

Leader in meeting with participants of Quranic competition:

By God's Will Impossible Becomes Possible, Like Gaza's Victory

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Lebanon's south rising from rubble amid global pressure to obstruct new cabinet

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – Three weeks have passed since Judge Nawaf Salam was assigned to form a new cabinet amidst complicated negotiations with the political factions, especially those who directly receive orders from the US embassy.

Reportedly, Salam is trying to impose a pre-set government. Observers believe the goal of this obstruction is to undermine the Hezbollah-Amal duo, especially after Salam backed down from appointing former minister Yassin Jaber (representing the Shiite duo) as minister of finance.

"I will not back down from the criteria that I adopt to form the government, most notably appointing ministers who are not candidates for the [parliamentary] elections ... Accordingly, Arab support and international confidence will be restored," Salam stated last week,

Stressing, "There is no ministry that is exclusive to a certain sect."

Freed Palestinians faced horrific crimes

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Recently released prisoners from Israeli jails have revealed shocking violations committed against them.

They endured physical and psychological torture, systematic starvation, and deliberate medical neglect leading to disease outbreaks.

Testimonies from the released prisoners exposed the extent of the crimes they suffered before their release, including days of severe beatings by prison guards, which resulted in some suffering rib fractures.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Media Office stated that these brutal practices "reflect the level of mistreatment prisoners endure in occupation prisons, which has escalated unprecedentedly since October 7. This includes physical and psychological torture, systematic starvation, and deliberate medical neglect, leading to the spread of diseases, including scabies among the prisoners."

The office pointed out that the direct transfer of several freed prisoners to hospitals for treatment after spending years in detention "confirms the horrific conditions they face inside fascist prisons,

Trump-Netanyahu meeting: A Hail Mary pass to shield a wanted criminal

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to the United States and his anticipated meeting with President Donald Trump clearly indicates that he is clutching at straws in an attempt to obscure Israel's military setbacks in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Netanyahu is slated to hold talks with Trump on Tuesday at the White House. In a statement issued prior to his departure on Sunday, the Israeli premier once again highlighted his dream of defeating Hamas.

Netanyahu, known as Bibi, said he will have a discussion with the US president in the Oval Office about "victory over Hamas and achieving the release of all our hostages".

Israel signed a ceasefire agreement with Hamas with the aim of ending the war on Gaza which went into effect on January 19. The regime agreed to the truce agreement in the wake of its inability to meet its military objectives, which mainly included the elimination of Hamas and returning captives through military action.

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Fajr Intl. Theater Festival concludes with awards and honors

TEHRAN- The 43rd edition of Fajr International Theater Festival (FITF) came to an end at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Saturday with the announcement of winners from various categories.

The event was attended by various dignitaries, including Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi, government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Nadereh Rezaei, Director of Iran Theatre House Iraj Raad, and numerous artists, Mehr reported.

In the stage theater section, "Malek Mohammad", co-directed by Sahand and Babak Qeisari from Tabriz, received the special jury award. ▶ Page 8



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Pezeshkian praises Iran's advances in space and military deterrence after exhibition visit

TEHRAN – Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian highlighted the country's growing deterrence capabilities on Sunday, as the nation unveiled three new satellites and a ballistic missile during a ceremony commemorating National Space Technology Day.

The event, held at the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), underscored Iran's growing advances in both space and defense technologies. ▶ Page 2

Advisor to Azerbaijan president meets Iranian officials in Tehran

TEHRAN – Hikmet Hajiye, the foreign policy advisor to the President of Azerbaijan, held key discussions with senior Iranian officials during a visit to Tehran this week.

On Sunday morning, he met with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in this council. This high-level meeting focused on a range of issues related to bilateral relations between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Hajiye had also met with Mehdi Sanaei, the political advisor to the President of Iran, the day before, in a separate but equally significant meeting.

According to a post by Sanaei on his social media, the two sides discussed various aspects of their relationship, with both emphasizing the longstanding friendship and brotherhood between the two countries. Sanaei highlighted their mutual commitment to resolving any misunderstandings and expanding both political and economic ties. The discussions also included enhancing people-to-people exchanges as a way of strengthening cultural and diplomatic bonds. ▶ Page 3

IRGC Navy unveils second underground facility in southern Iran

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy has unveiled an underground missile facility in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

This is the first "missile city" unveiled by Iran in its southern region, though the country has previously revealed numerous similar facilities across the nation.

Iranian television broadcast the base on Saturday, featuring IRGC Commander-in-Chief Major General Hossein Salami and IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri touring the missile city.

This latest military revelation comes after the IRGC unveiled an underground base housing fast attack craft last month. Both southern facilities are located along coastlines and inland regions to maximize defensive coverage.

In short remarks, General Salami said the IRGC Navy has successfully secured all its coast-to-sea missile systems within robust subterranean tunnels. ▶ Page 2

420 industrial projects to be inaugurated during Ten-Day Dawn

TEHRAN- Iranian minister of industry, mining, and trade announced the inauguration of 420 industrial projects during the Ten-Day Dawn (January 31- February 10), which marks the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, and said that the creation of 34,000 jobs is one of the features of these projects.

According to Tasnim News Agency, quoting the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the council of the ministry's deputies held a meeting on Saturday with the presence of Mohammad Reza Aref, the First Vice President, to discuss issues in the industry, mining, and trade sectors.

In this meeting, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, the minister of industry, mining and trade, presented a report on the performance of the deputies and highlighted energy imbalance as a major issue facing production. He stated that despite the energy imbalance problem, efforts by producers and industry and mining activists have prevented product shortages in the market as much as possible.

He also reported on the restrictions in gas delivery to steel units, adding that at certain times, the quotas for units have been reduced, affecting the production record in the steel industry. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Trump's purpose in cutting off financial aid to the opposition

In a commentary, Jam-e-Jam dealt with the Trump administration's purpose in cutting off financial aid to the foreign-based Iranian opposition groups and wrote: From the point of view of the U.S. administration, this action is assessed in line with economic reforms and cost reduction. Another noteworthy point is the new U.S. administration's efforts to find some kind of compromise with the Iranian government. These efforts do not necessarily mean negotiations, establishing relations, or official communications, but rather seeking to find a common ground to reduce tensions. For this purpose, the U.S. government, in adopting this approach, should send signals. One of these signals can be the reduction of financial aid to groups hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Although this does not mean a complete normalization of relations, it could be a step towards reducing tension between the two countries and creating a platform for compromise on some issues. Also, this action by the U.S. government could be the result of assessing the irrelevance of the groups opposed to the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the current time that the Europeans are also negotiating with Iran, they may not accept the risk of increasing aid to these groups. And if they provide any assistance, it will be in secret and not as much as the aid from the United States.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Possibility of agreement with Washington likelier than not

In an analysis, Arman-e-Emrooz argued the countdown for negotiations between Iran and the United States on different issues has started. It wrote: The agenda of the negotiations is that some want to put all the disputed files on the negotiating table and reach a comprehensive agreement. Possible talks will begin with the nuclear dispute as the centerpiece. However, the American side would likely raise other issues, such as regional issues and the (Iranian) missile program. Regarding the region, it is not unlikely that understandings would be formed on the sidelines of a possible nuclear agreement between the two sides. Regarding the missile program, Iran will likely promise not to increase their range without negotiating the program itself. For now, we must wait for the negotiations to begin. Of course, it is too early to predict the outcome; but the possibility of an agreement in the end is greater than no agreement. If an agreement is reached, Iran must prepare itself for Trump's controversial statements. If no

agreement is reached, we should see what unprecedented level of tension will arise.

Arman-e-Melli: Iran has shown neither enthusiasm nor indifference to U.S.

Arman-e-Melli discussed Trump's position on Iran in an interview with Sabah Zangeneh, an expert on international relations. He said: America has not treated Iran well throughout history. But America cannot ignore Iran with a brilliant history of civilization and an active and diligent nation, as well as a country with abundant capacities and opportunities. Given these realities, it needs to adopt another method in its relations with Iran. Iran has shown neither enthusiasm nor indifference in its relations with the United States. Iran also needs a reasonable, logical, and responsible approach in its relations with all countries in the world and does not prefer any relations with any country in the world at the cost of another. All countries, whether Eastern or Western, each have their specific conditions. If Iran holds talks with the U.S. based on its national interests, it will not rule out talks with China, Russia, and other countries. Each of these countries has its capabilities and capacities, and Iran also has its capacities, and therefore it is desirable to establish balanced relations with all of these countries.

Hamshahri: British Parliament report on Iran's power in regional equations

In an article, Hamshahri discussed the British Parliament's report on Iranian power. The paper said: The report states that Iran, despite Western sanctions and recent developments in the region, is still an influential power in the Middle East equations, and its relations with key countries in the world are expanding. While Western analysts are trying to talk about the challenges facing the Axis of Resistance, the truth shows that Iran, despite widespread pressure, is still a key player in many regional and international cases. They admit that despite military and economic pressure, the structures of the resistance groups have not collapsed. This means that the West's efforts to limit Iran's power in the Middle East have been ineffective. Despite sanctions from the U.S. and its allies, Iran has managed to advance its nuclear program and defense capabilities and maintain its regional influence. This means that the West's maximum pressure has not achieved its goals and Iran continues to be a power in the Middle East equations.

IRGC Navy unveils second underground facility in southern Iran



IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri disclosing a new underground missile facility in Bandar Abbas on February 1, 2025

From page 1 ► "These missile cities house numerous systems and missiles, ensuring their safety and readiness," he stated.

Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri, for his part, highlighted the readiness of the IRGC Navy to deploy advanced cruise missiles in the shortest possible time.

The Navy Chief noted that the missiles, designed to target hostile destroyers, have undergone significant upgrades to their weapon systems and electronic warfare countermeasures.

"Our adversaries must not miscalculate our true capabilities," the Admiral added.

A standout among the newly disclosed missiles was the Qadr-380 long-range which gar-

nered significant attention from media and observers.

With an impressive reach of over 1,000 kilometers, the Qadr-380 is armed with a warhead that delivers significantly more destructive power than its predecessors.

Furthermore, the missile's state-of-the-art guidance system, featuring a sophisticated diversity radar for the final approach, enables precision targeting of specific areas on enemy assets. It can approach from multiple angles while effectively countering electronic warfare tactics.

The weapon also incorporates artificial intelligence which allows it to fly at low altitudes and evade radar detection

Pezeshkian praises Iran's advances in space and military deterrence after exhibition visit

From page 1 ► Among the key highlights was the introduction of the Pars-1 and Pars-2 remote-sensing satellites, alongside the Navak communications satellite. The Pars-1 satellite's upgraded version marks significant improvements over its predecessor, boasting enhanced capabilities. Meanwhile, the Pars-2 satellite offers increased imaging precision, with a visual spectrum providing 8-meter color resolution and 4-meter black-and-white resolution.

The Navak satellite is designed to test communications in an elliptical orbit, marking its first placement in such an orbit, further pushing the boundaries of Iran's satellite technology.

In addition to these space advancements, Pezeshkian visited an exhibition at the Ministry of Defense, where the Iranian Defense Ministry showcased its latest military innovations, including satellite launchers, guidance systems, and the much-anticipated ballistic missile, "Etamad," or "trust" in Persian. With a striking range of 1,700 kilometers, the Etamad missile, measuring 16 meters in length and 1.25 meters in diameter, is equipped with a guided warhead that ensures accurate targeting.

The exhibition also displayed



Iran unveils Etamad ballistic missile during an exhibition on February 2, 2025.

new developments in Iran's missile defense capabilities, with photos of the next-generation Bavar-373 system, which features launchers equipped with advanced tracking and fire control radars, further enhancing its ability to target hostile threats.

'Iran's military, space advancements intended as a deterrent'

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, President Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran's military and space advancements are intended as a deterrent, ensuring the security and sovereignty of the nation.

"Our progress in defense and

space technologies is designed to prevent any thoughts of aggression or invasion against Iran," he stated.

The President also highlighted the resilience and ingenuity of Iran's youth and experts, who have made significant strides in developing and even exporting military equipment despite external efforts to hinder the country's self-sufficiency.

"In the past, invading Iran was an option for our adversaries, but today, thanks to the efforts of our experts, youth, and specialists, no one dares to consider such actions," Pezeshkian added.

Families of Shiraz terror attack victims demand justice in Tehran trial



The first session of the trial for the case filed by the families of the Shahcheragh martyrs was held in Branch 55 of the Tehran International Court on February 2, 2025.

TEHRAN – On Sunday, the first session of a new trial for the Shiraz terrorist attack case, filed by the victims' families, was held in Branch 55 of the Tehran International Court.

Eyewitnesses, injured individuals, and the families of the slain shared their accounts of the tragic event and demanded justice.

The Shahcheragh Holy Shrine in Shiraz, southern Iran, was targeted by Daesh terrorists twice, in 2022 and 2023. These attacks resulted in the deaths of 15 civilians and injuries to dozens more.

Iran has so far tried and sen-

tenced multiple individuals linked to the attacks, but the case at the Tehran International Court seems to seek to hold the U.S. accountable. The injured and families of the victims view Washington as the primary supporter of ISIS terrorists, an assertion they back with substantial evidence.

Judge Majid Hosseinzadeh stated at the beginning of the court session on Sunday, "The Tehran Court deems itself competent to hear this case because, according to Article 34 of the Constitution, seeking justice is an inalienable right of every Iranian."

Judge Hosseinzadeh added that

the case involves 402 plaintiffs against 42 defendants, including the U.S. government and its officials, seeking material, moral, and punitive damages.

Following the judge's order, the plaintiffs' lawyer, Ali Mashaikhi, took the stand.

"This case is not just a legal matter for the families of the martyrs and veterans; it is a movement to uphold the rights of those who sacrificed their lives for their nation and homeland," Mashaikhi stated.

The lawyer added that no power, even if "operating behind the scenes" should manage to escape justice.

Mashaikhi referred to Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, stating, "Governments are obliged to refrain from threatening the territorial integrity or political independence of other countries. Therefore, supporting terrorist groups is a clear violation of this principle."

'I lost my entire family a week before my wedding'

Fatemeh Saraydar, who suffered the devastating loss of her father, mother, and brother in the Shahcheragh terrorist attack, and whose younger brother Artin was injured, testified on Sunday about

Defense ministry says Iran planning two satellite launches in February

During the same event, Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh announced that the country is preparing for two significant space launches in February. He emphasized that Iran has now reached a high level of capability in satellite launches and is making ambitious plans for the future. "There is excellent collaboration between the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Communications in the space sector, and private companies have also been actively involved," Nasirzadeh added. "The Ministry of Defense is currently in contact with over 7,000 private companies and 300 knowledge-based companies."

Reflecting on the country's space progress, Nasirzadeh stated, "We started our space journey with the construction of satellites, and when we faced challenges in satellite launches, we turned to developing satellite launch vehicles. Today, we've reached a mature stage in this field, and we have solid plans for the future."

He also hinted at the possibility of providing space-related services to countries with which Iran has strong diplomatic ties.

the profound impact of the tragedy on her and her brother.

"This incident is indescribable and painful," she began, her voice breaking. "This tragedy has severely wounded my soul and psyche, and it cannot be expressed in words."

She continued, "This tragic incident happened just a week before my wedding. My world collapsed, and I couldn't imagine that my father, mother, and brother would suddenly perish in such a horrific manner. The shock of that moment is always with me, to the point where I sometimes think it was a nightmare."

Saraydar further explained, "My brother Artin became depressed after the incident. Whenever he saw a child with their father, he would stare with a lump in his throat, missing our loved ones."

Concluding her testimony, she pleaded with the judge to "alleviate this heavy grief by delivering a just verdict."

Judge Hosseinzadeh, after hearing several other testimonies, brought the session to a close, announcing that "A verdict will be issued within the legal timeframe."

Tajikistan deputy FM visits Tehran amid efforts to establish new era of ties

TEHRAN – The Deputy Foreign Minister of Tajikistan arrived in Iran on Sunday to participate in an event related to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

During his stay in Tehran, Nasriddin is also scheduled to hold separate meetings with Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, as well as several other dignitaries.

The visit comes as Iran and Tajikistan have recently expressed a strong desire to strengthen their bilateral ties.

In the past two years, the two countries have signed multiple agreements to strengthen cooperation in various fields, including trade, energy, and cultural exchange. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's recent trip to Tajikistan further underscored the two nations' commitment to expand diplomatic and economic relations. The January visit was warmly received by both Tajik and Iranian people, who viewed it as a formal reunion of historic kin.

During a joint press conference, Pezeshkian's Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon, announced he had cancelled visa requirements

for Iranians.

"Come to Tajikistan with your families and children. I am waiting for you this Nowrooz," he stated.

Iran must reclaim lost ground in Tajikistan, take ties to new level: analyst

Even though recent developments have been constructive regarding the two nations' ties, Iran's influence in Tajikistan has diminished in recent years, allowing rival nations to fill the void, according to international affairs analyst Qassem Beyk Mohammad.

Speaking on the current state of relations between the two countries, Beyk Mohammad highlighted Iran's declining economic presence and the missed opportunities for cultural and security cooperation. "Iran has ceded the Tajikistan space to its rivals," Beyk Mohammad stated, emphasizing the shift in regional dynamics. "A decade ago, Iran was one of the five key trade and economic partners of Tajikistan, but it no longer holds that position, although changes are underway." He noted that while there are signs of potential improvement, the



absence of a stronger Iranian presence has allowed other nations to gain influence in the region.

Despite the dwindling economic ties, Beyk Mohammad pointed out the strong cultural bonds that exist between the two countries, stating that culture can serve as a "foundation for strengthening economic and political ties." He elaborated, "Iran and Tajikistan share a common language and similar culture. In Tajikistan, regardless of political perspectives, there is a sense of closeness and cultural empathy with the people of Iran."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Leader in meeting with participants of Quranic competition: By God's will impossible becomes possible, like Gaza's victory

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution advised a group of Quranic scholars, reciters, and Hafizes (memorizers) to remain steadfast in hope, emphasizing that through God's will, even the seemingly impossible is achievable, as exemplified by the Palestinians in Gaza's victory over the U.S. and Israel after a 15-month disproportionate war.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei made the remarks during a Sunday meeting with individuals who had participated in the 41st International Quran Competition.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei first congratulated the participants on the birth of Imam Hussain (PBUH). He emphasized the Quran's words, structure, concepts, and divine traditions, highlighting them as a remarkable miracle. Ayatollah Khamenei stated that utilizing this great miracle could resolve humanity's problems and organize human societies.

He referred to the Quran and Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) continuous miracles as an immense blessing for humanity and the universe, emphasizing that when engaging with and reciting the Quran, individuals should fully acknowledge encountering the Final Messenger's miracle. Further explaining the Quranic concept of tawakkul (trust in God), the Leader stated: "According to the Holy Quran, whoever puts their trust



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei meets with Quran reciters and memorizers in Tehran, on February 2, 2025.

in God, He is sufficient for them; therefore, if the conditions of tawakkul are fulfilled, this divine promise will certainly be fulfilled."

Ayatollah Khamenei described trust in God's true promises as the mental prerequisite for reliance on Him and added: "One must have absolute certainty, without any doubt, that by God's permission, even the impossible will become possible."

He noted that the victory of the people of Gaza over the Zionist and American regimes exemplifies the realization of the impossible. "If it had been said that the people of the small region of Gaza would fight against a great power like the U.S. and emerge victorious, no one would have believed it. But this seemingly impossible event was realized by God's per-

mission," he said.

The Leader cited presence in the field of action as the second condition for the fulfillment of the Quranic verse "Whoever puts his trust in God, He will suffice him" and said that in every matter, God has assigned a part of the responsibility to human beings. "If, in addition to mental certainty in God's promises, these duties are also fulfilled, without a doubt, any task—even if it seems impossible—will become achievable."

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, confrontation with Global Arrogance is not just limited to the Iranian nation, but "the difference between the Iranian nation and others is that Iran dares to state this reality: that the U.S. is an aggressor, a liar, a deceiver, and a colonialist that adheres to no human

principles whatsoever." Therefore, he continued, the Iranian nation chants "Down with America," while others lack the courage to voice these truths, stand against the U.S., and play their part in the fight against Global Arrogance.

In another part of his remarks, the Leader described the Iranian nation's 46 years of patience and perseverance in the face of the alignment of all Arrogant Powers as the reason for the country's growth in different fields. He added, "Not only did the Iranian nation not suffer a blow in this confrontation, but it also advanced and progressed in every way."

The Leader also cited the training of thousands of young and teenage Quran reciters and memorizers across the country as an example of the nation's spiritual advancements. In material aspects as well, the country has developed, with various major achievements carried out by the youth, he said, adding, "These advancements, with reliance on God, will continue until the nation reaches its peak and desired position."

At the beginning of the ceremony, some top participants in the recent International Quran Competitions in the holy city of Mashhad, along with a group of outstanding young Quran reciters, recited passages from the Holy Quran.

Further solidifying their commitment to stronger ties, Hajiyev emphasized that no external forces could undermine the deepening relationship between Azerbaijan and Iran. He also had a productive meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister, marking another significant moment in the ongoing diplomatic dialogue between the two countries.

This high-level visit comes on the heels of another important trip by Ahmadian earlier this month, where he visited both Baku and Yerevan. During his trip to Baku, Ahmadian met with President Ilham Aliyev to discuss a range of cooperative initiatives across political, security, defense, and economic spheres. The two officials also agreed on the need to strengthen economic relations, particularly focusing

on energy and transportation corridors, including the strategic North-South Corridor and the Aghband transit route.

In addition to discussions on economic matters, the two sides touched on regional security concerns, particularly the ongoing tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia. These tensions have been exacerbated by territorial disputes over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, a situation that has escalated in recent years. Both countries have accused each other of military provocations and violations of territorial integrity. Iran has consistently called for de-escalation, urging both Azerbaijan and Armenia to engage in dialogue to avoid further hostilities.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Advisor to Azerbaijan president meets Iranian officials in Tehran

From Page 1 ► During his meeting with Ahmadian, the Iranian official stressed the importance of the close relationship between the two countries, describing Iran and Azerbaijan as "one entity" and "two brothers." He underscored that maintaining and furthering this brotherly connection is a key duty, and that efforts would continue to remove any obstacles to their bilateral relations.

In a similar vein, Hajiyev reaffirmed Azerbaijan's view of Iran as a close friend and ally, noting the continuous development of relations between the two nations, especially following the positive outcomes of a meeting between Ahmadian and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev. Hajiyev also noted that several Azerbaijani officials have recently visited Iran, underscoring the growing impor-



tance of their diplomatic engagement.

Ahmadian, reflecting on his positive and friendly meetings with President Ilham Aliyev during his recent trip to Baku, added that both countries' "enemies" seek to disrupt their relations. However, he firmly believed that the wisdom

of both nations' leaders and their people would prevail in countering such attempts at destabilization. The two sides also discussed the full implementation of agreements reached during previous meetings, with Ahmadian assuring that follow-ups would continue to ensure their success.

Haddadi testimonial match confirmed for Feb. 21

TEHRAN – Iranian basketball legend Hamed Haddadi will be honored with a testimonial match on February 21.

He announced his retirement in September of last year, and Javad Davari, president of the Iranian Basketball Federation, confirmed that the federation would organize this special event in his honor. Haddadi ended his illustrious career with Iran's national team at the age of 38, after 23 years of service.

His retirement was officially declared following the final Classification Round game at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023. Known as the 'big man', Haddadi holds the distinction of being the first Iranian to play in the NBA, making his debut with the Memphis Grizzlies in 2008. His NBA journey also included stints with the Dakota Wizards and the Phoenix Suns.

For over a decade, Haddadi was the cornerstone of Iran's 'golden generation', leading Team Melli to three FIBA Asia Cup victories in 2007, 2009, and 2013.

He also represented Iran in the Olympic Games in 2008 and 2020, and participated in four FIBA World Cups (2010, 2014, 2019, 2023).

Esteghlal to face Al Shorta in must-win game

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team will be desperate to not slip up when it hosts Al Shorta in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024–25 on Monday.

Victory will keep Iran's Esteghlal within touching distance of the knockout stage.

Esteghlal blew hot and cold prior to the continental championship going into the break, only managing one win and five points.

That, however, was enough to see them sit in eighth – the final qualifying spot – and victories in their remaining two matches will take the team through. Al Shorta, however, are in a battle for survival as the Iraqi side should win their final two matches to stand a chance of advancing.

Two points from six matches makes for grim reading but with nothing to lose, Al Shorta will be determined to fight till the end and Esteghlal must not take victory for granted against the bottom-placed side in the West Zone standings.

Yusuke Araki to officiate Esteghlal vs Al Shorta

TEHRAN – Japanese referee Yusuke Araki has been appointed to officiate the match between Esteghlal and Al Shorta in the AFC Champions League Elite 2024–25.

The 38-year-old referee will be assisted by his compatriots Jun Mihara and Kota Watanabe.

The fourth official will be Ryo Tanimoto.

The match will be held in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Monday. Esteghlal sit in eighth – the final qualifying spot – and victories in its remaining two matches will take the team through.

Palayesh Naft crowned champions of Women's Futsal League

TEHRAN – Palayesh Naft Abadan won the 2024/25 Iran Women's Futsal Premier League, claiming the title for the third time, having previously finished in first place in 2017 and 2020.

Naft Omidieh and Saipa secured second and third place, respectively.

Naft Omidieh's Fatemeh Hosseini was named the best goalscorer of the season with 16 goals.

The Iranian Women's Futsal Premier League is the top level of women's futsal club competitions in Iran, with the inaugural season taking place in 2005.

Serdar Dursun to wear No. 91 at Persepolis

TEHRAN – Serdar Dursun will wear the No.91 shirt for Persepolis after he completed his transfer on Thursday.

The Turkish forward will most likely play against Al Hilal on Tuesday in the 2024/25 AFC Champions League Elite.

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

Dursun has previously played for Turkish teams Eskişehirspor, Sanlıurfaspor, Denizlispor, Fatih Karagümrük, Fenerbahçe, and Alanyaspor, as well as German teams Greuther Fürth and Darmstadt 98. He has made 10 appearances for the Turkish national team, scoring seven goals.

Shadi Paridar elected head of Iran chess

TEHRAN – Shadi Paridar was elected as president of the Iran Chess Federation on Sunday.

She was elected for a four-year term till 2029.

In the elections held at Iran's Academy Olympic in Tehran, Paridar secured 51 of 58 votes cast.

Kamal Javanmard came second with three votes. Paridar, 38, has won Iranian Women Chess Championship four times. She won the Asian Under-16 Girls' Championship in 2002 in Tehran.

Paridar represented Iran in the Women's Chess Olympiads of 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010, and in the Women's Asian Team Chess Championships of 1995, 2003, 2005, 2008 and 2009.

Iranian rower Norouzi undergoes hand surgery

TEHRAN – Iran national rower Zeinab Norouzi underwent a hand injury on Sunday.

She will start her training after 15 days following carpal tunnel release surgery.

Norouzi won a gold medal in the 2024 Asian Rowing Championships.

She claimed the gold with a time of 08:02.721 in the lightweight single sculls.

Ghandipour linked with Emirati side Al Wahda

TEHRAN – Iran's international forward, Reza Ghandipour, is reportedly linked with a move to the Emirati club Al Wahda.

Ghandipour had previously attracted interest from both Persepolis and Esteghlal.

The 19-year-old currently plays for Malavan Bandar Anzali in Iran.

Al Wahda, captained by Iranian international midfielder Ahmad Nouroollahi, are currently fifth in the 14-team UAE Pro League standings.

Beheshti Rad bags silver at UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup

TEHRAN — Iranian athlete Mohsen Beheshti Rad won silver at the second UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup of the 2025 season.

The 2025 UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup is being held in Champagny-en-Vanoise in south-eastern France. Mongolian climber Mandakhbayar Chulu-unbaatar won gold at the event.

The bronze medal of the category went to another Mongolian sportsman Kherlen Nyamdoo.

Set up in 1931, the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) has a global presence on six continents representing 90 member associations and federations in 67 countries.



Agricultural Support Services Company

INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

Second Announcement

55/03/06613
03/02/2025



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

The Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Jihad-Agriculture of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×50000±5% MTS of **Granular Potassium Chloride (GMOP)** through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Sunday** dated **02/02/2025** until **Saturday** dated **08/02/2025** (5 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 3390397822635006500000000000008

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Monday** dated **10/03/2025** (During official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be on **Tuesday** dated **11/03/2025** at **14:00** with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

1- The bid bond value should be at **€ 381302** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the Telegraphic Transfer rate of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, www.fxmarketrates.cbi.ir, on **21/1/2025** for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

2- The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 50000 MTS ± 5% will be **IRR 112,997,769,386** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

3- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

For more information, you may refer to our website www.assc.ir, and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.

Public relations and international affairs of agricultural support services company

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Iran, Tunisia stress revival of joint business council

TEHRAN- In a meeting between Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hasanzadeh and Tunisian Ambassador to Iran Imad Al-Rahmuni, it was emphasized that the Iran-Tunisia Joint Business Council should be revived, and establishing Tehran-Tunis flights is a prerequisite for developing trade relations between the two countries.

In the meeting the importance of exchanging up-to-date commercial information between the traders of the two countries was highlighted, and the necessity of reviving the Joint Business Council of the two countries was emphasized.

The ICCIMA head said: "The volume of trade between Iran and Tunisia does not match the commercial capacities of the two countries. This is due to the lack of information among traders of the two countries about the economic facilities and capacities in Iran and Tunisia."

Hasanzadeh further referred to the important role of the embassies of the two countries in developing trade relations and continued: "If the Tunisian Embassy in Iran provides up-to-date information on the major needs of this country and in which areas Iran can meet these needs to the Iran Chamber of Commerce, it will certainly have a significant impact on creating cooperation opportunities between the private sectors of the two countries."

He emphasized: "Iranian private sector companies have significant capacities in the food industry, petrochemicals, steel, machinery manufacturing, building materials, technical and engineering services, construction, tunnel construction, railways and refineries, medical and healthcare services, especially health tourism, agriculture and the supply of agricultural equipment, especially the development of greenhouse agriculture, cultural and academic services."

The ICCIMA head said: "Joint production and investment by Iranian companies in the field of heavy machinery and tractors in Tunisia can be one of the areas of cooperation between the traders of the two countries."

He emphasized: "Iran Chamber of Commerce is ready to receive and send trade delegations, develop tourism, and economic cooperation between Iran and Tunisia with the aim of increasing the trade volume of the two countries."

Developing trade ties with Iran, main goal of Tunisian Embassy in Tehran

Further in the meeting, Tunisian Ambassador to Iran Imad Al-Rahmuni referred to his efforts to develop trade relations between



ICCIMA Head Samad Hasanzadeh (R) and Tunisian Ambassador to Iran Imad Al-Rahmuni

Tunisia and Iran, saying: "Our political relations are excellent, but our trade relations have not yet reached this level. The main goal of the embassy is to strengthen trade relations between Iran and Tunisia."

He pointed out the visa waiver between Iran and Tunisia and the possibility of developing tourism and increasing travel for citizens and traders of the two countries to each other's countries, emphasizing: "However, this depends on establishing direct flights between Iran and Tunisia. In this regard, we are working to establish a direct Tehran-Tunis flight."

The envoy emphasized the necessity of reviving the Iran-Tunisia Joint Business Council, stating: "The meeting of Joint Business Council of the two countries has not been held for several years and needs to be activated. We are trying to make this happen on the sidelines of the Joint Economic Committee of the two countries. Our goal is to create a suitable environment for the activities of the private sectors of Iran and Tunisia and to inform about the investment capacities of the two countries."

He referred to Iran's capabilities in the field of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, stating: "We are trying to bring a delegation of entrepreneurs in this field from Tunisia to Iran. We need to develop joint investment in the production of cancer and heart disease drugs between Iran and Tunisia. If Tunisian traders are aware of Iran's industrial production capacities, which are produced with higher quality and lower prices, more cooperation opportunities will definitely be created."

The ambassador of Tunisia in Iran emphasized: "There are many trade and economic agreements between Tunisia and Iran that have not been implemented and need to be activated."

He said: "Tunisia has economic and free trade agreements with African countries, which is a good advantage for Iranian traders in trading with this country."

same period of time in the past year.

The official said that the figure should reach 40 million tons per year based on the country's Seventh National Development Plan.

Also, Mehdi Khezri, the deputy for transportation at the organization, has 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.

Annual transit of goods via Iran's roads anticipated to reach 17.5m tons

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through the roads of Iran is anticipated to reach 17.5 million tons by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), an official with Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) announced.

Javad Hedayati, the director-general of the Transit Office of the organization, also stated that 15 million tons of goods were transited via the roads of country during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025), with a growth of 27 percent as compared to the

NIGC to put 3,984 gas supply, development projects into operation

TEHRAN- The managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced that 3,984 gas supply and development projects will be put into operation in the country on the occasion of the Ten-Day Dawn (January 31- February 10), which marks the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

Saeed Tavakoli said: "The development of gas supply to cities, villages, and less developed areas is one of the main priorities

of these projects to ensure that all people benefit from natural gas with a social justice approach."

He also announced the operation of an advanced data center during the Ten-Day Dawn and said: "This data center has been implemented based on two important data center standards with expert and managerial work in information and communication technology management, utilizing the experience and capabilities of domestic specialists."

Iran, Kazakhstan set goal for transit of 5m tons of cargo

TEHRAN- In a meeting between Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) and Kazakhstan Ambassador to Tehran Ontalap Onalbayev, a goal was set to transit five million tons of cargo through Iran over the next five years.

In this meeting, RAI Head Jabbar Ali Zakeri emphasized the results of previous meetings between the railway directors of Iran and Kazakhstan, stating that the capacity to transport five million tons of cargo through Iran's railway has been identified, and both parties will strive to achieve this capacity over the next five years.

He mentioned that agreements have been made with CIS member countries, including Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, for the passage of Iranian wagons. With this agreement, Iranian wagons will be able to travel in Kazakhstan, and Kazakh wagons will be able to travel in Iran's railway network.

Zakeri considered the annual transport of 275,000 tons of Kazakh cargo through Iran's railway network insufficient and stated that joint meetings between the railways of the two countries can address obstacles according to the volume of cargo and the set goals.

He also emphasized Iran's readiness to expand cooperation to maximize cargo transportation through Iran's railway corridor and ports.

The ambassador of Kazakhstan, for himself, considered Iran's railway corridor the safest and closest route for transporting cargo to open waters and called for the continuation of meetings to achieve the set goals.

On January 7, Kazakhstan's ambassador to Iran and the head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TC-CIMA) met at the place of chamber to discuss ways to expand trade relations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Kazakh ambassador announced that a trade delegation led by Kazakhstan's Minister of Trade would soon visit Tehran.

A memorandum of cooperation was also signed between Tehran's Chamber of Commerce and the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce on the sidelines of the meeting.

The discussions highlighted the Iranian Parliament's approval of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

Both sides viewed the agreement as a historic economic opportunity to initiate broader economic and trade collaborations between Iran and Kazakhstan.

During the meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab, noted that the current trade volume between Iran and Kazakhstan does not align with the potential of both countries.

He described Iran's observer membership in the EAEU as a turning point for economic relations with member states, including Kazakhstan.

He reiterated Tehran Chamber's commitment to leveraging its resources and the private sector to foster stronger economic partnerships.

He also referred to the upcoming third Eurasian International Trade Exhibition, scheduled for early March 2025 in Tehran, emphasizing the potential for private sector collaboration in fields such as engi-



neering, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, machinery, textiles, and food industries.

He called for identifying opportunities in these areas and facilitating sustainable partnerships between businesses in both countries.

The official further proposed establishing joint chambers between Tehran and major Kazakh cities, such as Almaty and Astana, to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Ontalap Onalbayev highlighted Kazakhstan's strategic importance as a reliable trade route to major markets in Russia and China, backed by robust infrastructure and favorable conditions for foreign investments.

He noted that Iran is a significant trading partner for Kazakhstan in the region and commended Tehran's Chamber of Commerce for its critical role in enhancing bilateral economic ties.

The ambassador announced that a Kazakh trade delegation, including major companies, would visit Tehran for the 20th Joint Economic Committee meeting between the two nations. This visit aims to foster negotiations and partnerships with Iranian counterparts.

Onalbayev emphasized that a cooperation document signed between Iran and Kazakhstan in 2023 outlines a roadmap for economic collaboration, with chambers of commerce from both countries tasked with implementing key provisions. He also noted that Iran's direct investment in Kazakhstan reached \$3.4 billion in 2023, highlighting significant potential for further growth.

Amir Abedi, head of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce, proposed twinning Tehran's Chamber with Astana's Chamber and called for extending the current 15-day visa-free travel agreement to 30 days.

He stressed that the upcoming Eurasia Trade Exhibition and related events could mark a pivotal step in revitalizing economic ties between the two nations.

Meanwhile during a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi and Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Tehran Ontalap Onalbayev in late November 2024, the Iranian official highlighted the need to establish a joint business council with Kazakhstan.

He said: "The formation of a business cooperation council between the two countries can help in the process of developing trade relations between the two countries, and we are interested in forming this council with the participation of the Iranian and Kazakh Chambers of Commerce."

He further pointed out the importance of transit and transportation of goods for Iran, adding: "Activating a railway route between the two countries can also play a role in the development of international corri-

dors."

Regarding the need to expand trade between Iran and Kazakhstan, he said: "We are prepared to develop trade between the two countries, both in imports and exports, and we do not have a priority in which direction our trade should be oriented. Because good imports bring prosperity to the people, and exports contribute to employment and production."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the TPO head mentioned Iran's potential and capacities to export technical engineering services to Kazakhstan, saying: "Our companies have good technical knowledge and expertise and can complete various projects with the best quality and the lowest price. Many projects, completed by Iranian contractors in the region, have been appreciated as exemplary projects."

He called on the Kazakh side to facilitate bank guarantees for Iranian contractors.

Dehghan Dehnavi continued by emphasizing that the Eurasia Exclusive Exhibition in Iran is a good opportunity for the presence of Kazakh traders, merchants, and manufacturers in Iran, saying: "This year, given that the Free Trade Agreement with Eurasia is being ratified in the parliament, we hope that Kazakhstan will have a more serious presence in the exhibition, which can pave the way for the development of trade relations between the two countries."

Also, during a meeting between Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Kazakhstan Ambassador to Tehran Ontalap Onalbayev in early August 2024, the Iranian official criticized the low volume of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan, underlining the need for the implementation of joint cooperation agreements between the two countries as soon as possible.

"The \$300 million trade between Iran and Kazakhstan is not proportional to the facilities and capacities of the two countries, and we should all try to achieve the target of 3 billion dollars of trade set in the joint cooperation agreement," Hassanzadeh stated.

"Iran Chamber of Commerce is pursuing the faster implementation of the joint cooperation agreement between Iran and Kazakhstan with the aim of increasing the trade relations between the two countries," the official added.

Referring to the logistics agreement between Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia, Hassanzadeh added: "We should be able to use this opportunity in the field of transportation to promote the trade among the countries in the region."

The ICCIMA head invited the head of the Kazakhstan Chamber and the businessmen of the country to visit Iran, and said: "Considering Iran's capabilities in the fields of

technical and engineering services, the establishment of power plants, the development of petrochemical industries, food, agriculture and livestock industries, construction, Pharmaceuticals and medicine, tourism, handicrafts, information and communication technology and knowledge-based products, we can form good cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries."

He pointed to the interest of Iranian private sector for investments in Kazakhstan and said: "We expect the Kazakh government to support Iran's private sector more."

"Considering the solution of banking issues between Iran and Kazakhstan, especially in the fields of agriculture and livestock, there is a very suitable field for joint investments, which should be used," he emphasized.

Onalbayev for his part pointed to the good political and economic cooperation between the two countries in regional organizations and said: "Good cooperation between the two countries has been established and is being formed in the field of cargo transit and sea, rail and land transportation which should continue."

About 70 percent of the trade between the two countries last year was related to Iran's exports to Kazakhstan, and it is possible to work in the fields of production and supply of meat and agricultural products, petrochemicals and construction materials, to increase the volume of trade and balance it, the envoy said.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref arrived in Kazakhstan's capital Almaty, on the head of a high-ranking delegation, on January 30 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.

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.

420 industrial projects to be inaugurated during Ten-Day Dawn

TEHRAN- Iranian minister of industry, mining, and trade announced the inauguration of 420 industrial projects during the Ten-Day Dawn (January 31- February 10), which marks the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, and said that the creation of 34,000 jobs is one of the features of these projects.

According to Tasnim News Agency, quoting

the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the council of the ministry's deputies held a meeting on Saturday with the presence of Mohammad Reza Aref, the First Vice President, to discuss issues in the industry, mining, and trade sectors.

In this meeting, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, the minister of industry, mining and trade,

presented a report on the performance of the deputies and highlighted energy imbalance as a major issue facing production. He stated that despite the energy imbalance problem, efforts by producers and industry and mining activists have prevented product shortages in the market as much as possible.

Trump-Netanyahu meeting: A Hail Mary pass to shield a wanted criminal

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's trip to the United States and his anticipated meeting with President Donald Trump clearly indicates that he is clutching at straws in an attempt to obscure Israel's military setbacks in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Netanyahu is slated to hold talks with Trump on Tuesday at the White House.

In a statement issued prior to his departure on Sunday, the Israeli premier once again highlighted his dream of defeating Hamas.

Netanyahu, known as Bibi, said he will have a discussion with the US president in the Oval Office about "victory over Hamas and

Despite failing to achieve military goals during the course of the Gaza war, Netanyahu's insistence on vanquishing Hamas appears to be a product of wishful thinking.

Further in his Sunday remarks, Netanyahu once again attempted to demonize Iran, stating that addressing the "Iranian terror axis in all its components" will be a key topic during his discussions with Trump.

Israel characterizes Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Ansarullah along with Iraqi resistance groups as Iran's proxies.

Iran has repeatedly rejected such claims as baseless.

Netanyahu and his allies claim that Iran has been weakened in



The Israeli PM is grasping at straws during his US trip in an attempt to paper over the regime's international isolation

national isolation.

The Israeli populace has expressed frustration towards Netanyahu for his inability to realize his objectives through military means.

The regime's international isolation has also deepened over its crimes in Gaza.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for massacring more than 47,000 Palestinians in Gaza and starving them to death.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has also issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu and former war minister Yoav Gallant for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Netanyahu is now a wanted criminal who is seeking to paper over Israel's growing international isolation and its military setbacks.

In July 2024, Netanyahu addressed a joint session of the American Congress during a trip to the US. While the Gaza death

ton, his army slaughtered more Palestinians in Gaza.

In September, Netanyahu held another meeting with Biden on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly. The meeting was simultaneous with Israel's brutal attacks on Lebanon.

It seems that Netanyahu's US visits embolden him to perpetrate more crimes in the region.

The US unwavering military and political support for Israel during the course of the Gaza war has also made Washington complicit in the regime's crimes.

Protesters in the United States have labeled Biden as "Genocide Joe" in response to the country's involvement in Israel's crimes in Gaza.

Biden's backing for Israel was a significant factor contributing to the Democrats' loss in the November presidential election.

For now, President Trump should wake up to the fact that Bibi is a pariah. Trump should realize that supporting Netanyahu



Bibi is an outcast whose arrest warrant has been issued by the ICC over committing war crimes in the Gaza Strip

toll had surpassed 39,000 at that time, he received massive applause from American lawmakers during his speech. Netanyahu also held a meeting with former president Joe Biden.

Upon returning from Washing-

will leave his administration with egg on its face.

The US president should leave the Israeli premier in the cold if he wants to fulfill his pledge of ending wars in the Middle East (West Asia).

Trump tariffs: Canada, Mexico and China vow swift response

President Donald Trump on Saturday signed an order to impose stiff tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada and China, drawing swift retaliation and an undeniable sense of betrayal from the country's North American neighbors as a trade war erupted among the longtime allies.

The Republican president posted on social media that the tariffs were necessary "to protect Americans," pressing the three nations to do more to curb the manufacture and export of illicit fentanyl and for Canada and Mexico to reduce illegal immigration into the US, AP reported.

The tariffs, if sustained, could cause inflation to significantly worsen, threatening the trust that many voters placed in Trump to lower the prices of groceries, gasoline, housing, autos and other goods as he promised. They also risked throwing the global economy and Trump's political mandate into turmoil just two weeks into his second term.

Trump declared an economic emergency in order to place duties of 10% on all imports from China and 25% on imports from Mexico and Canada. Energy imported from Canada,

including oil, natural gas and electricity, would be taxed at a 10% rate. Trump's order includes a mechanism to escalate the rates charged by the U.S. against retaliation by the other countries, raising the specter of an even more severe economic disruption.

"The actions taken today by the White House split us apart instead of bringing us together," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a somber tone as he announced that his country would put matching 25% tariffs on up to \$155 billion in U.S. imports, including alcohol and fruit. He channeled the betrayal that many Canadians are feeling, reminding Americans that Canadian troops fought alongside them in Afghanistan and helped respond to myriad crises from wildfires in California to Hurricane Katrina.

"We were always there standing with you, grieving with you, the American people," he said. Mexico's president also ordered retaliatory tariffs.

"We categorically reject the White House's slander that the Mexican government has alliances with criminal organizations, as well as any intention of meddling in our territory,"

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum wrote in a post on X while saying she had instructed her economy secretary to implement a response that includes retaliatory tariffs and other measures in defense of Mexico's interests.

"If the United States government and its agencies wanted to address the serious fentanyl consumption in their country, they could fight the sale of drugs on the streets of their major cities, which they don't do and the laundering of money that this illegal activity generates that has done so much harm to its population."

The premier of the Canadian province of British Columbia, David Eby, specifically called on residents to stop buying liquor from U.S. "red" states and said it was removing American alcohol brands from government store shelves as a response to the tariffs.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the country's government "firmly deplores and opposes this move and will take necessary countermeasures to defend its legitimate rights and interests."



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Ansarullah leader warns Israel: Yemen's army ready to counter any ceasefire violations

Leader of Yemen's Ansarullah movement Abdul Malik Al-Houthi has warned Israel against violating truce agreements with Hezbollah and Hamas resistance movements.

In a speech on Sunday, the Ansarullah leader said the Yemeni army stands prepared to "escalate tensions against the enemy (Israel)" if it violates the ceasefire

agreements.

Al-Houthi also touched upon Israel's intensified assault on the occupied West Bank.

"The United States and the Zionist regime made futile attempts to crush resistance by invading Gaza. They are now trying to compensate for their setbacks in Gaza by committing crimes in the West Bank."

Freed Palestinians faced horrific crimes

From page 1 ► where the occupation employs brutal torture methods that violate all international laws and norms concerning prisoners."

The office also emphasized that the torture, repression, and mistreatment of Palestinian prisoners "constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, necessitating immediate intervention from the international community, the United Nations, and all human rights organizations to stop these crimes and hold those responsible accountable."

Freed prisoner Issa Al-Darabee from the Ramon Prison told regional media about the suffering of Palestinian prisoners in occupation prisons, stating that "the Israeli occupation systematically starves prisoners while its soldiers live their daily lives as if they were at home."

The Palestinian Prisoners' Club noted that the occupation practices organized terrorism against freed prisoners and prevented their families from holding any welcome celebrations for them.

The Governorate of Ramallah and Al-Bireh reported that ten freed prisoners were transferred to hospitals due to their critical health conditions.

In the Gaza Strip, freed prisoners were taken to the European Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, for medical examinations.

On Saturday, Hamas confirmed that the violations against Palestinian prisoners necessitate immediate intervention from the United Nations, the international community, and human rights organizations to stop the war crimes committed by the occupation regime and hold the perpetrators accountable.

In a statement, Hamas described the ongoing horrific abuses against Palestinian prisoners in prisons as war crimes and crimes against humanity, noting that some prisoners released on Saturday were immediately transferred to hospitals due to mistreatment and torture.

There were reports that the latest batch of freed prisoners had been subjected to days of severe beatings by prison guards before their release.

On Saturday, some prisoners released under the Gaza ceasefire agreement suffered rib fractures in what has been described by NGOs as systematic terrorism against Palestinians held in Israeli prisons, including women and minors.

On the other hand, Hamas, in a statement, affirmed that despite the harsh conditions "the good physical and psychological condition of enemy prisoners proves our resistance's ethical commitment to prisoners, while the criminal occupation commits the most heinous violations against our prisoners in its jails."

Lebanon's south rising from rubble amid global pressure to obstruct new cabinet

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON – Three weeks have passed since Judge Nawaf Salam was assigned to form a new cabinet amidst complicated negotiations with the political factions, especially those who directly receive orders from the US embassy.

Reportedly, Salam is trying to impose a pre-set government. Observers believe the goal of this obstruction is to undermine the Hezbollah-Amal duo, especially after Salam backed down from appointing former minister Yassin Jaber (representing the Shiite duo) as minister of finance.

"I will not back down from the criteria that I adopt to form the government, most notably appointing ministers who are not candidates for the [parliamentary] elections ... Accordingly, Arab support and international confidence will be restored," Salam stated last week,

Stressing, "There is no ministry that is exclusive to a certain sect."

Besides, Salam informed President Aoun that "there is a fundamental obstacle that still exists with the Amal-Hezbollah duo. The other obstacles can be easily overcome once they are resolved with the Shiites."

Obviously, the international pressure on Salam is to deprive the duo of the sovereign ministries, and also to appoint anti-Hezbollah Shiite figures as ministers.

Upon meeting Nabih Berri, Speaker of the Parliament, Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdel Aati stressed the necessity of "a complete and undiminished (Israeli) withdrawal from southern Lebanon", noting that Cairo is intensively coordinating with Washington, Paris and the Israeli side with the aim of fully implementing UN Resolution 1701.

Meanwhile, specialized units in the Lebanese army continue to search for unexploded ordnance to secure the return of residents to the border villages. However, the enemy continues to violate the ceasefire agreement through airstrikes and sniping at civilians.

In turn, Hezbollah's Jihad al-Bina Foundation announced on Friday that it had begun surveying and restoring border villages in the western sector (Tyre district).

MP Hussein Jishi from Hezbollah's Loyalty to the Resistance bloc revealed that within two months the reconstruction project "surveyed more than 250,000 housing units."

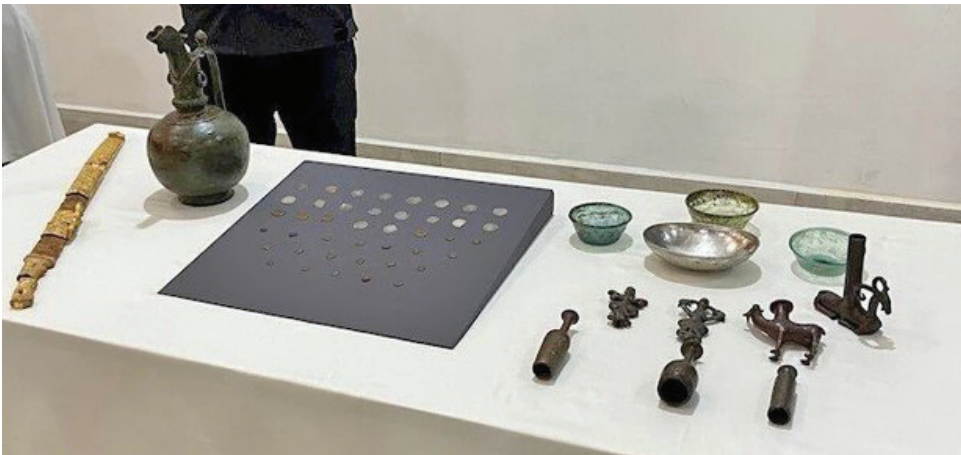
In parallel, the mayors of these villages are coordinating with the Electricité du Liban, Ogero Telecommunications Authority, and the Council of the South regarding the re-supply of basic services, as well as the opening of roads and the removal of rubble.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Regie Tobacco Company announced the annual crop in the south declined significantly, falling from 5 million kilos in 2019 to less than one million kilos in 2024 due to the financial crisis that Lebanon witnessed, the subsequent US sanctions, and the recent Israeli aggression.

The World Bank also estimated the damage to the agricultural sector – during the war on Lebanon – at \$127 million.

According to Dr. Howayda Al-Turk, the Governor of Nabatieh, coordination is underway with the Ministry of Health to attract international aid for hospitals in the south, noting that the cost of rebuilding Tebnin Governmental Hospital is estimated at about \$250,000, while the cost of restoring Bint Jbeil Governmental Hospital is about \$200,000.

55 smuggled Iranian artifacts returned from Turkey



TEHRAN – A collection of 55 Iranian artifacts has recently been returned home from Turkey after months of being handed over to the country’s consulate in Erzurum.

In early June 2024, turkey returned those historical artifacts of Iranian origin that were smuggled illegally into the country.

The Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has now confirmed that these artifacts were transferred to Iran in late January 2025, ISNA reported on Saturday.

With coordination from the Ministry’s General Directorate of Museums and support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the artifacts entered Iran via a land border and were delivered to the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Directorate of West Azarbaijan province, the report said.

Turkish authorities had seized these artifacts in Erzurum. After experts confirmed that some of these objects belonged to Irani-

an heritage, Tehran formally requested their return under the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the bilateral agreement between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Back in June, Director General of Cultural Heritage and Museums Birol Incecikoz said Türkiye has been carrying out comprehensive work on artifact smuggling. “We have become one of the rule-making countries in the world in terms of returning illegally smuggled artifacts to our country. As a country, we claim that every cultural artifact is the jewel of the country it belongs to. It must be exhibited in the country where it belongs, it must belong to that land,” he said. “As a result of these policies, today we have come together to hand over to the Republic of Iran the artifacts that we have proven to belong to the Iranian side.”

Incecikoz indicated that the items include a Sasanian sword, 42 coins, a bronze jug and 11 artifacts from the Bronze Age and Islamic eras.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Tikal National Park

Tikal National Park is located in Northern Guatemala’s Petén province within a large forest region often referred to as the Maya Forest, which extends into neighboring Mexico and Belize.

Embedded within the much larger Maya Biosphere Reserve, exceeding two million hectares and contiguous with additional conservation areas, Tikal National Park is one of the few World Heritage properties inscribed according to both natural and cultural criteria for its extraordinary biodiversity and archaeological importance. It comprises 57,600 hectares of wetlands, savannah, tropical broadleaf and palm forests with thousands of architectural and artistic remains of the Mayan civilization from the Preclassic Period (600 BC) to the decline and eventual collapse of the urban center around 900 AD. The diverse ecosystems and habitats harbor a wide spectrum of neotropical fauna and flora. Five cats, including Jaguar and Puma, several species of monkeys and anteaters and more than 300 species of birds are among the notable wildlife. The forests comprise more than 200 tree species and over 2000 higher plants have been recorded across the diverse habitats.

Tikal, a major Pre-Columbian political, economic and military center, is one of the most important archaeological complexes left by the Maya civilization. An inner urban zone of around 400 hectares contains the principal monumental architecture and monuments which include palaces, temples, ceremonial platforms, small and medium sized residences, ball-game courts, terraces, roads, large

and small squares. Many of the existing monuments preserve decorated surfaces, including stone carvings and mural paintings with hieroglyphic inscriptions, which illustrate the dynastic history of the city and its relationships with urban centers as far away as Teotihuacan and Calakmul in Mexico, Copan in Honduras or Caracol in Belize. A wider zone of key archaeological importance, around 1,200 hectares, covers residential areas and historic water reservoirs, today known as “aguadas”. The extensive peripheral zone features more than 25 associated secondary sites, historically serving protective purposes and as check-points for trade routes. The peripheral areas also played a major role for agricultural production for the densely populated center.

Research has revealed numerous constructions, carved monuments and other evidence bearing witness to highly sophisticated technical, intellectual and artistic achievements that developed from the arrival of the first settlers (800 BC) to the last stages of historic occupation around the year 900. Tikal has enhanced our understanding not only of an extraordinary bygone civilization but also of cultural evolution more broadly. The diversity and quality of architectonical and sculptural ensembles serving ceremonial, administrative and residential functions are exemplified in a number of exceptional places, such as the Great Plaza, the Lost World Complex, the Twin Pyramid Complexes, as well as in ball courts and irrigation structures.

(Source: UNESCO)

Roman pottery and human remains found in Exeter

Roman pottery and human remains have been unearthed during the installation of an underground substation in Exeter city center.

National Grid said the project to replace aging infrastructure saw engineers excavate a new access point in the basement of the former Waterstones building.

It said the work required digging to a depth of about 10ft (3m) which allowed archaeologists a rare opportunity to explore some of the city’s subterranean history.

Archaeologist Simon Hughes said there

had been “some interesting finds” which were being analyzed.

He said: “We found Roman pottery representing the legacy of the former regional capital city, Isca Dumnoniorum, and an early medieval fired clay weight.

“The recovery of some dislocated human bone is hoped to represent the remains of Exeter’s early medieval citizens.

“These are currently being analyzed to provide a radiocarbon date.

(Source: BBC)

Emergency restoration of Sasanian rock relief depicting King Bahram II completed

TEHRAN – The emergency restoration of a Sasanian rock relief of Bahram II at Tang-e Chogan, located in Bishapur, Kazerun, Fars province, has been completed, the provincial tourism chief said on Saturday.

Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi stated that following the collapse of a section of the relief known as the “Pashe Paran” which is a kind of fly swatter, a team of stone restoration experts was dispatched to Kazerun. “And documentation and restoration efforts began promptly.”

Eqlidi explained that the damaged part of the relief, which had been mistakenly referred to as a mace in media reports, was originally destroyed in 2011 by an individual seeking treasure. The relief was fragmented into numerous small and large pieces.

“Initial restoration efforts were conducted by specialists from Persepolis stone restoration at that time. However, due to natural factors, the section collapsed again and required further restoration.”

During the recent restoration project, modern conservation techniques and new materials were used



to clean, reassemble, and restore the relief, the official noted.

The bas-relief is flanked by several others of its kind which are considered among the most valuable carvings from the Sassanid era, depicting significant scenes such as the victories of Iranian monarchs over Roman emperors. The site contains six reliefs, with two on the right side of the entrance and four on the left. Three of these reliefs illustrate the victory of Shapur I over a Roman emperor.

Eqlidi further stated that other reliefs at the site depict the triumphs of Sassanian kings over rebels and enemies, as well as symbolic scenes such as the bestowal of the divine ring of power by Ahura Mazda and the subjugation of Ahriman under a galloping horse.

The newly restored relief shows how the king receives a delegation of Arabs. This relief is very interesting because it is the only Sasanian monument that shows an embassy. The

envoys are brought to the king by a Persian nobleman with a long sword.

Bahram II, the fifth Sasanian King of Iran, was the son and successor of Bahram I (r. 271–274). The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

In 2018, an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran, titled “Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region”, was named a UNESCO site. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. The World Heritage site reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Azerbaijani presidential advisor visits historical palace complex in Tehran

TEHRAN – An advisor to the President of Azerbaijan, along with his delegation, visited the museums of the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in Tehran.

Hikmat Hajiyev, a top advisor to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and head of the Foreign Policy Affairs Department of Azerbaijan, visited the complex accompanied by two of his deputies and Ali Alizada, Azerbaijan’s ambassador to Iran.

During the visit, Hajiyev and his delegation toured various sections and palaces of the complex including the Ahmad Shahi Pavilion, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Following the visit, Hajiyev highlighted the cultural similarities between the two nations and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Niavaran Complex and the Iranian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in preserving



historical artifacts.

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.

Iranian visits to Türkiye see 30.9 percent year-on-year rise

TEHRAN – The number of Iranian nationals visiting neighboring Turkey has soared by 30.9 percent in 2024 compared to a year earlier.

In the same year, Türkiye hosted 52.6 million international tourists, with travelers from Russia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Iran, and Bulgaria ranking as its top tourism sources.

Türkiye’s total tourist arrivals in 2024 grew by approximately 7% compared to the previous year, generating a record-breaking \$61.1 billion in revenue, according to official data released on Friday.

Russian tourists led the influx with 6.7 million visitors, accounting for 12.8% of Türkiye’s total foreign arrivals, marking a 6% increase from the previous year. German visitors

followed with 6.6 million, showing a 6.9% rise.

The United Kingdom contributed 4.4 million tourists, reflecting a 16.7% growth. Meanwhile, Iranian arrivals surged to 3.2 million, a substantial 30.9% increase compared to 2023, the highest growth among all key markets. Additionally, 2.9 million visitors came from Bulgaria, recording a slight 0.9% rise.



The ancient discovery that put a Silk Road city back on the map

After unearthing a rare collection of highly prized Silk Road artifacts, a family in the Himalayas has opened a museum dedicated to one of the fabled route’s final traders.

Muzzamil Hussain was in grade school when the first bombs fell on the playground outside of his classroom in Kargil, a mountain city in the Indian province of Ladakh. While the violent onset of the 1999 Kargil war between Pakistan and India unfolded around him, Hussain and his family escaped south to the remote Suru Valley.

After India claimed victory later that year and displaced families returned home, Hussain listened as his bedridden grandfather asked the family to visit an old property, originally built by Hussain’s great-grandfather, near Kargil’s bazaar to make sure it had survived the war. When Hussain’s uncles cracked through an old rusty latch and peered through the hand-carved wooden doors, they discovered wooden crates stamped with names of cities around the world. Making space on the dusty floor, the family began to lay out silks from China, silver cookware from Afghanistan, rugs from Persia, turquoise from Tibet, saddles from Mongolia and luxury soaps and salves from London, New York and Munich.

They had found an abandoned treasure trove – a collection that would soon become recognized as one of the finest family-owned collections of Silk Road artifacts in India and a discovery that would change the course of Hussain’s life.

That was 25 years ago. Today, centuries after it provided a crucial-yet-harrowing thoroughfare for Silk Road traders, the Himalayan mountain pass of Zoji La connecting Kashmir to Ladakh is still known as one of the most dangerous roads in the world. On a recent visit, my palms began to sweat as our 4x4 groaned its way higher up the mountainside. I glanced nervously out the window towards a glaciated peak at eye level, and the valley floor more than 1,000m below. No matter how close I pressed my nose against the window, I could not find the edge of the dirt road; just air and a long way to fall. In the front passenger seat, Hussain texted one of the many enterprises he runs

with his family, including two hotels, two museums, a conservation NGO and a tour guide service. This was a regular commute for him, and one that his family had braved for centuries.

(Source: BBC)

EMBASSY OF INDIA
TEHRAN

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Embassy of India in Tehran invites bids from companies interested to deliver Consular/Passport/Visa related support services for this Embassy.

Bidding companies need to submit a detailed Technical and Financial proposal in accordance with the Request for Proposal (RFP), which is available under the **Announcements** section of Embassy’s website <https://www.indianembassytehran.gov.in/>

The proposal should be addressed by name to Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, 22, Mir Emad Street, Dr. Beheshti Avenue, Tehran. It must be received by Embassy by 1500 hours (Local Time) on 05 March 2025.

UNDP committed to supporting Iran's efforts toward sustainable energy future

TEHRAN –The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Islamic Republic is committed to continue supporting efforts in Iran to strengthen economic resilience, reduce emissions, and achieve a sustainable energy future.

Iran has significant potential for renewable energy, with 60,000 MW of solar capacity and 30,000 MW of wind potential. National targets aim to install 30,000 MW of renewable energy by 2030 and reduce power consumption by 10,000 MW. However, challenges such as energy intensity remain, UN website announced in a press release on January 28.

UNDP Iran is actively supporting the country's transition to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency. To support long-term sustainability, UNDP developed an energy efficiency certificate framework, approved by the Economic Council, and equipped laboratories and vocational training centers to improve skills in clean energy sectors.

Additional contributions include creating an MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) framework for the Department of Environment, revising Energy Compliance Building Code 19, and setting up an Energy Monitoring Information System for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development.

In addition, energy efficiency solutions were piloted in building sector – one of areas that accounts for the largest share of energy consumption in Iran. Solar panels have also been installed at various locations, including eight disaster centers under Tehran Municipality. These initiatives



have reduced energy consumption and also created over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs, highlighting the economic benefits of clean energy.

Globally, UNDP's energy portfolio includes 384 initiatives across 128 countries. Aligned with the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, these projects aim to provide direct benefits to 81.5 million people by granting access to clean energy or its productive use, while also benefiting an estimated 100 million individuals indirectly.

In Iran, collaboration with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) continues to focus on addressing barriers, improving policies, and fostering investment in renewable energy development.

Renewable power plants capacity to rise 3,500 MW by next year

On February 1st, the deputy energy minister said: "The Ministry of Energy is seeking to increase the capacity of the renewable power plants by 3500 MW by the peak energy period next year, and the financial resources for this

plan have been secured through the efforts of the minister of energy."

Mohsen Tarzatab added that with the president's directive and the efforts and follow-up of the minister of energy, the financial resources for this capacity have been secured.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has taken serious measures to accelerate the growth and development of renewable energies in the country.

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects, increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

Iranian Energy Ministry has also put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of 2025.

In January 2022, the Energy

Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

Iranian renewable power plants generated 264 million kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity in the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22-August 22), registering a 23-percent growth compared to the same month in the previous year.

Clean energy ensures safer, better world for all

Alternative sources of energy that are clean, accessible, and reliable will contribute to addressing climate change, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and empowering vulnerable communities worldwide.

Provided by the sun, wind, water, waste, and heat from the Earth, renewable energy sources are abundant, and emit little to no greenhouse gases or pollutants into the air.

They also benefit communities lacking access to reliable power sources. For populations without clean energy access, the lack of reliable power hinders education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Many of the developing regions still rely heavily on polluting fossil fuels for their daily life. If current trends continue, by 2030 around 1.8 billion people will still use unsafe, unhealthy, and inefficient cooking systems, such as burning wood.

The world needs to reduce dependence on fossil fuels by investing in clean energy which is affordable, and sustainable.

SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Village administrations inaugurating some 9,000 development projects



TEHRAN – A total of 8,762 development projects will be inaugurated across the country by the end of the Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (February 10), marking the victory anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Road construction holds a share of 81 percent of the projects, followed by building parks, sports and cultural centers, ISNA reported on Sunday.

Villagers and nomads play a vital role in the political, economic, and social developments of Iran. So, October 7 was declared in 2013 as the National Day of Village and Nomads.

Despite their low population, they have a great contribution to all-out national development.

Although oil, industry, and service sectors hold a significant share of the national economy, the rural and nomadic economy is considered an in-

exhaustible source for the nation, compared to exhaustible natural resources.

Living far from pollution and current problems of cities and being less dependent on oil resources, they play a critical role in sustainable development.

Villagers and nomads take the lead in providing food, food security, and healthy food production.

They have a major role in the tourism and handicraft industry and they are sources of many cultures and traditions in the country playing an important role in ensuring the country's security, especially in borders and remote areas.

Some 25 percent of the country's population lives in villages, producing around 70 percent of food for the domestic market.

Currently, more than 90 percent of agricultural and food products are produced in villages. Some 25 percent of the country's meat products and 35 percent of handicrafts, as well as a major part of organic dairy products, including vegetable oil, milk, curd, and other materials, are produced by nomads.

In fact, the economy of the rural areas is not limited to agriculture; it includes various industries such as handicrafts, creative industries, clothing, processing industries, food, medicinal plants, carpentry, furniture, tourism, ecotourism, fisheries, carpets and rugs, and dried fruits.

Road construction holds a share of 81% of the projects, followed by building parks, sports, and cultural centers.

Child adoption rises 2.5 times in 10 years



TEHRAN – Child adoption has surged by 2.5 times compared to ten years ago, as around 2,500 children are adopted annually.

Currently, there are 635 childcare centers, of which 33 are nurseries. Five thousand people work in these centers and nine thousand children are benefiting from services in these centers, IRNA quoted Hamid-Reza Alvand, an official with Welfare Organization, as saying.

The Welfare Organization is planning to empower the children by training them to respect social values, and learn social skills, strengthening their faith, and helping them to be independent, the official added.

For adoption, criteria like mental health,

the ability to take care of a child, no addiction, no criminal record, and bad reputation, as well as proper income must be achieved. The approach is the result of studying the adoption process in 10 countries around the world.

According to the Welfare Organization, the country's adoption and foster laws dated back to some 44 years ago were revised and modified in 2013.

Within the new law, kids could be adopted up to the age of 16 while the former law states that kids aged 12 or less could be adopted. In addition to families with no child now families with one kid and single women are able to apply for adoption.

The law formerly authorized adoption only for orphans while the new law permitted adoption for children with dysfunctional families as well in case the judge concludes that the new family is suitable for adoption.

Previously, the adoptive families were required to sign over one-third of their property to their child-to-be but some could not afford to do so and now the judge gets to decide how a family, depending on their financial status, should be treated.

Cell and gene therapy advances in Iran

TEHRAN –Iran has succeeded in producing cell therapy products which have received the Food and Drug Administration's approval.

"Some gene therapy products are also in the clinical trial phase," IRNA quoted the FDA director, Mehdi Pirsalehi, as saying.

Referring to the country's scientific progress in the pharmaceutical sector and Iranian scientists' capabilities, the official highlighted the significance of developing modern techniques and utilizing artificial intelligence in the pharmaceutical industry.

About 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market is produced by Iranian knowledge-based companies. They have also been successful at manufacturing biotechnology products using indigenized technology, to meet the needs of the country," Pirsalehi added.

Medicine exports increase

In the first half of the current Iranian year which started on March 20, 2024, the country 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, 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.

Given the impacts of drugs on the health of society in all countries, they are one of the most complicated types of goods to export as they require registration and quality approvals in each destination country, Maboudi stressed.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

‘Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average’

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

"The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in northeast of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C," ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

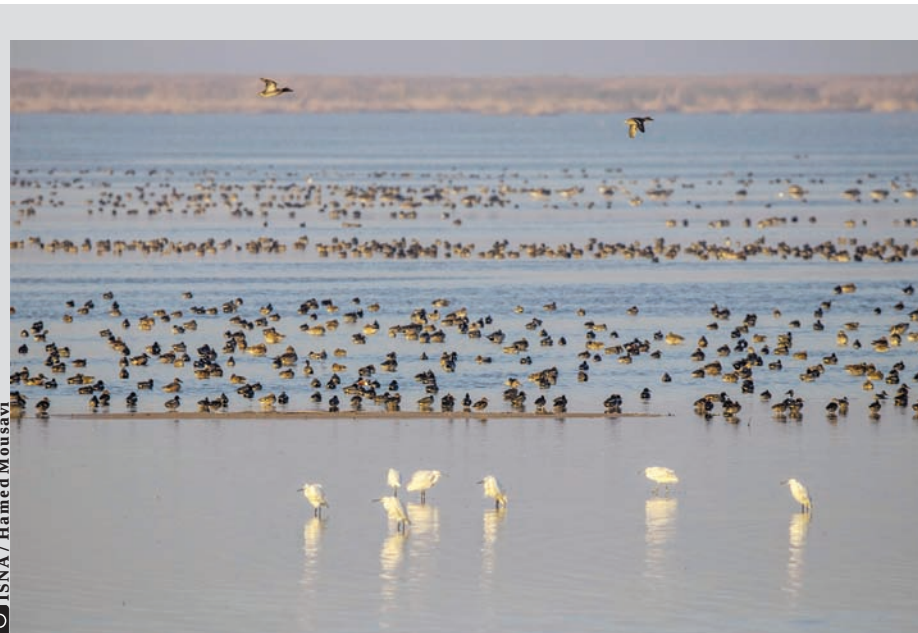
Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern, he said, adding, the industries operating in the province must reduce their dependency on water, otherwise water scarcity might worsen in the region.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط‌زیست مرکز بررسی‌های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است.

محمد درویش، در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش‌های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آسرد در دامنه‌های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلسیوس را نشان می‌دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلسیوس افزایش دما داشته‌ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی‌تر کشورمان نزدیک می‌شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می‌شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران‌کننده‌ای دارد. باید میزان وابستگی صنایع در یزد نسبت به آب کاهش پیدا کند چرا که در غیر این صورت می‌تواند شتاب خشک‌سالی‌ها را افزایش دهد.



Migratory birds wintering at Hour al-Azim

Hour al-Azim wetland in the southwestern Khuzestan province is hosting migratory birds such as white-tailed sea eagles, marbled ducks, herons, African ospreys, crested ducks, black storks, oak ducks, flamingos, white pelicans, and gray pelicans that come annually to the region for wintering.



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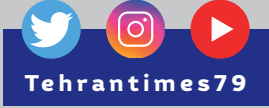
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FEBRUARY 3, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Adopt generosity, and avoid vain severity and oppression; for, severity compels people to emigrate, and oppression incites revolt, and puts an end to your rule.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:18 Evening: 17:53 Dawn: 5:36 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:02 (tomorrow)

“Roman Stories” at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of American writer Jhumpa Lahiri's short story collection "Roman Stories" has been published in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Ghazal Omid. Tadaei is the publisher of the book.

"Roman Stories," the first short story collection by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri since her bestselling "Unaccustomed Earth," celebrates the vibrant and multifaceted city of Rome as its central character. This critically acclaimed collection, hailed as one of the best books of the year by The New Yorker and NPR, comprises nine stories that encapsulate the essence of the Italian capital, blending its rich history with contemporary life.

Each story presents a unique perspective on Rome and its inhabitants. In "The Boundary," the narrative follows a family's vacation through the eyes of the caretaker's daughter, revealing her struggle with an immigrant legacy. "P's Parties" explores the lives of an empty-nester couple who find solace in annual gatherings with foreign friends, highlighting the complexities of connection and cultural boundaries. "The Steps" depicts a public staircase that serves as a metaphor for the social and cultural dynamics of the city, presenting themes of visibility, belonging, and the intricate tapestry of life in Rome.

Lahiri's prose, steeped in the influences of Italian literary great Alberto Moravia, is a lyrical exploration of identity and home, deftly capturing Rome's magnificence and decay. Written in Italian and translated seamlessly by Lahiri and editor Todd Portnowitz, these stories reflect the author's deep engagement with language and culture. The collection serves as a rich testament to the city's indelible impact on its residents, guided by the haunting legacy of Dante Alighieri, whose influence culminates in a transformative jour-

ney in the concluding story. "Roman Stories" is a profound exploration of place, memory, and the search for meaning in the heart of Italy.

Jhumpa Lahiri is an acclaimed American author renowned for her explorations of identity, belonging, and the immigrant experience. Born on July 11, 1967, in London to Bengali Indian parents, she moved to the United States at the age of two. Lahiri's cultural background deeply influences her writing, enriching her narratives with a blend of experiences that resonate with diverse audiences.

She gained widespread recognition with her debut collection of short stories, "Interpreter of Maladies," which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2000. This book presents a series of interconnected tales that reveal the struggles of Indian immigrants navigating life in America. Her subsequent works, including the novel "The Namesake," further cemented her reputation, earning critical acclaim and adaptation into major films.

In her writing, Lahiri employs a lyrical and evocative prose style, often delving into themes of displacement, family dynamics, and the complexity of cultural identity. Her awards include the Pen/Hemingway Award, the O. Henry Award, and the National Book Award, recognizing her profound contributions to literature.

Lahiri's curiosity extends beyond English; in recent years, she has embraced the Italian language, reflecting her passion for cultural exploration. Her collection "Roman Stories" marks her first significant work in Italian, offering a fresh perspective on the city of Rome as a living, breathing entity.

Through her insightful narratives, Jhumpa Lahiri continues to illuminate the multifaceted experiences of individuals straddling different worlds, making her one of the most important voices in contemporary literature.

Cartoon of Day



Back in Gaza

Cartoonist: Tomas from Italy

Fajr Intl. Theater Festival concludes with awards and honors

TEHRAN- The 43rd edition of Fajr International Theater Festival (FITF) came to an end at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Saturday with the announcement of winners from various categories.

The event was attended by various dignitaries, including Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi, government spokesperson Fati-meh Mohajerani, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs Zahra Behrouz-Azar, Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Naderreh Rezai, Director of Iran Theatre House Iraj Raad, and numerous artists, Mehr reported.

In the stage theater section, "Malek Mohammad", co-directed by Sahand and Babak Qeisari from Tabriz, received the special jury award.

"Laam" brought the best director award to Mojtaba Rostamifar, while the best playwright award was given to Ebrahim Adelnia for his play "Hunting Customs of Foxes".

In the street theater section, the special jury award was given to "Confessions of a Criminal", co-directed by Mehdi Habibi and Mostafa Kolivandi.

In this section, Saeid Badini received the best director award



Iranian director and playwright Saeid Badini kisses his trophy at the closing ceremony of the 43rd Fajr International Theater Festival at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on February 1, 2025.

and the best playwright award for his work "Anatomy of a Letter".

This year, the festival unveiled the Soldier of the Homeland emblem in memory of the Martyr General Qassem Soleimani.

This medal was awarded to Vida Mousavi, the actress and director of the play "Lajan-khar",

Reza Goshtasb, the writer of plays "Bijan", "Water for Fish," and "A Few Wolves from Mother's Wedding Mahjan" and Alii Peyman, the writer, director, and actor of the play "Rig Chah".

This edition of the festival received submissions from 46 countries around the world. A total of 231 works from 46 coun-

tries including Russia, Norway, Sweden, Canada, and several African countries applied to participate in this year's event. However, the international section of the event was held as a non-competitive segment.

This year's edition also dedicated a section to the oppressed people of Gaza.

Iran presenting over 500 titles at 52nd New Delhi World Book Fair

TEHRAN-Iran is participating in the 52nd New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF), which was launched on Saturday in New Delhi, India.

Iran Book and Literature House is representing the country at the Indian event, showcasing Iran's rich literary and academic heritage, ISNA reported.

It is showcasing more than 500 book titles in Persian, Urdu, English, and Hindi. The books on display cover topics such as classical and contemporary literature, Iranian studies, art, children's and young adult literature, literature of the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense, and religion.

This edition of the exhibition also features the participation of Nakhle Sabz Publication and Saba Literary Agency, which introduce Iran's publishing industry and engage in discussions with international publishers at the event.

The programs of the Iran pavilion at the fair include book launches, Iran Cultural Day, meetings with prominent Indian publishers, discussions and networking with other international representatives, introducing the Tehran International Book Fair and inviting publishers to participate, and introducing Iran's publishing industry.

Iranian author and translator Mostafa Mastoor is also attending the exhibition as an invited guest, with various planned activities, including book launches, meet-and-greet sessions, and more.

This year's edition of the exhibition is expected to play a significant role in promoting a culture of reading and literary engagement, with the participation of more than 2,000 publishers and exhibitors. This edition hosts writers and intellectuals from over 50 countries, including Iran, France, Qatar, Spain, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, and more.

Featuring a wide array of books, cultural programs, and insightful discussions, the exhibition will conclude on February 9.

In addition to a vast collection of books, the fair hosts renowned writers, thinkers, and cultural personalities, who engage with the audience, sharing their insights, thoughts, and creative works.

Various cultural programs also emphasize the themes of social justice and equality, contributing to the educational and intellectual atmosphere of the event.

Similarly, the International Events Corner of the NDWBF 2025 sees book releases, panel discussions, reading sessions, film screenings and workshops featuring authors, speakers and literary associations from countries like Russia, Nepal, New Zealand, Germany, Lithuania, Italy and many others.

Simultaneously, the NDWBF 2025 celebrates the diverse voices from across the nation, bringing together a rich variety of perspectives that reflect the principles and values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Celebrating India's vast literary landscape, Brahmputra Literature Festival, 'Prabhat Prakashan', Bharat Literature Festival, Ap-ejay Kolkata Literary Festival, 'Authors Inc. Publications', 'Penguin Dialogues', 'My Secret Bookshelf x Anecdote Publishing House', Asian Literary Society and the 'Great Indian Book Tour' will all be participating, fostering collaboration and engagement among India's rising book festivals.

This year's edition of the fair has new and exciting additions to its programming. For example, the Authors Lounge has been designed as a dedicated space where writers can interact, reflect and recharge amidst the literary celebrations. This will serve as the perfect setting for authors as a much-needed sojourn before they continue their literary odyssey. Indeed, this gathering, where ideas are exchanged as freely as air, where creativity knows no bounds and where a republic's legacy intertwines with its limitless poten-

tial, is not one to be missed.

Similarly, another new feature - the Children's Corner (Kidz Kingdom) - offers a plethora of storytelling, literary, art, craft and dance sessions for young visitors at the NDWBF 2025 on all nine days of the event.

The theme for this year's book fair, "Republic@75," reflects the nation's journey of nation-building, governance, freedom, equality, and social justice.

The fair highlights democratic values and the principles enshrined in the Constitution, offering visitors a deep dive into India's republican framework and the significance of fundamental rights.

The book fair serves as a platform that unites the nation's cultural heritage with its aspirations for the future. The event brings together leading voices from diverse cultures and fields, including literature, governance, technology, art and cinema.

New Delhi World Book Fair, organized by the National Book Trust-India, is a significant annual event bringing together publishers, authors, and book enthusiasts from around the globe. It offers a diverse array of literary works and serves as a hub for intellectual exchange and cultural enrichment. Through engaging activities and workshops, the fair promotes a love for reading and learning among attendees of all ages.

India is the third largest in the world in terms of publishing and book trade. NDWBF offers the exhibitors a unique opportunity for business with this growing book industry. It is also an ideal venue for promoting titles, co-publication arrangements and trade. Besides the many literary and publishing conferences and programs that are organized during the Fair, it opens up a gateway to the publishing and intellectual world of India. The Fair attracts participation from major publishing houses across the globe.

Martin McDonagh's "The Lonesome West" on Sahne Abi stage

TEHRAN-The play "The Lonesome West" written by British-Irish playwright Martin McDonagh will be staged at the theater hall of Sahne Abi Cultural and Artistic Center in Tehran.

Hojjat Khorasani is the director of the play that has Mehran Behzadnia, Ali Arab, Amir-Mohammad Khosropur, and Zeinab Nas-sibi in the cast, Mehr reported.

The 65-minute play is a part of McDonagh's Connemara trilogy, which includes "The Beauty Queen of Leenane" and "A Skull in Connemara". All three plays depict the murderous occurrences in the western Irish town of Leenane.

In the play, Valene and Coleman, two brothers living alone in their father's house after his recent death, find it impossible to exist without the most massive and violent disputes over the most mundane and innocent of topics. Only Father Welsh, the local young priest, is prepared to try to reconcile the two before their petty squabbling spiral into vicious and bloody carnage.

Martin McDonagh, 54, is a British-Irish playwright and filmmaker. He is known for his absurdist dark humor which often challenges the modern theater aesthetic. He has won numerous accolades including an Academy Award, six BAFTA Awards,

two Golden Globe Awards, and three Olivier Awards in addition to nominations for five Tony Awards.

His plays, many of which have been produced on the West End and on Broadway, include "The Beauty Queen of Leenane," "The Cripple of Inishmaan" (both 1996), "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" (2001), "The Pillowman" (2003), "A Behanding in Spokane" (2010), and "Hangmen" (2015).

McDonagh won the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film for "Six Shooter" and has received nominations for six other Academy Awards for his work on "In Bruges" (2007), "Three Bill-

boards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" (2017), and "The Banshees of Inisherin" (2022).

He is the most controversial Irish dramatist working today, with his explorations of Irish national identity which look at the darker side of provincial life. His bleak but blackly comic portrayal of modern, rural Ireland courts debate with its dark farce, caricatures of violence and barbarism and an exaggerated, poeticized dialect of Hiberno-English.

"The Lonesome West" will remain on stage until February 19 at Sahne Abi Center located at No. 1595, Valiasr St., after Taleqani junction.