martyrs as "brilliant stars whose names continue to instill fear and terror in the hearts of Zionist criminals and their supporters."

On Thursday, Hamas spokesperson Abu Obaida announced the martyrdom of Mohammad Deif, the esteemed commander of the Qassam Brigades, alongside key leaders Marwan Issa, Ghazi Abu Tama'a, Raed Thabet, and Rifa Salama.

While the Israeli regime claimed in July 2024 to have executed a strike that targeted Mohammad Deif, these assertions were unconfirmed by Hamas and lacked independent verification.

The IRGC's statement also honored other

commanders of the proud Palestinian Resistance who fought against the "evil Zionist regime's military," considering their luminous legacy as a guiding torch for the faithful and invincible Islamic resistance front in the quest to liberate Jerusalem and eliminate the "cancerous tumor" of Israel.

The statement highlighted that the vitality, growth, continuous empowerment, and vibrancy of the Resistance, along with the recording of significant events and achievements on the path to liberating Jerusalem, are owed to the sacrifices and heroic deeds of great men.

"These men, through their selfless, sacrificial, and legendary presence on the battlefield against the occupiers of the sacred land of Palestine, have created eternal honors and made themselves role models and guiding lights for the mujahideen of Jerusalem," the statement read.

The IRGC added that the Palestinian martyrs have created an inspiring and enduring record of sacrifice, selflessness, resistance, and relentless struggle against the Israeli regime, especially after "the historic Al-Aqsa Storm operation" on October 7th.

The IRGC emphasized that the announcement of the martyrdom of Mohammad Deif and other commanders of the Qassam Brigades will infuse new blood into the veins of the Islamic Resistance fighters of Palestine.

"It will strengthen the will and readiness of the Palestinian nation's children to continue their steadfastness and pursue the goal of liberating Jerusalem and raising the Palestinian flag across the sacred land," the statement concluded.

Araghchi's diplomatic engagements in Doha focus on Iran-Qatar relations, regional stability

From page 1 ▶ The talks covered the expansion of bilateral relations between Iran and Qatar, the situation in Palestine following the recent ceasefire agreement, Lebanon's evolving political landscape after the election of a new president and prime minister, and Israel's repeated ceasefire violations. The officials also reviewed developments in Syria, emphasizing their shared commitment to preserving Syria's sovereignty, stability, and territorial integrity.

Araghchi highlighted the deep and growing relationship between Iran and Qatar, reaffirming Tehran's determination to enhance cooperation across various sectors. He also commended Qatar's diplomatic role in securing a ceasefire in Gaza and halting what he described as an ongoing genocide. Acknowledging the resilience of the Palestinian people and Resistance forces in the face of Israeli aggression, Araghchi stressed the importance of closely monitoring the implementation of the ceasefire, given Israel's history of violations and obstruction.

For his part, the Qatari prime minister reaffirmed his country's commitment to strengthening ties with Iran. He also praised Iran's influential role in regional stability and peace efforts.

The two sides agreed to continue close consultations and maintain an open dialogue on regional developments affecting both nations.

'Iran's support for Palestinian cause is unwavering'

As part of his diplomatic engagements in Doha, Foreign Minister Araghchi met with senior officials from Hamas, including Mohammad Ismail Darwish, leader of Hamas' Shura Ad-



Mohammed Darwish (R), leader of Hamas' Shura Advisory Council, and Iran's FM Araghchi meet in Doha, Qatar on Thursday.

visory Council, and Khalil al-Hayya, the group's chief negotiator.

The meeting focused on the latest political and military developments in Palestine, particularly in the aftermath of the ceasefire and the exchange of prisoners in Gaza.

Araghchi conveyed greetings from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and people, congratulating the Palestinian Resistance on the historic victory.

He praised the resilience of Gaza's people and Resistance fighters in the face of a 16-month-long Israeli war on Gaza, emphasizing that their steadfastness forced Israel to accept the conditions of the ceasefire agreement.

Reaffirming Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, Araghchi stated that the Islamic Republic will continue backing the Palestinian Resistance until the full realization of Palestinian rights, in-

cluding self-determination and the complete end of Israeli occupation.

Ismail Darwish expressed their gratitude for Iran's continued support, briefing Araghchi on the current situation in Gaza and the West Bank following the ceasefire. He credited Palestinian endurance and the backing of Iran and the broader Resistance Axis for their recent victories, describing the state of Resistance in Palestine and the region as strong and promising.

The discussions also emphasized the urgent need for the international community and Islamic nations to take serious steps in aiding the people of Gaza, particularly in addressing the dire humanitarian crisis and facilitating the reconstruction of war-ravaged areas.

'Syria's stability, sovereignty must be safeguarded against foreign intervention'

In an interview with Al Jazeera Arabic, Araghchi addressed Syria's political future, stressing that Iran

will support any government in Syria that is approved by the Syrian people.

He reiterated Tehran's longstanding position that Syria's stability and sovereignty must be safeguarded against foreign intervention.

When asked about Iran's stance on negotiations with the new U.S. administration, Araghchi underscored the long history of American aggression towards Iran. "Since the Islamic Revolution, we have faced continuous hostility from the U.S. The latest example is Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement, but there are many others—the assassination of General Soleimani, various attacks, and a persistent campaign of pressure and sanctions. This has built a history of enmity and, more importantly, profound distrust between our nations. Such a legacy cannot simply be erased with words," he said.

Reflecting on past negotiations, Araghchi recalled that Iran engaged in direct, continuous talks with the U.S. in 2015, leading to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "The nuclear agreement was a major diplomatic achievement, widely recognized around the world. But the U.S. decided to withdraw unilaterally, undermining trust. Overcoming this distrust is not impossible, but it is extremely difficult. It is now up to the U.S. government to prove—through real actions—that it is serious about constructive engagement with Iran," he added.

Iran to launch two satellites by year-end, unveils 25 satellite projects

TEHRAN – Iran is ramping up its space program with 25 satellites currently under construction and plans for two satellite launches by the end of the year, according to the head of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA).

Hassan Salarieh, the ISA chief, revealed these developments in an interview with Iranian media. He noted that Iran has designed and built around 25 satellites so far, spanning various classifications.

The country's early satellites, he acknowledged, had limitations in imaging resolution and precision. However, technological advancements have led to significant improvements, making Iran's more recent satellites far more capable.

"We are currently developing satellites with imaging accuracy of about two meters, and we are continuously working to enhance this precision further," Salarieh stated.

He also highlighted the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in satellite operations. The Iranian Space Agency has implemented AI-based techniques to process and analyze satellite imagery more efficiently. These advancements, Salarieh said, are enhancing the accuracy and usability of satellite data, helping experts extract more valuable insights from space-based observations.

"This progress enables AI-powered assistants to work alongside specialists, significantly improving the effectiveness and efficiency of satellite imaging," he explained. He also noted that private sector companies are leveraging satellite imagery for various services, and universities and research institutions are actively expanding their work in this field.

Tehran poised to counter any threats, says top Army commander



TEHRAN – On Friday, Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, Chief of Staff and Deputy Coordinator of the Iranian Army declared that "Iran is fully prepared to confront any threats, no matter where they originate."

"Iran, as a regional power, plays a key and influential role, and therefore, can affect all regional developments," he assert-

ed during an interview with an Iranian news agency.

He also discussed the upcoming large-scale joint military exercise, Zolfaqar, scheduled for February.

"Conducting exercises enhances our defensive capabilities as we test our weapons, practice tactics, control new productions, and examine new technologies,"

he explained.

Sayyari highlighted that these exercises improve combat readiness and demonstrate the country's deterrent capabilities.

Addressing claims that Iran's defensive capabilities have been weakened, he remarked, "This represents yet another miscalculation by our foes. (See full text at tehrantimes.com)"



Major satellite unveilings on National Space Technology Day

"Iran is preparing to showcase its latest satellite advancements on February 2, which marks the country's National Space Technology Day," Salarieh announced that several new satellites, including Paya, Zafar-2, and Pars 1 & 2, will be officially unveiled as part of the celebrations.

Additionally, Iran is gearing up for two satellite launches before the end of the year. In addition to the 25 satellites currently in development, Salarieh confirmed that eight satellites are fully built and ready for launch.

Chabahar Spaceport: Iran's key facility for launching satellites

Salarieh described the Chabahar Spaceport as a key facility that will serve as Iran's main launch site and a potential hub for launching satellites on behalf of other countries.

The spaceport, located along the Makran Coast, offers strategic advantages due to its access to open waters, making it an ideal site for satellite launches.

"Our preparations for the spaceport are moving forward as planned," Salarieh stated. "We remain committed to completing the facility by the end of the current year."

The Chabahar Spaceport is being developed in multiple phases. According to Salarieh, the first phase is expected to be fully operational by mid-2025, while the design process for the subsequent phases is already underway.

One of the most significant aspects of this project is its potential to offer launch services to other nations, positioning Iran as a player in the growing global space industry. "This spaceport will enable Iran to provide satellite launch services to international clients," Salarieh emphasized.

Nationwide festivities begin to celebrate Ten-Day Dawn marking victory of Islamic Revolution

TEHRAN – Iranians across the country have officially launched the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, commemorating the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution that led to the fall of the US-backed Pahlavi monarchy and the establishment of the Islamic Republic.

The celebrations began on Friday, coinciding with the 12th day of Bahman, the 11th month of the Iranian solar calendar. This date marks a pivotal moment in Iranian history—the homecoming of the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, after years of exile. Imam Khomeini's return to Iran in 1979 signaled the beginning of the revolution that toppled the Pahlavi regime.

Across the country, the streets of Tehran and other cities were filled with motorcycle parades, a symbol of the people's enthusiasm and patriotism in celebrating this significant anniversary. One of the central ceremonies took place at Behesht-e Zahra, Tehran's largest cemetery, where Imam Khomeini's burial site was decorated with flowers. Thousands of Iranians, including several high-ranking officials, gathered at the site to pay their



respects to the founder of the Republic.

During the ceremony, Hamidreza Hajibabaei, the Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, delivered a powerful address. He emphasized the lasting impact of the revolution, stating, "After 46 years, we have established resistance on the world stage and pushed for a multipolar world." He reflected on the resilience of the Iranian people in the face of external pressures, particularly from the United States.

"The Iranian people have been in a constant defensive posi-

tion in the war that America has waged against us for over four decades," Hajibabaei continued. "Despite all efforts, the Iranian nation has always emerged victorious." He went on to highlight the series of confrontations initiated by the United States—ranging from the eight-year war imposed on Iran during the 1980s to the shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane, the assassination of General Soleimani, and the ongoing economic sanctions. These actions, he argued, have reinforced the Iranian public's perception of the US as an adversary.

On the eve of the celebrations,

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited Imam Khomeini's mausoleum to pay his respects.

The Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, which run from February 1 to 11, are an annual event marking the anniversary of the revolution. The period is a time for the Iranian people to reflect on their country's journey since the revolution, including the end of over 2,500 years of monarchical rule and the birth of a republic grounded in Islamic values and democracy.

Led by Imam Khomeini, the revolution was driven by widespread anti-imperialist sentiments. The Iranian people, under the leadership of Imam Khomeini, sought to dismantle the monarchy, which they saw as a puppet regime propped up by Western powers, particularly the United States. The success of the revolution in 1979 marked a new chapter in Iran's history, with the nation rejecting foreign influence and striving to establish a new political system rooted in Islamic principles.

Syria, Palestine take center stage in Moscow talks between Iranian, Russian diplomats



TEHRAN – In a high-level meeting in Moscow, Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, and Mikhail Bogdanov, Russia's Special Presidential Envoy for West Asia, underscored the strengthening relations between their nations and focused on key regional issues, particularly Syria and Palestine.

The discussions took place on Wednesday against the backdrop of a new Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Treaty, signed on January 17 by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

This landmark treaty aims to deepen bilateral cooperation across various fields, including economy, trade, culture, and security.

During the meeting, both officials emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts to address ongoing developments in Syria and Palestine.

Jalali reiterated Iran's commitment to bolstering regional cooperation with Russia.

"The close relations between Iran and Russia are pivotal, and we are determined to enhance our cooperation on regional matters," Jalali stated.

The Russian Foreign Ministry, in a press release, highlighted the Russian diplomat's viewpoint during his meeting with the Iranian ambassador.

Bogdanov, who had just returned from a visit to Damascus, provided insights from his recent talks with Syria's current rulers.

He mentioned that the discussions were constructive and reaffirmed Russia's support for Syria's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"We continue to advocate for a resolution to Syria's issues through inclusive dialogue involving all political forces and ethno-religious groups," Bogdanov emphasized.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Zarif discusses new global order and Iran's foreign policy at key conference

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Mohammad Javad Zarif, the Strategic Vice President of Iran, delivered a lecture at the headquarters of the Institute for Iranian and Eurasian Studies titled "World Order and Iran's Foreign Policy."

At the beginning of his speech, Zarif briefly referenced the debates from the 55th World Economic Forum in Davos (2025), highlighting that much of the discussion centered on the "restoration of hard power," with particular emphasis on the potential return of Donald Trump to the U.S. presidency.

The distinction between hard power and soft power was first introduced in the 1990s by American political scientist Joseph Nye. In general, Nye defines power as the "ability to influence others to achieve desired outcomes." Hard power, in contrast, is based on coercion, using incentives or threats to exert control. Its main tools include military intervention, coercive diplomacy, and economic sanctions.

According to Zarif, many of the attendees at the Davos Forum agreed that Trump seeks to restore hard power, but by using tariff tools instead of military resources, which was already anticipated in Nye's hard power theory.

In 2018, during his first term, Donald Trump implemented the "America First" agenda, which included imposing new tariffs on various imports. Among the affected products were solar panels and washing machines, with rates ranging from 30% to 50%, while steel was taxed at 25% and aluminum at 10%. Although the primary target of these measures was China, the tariffs were also extended to imports from other countries.

In his new term, Trump plans to impose tariffs of up to 60% on imports from China and between 10% and 25% on products from countries like Mexico and Canada, among other measures.

A clear example of the hard power policy through economics occurred during the so-called "mini economic crisis" with Colombia. After the Colombian government refused to accept two military flights carrying illegal Colombian migrants to the United States, Trump responded by announcing a 25% tariff on Colombian products, along with visa restrictions for Colombian citizens. The measure caused tension in bilateral relations, but ultimately Colombia agreed to accept the flights, leading to the suspension of the tariffs by the United States.

The former Minister of Foreign Affairs also addressed the debates surrounding the post-bipolar world, highlighting that several participants agreed that Europe seeks to implement a relative hegemony of the United States. This means that Europe desires



to maintain an influential relationship with Washington, but without it exerting total control, aiming for shared leadership and a balance of power where European powers have a voice and influence in global decisions. However, according to Zarif, this vision is not shared by Donald Trump.

In this context, Zarif recalled that over the years, he has pointed out in several conferences that many Americans and observers believed that an American order had been established and that the unipolar world had been consolidated. However, in his opinion, this was merely an illusion about the unipolar order, rather than a reality.

In this erroneous scenario, the United States believed they had truly won the Cold War, that the Soviet Union had lost and become a "slave." But, according to Zarif, this was not true, as international relations are not zero-sum games.

For Zarif, the bipolar order has collapsed, and with that collapse, events have emerged that go far beyond the disappearance of this system. One such event is the rise of what he refers to as the "post-international world," also known as the "networked world." In this new scenario, new actors have emerged, leading to the concept of the "post-Western world," where power dynamics have diversified and are no longer exclusively dominated by the United States or the West.

Regarding the new international order, Zarif stated: "A new bipolar system will not emerge in the international arena in the near future. Some interpret this situation as the beginning of chaos, but in my opinion, chaos will not necessarily unfold. Instead, we are facing a new international reality, where 'temporary alliances' will arise, rather than 'permanent blocs.'" According to Zarif, the fact that there is no longer a system of fixed loyalties can be understood within these flexible and specific alliances. However, he added that some of these alliances, due to their nature and objectives, may be more durable.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Esteghlal's coaching carousel spins again

TEHRAN – Esteghlal FC, one of Iran's most storied football clubs, find themselves once more in turmoil as South African coach Pitso Mosimane has unilaterally terminated his contract.

Mosimane's departure marks the latest chapter in a saga of managerial instability that has plagued the Tehran-based club.

Brought in to steady the ship after a tumultuous start to the Persian Gulf Pro League season, Mosimane was unable to deliver the consistent results expected of him.

Despite his reputation and experience, the South African coach failed to inspire the Blues to significant victories. His departure has left Esteghlal in a precarious position, with just three wins from 14 matches across all competitions.

The club's decision to appoint Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh as interim coach for the second time this season highlights the lack of a long-term strategy. Bakhtiarizadeh, a former Esteghlal player, has been a stop-gap solution, but it remains to be seen if he can provide the stability the club desperately needs.

Mosimane's departure is particularly galling given the significant financial investment made by Esteghlal. Reports suggest that the South African coach will receive a substantial severance package, despite his brief and unsuccessful tenure.

The constant change of coaches at Esteghlal has had a detrimental impact on the team's morale and performance. Fans of the Blues are growing increasingly frustrated with the club's inability to build a competitive squad and provide them with a team capable of challenging for titles.

With the AFC Champions League Elite looming and the domestic league in full swing, Esteghlal must act swiftly to appoint a new coach. The club's board of directors faces a difficult task in finding a suitable replacement who can not only stabilize the team but also restore the faith of the passionate fan base.

Jalal Hosseini parts ways with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Assistant coach Jalal Hosseini parted company with Iran's Persepolis football club.

The legendary figure had been appointed as Persepolis assistant coach after he announced his resignation from football.

Hosseini, 42, was assistant coach of Juan Carlos Garrido but the Iranian club parted ways with the Spanish coach last month.

Persepolis have recently hired Turkish coach Ismail Kartal and he is set to work with his compatriots in coaching staff.

Lucas Joao leaves Persepolis

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club parted ways with its Portuguese striker Lucas João.

Joao, 31, joined Persepolis from Qatari side Umm Salal in September.

He failed to score a single goal for the Reds in his tenure in the Iranian team.

Joao has been linked with Gol Gohar football team.

Persepolis have recently hired Turkish coach Ismail Kartal.

Segundo Rodriguez joins Chadormalou

TEHRAN – Segundo Arlen Portocarrero Rodriguez joined the Iranian football club Chadormalou.

The 28-year-old defender has joined the Iranian side from the Ecuadorian team Barcelona S.C.

Chadormalou had previously signed Brazilian winger Diego Silva Nascimento Santos. Chadormalou sit 10th in the Iran league 16-

team table.

The Yazd-based football team are scheduled to face Malavan on Saturday.

Persepolis complete signing of Serdar Dursun

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Persepolis completed signing of former Fenerbahce forward Serdar Dursun Thursday night.

The 33-year-old forward has penned an 18-month deal with Persepolis.

Dursun has previously played for Turkish teams Eskisehirspor, Sanliurfaspor, Denizlispor, Fatih Karagumruk, Fenerbahce, and Alanyaspor and German teams Greuther Furth and Darmstadt 98.

Dursun has made 10 caps for Turkish national team and scored seven goals.

Defending champions Persepolis sit fourth in the table in the 2024/25 Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) and the team try to book a place in the current AFC Champions League Elite next stage.

Persepolis are scheduled to play Al Hilal on Feb. 4 at the Kingdom Arena and Dursun will likely play in the vital match.

Persepolis, Foolad share the spoils in PGPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis and Foolad football teams played to a 1-1 draw in the 2024/25 Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) match on Friday.

Persepolis's forward, Ali Alipour, missed a penalty in the 10th minute after the referee awarded a spot-kick for a handball by Foolad's defender, Ali Nemati.

Isa Alekisir put Persepolis ahead in the 39th minute at Ahvaz's Foolad Arena. However, Foolad mounted pressure in the second half, and substitute Abolfazl Zadehatai managed to equalize with about 10 minutes left on the clock.

With this result, Foolad and Persepolis remain in third and fourth place, respectively, with 35 and 34 points in the league standings.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, Tractor will host Havadar, Shams Azar will face Sepahan in Qazvin, Gol Gohar will take on Nassaji, Zob Ahan will host Kheybar, and Chadormalou will welcome Malavan.

Additionally, Aluminum are set to play Mes in Arak on Sunday.

Ghaedi scores as Kalba draw Al Wasl

TEHRAN – Iranian international winger Mehdi Ghaedi scored against Al Wasl in 2024-25 in UAE Pro League.

In the match held at the Zabeel Stadium, Ghaedi found the back of the net from the penalty spot in the 61st minute.

Ittihad Kalba Brazilian midfielder Caio Eduardo de Souza Germano was shown a straight red card in the 16th minute.

With 10 minutes remaining, Brazilian player João Pedro leveled the score.

Al Wasl and Ittihad Kalba remained eighth and ninth, respectively with 18 points.

Chadormalou complete signing of Diego Carioca

TEHRAN – Diego Silva Nascimento Santos, better known as Diego Carioca, joined the Iranian football club Chadormalou.

The 26-year-old has penned an 18-month deal with the Iranian top-flight team.

The Brazilian left winger joined Chadormalou from Ukrainian club Kolos Kovalivka.

Chadormalou sits 10th in the Iran league 16-team table.

Road transit via Iran increases by 27% in 10 months



TEHRAN - Iran's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTTO) announced a 27 percent increase in road transit during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025) compared to the same period last year.

Mehdi Khezri, the deputy for transportation at the organization, stated that the highest record for transit transport was achieved in

the previous year (March 2023-March 2024), with 14.75 million tons of goods carried by 636,000 trucks and trailers. Of this, over 9.39 million tons were non-oil products.

Khezri added that Iran has managed to replicate this record in the first 10 months of the current year, reflecting a 27 percent increase compared to the previous year. He also noted the rising trend in road transport after the COVID-19 pandemic.

He pointed out that there are currently 1,875 active companies in international transport across Iran, supported by a fleet of 50,000 vehicles and 40,000 drivers.

Khezri also addressed issues faced by Iranian transit drivers at the Bazargan border, attributing them to decisions made decades ago. However, he said recent diplomatic efforts, including a visit by the Minister of Transport and Urban Development to Turkey, have alleviated some of these challenges.

Boushehr hosts specialized oil, gas, petchem exhibition

TEHRAN - The 1st Boushehr Exhibition of Oil, Gas, Energy, Refining and Petrochemical Industry has opened in southern Boushehr province, the head of Boushehr International Exhibitions Company said.

Hossein Namvar told IRNA on Thursday that 33 companies from the provinces of Alborz, Tehran, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Boushehr are participating in the event.

The exhibition features companies active in the supply and distribution of petroleum products, electricity and electronics, instrumentation equipment, and other related sectors, he said.

According to Namvar, the exhibition also showcases mechanical and electrical equipment, technical and engineering services, petrochemical laboratory instruments, spare parts for precision tools, and all production and commercial activities related to the authorized trade of oil, gas, and petrochemical products.

He added that exhibitors are also present-

ing industrial belts, cathodic protection equipment, welding and cutting machines, industrial machinery, commercial and transportation services, as well as auxiliary equipment for HVAC systems and industrial gas regulators.

Namvar noted that the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and its subsidiaries are participating in the event, displaying various achievements in the oil industry and nuclear services sector.

"This exhibition provides a valuable opportunity for industry operators to showcase their latest products and innovations to specialists and stakeholders while fostering interactions among companies operating in the oil, gas, petrochemical, and related industries," he stated.

The specialized exhibition on oil, gas, petrochemicals, refining, and energy runs from January 31 to February 2 at the permanent venue of Boushehr International Exhibitions, welcoming visitors and industry professionals from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. local time.

Tehran Auto Show showcases strong presence of Chinese vehicles

TEHRAN - The sixth Tehran International Auto Show has opened at the Shahr-e Aftab Exhibition Center, with Chinese car brands making up the majority of vehicles on display.

The event, running from January 27 to 31, features 40 automakers and related industries.

A wide range of Chinese models, including the Chery-based Phoenix, Yuan Plus, BYD Han, Song Plus, Dolphin, and MVM X77, are being showcased.

Although models from Japanese, Korean, and German manufacturers are also present, Chinese brands dominate the exhibition.

Additionally, several global automakers now assemble their vehicles in China, further increasing the presence of Chinese-made models in the Iranian market.

International sanctions and the cost-effectiveness of Chinese vehicles have driven a surge in the import and local assembly of Chinese brands in Iran.

The exhibition highlights a variety of vehicles, including imported and locally assembled models, electric and hybrid cars, heavy-duty trucks, and motorcycles. Notably, several new foreign models, including the Lamari Ecco, MVM X77, MG RX9 seven-seater crossover, Hongqi H5 hybrid, Fidelity Elite, F35 Force 5.5-ton truck, and F38 CNG-powered version, have been unveiled.

More than 30 new imported models have been introduced, drawing strong interest from visitors. Experts attribute the prevalence of Chinese vehicles to international sanctions, which have limited Iran's access to European and American automakers.

Mojtaba Nazari, an automotive expert, noted that while global automakers in Germany, Italy, and the U.S. export their vehicles worldwide, Iran remains restricted due to sanctions.

He explained that the Iranian auto industry

was among the first sectors targeted by sanctions, forcing the country to rely on Chinese, Russian, and Indian manufacturers.

Nazari pointed out that China's automotive industry is heavily influenced by Italian and German engineering, making its vehicles competitive in design and technology.

He added that many leading global brands operate production lines in China, where vehicles are assembled under strict quality control.

He cited Mazda as an example, stating that its Chinese-assembled models adhere to the company's global standards and are aimed at both domestic and export markets, including Iraq.

According to Nazari, China's automotive growth is driven by government support for exports and cost-effective manufacturing, which allows Chinese brands to offer competitive pricing.

Majid Jalili, another automotive market expert, said that Chinese vehicles are gaining popularity in Iran due to their modern designs and affordability. He acknowledged that while some models lack quality, others meet high standards, depending on local assembly contracts with Chinese manufacturers.

Jalili emphasized the importance of after-sales service and spare parts availability for Chinese cars in Iran.

He noted that local assemblers import vehicles in completely knocked-down (CKD) form and receive tariff discounts if they achieve a localization rate of over 20 percent.

Most Iranian assemblers benefit from such incentives.

He also stated that the pricing of assembled vehicles is based on production costs rather than exchange rate fluctuations, meaning the primary concern for local assemblers is timely access to foreign currency for importing components.

Iran's VP attends Eurasian Intergovernmental Council in Almaty

From Page 1 ▶ Iran, Kazakhstan emphasize strengthening of joint committees

Mohammad Reza Aref met and held talks with Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Oljas Bektenov on Thursday, during his visit to Kazakhstan.

The first vice President emphasized the need to enhance economic and trade exchanges between Iran and Kazakhstan during his meeting with the prime minister of Kazakhstan.

In this meeting, Aref emphasized the need to enhance economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and to activate joint committees, referring to the cultural and civilizational commonalities of the two countries.

The first vice president of Iran also invited the prime minister of Kazakhstan to attend the Caspian Summit, which will be held in Tehran in mid-February, referring to the areas of development of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture and tourism.

Aref also mentioned Iran's progress in the field of information technology and said that his country is ready to transfer its experiences in emerging technologies to neighboring countries.

The prime minister of Kazakhstan, in this meeting, emphasized the strengthening of the joint committees of the two countries.

'Iran welcomes deepening of comprehensive relations with Belarus'

Iran's first vice president emphasized the need to strengthen and activate the joint cooperation committees between Iran and Belarus during a meeting with the prime minister of Belarus, stating that Iran welcomes the deepening of comprehensive relations with Belarus.

Mohammad Reza Aref met with Roman Golovchenko, the prime minister of Belarus, on Thursday, emphasizing the importance of utilizing opportunities from significant regional and international summits and agreements, such as the Eurasian Union, to enhance trade and



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref (L) and Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Oljas Bektenov meet in Almaty on Thursday.

economic cooperation, especially in the private sector of the region's countries.

He stated that Iran seeks to strengthen comprehensive relations with countries that share political, cultural, and historical commonalities.

The first vice president also stressed the necessity of strengthening and activating the joint cooperation committee between the two countries to follow up and implement mutual agreements.

He added that the role of the private sector is very important for the sustainability of trade relations between the two countries, and both sides should create opportunities for the private sector to be active.

Aref noted that Iran, relying on educated youth, has gained good experience in the field of knowledge-based companies and modern technologies and is ready to develop, exchange, and transfer valuable experiences of Iranian knowledge-based companies to Belarus.

The prime minister of Belarus, also emphasized the need to use the opportunity of the Eurasian Union to improve relations among member countries.

He stated that the joint cooperation committee between Iran and Belarus has been successfully held, and the volume of trade and economic exchanges between the two countries should be elevated to match the high level of political

relations.

He also congratulated Iran on becoming an observer member of the EAEU, stating that Iran's presence in the Eurasian Union significantly contributes to the economic and political richness of the union.

'Iran firmly believes in developing relations with Kyrgyzstan'

On Friday, the second day of his visit to Kazakhstan, Mohammad Reza Aref met and held talks with Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Adybek Kasymaliev.

The first vice president, referring to the cultural and historical commonalities between Iran and Kyrgyzstan and their shared civilizational domain, said: "Tehran-Bishkek relations have been growing in recent decades, and the government of Iran firmly believes in developing relations with Kyrgyzstan."

In the meeting, Aref emphasized the extensive relations between Iran and Kyrgyzstan in economic, trade, and transportation fields, stating: "We must have serious cooperation in scientific and technological fields. Given the importance of developing relations with Kyrgyzstan, in addition to following up on agreements and memorandums of understanding, the activation of the joint cooperation committee between the two countries is expected."

He considered the presence of Iran and Kyrgyzstan in important regional organizations and agreements, such as the Shanghai Coop-

eration Organization (SCO), and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), as a suitable opportunity for the development and deepening of relations between the two countries.

He emphasized the need to enhance economic exchanges between the two countries.

The official, referring to the cultural commonalities between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, stressed that these commonalities could lead to increased consultations between the two countries on regional issues.

Aref stated that some Western countries want to eliminate their competitors using human rights tools and emphasized the need to strengthen the common positions of the two countries in international forums.

The first vice president also invited the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan to attend the Caspian Summit, as a special guest, which will be held in Tehran on February 18.

'EAEU members interested in expanding relations with Iran'

The prime minister of Kyrgyzstan, in this meeting emphasized that Kyrgyzstan places great importance on strengthening friendly relations with Iran and is ready for constructive dialogue at any level with Iranian counterparts.

Kasymaliev emphasized that the two countries have excellent potential for strengthening trade and economic cooperation, stating: "We hope that Iranian investment in Kyrgyzstan will increase, and in this regard, the joint cooperation committee between the two countries should be strengthened."

He stressed that Iran's relations within the framework of the EAEU have been growing, and all member countries of this union are interested in expanding comprehensive relations with Iran.

Kyrgyzstan also positively evaluates Iran's observer membership and believes that Iran's membership will strengthen regional trade and Iran's relations with member countries, he noted.

Aref also visited the Digital Almaty 2025 forum on Friday.

Iran, Kyrgyzstan ready to expand trade cooperation



TPO Head Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi (R) and Kyrgyz Ambassador to Tehran Turdakun Sydykov meet in Tehran.

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) emphasized the need to boost trade between Iran and Kyrgyzstan during a meeting with Kyrgyzstan's ambassador to Iran, stressing the importance of fostering connections between businesspeople and economic players from both countries, including greater participation in each other's trade exhibitions.

Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, the head of TPO, met with Kyrgyz Ambassador Turdakun Sydykov and highlighted Iran's role in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), stating that Iran has recently become an observer member of the bloc, and the free trade agreement with the EAEU has been approved by the Iranian parliament. He noted that trade between Iran and Kyrgyzstan has the potential to increase, adding, "Trade is a two-way street, and we seek to expand commercial exchanges with Kyrgyzstan in both exports and imports."

Dehnavi emphasized the importance of strengthening connections between business communities in both countries and encouraged more active participation in trade exhibitions. He also invited Kyrgyz traders and business representatives to take part in the Iran Expo, scheduled for spring.

Ambassador Sydykov described Iran-Kyrgyzstan relations as strong and expressed interest

in taking further steps to enhance trade ties.

He also noted that Kyrgyzstan was among the first countries to welcome Iran's observer membership in the EAEU, saying that this development would undoubtedly lead to an increase in trade volume between the two nations.

Sydykov called for greater cooperation between Iran and Kyrgyzstan in leveraging trade opportunities at exhibitions and economic events.

Iran's trade volume with Kyrgyzstan in the first nine months of the Iranian calendar year 1403 (March-December 2024) reached \$86 million in exports and \$2.0 million in imports.

Back in mid-December 2024, a high-ranking economic delegation from Kyrgyzstan, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Temirbek Erkinov, met with Ali Akbar Safaei, Iran's former Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development and head of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), to discuss establishing a joint Eurasian logistics hub in Iran's southern ports.

According to a statement from the PMO, the Kyrgyz delegation—comprising senior officials including Deputy Transport Minister Almaz Turgunbaev, Deputy Economy and Commerce Minister Nazarbek Malaei, and Deputy Justice Minister Orobek Sidikov—traveled to Tehran to explore investment opportunities in a special logistics zone at Iran's Shahid Rajaei Port.

During the meeting, Erkinov emphasized Kyrgyzstan's strategic need for maritime access due to its landlocked geography, highlighting that utilizing Iranian commercial ports is a key priority for Bishkek to enhance transit and maritime trade ties with Tehran.

"The negotiations to facilitate Kyrgyzstan's investment and transit operations through Shahid Rajaei Port began some time ago," Erkinov said. "We are ready to collaborate with Iran to execute a joint logistics zone project in the port." He added that any Kyrgyz investments in Iran would fully adhere to Iranian laws and regulations, stressing the potential for commercial partnerships to

establish a regional transit and logistics hub in line with multi-modal transport corridors.

Safaei, head of the PMO, welcomed Kyrgyz investments, noting that Iran supports all investments in its free economic and port zones. "Kyrgyz private sector investments in Iran's northern and southern ports will receive significant incentives and facilities," he said.

He further stated that Kyrgyz traders could leverage Iranian port infrastructure and shipping lines to access global markets. "The Iranian government's strategy focuses on strengthening economic relations with neighboring countries. Iran has existing cooperation agreements with both western and eastern Caspian Sea nations and is rapidly developing its road and rail corridors," Safaei added.

The meeting included Iranian officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Customs Administration, and the Presidential Office, as well as representatives from the Ports and Maritime Organization. Meanwhile in an online meeting between Head of Hormozgan Province's Ports and Maritime Department Hossein Abbas-Nejad and Kyrgyzstan's Deputy Economy and Commerce Minister Nazarbek Kamaldinovich, on August 20, the two sides discussed ways of expanding cooperation in ports and transit sectors.

As PMO portal reported, the virtual meeting was held at the request of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of Kyrgyzstan on Monday with the aim of increasing transit cooperation between the two countries.

In this meeting, the parties discussed and exchanged opinions regarding the participation and investment of the private sector of Kyrgyzstan in the infrastructure projects of Iranian ports, especially Shahid Rajaei port.

In this regard, Abbas-Nejad welcomed the presence of the Kyrgyz private sector to establish a logistics center in Shahid Rajaei Port, and it was decided that the issue will be further and more thoroughly discussed and finalized in the near future during the visit of a Kyrgyz technical delegation to Iran.

The man who made Israel taste its bitterest defeat

Hamas confirms Mohammed Deif's martyrdom, the legendary commander of Qassam Brigades and architect of Al-Aqsa Storm

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The Hamas resistance group has announced the martyrdom of Mohammed Deif, the Chief of Staff of its armed wing the al-Qassam Brigades.

The military spokesman for the al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Ubaida, announced in a speech the martyrdom of Deif (also known as Abu Khaled), his deputy, Marwan Issa, and five other senior commanders.

In a televised address, Abu Ubaida noted all the necessary procedures had been taken into account along with "security concerns dictated by battlefield conditions and verifying details" to announce the news.

The date and location of Deif's martyrdom were not revealed, however, Abu Ubaida confirmed that he died fighting the Israeli occupation forces amid the genocidal U.S.-backed war on the enclave.

He stated, "After the martyrdom of the commanders, our fighters became even more determined and motivated to fight, and for every fallen leader, a thousand more rise."

"The Al-Qassam Brigades' leadership structure was never left in a vacuum, not even for an hour."

Abu Ubaida further explained that the commanders were martyred while inside leadership operations rooms during direct engagements with enemy forces on the battlefield, or while inspecting the ranks of the fighters.

"The commanders achieved victory by inspiring millions from our people and nation to carry the banner alongside them and after them," he emphasized, adding, "They triumphed by passing the banner to steadfast and resilient leaders, their comrades, who do not know defeat."



Known as the "man with nine lives," Mohammed Deif, the 60-year-old general commander of the al-Qassam Brigades, had survived multiple assassination attempts by the Israeli occupation regime for more than two decades.

In July last year, the Israeli regime bombed a tent camp for displaced families in Khan Younis claiming to have targeted Deif.

The attack killed at least 90 civilians and injured more 300 others, the majority of them women and children.

Hamas categorically denied Deif was at the site, saying at the time "This is not the first time Israel has falsely claimed to have killed Palestinian leaders. These lies serve only to mask the scale of the massacre committed."

Deif had not made a public appearance

since surviving a failed assassination attempt in September 2002, except through statements linked to military operations by the Palestinian resistance, the latest of which was the al-Aqsa Storm operation on the morning of Saturday, October 7, 2023.

He was born in Gaza's Khan Younis refugee camp, a densely populated area that has long been a focal point of Palestinian resistance and struggle.

The camp, established in the aftermath of the 1948 Nakba, became home to thousands of displaced Palestinians, shaping the identities of many who would later rise to prominence in the region's political and military movements.

Among those who also hail from Khan Younis was Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar (until his martyrdom in October last year), as well as other influential resistance figures in Palestinian history.

Deif's upbringing in this environment played a crucial role in his later involvement in resistance activities, as he witnessed firsthand the hardships and challenges faced by refugees in Gaza.

His early years in Khan Younis were marked by political upheaval and economic hardship, setting the stage for his eventual leadership within the armed wing of Hamas and his reputation as one of the Israeli regime's most elusive adversaries.

Reacting to the news, the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigade, said, "The martyrdom of this brave and sincere group of fighters, led by the two esteemed great commanders Mohammad Deif and Marwan Issa, reaffirms that the leadership of the resistance is at the forefront of confrontation and battle in the field."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Feminist organizations' deliberate negligence of Israeli violence against Lebanese women

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT — The majority of Lebanese women represent an icon of liberation against imperialism, but feminist organizations have always deliberately remained silent about direct and indirect US-led Israeli systematic violence against these women.

Over the past week, these heroines have been at the forefront of the liberation of villages by leading the convoys of returnees. In this campaign, 6 civilians were martyred and a large number of women were wounded.

"This is our land," one woman shouted facing an Israeli tank while dozens of mothers rushed

to search for traces of their martyred sons, proud of them and affirming their readiness to further sacrifice for the sake of resistance. However, the so-called feminist organizations have deliberately remained silent.

The agenda of these suspicious organizations - funded by George Soros - is no secret. At the forefront of its priorities are: specifically searching for a Shiite husband who has had a misunderstanding with his wife, exposing the family's secrets instead of solving its problems, and then inciting the wife to ask for a divorce and dismantling the family union.

Also, among its priorities is falsely promoting that the Shiite woman's hijab hinders her progress, knowing that the hijab is an Islamic obligation that honors women and preserves their psycho-sociological entity, and is not specific to Shiites alone.

This is in parallel with the blatant lie that the Shiite woman's hijab is an Iranian tradition in blatant disregard for the controls of the loose hijab that the Quran explains and clarifies in detail.

Also, among the priorities of these feminist associations is distorting the image of the venerable religious scholars who do

not miss an opportunity to educate society, solve people's problems, and serve them.

These suspicious organizations, however, do not miss an opportunity to demonize those clerics who often focus on rejecting the pre-Islamic customs in dealing with women as Islam has taken the lead in defending their rights, drawing a parallel between those who used to bury girls alive in the pre-Islamic era and those who slaughter them today because they embraced the resistance and gave birth to the resistance fighters.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Israel's 'complete failure': Divide-and-conquer strategy falls flat

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The recent exchange of captives for Palestinian prisoners has once again highlighted Israel's military failures in the war on Gaza which lasted for more than 15 months.

Hamas released eight Israeli and foreign captives in Gaza on Thursday as dozens of fighters from Hamas and Islamic Jihad resistance movements organized the exchange.

The strong presence of resistance fighters once again demonstrated that the Israeli army's efforts to "destroy" Hamas have fallen flat.

As the captives were being handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, Palestinian people also held gatherings to renew support for the regional resistance.

In Khan Younis, a large assembly of Palestinians convened to witness the release of two Israeli captives.

"The resistance fighters are still here, alive, and capable of striking back. This whole exchange is a reminder that the occupation has failed to break us," 32-year-old Abu Yusuf, who was standing in the crowd, told Al Jazeera.

The gatherings prominently featured portraits of Hassan Nasrallah, Lebanon's Hezbollah leader, who was martyred by Israel in September last year, as well as images of Abdel-Malik al-Houthi, the leader of Yemen's Ansarullah, and Fathi Shaqaqi, the late founder of the Islamic Jihad.

Two women waved handwritten signs thanking Iran, Hezbollah, and Ansarullah for supporting Palestinians, according to the Doha-based news network.

"We're here to thank every nation that



Palestinians have reaffirmed their backing for resistance movements amid the third captive-prisoner exchange since Jan. 19

backed our resistance, especially Iran, [Lebanon's] Hezbollah, and Yemen... But our people's steadfastness brought us here," one of the women said as she held a banner reading, "To all who stood with us, our victory is yours."

Large Palestinian crowds attending the captives' release have sent a significant message, illustrating that Israel's efforts to vilify the resistance movement have remained ineffective.

The huge presence of Palestinian fighters and civilians has also humiliated Israeli leaders including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Since launching the war on Gaza in October 2023, Netanyahu had repeatedly vowed to continue fighting to "destroy" Hamas by achieving "total victory" over the group. But Israel signed a ceasefire with Hamas which went into effect on January 19 after failing to meet its objectives in the Gaza conflict.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's former national security minister who resigned from the Netanyahu cabinet in protest against the ceasefire deal, has acknowledged that the circumstances surrounding the captives' handover in Khan Younis reflect the regime's inability to accomplish its military objectives.

"This is not a complete victory - this is a complete failure, in a reckless deal like no other," Ben-Gvir said in a statement on Telegram.

Following the release of captives, Israel freed 110 Palestinian prisoners, including 32 serving life sentences and 30 minors.

On Thursday, Palestinians gathered at the entrance to the West City of Ramallah to welcome the released detainees.

But Israeli forces attacked the crowds. According to Palestinian health officials, more than a dozen Palestinians were hurt by Israeli fire, some with live and rubber bullets, others from gas inhalation.

The exchange of captives and Palestinian prisoners that took place on Thursday marked the third such occurrence under the phased ceasefire agreement that was aimed at ending the conflict in Gaza.

Israel killed more than 47,000 Palestinians during the genocidal war on Gaza.

The regime's forces and settlers have also killed nearly 900 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since the start of the Gaza conflict.

For now, the unwavering support for resistance movements in the West Bank and Gaza clearly shows that Israel's sinister schemes aimed at pitting Palestinian people against Hamas have backfired.

Egyptians protest Trump's plan to displace Palestinians



People in Egypt attended a protest against the plan floated by the US president to move Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to Egypt and Jordan, according to the Egyptian media, according to Al Jazeera.

State-linked TV Al-Qahera News showed footage of protesters waving Egyptian and Palestinian flags near the Rafah border crossing - a highly secured military zone accessible only under official escort.

A week ago, Donald Trump proposed a plan

to "clean out" the Gaza Strip, calling on Jordan and Egypt to take in Palestinians from the war-ravaged territory.

Both states have strongly rejected the idea. But on Thursday Trump again insisted that "we do a lot for them, and they're going to do it."

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Wednesday said the "displacement of the Palestinian people from their land is an injustice that we cannot take part in."

Hezbollah condemns Israel's "dangerous violation, blatant aggression"

Two people were killed in an Israeli strike in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley area, the Lebanese health ministry said on Friday, after the Israeli military said it had struck several Hezbollah targets overnight in the Bekaa Valley and along the Syrian-Lebanese border, Reuters reported.

The Israeli army claimed in a statement that the targets included a facility used for underground weapons development and another linked to arms smuggling into Lebanon from neighboring Syria.

The regime, however, failed to provide any evidence to back up its claim.

Hezbollah official Ibrahim Moussawi condemned the air raids, calling them "a very dangerous violation and a blatant and explicit aggression" and called on the Lebanese state to halt Israel's attacks.

The strikes were the latest by Israel in Lebanon despite a ceasefire agreement reached in late November between Israel and Hezbollah that ended more than a year of fighting between the two sides.

Patience may close sooner than anticipated if HTS fails to address immediate needs: Atlantic Council

Syria's Ahmad al-Sharaa mandate comes with an expiration date

TEHRAN - In a commentary late last month, the Atlantic Council said Syrians' "public patience may close far sooner than anticipated" if the HTS government fails to "address immediate needs".

Calling the challenges "daunting," it said HTS leader Ahmad al-Sharaa's "mandate comes with an expiration date".

It also said, "In the absence of progress, the government may revert to centralized security measures as a way to maintain control."

The commentary, headlined "Syria's post-Assad honeymoon is over. Now the hard work of state-building begins", is written by Sinan Hatahet, a nonresident senior fellow for the Syria Project in the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs.

The following is the text of the article:

The fall of the Assad government was met with relief and hope by Syrians of all backgrounds, including even some former loyalists disillusioned with Assad's inability to address Syria's worsening crises. However, Syrians are now faced with a new government whose leadership remains largely unfamiliar. While some have praised the governance and economic management model developed in Idlib under Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), many others question whether such a system can be scaled to govern the entirety of Syria. The disparity between localized governance successes and national-scale governance requirements has become a focal point of concern, particularly given Syria's fragmented political landscape and the competing interests of various factions.

The initial euphoria has now given way to a sober realization of the monumental task ahead. As the Syrian saying goes, "The intox-

ication is over, and now comes the reckoning." Syrians, while politically diverse, share a common urgency for solutions to their daily struggles: securing electricity, rebuilding shattered infrastructure, creating jobs, and ensuring access to basic necessities. These immediate needs are non-negotiable and form the cornerstone of any trust that the transitional government hopes to build. Without addressing these, the government risks losing its fragile legitimacy, and the window for public patience may close far sooner than anticipated.

Ahmad al-Sharaa, Syria's new de facto leader, finds himself at the center of this fragile transition. For now, he enjoys considerable popular support and faces limited competition from rivals unwilling to shoulder the immense responsibility of rebuilding. Yet, his mandate comes with an expiration date. Syrians are watching closely, expecting swift and meaningful action to restore stability and improve livelihoods. The stakes for Sharaa are extraordinarily high: Failure to demonstrate effective leadership could not only undermine his position but also open the door to renewed fragmentation or even chaos.

The challenges are daunting. HTS, which holds significant influence in the new government, lacks sufficient technocratic expertise to manage a nation as complex as Syria. The group's governance in Idlib relied heavily on improvisation and local alliances, but governing an entire country requires a far greater degree of institutional capacity and expertise. HTS leadership must now tackle the immense challenge of bridging its localized governance methods with the demands of a unified national administration. Its ability to navigate Syria's volatile political landscape will be critical.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian Kurds celebrate three-day Pir-e Shaliar festival in UNESCO-listed Uramanat



TEHRAN - Iranian Kurds in the mountainous Uramanat region, which is a UNESCO World Heritage as well, gathered for the annual three-day Pir-e Shaliar festival, a centuries-old folk celebration honoring their legendary healer and mystic.

The festival, deeply rooted in pre-Islamic Zoroastrian traditions, took place this year from Wednesday to Friday, January 31 (10-12 Bahman).

The event, also known as the "Wedding of Pir-e Shaliar," marks the anniversary of the revered sage's symbolic marriage and is believed to bring blessings of fertility, prosperity, and abundance to the land.

More precisely, the festival began on Tuesday evening with the gathering and distribution of walnuts from Pir-e Shaliar's orchard, a ritual seen as a gesture of community sharing and goodwill. Before dawn on Wednesday, village children carry the harvested walnuts door to door, receiving sweets in return.

On Wednesday morning, a number of villagers brought livestock such as cows and sheep to be sacrificed near Pir-e Shaliar's ancient shrine. Traditional dishes made from that meat are then prepared and shared among attendees, reinforcing the festival's communal spirit.

Narratives say that in ancient times, Shah-Bahar Khatoun, the beloved daughter of

the king of Bukhara, was miraculously healed by Pir-e Shaliar, and in return, he was allowed to wed the girl.

Throughout the three-day event, a majority of the locals abandon their daily routines to fully dedicate themselves to the festivities. Traditional mystical chants, folk performances, and prayers fill the air as villagers and pilgrims from across the Kurdish regions gather to honor the memory of Pir-e Shaliar, whose legendary healing powers and spiritual influence are said to have sustained their ancestors through hardship.

People leave their terraced homes, where the courtyard of one is the roof of another, to observe the ritual. The dervishes of the area gather as the local drum, Daf, is played, swaying their long hair through the air as they chant and dance.

Recognized as an element of Iran's intangible cultural heritage in 2018, the Pir-e Shaliar festival continues to serve as a powerful symbol of Kurdish identity and spiritual tradition.

The UNESCO-registered Uramanat has been a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore. Stretched on a steep slope of Sarvabad county, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

activities" with 64.9 percent.

Shopping accounted for 6.2 percent of all visits. Visitors spent a total of \$6.2 billion on clothes and shoes and another \$2.15 billion on souvenirs last year.

More than 1.5 million people visited Türkiye for health and medical reasons in 2024. Revenues from health visits exceeded \$3 billion.

The number of Turkish citizens visiting abroad rose 2.9 percent in 2024 on a yearly basis to 11.4 million, TÜİK said.

The country's tourism expenditure decreased 8.2 percent in 2024 compared to the previous year to \$7.74 billion.

In the fourth quarter of 2024 alone, tourism revenues surged 14.5 percent annually to \$13.8 billion.

(Source: Hurriyet Daily News)

Virtual tour of Niavaran complex unveiled for ten-day Fajr celebrations

TEHRAN - In commemoration of the 46th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex has launched a virtual tour alongside a series of cultural events, exhibitions, and workshops.

The celebrations, running from January 31 to February 10, offer visitors a deep insight into Iran's history through archival documents, photographs, and historical artifacts.

Niavaran Complex, once the residence of Iran's last royal family, has curated seven thematic exhibitions, four expert discussions, and special workshops for children. One of the highlights is a mixed-media exhibition in the Blue Hall of Niavaran Palace Museum, narrating three historical phases: pre-revolution, revolution days, and post-revolution.

The exhibitions include:

"Melting Like Snow", featuring audio recordings from the [Mohammad Reza Shah's] Imperial Army Command Council meetings in late 1978 and early 1979.

"Revolution Days Through the Lens of Michel Setbon", showcasing photographs captured by the French photographer before and after the revolution, sourced from the Archive of the Association of Revolution and Sacred Defense Photographers.



"Niavaran: From Palace to Museum", presenting a visual journey of Niavaran's transformation after the revolution, using materials from the personal archive of Ayatollah Seyyed Hassan Saadat Mostafavi, the complex's caretaker from February 11, 1979, until its first museum opening.

Covering approximately 11 hectares, the Niavaran Complex consists of several historic buildings and museums from the Qajar and Pahlavi periods.

Other notable exhibits include: "Top Secret", displaying previously classified documents from the Pahlavi era regarding security directives from 1975 to 1977.

"Qajar Documents and Decrees", showcasing administrative orders, land grants, and official appointments from the Qajar period, which have been put on view at the Sahebqaraniyeh Palace Museum.

"A Different Perspective", an exhibition in the Jahan-Nama Museum featuring paintings by contemporary female Iranian artists such as Lili Matin Daftari, Iran Darroudi, and Behdjat Sadr. An expert panel on February 6 will analyze these works.

"Iranian Landscapes", part of the "One Museum, One Artwork" series at the Niavaran Library Museum, featuring a work by re-

nowned Iranian architect and artist Houshang Seyhoun alongside a book on his collected works.

Covering an area of about eleven hectares, the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty ordered a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad-Shahi pavilion is one of the highlights of the complex.

With an area of 9,000 square meters, the palace is entirely adorned with magnificent plasterwork, mirrorwork, and tilework. Its architecture boasts a blend of pre and post-Islamic arts. Its beautifully decorated and fully furnished interior features loads of artworks, such as precious paintings and sculptures by Iranian and foreign artists.

The main palace of the complex was originally erected for royal ceremonies and gatherings. However, it later turned into a dwelling for Mohammad Reza Shah and his family.

Ways to facilitate Mashhad pilgrimage discussed for Pakistani travelers

TEHRAN - A recent business-to-business (B2B) meeting between a tourism delegation from Iran and officials from Pakistan's Department of Culture and Tourism, Government of Sindh, focused on facilitating travel for Pakistani pilgrims to Mashhad.

The discussions aimed at strengthening tourism ties and making travel to the revered shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) more accessible and affordable, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

During the discussions, representatives from Sindh's tourism department, along with Iranian hoteliers and travel agencies, explored ways to simplify travel procedures and reduce accommodation costs for Pakistani visitors.

Given the significant number of Pakistani pilgrims who travel to Mashhad via land routes each year, both sides emphasized the need for improved facilities and streamlined processes.

According to Seyyed Javad Mousavi, the tourism chief of Khorasan Razavi province, the meeting was a strategic effort to enhance travel opportunities for Pakistani pilgrims.

The official noted that the session was part of broader cooperation efforts following the visit of the Governor of Khorasan Razavi to Pakistan, which sought to boost economic, cultural, and tourism interactions between the two regions.

Mousavi added that strengthening international tourism, particularly religious tourism, is a key strategy for the province.

The Iranian delegation's visit to Pakistan and their meetings with officials in Karachi were part of a broader initiative to strengthen bilateral relations and explore new avenues for cooperation in tourism and cultural exchange, the report said.

The Governor of Khorasan Razavi led a delegation of government officials and private-sector representatives to Karachi on Wednesday, aiming to deepen ties between the two regions.

Every single day, Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, plays host to thousands of travelers and pilgrims who come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe to visit the impos-



ing, massive holy shrine complex of the Imam.

For generations, Shia Muslims have revered Imam Reza, the eighth Shia Imam, as a symbol of spiritual guidance and blessings. His shrine in Mashhad serves as a beacon of hope and solace for pilgrims seeking divine intervention and spiritual renewal.

In August 2020, the spiritual tradition of pilgrimage to the holy shrine was registered on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

France cancels Iran's first post-suspension flight to Europe

TEHRAN - On Thursday, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization issued a statement over an unexpected decision by French civil aviation authorities to cancel a long-planned Tehran-Paris flight, which was set to resume operations after months of suspension due to European sanctions.

The flight, assumed to be operated by Iran Airtour, was scheduled to depart on January 31 (12 Bahman) but was abruptly halted just 48 hours before departure.

As mentioned by the CAO, extensive negotiations had taken place with French authorities to restore flights between Tehran and Paris after the European Union imposed restrictions on Iranian airlines.

A formal flight permit was issued by the French Civil Aviation Authority on December 17, 2024, allowing Iran Airtour to operate regular Monday and Friday flights on this route from January 31 until the end of March 2025. Ticket sales had commenced a month before the planned launch.

However, on January 28, the French authorities unexpectedly informed Iran Airtour that the flight would not be allowed to operate, cit-

ing no clear reason for the decision.

Iran's CAO emphasized that the prior issuance of a flight permit indicated full compliance with safety and regulatory standards. The agency is now actively engaging with French aviation authorities and diplomatic channels, including Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to resolve the issue.

Iran Airtour, a private airline, had planned to use an Airbus A300 aircraft for the Tehran-Paris service, which was intended to provide a crucial link for Iranian citizens and travelers.

The airline had also been preparing to launch additional European routes, including flights to Germany, Spain, and Italy, by the end of the current Iranian calendar year.

Rare 3rd-century Roman miniature gold lock discovered in Germany

In 2023, the licensed detectorist Constantin Fried discovered a miniaturized Roman lock during a survey of a field near Petershagen-Frille in the Minden-Lubbecke district. Recognizing its significant nature, Fried reported the find immediately after making it to LWL-Archeologie für Westfalen in Bielefeld.

Experts confirmed that the piece he had found was a miniature example of a Roman cylindrical lock, the kind usually used for fastening chests and

containers. This lock, which measures just 1.2 by 1.1 centimeters, is smaller than a one-euro coin and is considered a unique find in Europe. Fried said: "I could hardly believe it myself when I held the find in my hand. Roman locks like these are typically much larger and made of iron or bronze components."

Dr. Barbara Rüschoff-Parzinger, cultural director at LWL and an archaeologist, explained, "The lock was certainly manufactured in the provincial Roman territory and can be dated to the 3rd

or 4th century CE based on its shape, technical design, and decorative style." The researchers think it is quite likely that this object might have come over to Westphalia as war loot, by trade, or as a relic acquired as a souvenir from a soldier who returned from service in the Roman army.

The lock consists of two cylindrical plates, the top and the bottom being sealed, and secured with three gold rivets.

(Source: Archaeology Magazine)



INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY intend to purchase 40,000 tons of Calcined Petroleum Coke (CPC) with tender no 48596445, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY-Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time Saturday 08. Feb.2025 (Saturday 20.11.1403).

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ESFAHAN MOBARAHEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS (1403-51)

Iran elected as next Chair of the Governing Council of APDIM

TEHRAN –During the Ninth Session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected as the new Chair of the Governing Council, succeeding Tajikistan.

Hosted by Tehran, the Ninth Session was held on Wednesday, January 22, in Tehran, with participants joining both in person and virtually.

Delegates representing APDIM's Governing Council member countries— Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Iran, Macao, China, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Turkey—were present in the session. Other ESCAP member states joined as observers, including Maldives, Nepal, and Pakistan, the UN website announced in a press release on January 28.

Representatives from regional organizations such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), were also in attendance.

The session brought together member countries, observers, and regional organizations to review the Centre's progress and set strategic priorities for the coming year.

The session opened with remarks by Jamshed Kamalzoda, Head of the Main Department for the Protection of the Population and Territories of the Commit-



tee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan, who presided over the session.

Also, Mohammad Qasemi, Deputy Head of the Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), delivered opening remarks.

The Council reviewed APDIM's activities and achievements since its last session. Discussions focused on advancement in disaster information management, capacity building and regional cooperation. An independent evaluation of the Centre's performance was also presented, providing valuable insights into future planning.

During the session, the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected as the new Chair of the Governing Council, succeeding Tajikistan. India was elected Vice-Chair for the upcoming term.

Key outcomes of the session included the adoption of APDIM's programme of work for 2025, taking note of the report on the activities of the Centre, the briefing on the process and key findings of the evaluation of the Centre, as well as APDIM's report on its administrative and financial status.

The Ninth Session of the Governing Council reaffirmed APDIM's readiness to further contribute to strengthening disaster information management across the Asia-Pacific region, and supporting resilience-building efforts aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

APDIM

The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) is mandated to reduce human and economic losses due to natural hazards and contribute to the effective design, investment and implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience policies.

APDIM serves as an information and knowledge repository to support the Governments and other stakeholders in the region to develop their capacities as well as to facilitate regional cooperation on transboundary hazards in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's initial proposal to establish APDIM was approved at the sixth-seventh session of the Commission in 2011.

Subsequently, in 2015, ESCAP Member States decided to establish APDIM as a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

The General Assembly recognized the establishment of APDIM hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regional institution of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific through resolution 72/218.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and ESCAP signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of APDIM in January 2018 and the Centre was officially opened and headquartered in Tehran in the same year.

Knowledge-based companies attend Arab Health 2025



TEHRAN – Supported by the Organization for Development of International Cooperation in Science and Technology, and the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, seven Iranian Knowledge-based firms have participated in Arab Health Exhibition 2025, held from January 27 to 30, at Dubai World Trade Center.

The event, held under the theme 'Where the World of Healthcare Meets', brought together over 3,800 exhibitors and welcomed more than 60,000 visitors, serving as a unique platform for innovation, collaboration, and education in healthcare.

Exhibitors from more than 40 countries including Germany, the US, England, China, India, Iran, and France have participated in

the exhibition, ISNA reported.

The event provided a great opportunity for Knowledge-based companies to display their most innovative and latest products, general services in medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and modern medical and health technologies.

Iran's pavilion, set up to strengthen non-oil exports, expand international interactions, and feature the country's potential in the field of health and medicine, was well received by visitors.

Medicine exports increase by 19%

In the first half of the current Iranian year which started on March 20, 2024, the country has exported medicines worth \$104.6 million, an increase of 19.7 percent year on year.

The exports amounted to 49,400 tons in volume, showing a 15 percent increase compared to the same period last year, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration.

Some 345 companies have been involved in producing medicines, supplements, and raw materials, as well as importing pharmaceuticals in the six-month period of time.

Pharmaceutical companies have imported a total of 54,800 tons of commodities worth 1.1 billion dollars, indicating a 3.76 percent decrease in amount and a 4.5 percent increase in terms of value compared to the same period last year, IRNA reported.

In June 2024, Seyyed Ali Maboudi, an official with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said the FDA is developing a plan to increase pharmaceutical exports by 30 percent in the mid-term.

"In the past years, medicine exports in Iran accounted for a small share of non-oil exports. However, over the past year, it experienced a growing trend," IRNA quoted Maboudi as saying.

The official went on to point out that the exports of raw materials and pharmaceutical products over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023-March 2024) were valued at more than 100 million dollars.

"The Food and Drug Administration is planning to double the medicine exports in the short term and tenfold in the long term," the official added.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Special clinic to be launched to relieve bereaved coronavirus families

A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic. The clinic is called "Soog" (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday. The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families, Ehsan Fakoor, head of the mental health department of Zanjan University of Medical Sciences said. Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date, he regretted. Psychological services for parenting and family counseling, especially counseling related to coronavirus such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression and anxiety, etc. will be provided free of charge in this center, Fakoor noted.

افتتاح کلینیک سوگ برای تسکین خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خود را بر اثر کرونا از دست داده‌اند

رئیس گروه بهداشت روان دانشگاه علوم پزشکی زنجان از افتتاح نخستین کلینیک سوگ در کشور برای ارائه خدمات رایگان روان‌شناختی به خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خانواده خود را به دلیل ابتلا به کرونا از دست داده‌اند خبر داد و اظهار کرد: این کلینیک ۲۳ مهرماه امسال در مرکز آموزشی درمانی شهید بهشتی زنجان کار خود را آغاز خواهد کرد. فاکور با بیان اینکه شیوع ویروس کرونا باعث شده است تا سبک زندگی بسیاری از خانواده‌ها دچار تغییر شود، ادامه داد: ایجاد تغییرات ناگهانی در زندگی باعث ایجاد استرس می‌شود، این در حالی است که خود ویروس کرونا به دلیل واگیردار بودن و نیز آمار فوتی‌هایی که تا به امروز در دنیا به جا گذاشته، این استرس را دوچندان کرده است. وی اظهار داشت: خدمات روانشناختی فرزندپروری و مشاوره خانواده، به ویژه مشاوره‌هایی که مرتبط با کرونا مانند وسواس و افسردگی و اضطراب و غیره به صورت رایگان در این مرکز ارائه خواهد شد.

DOE, Football Federation join hands for protecting Asiatic cheetahs



TEHRAN –The Department of Environment (DOE) and the Football Federation have signed a memorandum of understanding to support wildlife conservation, particularly the conservation of Asiatic cheetahs.

The head of DOE, Shina Ansari, held a meeting on Wednesday with the Federation's president Mehdi Taj, the Federation's vice president, Mehdi Mohammad-Nabi, and the national football team head coach, Amir Qalenoee.

Ansari and Taj signed the agreement on maintaining support for the Asiatic cheetah species by establishing an environmental and sustainable development committee in the Football Federation and benefiting from the capacity of the athletes to develop the culture of protecting animals through raising awareness of wildlife conservation.

Conservation efforts

In January, Hamid Zohrabi, an official with the DOE, said that the DOE is taking new steps to further protect the Asiatic cheetahs in the country.

"Relocating domestic animals from cheetahs' habitats, fencing Tehran-Mashhad road, which is one of the most dangerous areas, and breeding in captivity are among the most recent measures the Department of Environment has been taking to preserve cheetahs," IRNA quoted Zohrabi as saying.

These plans mainly focus on threat removal. During these years, domestic animals

have been removed from an area of 150,000 hectares including Golestan National Park as well as the wildlife sanctuary in the area, Zohrabi added.

The DOE is following up on the allocation of two trillion rials (around 2.9 million dollars) to decrease cheetahs' mortalities on the Tehran-Mashhad road through enhancing road lighting, reducing vehicle speeds, and fencing. Drones and other wildlife monitoring tools can be also used to conserve cheetahs in the area. However, more is needed to be done to reach a favorable result, the official further noted.

"We do our best to safeguard cheetahs' habitats, but to increase their population, the plan to breed in captivity is going on. We have already taken measures to standardize their breeding site in captivity with the help of the private sector, Zohrabi stressed.

"The expansion of the cheetah territory, and safeguarding their habitats have also increased the number of cheetahs," IRIB quoted Zohrabi, as saying in November 2024.

Highlighting the key role of public participation in the conservation of Asiatic cheetahs, the official said over 400,000 hectares area of land between Turan National Park in Semnan province and Miandasht Wildlife Refuge in North Khorasan province are protected by the private sector.

The plan to increase prey is being implemented by the cooperation of the DOE and local communities, he noted.

In October 2024, the official said that the DOE is planning to organize a committee for the preservation of critically endangered species including cheetahs, black bears, and great bustards.

"The Department of Environment is planning to protect endangered species by establishing conservation committees with the help of non-governmental organizations, as well as fostering cooperation with the public, rangers, experts, and government agencies," IRNA quoted Zohrabi as saying.

Iran, Iraq discuss expansion of co-op in ICT sector

TEHRAN –The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister, Sattar Hashemi, and the Iraqi ambassador to Iran, Naseer Abdul Mohsen Abdullah, have explored avenues for boosting cooperation in the ICT sector, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), and e-government.

During a meeting held on Thursday in Tehran, Abdullah referred to the large number of Iranian and Iraqi pilgrims, stressing that these extensive interactions require enhanced cooperation. He subsequently voiced Iraq's interest in the promotion of relations with Iran in fields such as AI, cyber security, and communication infrastructure, IRIB reported.

Highlighting the strengthened collaborations between the two countries, the official said, "Trade between Iraq and Iran should reach 20 billion dollars yearly, part of which should be allocated to information and communication technology."

For his turn, Hashemi highlighted former cooperation in cyber security and e-government, saying that "transferring expertise to Iraq is one of the main axes of cooperation between the two nations. Iran is also planning to utilize artificial intelligence capacities, and would welcome cooperation in this area, as well."

The official went on to propose joint investment in international transit, maritime fibers, and the development of a big data center in Iran as other possible axes of collaboration.

Hashemi also said the provision of a high-speed communication network for the Arbaeen pilgrimage should be put on the agenda.

Tehran, Baghdad sign MOU

In November 2023, Iran and Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding to expand bilateral cooperation.

During the one-day trip to Baghdad, Issa Zarepour, the former Iranian ICT minister, inked the MOU with Hiyam Al-Yasiri, his Iraqi counterpart, IRIB reported.

The officials agreed on constructing infrastructures related to the communication sec-

tor and exchanging experiences in the field of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. Also, they agreed to expand international cooperation in the field of communication and information technology.

The two countries committed to cooperating in the field of education, innovation, joint research, and holding joint technical exhibitions, seminars, and academic meetings.

Moreover, it was decided to issue a joint stamp and hold an exhibition of Iranian and Iraqi stamps, published in the last hundred years.

Holding advanced courses on automating networks and network security between the two ministries and exchanging experiences are among other agreements made.

Status of ICT in Iran

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology is the highest authority in the field of ICT in the country. All activities related to the information and communication technology industry are directly related to the ministry.

The government pays special attention to plans and policies in this sector in order to maximize the use of ICT to facilitate people's lives. The successful designing, building, and launching of a satellite show the growth of the national technology and scientific power of a country.

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

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

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



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FEBRUARY 1, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There are two kinds of people who are greedy and never satisfied: seekers of learning and lovers of the world.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:49 Dawn: 5:39 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:05 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Paintings by Ali Akbar Sadeqi are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until February 21 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.



* Tehran's CAMA – Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Mastandehi.

The exhibit titled "Join Us in This War!" will be running until February 5 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.



* Fatima Faraji is hanging her latest paintings in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "She in Fron of Me" will run until February 11 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Ev Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Hossein Salabifard.

The exhibit named "Safe Zone" will be running until February 14 at the gallery located at 5 Arabi Alley, North Kheradmand St.



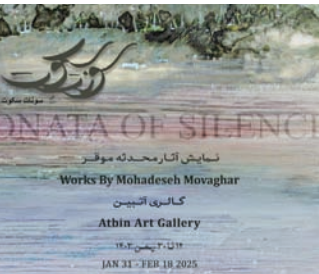
* Maedeh Emteiaz is showcasing a collection of her latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "Enigma" will run until February 11 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.



* An exhibition of paintings by Sorour Akbari is underway at Shokuh Gallery.

The exhibition named "Asourik" will run until February 11 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.



* Paintings by Mohaddeseh Movaqar are currently on view in an exhibition at Atbin Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Sonata of Silence" will continue until February 18 at the gallery located at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.



* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mostafa Dashti.

The exhibition will be running until February 14 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.



* Etemad Gallery 2 is showcasing paintings by Fariba Boroufar in an exhibition named "Blue".

The exhibition will be running until February 18 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

* A collection of paintings by Behzad Kazaminia is on view in an exhibition at Adapa Gallery.

Titled "Words That Never Reached The Sky", the exhibition will run until February 12 at the gallery located at No. 5, Sumesara Alley, Sazesh St., Vali-e Asr Square.

Leader's commendation for "Underground Temple" unveiled in Yazd

TEHRAN- On Thursday, the unveiling ceremony of the commendation for the book "Underground Temple" from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, took place in Rohn Abad Village, Meybod, in Yazd Province.

The event was graced by the presence of Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, alongside various officials and citizens from the region.

Attendees included the Governor, members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and several families of martyrs and veterans from the Sacred Defense era, IRNA reported on Friday.

The book "Underground Temple" focuses on the well sinker martyrs who assisted the Iranian forces during the Iran-Iraq War by digging tunnels and wells wherever needed, the report added.

The narrative tells the story of men with calloused hands who untangled significant knots of war. After four decades, their dust-covered memories have gained renewed attention through the publication of this book, following the Leader's esteemed commendation.

In his commendation, Ayatollah Khamenei described the subject of the book as both noble and innovative.

"The theme of this novel is unique and innovative, and its writing is both delightful and captivating," the Leader stated in his commendation.



"Addressing peripheral yet crucial and influential aspects of the Sacred Defense is a necessary endeavor, which the eloquent author of this novel has accomplished," he noted.

He added, "The contributions of the well sinkers from Yazd were highlighted multiple times by Martyr Sayyad Shirazi, a fact we were aware of; however, the importance, delicacy, and challenges as depicted in this book were not fully understood by us or others like us."

"May God's mercy and favor be upon these artists wielding their pickaxes," he concluded.

The book "Underground Tem-

ple," authored by Masoumeh Mir-Aboutalebi, recounts the story of Martyr Gholam-Hossein Rayat Rohn Abadi, who led a group of well sinkers involved in tunneling during Operation Fath al-Mobin.

This narrative follows a young man's quest to discover his true self beneath the soil. Elias, a disheartened and lonely youth, strives to change how others perceive him. Exhausted by constant belittlement from his uncle, he has grown increasingly isolated and withdrawn.

His mother's overwhelming attention compared to others has shattered his pride, and he is now determined to prove to everyone

that he is neither a coward nor lacking in strength.

Elias embarks on a journey until Haj Gholam-Hossein, the well sinker from Qom, arrives in his village, introducing him to a new world that demands bravery and valor for entry.

His acquaintance with Haj Gholam-Hossein leads to unexpected and transformative events in Elias's life.

Additionally, several military personnel, veterans, and commanders from the eight years of the Iran-Iraq War, along with the esteemed families of martyrs from the Rohn Abad and Mehr Abad villages, were honored throughout the ceremony.

43rd Fajr Film Festival honors 3 distinguished figures in Iranian cinema

TEHRAN-The 43rd Fajr Film Festival commenced on Thursday, with an opening ceremony at Tehran's Vahdat Hall. The event was attended by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Seyyed Abbas Salehi, along with numerous artists and cultural figures.

At the ceremony, the festival paid tribute to three veteran figures in Iranian cinema including filmmaker Sirus Alvand, actor Reza Babak, and voice actor Manouchehr Valizadeh, IRNA reported.

The first tribute was dedicated to honoring Sirus Alvand, which coincided with his 74th birthday. After a video clip showing his work as a screenwriter and director was played, he was honored on stage with the presence of filmmaker Fereydoon Jeyrani, movie critic Javad Tusi, the festival secretary Manouchehr Shahsavari, and the honoree's daughter Ma-hoor Alvand.

"When Sirus Alvand entered the professional cinema industry, he paid attention to the concept of family and portrayed it as a safe haven. He has never had a pessimistic or negative outlook in his films," Tusi said.

Then, amid the applause of the audience, Sirus Alvand appeared on stage. Expressing his gratitude, he stated: "I am glad that this tribute is happening while I am still alive."

Alvand began his career as a film critic and screenwriter and directed his debut film "Sanjar" in 1971. He is among filmmakers of pre-Revolution era who are still working. Some of his films were among box office hits. In 1992, he won a Crystal Simorgh for best director for "Once and for All" at the 11th Fajr Film Festival.

"Cargo" (1987), "The Face" (1995), "The Corrupted Hands" (1999), "The Intruder" (2001), and "Blood Orange" (2010) are among his other notable films.

In 2019, a ceremonial event in his honor was held at Iran's House of Cinema to recognize his significant contributions to the Iranian movie industry.

The second tribute was dedicated to Reza Babak, with director Marzieh Boroumand and actor Mohammad-Reza Sharifinia in attendance. A video clip was first played including an interview with Babak.

Speaking about him on stage, Boroumand said: "Reza Babak has played a fundamental role in all children's works in theater, TV, and cinema. If it weren't for him, we wouldn't have had so many children's works."

Babak then stated: "I already said everything in the video clip that was shown, but here, I just want to remember my father, my mother, and



Marzieh Boroumand (L) and Mohammad-Reza Sharifinia (R) attend the honoring ceremony of Reza Babak (C) at the opening of the 43rd Fajr Film Festival, Thursday, January 31, 2025.

my wife, who was one of a kind".

He recited a poem for his late wife and added: "Tonight, I saw joy and exuberance in my friends and fellow artists, and I hope you always remain joyful."

Reza Babak, 79, has played in over 60 movies and TV series. Some of his movies include "Ballad of Tara" (1979) by Bahram Beyzai, "Heritage" (1988) by Kazem Balouchi, "A Singing Cat" (1990) by Kambuzia Partovi, and "In the Color of Purple" (2004) and "Invitation" (2008) both by Ebrahim Hatamikia. "Ziba Barbershop" (1990-1991) by Marzieh Boroumand and "The Safe" (2009) by Maziar Miri are among his well-known series.

The next tribute was dedicated to Manouchehr Valizadeh, the renowned dubbing artist, who could not attend the ceremony due to health conditions. However, a recorded interview with him was played, which was followed by the audiences' applause.

In the interview conducted by the festival committee, Valizadeh reflected on his career and concluded his words with the phrase: "Greetings to cinema".

Valizadeh, 84, is a dubbing manager, voice actor, voice-over artist, and actor. He has lent his voice to hundreds of films.

Iranian people know him well for dubbing famous actors such as Robert DeNiro in "Godfather 2" and "Taxi Driver," Keanu Reeves in "Matrix" trilogy, Tom Hanks in "Forrest Gump," "Green Mile," "Saving Private Ryan," "Sally," and "Captain Phillips," Adam Sandler in "50 First Dates" and "Click," Toshiro Mifune in "Seven Samurai," Nicholas Cage in "The Rock," John Travolta in "Pulp Fiction" and "Killing Season," Jim Carrey in "Dumb and Dumber," "Fun with Dick and Jane," and "Sonic the Hedgehog," Will Smith in "Enemy of the State," "Pursuit of Happiness," "I Am Legend," and "I, Robot," and Tom

Cruise in "Magnolia," "Collateral," "Edge of Tomorrow," and ... as well as famous characters in children's animations and series including Lucky Luke, Woody, Puss in Boots, and Garfield

Also at the ceremony, the winners of the best teaser, poster, and photo categories received their awards.

The 43rd Fajr Film Festival is running from January 31 to February 10 in Tehran. The lineup of films in the Iranian Cinema Competition section includes 33 films, with 13 being directorial debuts. Additionally, four animated films have been chosen for a special competition category.

Some notable entries include "Tears of the Lagoon" by Mehdi Jafari, "Justice" by Abolfazl Jalili, "All Alone" by Amir-Hossein Saqafi, "Call Me Ziba" by Rasoul Sadr-Ameli, "King of Roles" by Shahed Ahmadlou, "Setareh's Husband" by Ebrahim Irajzad, "The Hunter" by Javad Afshar, "Closure" by Soheil Movaffaq, and "Prophet Moses" by Ebrahim Hatamikia.

In the animated film category "Legend of Sepehr" directed by Emad Rahmani and Mehرداد Mehrabi, "Dolphin Boy 2" by Mohammad Kheirandish, "Zal and Roudabeh" by Mohammad-Ali Sajjadi, and "Juliet and the King" by Ashkan Rahgozar will compete for the top award.

Jury members, featuring prominent figures such as filmmaker Kamal Tabrizi, actor and producer Bahram Radan, veteran critic Reza Dorostkar, director Alireza Raeesian, and filmmaker Narges Abyar will evaluate the films in the competition. The winners of Golden and Crystal Simorgh awards will be announced at the closing ceremony of the festival on its last day.

Iran's annual Fajr Film Festival has been held every February in Tehran since 1983. The festival is supervised by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. It takes place on the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

From 2015 to 2022, the festival was bifurcated into two festivals, the national section in February and an international one held in April.

In the past three years, the national and international segments were merged again, with the combined festival taking place in February.

However, according to an announcement by the festival in December, the national and international sections of this edition of Fajr Film Festival is separated again and the exact date of the international section will be announced in near future.