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Leader in a meeting with defense personnel, experts:

Bahman 22 Marches Sent Message of Unity to Foolish Threats



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Iran urges UN action against Trump's "reckless" war rhetoric

TEHRAN – Iran has strongly denounced former U.S. President Donald Trump's recent remarks threatening the use of force against the country, calling them "deeply alarming and irresponsible."

Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, voiced Tehran's concerns in a formal letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the President of the Security Council on Tuesday.

In the letter, Iravani noted Trump's flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter with his inflammatory statements.

"Following instructions from my government, I am writing to bring to the Security Council's attention the deeply troubling and irresponsible remarks made by the former President of the United States, in which he openly threatened the use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iravani stated.

Trump's remarks were made during a media interview published by the New York Post on Saturday, where he said he would prefer to have Iran ink a deal he wants rather than launch military strikes on the country. "I would like a deal done with Iran on non-nuclear [issues]. I would prefer that to bombing the hell out of it," Trump said. "They don't want to die. Nobody wants to die," he stated, suggesting that Iranians should either cave in and accept his demands or get killed. Page 2

Over 700 million tons of goods can be transported via Iran per year

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh highlighted the possibility of transporting more than 700 million tons of goods with Iran's developed infrastructure.

She made the remarks in the 87th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee.

The minister further pointed out the importance of transportation as the cornerstone of economic development and regional integration and added: Achieving a sustainable transportation system requires coordinated efforts between governments, transportation users, and logistics service providers, and it is necessary to adopt innovative approaches to strengthen value chains and economic cohesion.

Analyzing the examples of the strategic location of the country's territory at the intersection of the north-south and east-west corridors, Iran's minister of transport and urban development explained Iran's developed infrastructures by ports and rail network, as well as the arterial network and road transit. Page 4

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Trump must first answer why Gaza has been turned into "hell"

By Matin Jamshidi

TERAN – Since Donald Trump floated the proposal to take over the Gaza Strip in a press conference with Bibi Netanyahu in the Oval Office on Feb. 4, he has repeatedly said the Gazans are "living in hell".

Regardless of the fact that Trump has a covetous eye on Canada and Greenland and now the Gaza Strip, this eccentric man, whose kind the world has not seen since the end of the Second World War II, is better to answer why the coastal enclave has been turned into hell and by whom. He is also better to answer which country's bombs and fighter jets were used to create such a situation in Gaza.

Trump must answer that the Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel really necessitated so much damage and death.

Will Israel withdraw from occupied Lebanese villages on Feb. 18?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – After announcing its intention to extend the occupation of geostrategic heights overlooking all of the Litani's southern and northern territories, it seems that the Israeli occupation regime intends to delay withdrawing from the border villages one week before the scheduled date for withdrawal which falls on February 18.

Amid the escalation of its violations in the south and the Bekaa, and the relentless effort to increase the level of destruction, the ambiguity surrounding the truce agreement is increasing.

Reportedly, the total number of violations of the agreement by the Israeli occupation army since November 27 last year has risen to 879. This has left 67 martyrs and 263 wounded. The US-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon also resulted in 4,098 martyrs and 16,888 injuries, according to Lebanon's Ministry of Health.

"Long-term" Israeli occupation in Syria

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hebrew media has revealed that the Israeli military is preparing for a long-term "presence" in regions it occupied in Syria without any resistance after the fall of the Bashar al-Assad government in December last year.

Israeli newspaper Maariv revealed that the occupation army has converted former Syrian military sites into Israeli military bases, equipping them with buildings and advanced technologies to facilitate an extended presence in the demilitarized zone.

The newspaper stated that while the army is uncertain how long its forces will remain in the demilitarized zone, the ongoing activities indicate no intention of withdrawing soon.

Maariv highlighted that the Kudna site, one of the fortresses built by the Syrian army before the 1973 war, was a key target.

As bold as brass: Trump outlines Gaza takeover strategy

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Since hosting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the White House earlier this month, President Donald Trump has dug in on his proposal to seize control of the Gaza Strip and move Palestinians from the territory.

During a meeting with King Abdullah of Jordan in the Oval Office on Tuesday, Trump stuck to his guns.

"We're going to take it. We're going to hold it," he told journalists.

Trump also responded with a dismissive attitude to a question on whether he would consider purchasing Gaza as part of his takeover plan.

"We're not going to buy. There's nothing to buy. We will have Gaza. No reason to buy. It's Gaza. It's a war-torn area," the former real estate mogul-turned-president said.

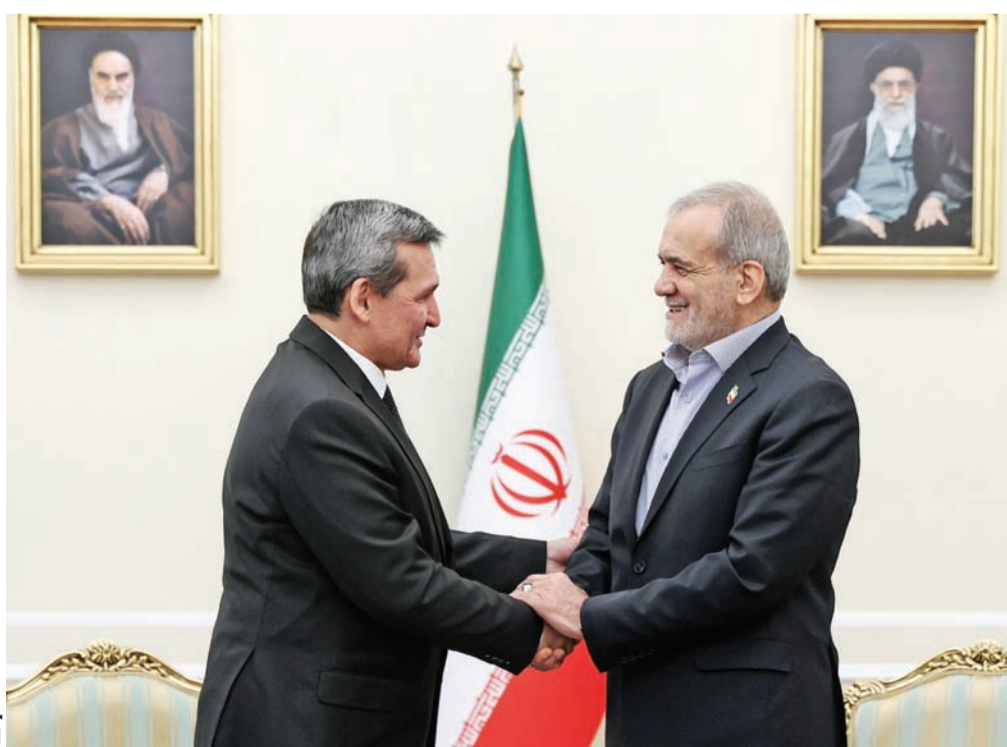
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Iran, Tajikistan strengthen cultural ties at "Diplomatic Night"

TEHRAN- A cultural event titled "Tajikistan Night" was held in Tehran on Tuesday, aiming at boosting cultural ties between the two nations.

Organized by the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Iran, the Hurshid Institute of Culture and Literature, and the Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association, the event marked the inaugural event of the "Diplomatic Nights" series, ISNA reported.

The gathering brought together prominent figures from the worlds of culture and literature, including Ahmad Masjed-Jamei, Deputy of the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, Hojatollah Ayyubi. Page 8



president.ir

Pezeshkian: Iran committed to expanding ties with Turkmenistan

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's commitment to fostering strong ties with its neighbors, emphasizing the importance of good neighborly relations as a cornerstone of the country's foreign policy.

He highlighted Iran's dedication to expanding its partnerships with regional countries, particularly with Turkmenistan, a long-standing ally with deep cultural and historical connections to Iran.

During a meeting on Wednesday with Turkmenistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov, President Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's eagerness to enhance bilateral cooperation across various sectors, including trade, energy, and infrastructure. Page 3

Senior Hamas member hails Ayatollah Khamenei as 'greatest champion' of Palestinian Resistance

TEHRAN – In a landmark meeting underscoring Iran's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, recently received the head of Hamas's Leadership Council, Muhammad Ismail Darwish, and his delegation in Tehran.

The discussions, held against the backdrop of what Palestinian Resistance forces hail as a "divine victory" over the Israeli regime, reaffirmed Iran's pivotal role as the cornerstone of support for Gaza's heroic struggle. Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

'Maximum' participation in the face of maximum pressure

In a note, Jam-e-Jam addressed the enthusiastic presence of the people in Bahman 22 (11 February) rallies and wrote: One of the most important points of this year's rally was its coincidence with Trump and the declaration of the White House's anti-Iran policies. In recent days, Washington has tried to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept its conditions through new sanctions and diplomatic pressure, but the enthusiastic participation of people in the Bahman 22 marches proved that the Iranian people not only do not give in to pressure but also defend their country's strategic policies. The Iranians have shown that maximum pressure will only lead to one reaction: maximum presence on the scene. Extensive U.S. sanctions and threatening rhetoric are nothing new but the 22 Bahman (11 February) rallies were the culmination of the powerful participation of these brave people and a symbol of national solidarity against the conspiracies of the enemies. The Iranian people have shown that they will not surrender to America's excesses, especially in the area of defense power and regional influence. The experience of the past years has proven that whenever external pressures increase, unity and internal resistance also increase.

Shargh: Iran needs continued stability in Iraq

In a commentary, Shargh discussed the importance of Iraq in Iran's confrontation with the United States and said: Prime Minister Shia al-Sudani is aware that Iraq is Iran's last powerful base for influence in the region, which Tehran can use to evade Western sanctions. Iraq has a set of armed groups that can play the role of "front defense" for Iran in the event of a full-scale attack on the Islamic Republic. Similarly, Iran also needs continued stability in Iraq, and from Iran's point of view, Sudan is probably the best tool to maintain the balance between Tehran and Washington. The Trump administration may intensify sanctions against Iraq by sanctioning some officials in Iraqi financial institutions that help Iran evade U.S. sanctions. The tightening of sanctions disrupts the existing equation between the U.S. and Iran and weakens the Sudanese government. Sudan's balancing act has become more difficult due to the weak posi-

tion of the Iraqi government and the inability of the prime minister to confront groups that are members of the Iraqi Islamic Resistance.

Iran: Trump's anti-Iran dreams

The Iran newspaper has highlighted Masoud Pezeshkian's reaction to Trump's policy of returning to maximum pressure against Iran and at the same time paying close attention to fulfilling his foreign policy promises. Pezeshkian announced that he would not surrender to America's policy of simultaneous pressure and negotiation, emphasizing that his government's approach to reducing crises is to prevent the repetition of Washington's harmful sanctions. On one side, Trump wants to intensify sanctions in line with his maximum pressure campaign adopted in his first term from 2017-2021, and on the other showing support for negotiations. Despite all the experiences that Iran and the United States have gone through during Trump's first term as president, it shows that when the circumstances require it, Tehran can use all its power to break the deadlock, invalidate military threats, and organize a new wave of resistance to sanctions to prevent Trump from achieving his goals.

Ettelaat: Past losses will not be compensated

Ettelaat discussed the FATF issue in an interview with Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a former parliamentarian. He said: If Iran had not been blacklisted in the past, there would have been no possibility of FATF serving as a vehicle for sanctions against Iran. But now Iran is on the blacklist, and other banks of countries cannot work with us either. This was an opportunity that was lost due to extremists' intransigence at the of national interests. The United States, Europe, and other actors are facing problems with Iran over preconditions. The United States has returned with a policy of maximum pressure, Israel has a role to play, and European countries are taking a tough stance toward us. In this situation, if FATF is approved with the previous preconditions, serious obstacles will arise in Iran's path to be removed from the blacklist. Therefore, the most important thing to do regarding the FATF is to prepare an accurate report in line with national interests.

Tehran, Muscat discuss stronger defense ties in high-level military talks



TEHRAN – Senior military officials from Iran and Oman have held discussions in Tehran to enhance defense cooperation and strengthen regional security ties between the two nations.

During a meeting in the Iranian capital, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief Commander of the Iranian Army, and Vice Admiral Abdullah Khamis Al Raisi, Chief of Staff of the Sultanate of Oman's Armed Forces, explored ways to expand military collaboration at both bilateral and regional levels.

The Omani military chief also met with Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh on Tuesday evening. The discussions between the two sides underscored the deep historical, cultural, and social ties between Iran and Oman, as well as their shared commitment to fostering stronger relations based on mutual respect and trust.

Officials from both countries reaffirmed the longstanding friendship between Tehran and Muscat, highlighting their countries' deep-rooted historical and social bonds. They also emphasized the importance of a shared political

will in expanding cooperation across multiple dimensions, including defense and security.

In their meetings, the Iranian and Omani commanders exchanged views on key regional and international issues of mutual interest. They also discussed practical strategies for deepening bilateral military collaboration, reinforcing their commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Vice Admiral Al Raisi arrived in Tehran on Monday evening at the official invitation of Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces.

Back in October 2024, Iran and Oman held a joint maritime rescue and relief exercise involving the naval forces of both countries in the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Hormuz.

Held within Oman's territorial waters in the northern Indian Ocean and the Strait of Hormuz, the exercise featured a variety of military training programs and the implementation of the most important modern methods for coordinating joint maritime and aerial search and rescue operations, under the established training plan.

Iran urges UN action against Trump's "reckless" war rhetoric

From page 1 ▶ In a separate interview with Fox News on Monday, he reiterated this aggressive stance, stating, "I would like to make a deal without bombing them."

Iran has strongly pushed back against Trump's rhetoric, with Iravani emphasizing that such threats blatantly contravene Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force or the threat thereof against sovereign nations.

"The U.S. president's reckless and inflammatory statements constitute a clear violation of international law and the fundamental principles of the UN Charter," the Iranian diplomat asserted.

Iravani also took aim at Trump's broader policy toward Iran, condemning the so-called "maximum pressure" strategy as an unlawful and hostile measure.

"This provocation is further exacerbated



by the so-called 'maximum pressure' policy, as outlined in the National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM) of February 4, 2025. These unilateral coercive measures not only escalate hostility against Iran but also blatantly violate fundamental principles and norms of international law," Iravani stated.

He urged the UN Security Council to take a firm stance against such threats, warning that allowing such rhetoric to go unchecked would set a dangerous precedent.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly rejects and condemns this reckless threat. The UN Security Council must not remain silent in the face of such brazen rhetoric. Normalizing threats of force undermines international peace and security and must be unequivocally condemned," he said.

"Iran will resolutely defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national interests against any form of aggression," he asserted.

Trump's recent comments came just days after he signed a presidential memorandum seeking to reduce Iran's oil exports to "zero". This move is part of broader sanctions reimposed after he unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2018.

"Iran will not bow to intimidation": President asks Trump if he really wants diplomacy

TEHRAN – In an address delivered Wednesday in Bushehr, southern Iran, President Masoud Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's commitment to peaceful relations while defiantly rejecting foreign coercion.

"We seek conflict with no nation," he declared, stressing Tehran's pursuit of "fraternal ties with all neighbors," whom he called "brothers, sisters, and partners in the region."

Pezeshkian's remarks included a sharp condemnation of U.S. policies, particularly targeting President Donald Trump's provocative characterization of Iran and accusations of regional destabilization.

"It is the U.S. that sows chaos by arming Israel to massacre Palestinians in Gaza," he asserted, denouncing Washington's decades-long military support for the Tel Aviv regime.

The president also criticized U.S. demands for Iran to limit its defense capabilities.



"They demand we abandon our missiles so Israel can bomb us without consequence, just as it devastated Gaza," he argued, adding such pressure is a threat to Iran's sovereignty.

Pezeshkian further lambasted Washington's contradictory stance on diplomacy.

He pointed out that the U.S. has "shut every door to talks" through punitive sanctions intended to "strangle Iran's resili-

ence."

The president questioned the sincerity of U.S. overtures: "If America truly wants negotiations, why does it sabotage every opportunity for peace?"

"By what right do they occupy our region, assassinate our people, and then preach to us about security?" Pezeshkian added, condemning Washington's "hypocritical" portrayal of Iran as a menace.

Trump forces Iran to rule out talks as he tightens the noose. What comes next?



By Xavier Villar

MADRID – After the recent public appearance of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in which he ruled out any possibility of new negotiations with the United States—at least as long as Washington maintains its "maximum pressure" policy on Tehran—uncertainty looms over the future of bilateral relations. The question many are asking is: What now?

Since Donald Trump's return to the White House, Iranian authorities have made it clear that their policies toward the United States would adjust according to the behavior of the new administration. This approach reflected Tehran's caution in the face of the volatility of U.S. politics, considering scenarios ranging from the renegotiation of a new agreement that would go beyond the nuclear dossier to the tightening of sanctions through a "maximum pressure 2.0" campaign, which ultimately materialized. Even the possibility of a direct conflict between the two countries

was not ruled out.

In this scenario, Iran is evaluating various response strategies, taking into account several key factors. One of the most significant is the reevaluation of its regional policies. Iranian political elites recognize the need for a pragmatic reassessment of their position in West Asia, adapting to new geostrategic realities. This includes strengthening alliances with neighboring countries and regional powers, aiming to create a more stable environment that favors their interests.

At the same time, internal economic priorities occupy a central place on the Iranian government's agenda. Faced with persistent economic challenges, Tehran seeks to mitigate the impact of Western sanctions, boost domestic production, and diversify its economy to reduce dependence on external actors. The search for new commercial opportunities and adaptation to changes in the global market are essential to maintaining internal stability.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

OIC to hold extraordinary session on Gaza at Iran's request

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry's proposal to convene an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers to address the forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza has reportedly gained significant support.

According to a report by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), citing an informed source within Iran's Foreign Ministry, the session is expected to occur in the first half of March, following extensive diplomatic efforts by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The proposal, formally submitted to the OIC Secretary General, followed a series of recent consultations between Araghchi and his counterparts in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Gambia, as well as the current OIC chair.

The discussions focused on possible measures against controversial US-Israeli plans to relocate Gazans to countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Araghchi has repeatedly condemned these proposals, warning that they would "complete the colonial erasure of Palestine."

He urged unified action to thwart this "conspiracy" against Palestinian rights.

"The U.S.-Zionist plan to forcibly expel Gazans and scatter them across other nations is a blatant attempt to destroy Palestinian identity," Araghchi stated.

He further noted that Israeli



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Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent suggestion of establishing a Palestinian state on Saudi territory was an "unprecedented aggression" and a "threat to regional peace and security."

Indirectly referencing Netanyahu's remarks, Araghchi emphasized the need for the OIC to adopt "urgent measures" to prevent the normalization of "genocidal policies" by the Israeli regime.

He stressed that the international community, particularly Muslim-majority nations, must oppose efforts to legitimize violations of international law.

"The Organization of Islamic Cooperation must take a decisive and effective decision as soon as possible by holding an extraordinary meeting with the presence of the foreign ministers of the member states to defend the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Iran's top diplomat said in a phone call with OIC Secretary-General Hussein Ibrahim Taha.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Leader in a meeting with defense personnel, experts: Bahman 22 marches sent message of unity to foolish threats

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei stated that the high turnout of Iranian citizens in the rallies marking the 46th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on Monday demonstrated people's unity, especially in the face of a recent surge in U.S. hostilities.

"This was a message of unity from the Iranian people. Despite the constant, idiotic threats against us, the people of Iran showed the world their identity, their strength, and their unwavering resolve," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in Tehran on Wednesday while addressing the personnel of Iran's Defense Ministry as well as Iranian experts and scientists in the defense industry.

Iranians mark the anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution annually through large and nationwide rallies. Figures show more people took to the streets this year after U.S. President Donald Trump renewed its aggressive policies against the country and threatened to "bomb the hell" out of it if Tehran does not agree to its nuclear and military demands.

"This year's February 22nd was one of the most outstanding celebrations of the Revolution," the



Leader stated.

"It was a popular uprising, a grand national movement. People took to the streets, raised their voices, and shared their views across the media, all over the country. This was a true popular uprising, a major national movement."

Ayatollah Khamenei noted that, "Despite ongoing media bombardments, psychological warfare, and unfounded threats from adversaries against the historical development, the Iranian people stood strong in their commitment to the values of the Revolution with their indication of strong support for the event during this year's marches and jubiliations."

He further highlighted the significance of President Masoud Pezeshkian's address during the rallies, praising it for reflecting the sentiments of the Iranian people. "Complementing this great popular movement were the clear and path-opening words of the honorable president, who spoke from the people's perspective, expressed the people's heartfelt thoughts, and said what needed to be said," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the importance of timely action, a recurring theme in his addresses to the nation's youth. "I always repeat to my audience, to the dear young people to whom I am deeply attached and interested: Work

must be done timely. The Iranian nation did the work timely on Monday; they did it when it needed to be done, and they showed themselves when they needed to show themselves."

The Leader delivered the speech after visiting the Eqtedar (Strength) 1403 Exhibition, which showcased the latest achievements and capabilities of Iran's defense industry. He said the exhibition was one of the finest he had ever seen.

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed deep gratitude for the efforts of those active in the defense industry before recalling the days when Iranians struggled to get their hands on weapons while fighting an invasion by U.S.-backed forces. "But today, our military and defense capabilities are renowned by our friends and envied by our enemies," he emphasized.

The Leader, however, urged the military personnel to maintain their momentum and avoid complacency. "Progress must not be stopped; we must not be satisfied," Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized. He called for a strong focus on innovation and creativity within the defense sector, challenging them to develop groundbreaking technologies rather than simply replicating existing ones.

Senior Hamas member hails Ayatollah Khamenei as 'greatest champion' of Palestinian Resistance

From Page 1 ▶ In a subsequent interview with Khamenei.ir, Darwish said the meeting offered a critical opportunity to align regional Resistance efforts.

"The Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized his extensive support for the Palestinian people and their just cause, as well as for the Resistance in Palestine and the region," he stated, stressing that Ayatollah Khamenei has consistently proven himself "the greatest supporter of the Resistance."

The Hamas official described Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, which successfully targeted Israeli positions in the occupied territories on October 6, 2023, as a turning point shattering the myth of Zionist invincibility.

In the ensuing 15 months of war that Israel waged on Gaza, he noted, the enemy failed to destroy Hamas, recover prisoners, or maintain a foothold in Gaza, objectives it had rolled out at the beginning of its killing campaign.

"By God's will, we shattered the enemy's might," Darwish declared, crediting the Palestinian people's "extraordinary steadfastness" as the driving force behind this historic triumph.

Gaza's unbreakable morale

Addressing the staggering toll of over 50,000 martyrs and hundreds of thousands of wounded individuals, Darwish emphasized that Gaza's resolve remains unshaken.

"The Palestinian people have become accustomed to sacrifice," he asserted, adding that their return to northern Gaza—despite the Zionists' campaign of displacement—sent a resounding message: "Resistance will be victorious, and Palestine will liberate Al-Quds."

He reserved sharp condemnation for U.S.



President Donald Trump's recent calls to ethnically cleanse Gaza, branding such rhetoric as part of a failed colonial legacy.

"Half a million Palestinians returned to their homeland in 48 hours—without homes, tents, or shelter—and stood firm like olive trees," Darwish remarked.

"This was the greatest response to Trump and his delusional projects."

West Bank Resistance and the normalization mirage

Turning to escalating Zionist violence in the West Bank, Darwish warned that efforts to crush Resistance there would prove futile.

"The Resistance has taken root in the West Bank just as it has in Gaza," he said, predicting that operations will intensify until the occupation collapses.

He further hailed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm for derailing U.S.-backed "normalization schemes" between Arab states and the Israeli regime.

"The normalization train halted on October 7,

2023, and remains that way," Darwish declared.

Martyrs: the architects of liberation

Elsewhere in the interview, the senior Hamas official reflected on the sacrifices of Palestinian commanders like Yahya Sinwar and Muhammad Deif, who lost their lives while fighting Israel's latest war on Gaza.

"The blood of our leaders irrigates the tree of victory," he said, quoting a verse recited by the late Abu Ibrahim [Yahya] Sinwar: "For crimson freedom, there is a door knocked with blood-stained hands."

He hailed Deif, the mastermind behind Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, as a "legendary figure" who evaded seven assassination attempts over 30 years.

"His martyrdom in battle crowned a lifetime of struggle," Darwish stated, recalling Deif's years of meticulous planning.

"Abu Khalid's [Sinwar's] determination epitomizes why we will pray in Al-Quds—alongside our brothers in Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq."

Unity of the fields: a path to liberation

The Hamas official concluded by highlighting the "spiritual and military unity" forged during Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, which he noted galvanized global solidarity.

"This operation proved that the Resistance, under Ayatollah Khamenei's guidance, can redefine regional equations," he affirmed.

Darwish's words echoed the Leader's recent declaration that "Palestine remains the Islamic Ummah's foremost priority."

"With God's permission," he concluded, "we will march to Al-Quds together, hand in hand with every Resistance fighter who stood by Palestine."

Pezeshkian: Iran committed to expanding ties with Turkmenistan

From Page 1 ▶ "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought to strengthen relations with its neighbors, including the friendly and brotherly nation of Turkmenistan," he stated. "We welcome opportunities to deepen our collaboration in different fields."

The Iranian president also referred to his recent phone conversation with Turkmenistan's National Leader, during which both sides discussed strategies to accelerate the implementation of joint projects. "Necessary instructions have been issued to explore new avenues for cooperation with Turkmenistan and to address existing challenges that may hinder

progress," Pezeshkian added.

A key focus of the discussions was the upcoming summit of Caspian Sea littoral states, set to take place in Tehran. Pezeshkian emphasized Iran's commitment to fostering regional stability and cooperation. "Iran seeks to expand its relations with Caspian Sea states based on peace, friendship, and good neighborliness. This approach will be central to our discussions at the upcoming summit, where we will work toward practical solutions for strengthening regional partnerships," he stated.

Foreign Minister Meredov, while delivering warm greetings



from Turkmenistan's leadership, praised the progress made in Iranian-Turkmen relations and called for further expansion of economic ties. He pointed to existing agree-

ments and joint projects between Iranian and Turkmen companies, particularly in transportation and energy, as key areas for growth.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tractor should have done better: Skocic

TEHRAN – Dragan Skocic is not satisfied despite Tractor taking a 2-1 lead against Al Khaldiya SC in its AFC Champions League Two 2024-25 Round of 16 tie on Tuesday.

The Tractor head coach felt his players did not display their true capabilities and expects them to do better in next week's return leg at home.

"While I congratulate my players and Tractor fans for this victory, I am not satisfied with the team's performance. We were not close to our real level," Skocic said.

"I hope we do better in the second leg. In some games where the team is not performing well, it is important to win. We played against a strong team and our performance will definitely be better in the second leg," he added.

The sides meet again on Tuesday in Tabriz.

Abdi confident of Iran U20's opener against Indonesia

TEHRAN – Iran are confident of taking the points when they face Indonesia in their AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025 Group C opener at the Shenzhen Youth Football Training Base Centre Stadium on Thursday.

Head coach Hossein Abdi has called up 14 players who featured in the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2023 in Thailand to bolster the four-time winners' chances of reaching the knockout stage, the-afc.com wrote.

"Our friendly match against Saudi Arabia was very beneficial. It was the first game where we utilized all our players effectively, and it has helped us prepare well for our opening fixture against Indonesia."

"The players are in good condition, and the coaching staff is thoroughly analyzing all previous matches. We have a strong understanding of our opponents and are hopeful of achieving positive results."

"The beginning of a tournament is always crucial and challenging, and we have a tough task ahead. However, through a thorough analysis of the opposing team and their players, we have gained a strong understanding of Indonesia and will approach the match with confidence and determination," he added.

Mazzarri assistant Giandomenico Costi arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN – Giandomenico Costi arrived in Tehran to negotiate with Esteghlal football club.

He will be Walter Mazzarri's assistant in the Iranian football team.

Farideh Shojaei, a member of the Esteghlal's board of directors, said on Tuesday they have reached an agreement with the Italian head coach.

Esteghlal parted ways with Pitso Mosimane in late January and are currently headed by Sohrab Bakhtiarizadeh.

Mazzarri, previously linked with Esteghlal's arch-rival Persepolis, managed Napoli in the 2023-2024 season but did not achieve significant success.

"We are closely monitoring the negotiations to ensure the contract has no issues. A thorough review of the details takes time, but we're committed to a smooth process," she said.

Iran to hold four-team handball tournament

TEHRAN – Iran handball federation will hold a four-team tournament in Shiraz, Fars Province.

The tournament is scheduled for March 10 to 16.

The handball federation has announced that the tournament will bring Russia, Belarus and China handball teams as well as Iran in the tournament.

The Iranian national handball team, headed by Rafael Guijosa Castillo, are preparing for next year's events.

Team Melli will participate at the Islamic Solidarity Games and the Asian Handball Championships.

Al Khaldiya coach Ashour shocked by loss to Tractor

TEHRAN – Al Khaldiya head coach Ali Ashour says that they were shocked by the defeat against Tractor.

The Bahraini side looked to be cruising after Mohamed Al Romaihi gave it a 48th minute lead but were undone with quick strikes from Amir Hossein Hosseinzadeh and Domagoj Drozdek.

"For me, it is important to play beautiful football but the most important thing is to achieve results. Everyone is sad and shocked by this result, as we prepared the players mentally because this match is the first half of the challenge," said Ashour.

"We have to recover and plan for the return match and it doesn't matter that we have to play away from home," he added.

The sides meet again on Tuesday in Tabriz.

Sepahan defeat Persepolis in Hazfi Cup Round of 16

TEHRAN – In a thrilling encounter, Sepahan football team triumphed over Persepolis with a 3-2 scoreline in the 2024/25 Hazfi Cup Round of 16 on Wednesday.

The match, held at Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium, saw Mohammadmehdi Mohebbi give Sepahan the lead with a header in the 14th minute. However, Ali Alipour equalized for Persepolis five minutes before halftime.

The game's momentum shifted when substitute Farshad Ahmadzadeh scored with another header just three minutes after coming on in the 72nd minute.

Persepolis' situation worsened when their captain, Omid Alishah, was sent off with a red card with 10 minutes left in regular time. Mohammad Daneshgar scored for Sepahan just two minutes before the final whistle, forcing extra time.

In extra time, Sepahan winger Milad Zakipour regained the lead for the hosts just three minutes in. The drama continued when Sepahan's midfielder Aboubakar Kamara received a second yellow card in the 102nd minute, reducing Sepahan to 10 players as well. Despite this, Persepolis couldn't capitalize on their numerical advantage as their forwards couldn't find the net.

Earlier in the day, Shahrdari Nowshahr had secured a 1-0 victory over Palayesh Naft Bandar Abbas.

Iran beat Kyrgyzstan at 2025 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 10-0 in the 2025 CAFA Women's Futsal Championship on Wednesday.

Maral Torkman (three goals), Roghayeh Soume'eh (two goals), Fereshteh Karimi (two goals) Fatemeh Hosseini, Mahtab Banaei, and Zahra Kianimanesh were on target for Team Melli. scored for Iran.

Iran had defeated Uzbekistan 9-0 on Sunday and are scheduled to meet Turkmenistan on Friday, and Tajikistan on Sunday, respectively.

Iran have won three titles out of three editions.

The tournament, organized by the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA), held in Dushanbe for the third time on Feb. 9 to 16.

Over 700 million tons of goods can be transported via Iran per year

TEHRAN- Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Farzaneh Sadegh highlighted the possibility of transporting more than 700 million tons of goods with Iran's developed infrastructure.

She made the remarks in the 87th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee.

The minister further pointed out the importance of transportation as the cornerstone of economic development and regional integration and added: Achieving a sustainable transportation system requires coordinated efforts between governments, transportation users, and logistics service providers, and it is necessary to adopt innovative approaches to strengthen value chains and economic cohesion.

Analyzing the examples of the strategic location of the country's territory at the intersection of the north-south and east-west corridors, Iran's minister of transport and urban development explained Iran's developed infrastructures by ports and rail network, as well as the arterial network and road transit, and said: "These infrastructures enable the



transportation of more than 700 million tons of goods per year and have also provided the platform for the realization of transit in the country's territory with an annual increase of 60 percent to 20 million tons."

Sadegh arrived in Geneva on Sunday, leading a high-ranking delegation to attend the 87th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Inland Transport Committee.

Upon arrival, she was received by Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations.

The UNECE Inland Transport Committee session is being held from February 10 to 14.

Iran's 10-month non-oil export to UAE stands at \$5.9b

TEHRAN - Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$5.9 billion to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Foroud Asgari said that the UAE was Iran's third top export destination in the mentioned 10-month period.

Exporting commodities valued at \$17 billion to Iran, the United Arab Emirates was Iran's top source of import in the first 10 months of the present year, the official further added.

In early August 2024, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran said over 122,000 Iranian business persons were working in the UAE.

"Economic figures show that Iran-UAE business interactions have increased in recent years, and more than 122,000 Iranian businessmen are doing business in the UAE," Saif Mohammed al-Zaabi said in a meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives Bahman Abdollahi.

Pointing out that the problems of Iranian and Emirati businessmen and economic operators are not political but in the legal field, he admitted: "Cooperation between the two countries in the field of sea and air transport has also increased."

Abdollahi for his part introduced some of the capabilities of the cooperative sector in

Iran and said: "Cooperatives have an important and effective position in Iran and a significant part of the production in our country is done by cooperatives."

Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' 3rd Joint Economic Committee meeting in May 1, 2024.

The MOU was signed by former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and UAE's Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, who co-chaired the joint meeting.

During the mentioned committee meeting, the two sides stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Bazrpash said: "We have held the joint committee between the two countries after 10 years, which is an opportunity to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us," the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate."

Iran, Turkmenistan stress expansion of transport, transit cooperation

TEHRAN- During a meeting between Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Saeed Rasouli and Turkmenistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rashid Meredov, the two sides emphasized on the development of transportation cooperation, increasing transit, launching rail and sea lines, exchanging electronic data and strengthening infrastructure.

In the meeting, Rasouli emphasized on the maximum use of the combined transport capacities and infrastructures of the two countries and called for the creation of a competitive tariff, the increase of border exchanges, the daily exchange of 400 wagons from the Sarakhs border and 100 wagons from the Inche-Boroun border, the exchange of electronic data and the setting up of logistics centers in the ports.

He also put forward proposals such as launching a liner shipping line between Iran's Amirabad port and Turkmenistan's Turkmenbashi port, developing direct flights, achieving 20 million tons of transit by 2025, activating regional transportation

agreements, and prioritizing the use of transit trucks in one-way transportation.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, for his part, while agreeing to Iran's proposals, described his country's road construction projects. It was decided to introduce Iranian companies to issue technical-engineering services. Also, it was proposed to hold a coordination meeting to activate the Ashgabat agreement and the relevant corridor after Ramadan hosted by Iran.

Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, has arrived in Tehran for high-level discussions with Iranian officials.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei confirmed that Meredov landed in Tehran on February 11. The visit comes in response to an official invitation from Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Ahrigh and is part of the periodic political consultations held between the foreign ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan.

Beyond his role as Turkmenistan's top diplomat, Meredov also chairs the Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee.

Iran and Turkmenistan share deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, along with a long-standing tradition of economic and political collaboration. Their geographical proximity has fostered a strong partnership, particularly in sectors such as energy, transit, and commerce. Over the past few years, both nations have worked to deepen these ties, exploring new opportunities for cooperation.

The importance of strengthening bilateral relations was further emphasized in a recent phone conversation between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the National Leader of Turkmenistan. The call, which took place on Monday, focused on reinforcing partnerships in the areas of peace, economic development, and cultural exchange.

During the discussion, Pezeshkian hailed Turkmenistan's initiative to declare 2025 as the "International Year

Transit of goods via Iran increases over 28%

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Iran has increased by 28.79 percent during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, based on a report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The IRICA report said that 18.4 million tons of goods were transited via the country in the mentioned ten-month period.

Also, as announced by an official with Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO), 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).

Javad Hedayati, the director-general of the Transit Office of the organization, has 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, with a growth of 27 percent as compared to the 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 high-



est record for transit transport was achieved in the previous Iranian year, 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.

The head of the International Affairs Center of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development has announced the achievement of the record of 20 million tons of transit via Iran by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Amin Taraffo' also said: "To achieve the goals of the Seventh National Development Plan, which is transit of 40 million tons of commodities via the country per year, we must reach the transit of three million tons per month, which is now 1.5 million tons; of

course, our capacity is estimated to be more than this figure."

The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional, and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors.

As stated by the former Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use

Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

As previously announced by the Transport Ministry, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran, and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

Loading, unloading of goods in Chabahar port rises 30%

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, the loading and unloading of goods in Chabahar port, in the southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, increased by 30 percent during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024-January 19, 2025), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Qasem Askari, the head of Sistan-Baluchestan's Ports and Maritime Department, also announced a 10-percent growth in the loading and unloading of basic goods in this port during the mentioned 10-month period.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar Port holds great significance for the country both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures to develop this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

The port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

In May 2016, India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement for the strategically-located Chabahar port to give New Delhi access to Kabul and Central Asia.

Later, based on a separate deal with Iran,

India agreed to install and operate modern loading and unloading equipment including mobile harbor cranes in Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

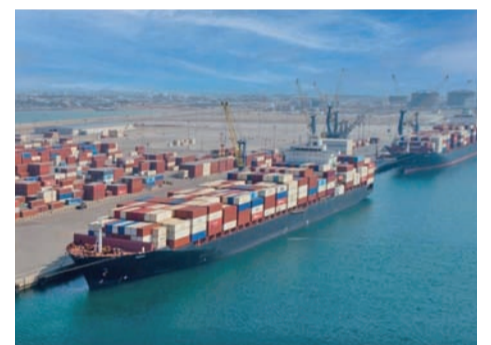
Under the framework of the mentioned agreement, the Indian side has been operating in Shahid Beheshti port in the form of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract; this is the first time that such a contract has been implemented in one of the country's ports with 100 percent foreign investment.

The first consignment of Indian equipment for the development of port activities at Chabahar port worth \$8.5 million arrived in the southeastern port in January 2021.

The Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran has announced that a total of 194.79 million tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year.

According to the PMO's statement, oil product unloading totaled 23.53 million tons, while unloading of non-oil products reached 44.16 million tons, bringing the total unloaded goods to 67.69 million tons.

Oil product loading at PMO-controlled ports amounted to 64.41 million tons, and non-oil product loading totaled 62.69 million tons, resulting in a combined loading volume of 127.10 million tons by the end of the 10-month period.



The total volume of oil product loading and unloading during this period stood at 87.94 million tons, while non-oil product operations accounted for 106.84 million tons. Altogether, 194.79 million tons of oil and non-oil products were handled.

The ports handled 2.57 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of containers during this period, marking a 13 percent increase compared to the same period last year, which saw 2.28 million TEUs processed.

Iran's ports have a total nominal capacity of over 260 million tons per year, allowing them to handle a wide range of oil and non-oil commodities. Key ports, such as Shahid Rajaei Port in Hormozgan Province, account for a significant portion of the country's trade activity due to their advanced infrastructure and strategic location along international shipping routes.

al Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade Ruhollah Latifi.

Ruhollah Latifi said that Iran exported 702,000 tons of commodities worth \$239.879 million to Turkmenistan in the six-month period, which was also 12.1 percent more than the previous year in terms of weight, IRIB reported.

Agricultural and food products, medicine, household appliances, construction materials, electrical appliances, industrial equipment, plastic, consumer goods, and machinery were among the goods exported to Turkmenistan in the mentioned period, Latifi said.

Based on customs data, Iran also imported 10,000 tons of goods valued at \$12,285,660 in the first half of the current Iranian year, and the main imported goods were textiles, cloth, and yarn.

According to the official, Iran exported 1.359 million tons of commodities worth \$445.17 million to Turkmenistan in the previous Iranian calendar

year, most of which were agricultural and dairy products.

Last year, more than 38,000 tons of goods valued at \$38.657 million were also imported from Turkmenistan, he added.

Turkmenistan's total imports in 2023 stood at about \$3.5 billion, of which the Islamic Republic of Iran's share was \$445 million. According to Latifi, Iran accounted for about 12.5 percent of Turkmenistan's market share in 2023.

In August 2024, the customs officials from Iran and Turkmenistan agreed to enhance customs cooperation and also the volume of the trade exchanges between the two countries.

In a meeting held between the former Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvaniyar and the Chairman of the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan Maksat Khudaikulyev in Tehran, the two sides emphasized expanding and broadening cooperation in various fields.

Tehran invites Brazilian football stars to boost tourism



TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri has invited renowned Brazilian footballers to visit the country and promote its tourist attractions.

During a meeting with Carlos Henrique Menezes, Brazil's Deputy Minister of Tourism, Salehi-Amiri emphasized the importance of influential figures in promoting tourism. "One of the most effective ways to develop tourism is through the visits of well-known figures from various fields. Therefore, we invite Brazilian footballers to visit Iran and showcase its beauty and attractions to the world," he stated.

The officials met on Tuesday during their visits to the 18th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition which was inaugurated on the same day.

Highlighting the long-standing relations between Iran and Brazil, Salehi-Amiri added, "Although the geographical distance between our countries is vast, we have had more than 120 years of diplomatic and cooperative ties with Brazil. Previously, we also held discussions with Brazil's Minister of Tourism and the Secretary-General of the UN Tourism regarding strengthening tourism cooperation between our nations."

He pointed out that all Iranian provinces, particularly those with rich historical and cultural heritage such as Isfahan, Fars, Kermanshah, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Hamedan, have significant

potential to attract Brazilian tourists.

Additionally, the minister proposed signing a memorandum of understanding in the field of tourism, especially medical tourism, to strengthen bilateral relations between Iran and Brazil.

Menezes, for his part, expressed his pleasure in meeting senior Iranian tourism officials and emphasized the importance of strengthening ties with Iran. Enhancing relations with Iran is of great significance to us, and I am delighted to be here, he said. He also acknowledged the geographical distance between the two nations but stressed their responsibility to bring the two peoples closer together. "One of the key strategies for boosting tourism cooperation is increasing awareness about the tourist attractions of both countries," he noted. Menezes also highlighted Brazil's tourism potential, particularly the Amazon rainforest, and acknowledged Iran's vast cultural and natural heritage, underlying Brazil's readiness to expand tourism relations with Iran.

Moreover, he mentioned the strong cultural and football-related affinity of the people of Abadan towards Brazil and regarded this connection as a valuable step in strengthening tourism ties between the two nations.

The Brazilian official also underlined to counteract negative media narratives that might affect tourism relations and work to correct any misleading information that could hinder cooperation.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

Chosen from the work of architect Le Corbusier that survives in eleven countries on four continents, the sites in seven countries on three continents, implemented over half a century, for the first time in the history of architecture attest to the internationalization of architectural practice across the entire planet.

Situated in Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, and Switzerland, the seventeen sites together represent an outstanding response to some of the fundamental issues of architecture and society in the 20th century.

According to UNESCO, they all were innovative in the way they reflected new concepts, all had a significant influence over wide geographical areas, and together they disseminated ideas of the Modern Movement throughout the world.

Despite its diversity, the Modern Movement was a major and essential socio-cultural and historical entity of the 20th century, which has to a large degree remained the basis of the architectural culture of the 21st century. From the 1910s to the 1960s, the Modern Movement, in meeting the challenges of contemporary society, aimed to instigate a unique forum of ideas at a world level, invent a new architectural language, modernize architectural techniques, and meet the social and human needs of modern man. The series provides an outstanding response to all these challenges.

Some of the component sites immediately assumed an iconic status and had worldwide influence. These include the Villa Savoye, as an icon for the Modern Movement; Unité d'habitation in Marseille as a major prototype of a new housing model based on a balance between the individual and the collective; Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut for its revolutionary approach to religious architecture; the Cabanon de Le Corbusier as an archetypal minimum cell based on ergonomic and functionalist approaches; and the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung that became known worldwide, as part of the Werkbund exhibition.

Other sites acted as catalysts for spreading ideas around their own regions, such as Maison Guiette, which spurred the development of the Modern Movement in Belgium and the Netherlands; the Maison du Docteur Curutchet which exerted a fundamental influence in South America; the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident as the prototype of the globally transposable Mu-

seum of Unlimited Growth which cemented ideas of the Modern Movement in Japan; and the Capitol Complex that had a considerable influence across the Indian subcontinent, where it symbolized India's accession to modernity.

Many of the sites reflect new architectural concepts, principles, and technical features. The Petite villa au bord du Léman is an early expression of minimalist needs as is also crystallized in the Cabanon de Le Corbusier. Le Corbusier's Five Points of a New Architecture are transcribed iconically in Villa Savoye. The Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor is an example of the application of these points to a residential block, while they were also applied to houses, such as the Cité Frugès, and reinterpreted in the Maison du Docteur Curutchet, in the Couvent Sainte-Marie-de-la-Tourette and in the Musée National des Beaux-Arts de l'Occident. The glass-walled apartment building had its prototype in the Immeuble locatif à la Porte Molitor.

A few sites inspired major trends in the Modern Movement, Purism, Brutalism, and a move towards a sculptural form of architecture. The inaugural use of Purism can be seen in the Maisons La Roche et Jeanneret, Cité Frugès, and the Maison Guiette; the Unité d'habitation played a pioneering role in promoting the trend of Brutalism, while the Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut and the Capitol Complex promoted sculptural forms.

Innovation and experimentation are reflected in the independent structure of concrete beams of the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung, while pre-stressed reinforced concrete was used in the Couvent de La Tourette. In the Capitol Complex, concern for natural air-conditioning and energy saving led to the use of sunscreens, double-skinned roofs, and reflecting pools for the catchment of rainwater and air cooling.

Standardization is seen in the Unité d'habitation de Marseille, a prototype intended for mass production, while the Petite villa au bord du Lac Léman set out the standard for a single span minimal house, and the Cabanon de Le Corbusier presented a standard, minimum unit for living. The modulator, a harmonic system based on human scale, was used for the exterior spaces of the Complexe du Capitole, which reflect the silhouette of a man with a raised arm.

(Source: UNESCO)

Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz showcase synergy at Tehran tourism fair

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - For the first time, a joint pavilion representing Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz has been set up at the current Tehran tourism fair to highlight a synergy among these three ancient cities.

This collaboration marks a recently-inked revitalization of the "Tourism Triangle of Iran" agreement, designed to promote their shared cultural heritage and tourism potential. The booth features a rich display of each city's unique attractions, from historical landmarks to vibrant local traditions, reinforcing the united effort to boost tourism and celebrate their historical significance.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Alireza Massah who presides over the tourism department at Isfahan Municipality, said the three cities of Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz are destinations that, in theory, no foreign tourist enters Iran without visiting at least one of them.

"In addition to having a trilateral cooperation agreement for tourism development, we have also set up a joint pavilion at this Tehran tourism exhibition to enhance synergy."

Massah said there are cultural similarities and unique distinctions among these three historical cities, which are highly interesting to tourists. For example, when it comes to handicrafts, Isfahan and Shiraz are particularly well-known for Khatam and Khatamkari (a traditional Persian inlaying technique), each with its own distinctive style.

He noted that each of these three cities is filled with numerous historical monuments and has a unique architectural style that, while equally captivating, presents fascinating differences. Additionally, they all have renowned historical cemeteries that are particularly intriguing to visitors. This booth has been named "The Pioneers of Iranian Tourism".

Elsewhere in his remarks, Massah expressed hope that this joint pavilion experience would be repeated in the future.

He then stated that the pavilion's programs include unveiling a series



A shared pavilion represents the ancient Iranian cities of Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz often referred to as the Golden Triangle of Iran's tourism sector at the 18th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition.

of joint cultural products, launching a shared logo, and revealing the poster for the first international collaborative event between these three cities in the presence of the mayors of Yazd, Isfahan, and Shiraz.

Massah mentioned that each of these cities will separately introduce a collection of authored books and exclusive multimedia programs.

Building on this initiative, the three cities plan to participate in Qatar cultural week next month, presenting their historical and cultural richness to an international audience, Massah concluded.

Last November, the "Golden Triangle" tourism agreement, originally signed in 2016, was revitalized amid hopes to establish a world-class tourism route, showcasing Iran's rich cultural heritage and unparalleled historical sites. Key points of the agreement include joint research projects aimed at tourism development, utilizing international networks of the three cities, and organizing conferences, workshops, and special visits between them.

Isfahan

Once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy, Isfahan remains one of Iran's most prominent tourist destinations.

It is renowned for its breathtaking Islamic architecture, including stunning mosques, palaces, and bazaars. Visitors can explore Persian gardens and walk along the city's tree-lined boulevards, soaking in the beauty and history at every turn. The city's architectural marvels, such as Naghsh-e Jahan Square—one of the largest squares in the world—make it a jewel of town planning.

Isfahan is known as "Nesf-e-Jahan," or "half the world," symbolizing its historic significance. The Zayandeh-Rood River, often called the city's "life-giving river," adds to the city's natural beauty, enhancing its allure for tourists.

Yazd

Situated in the heart of Iran's desert, Yazd is a city of ancient ingenuity and timeless charm. Known for its maze of winding lanes, traditional bazaars, and mud-brick architecture, Yazd showcases the clever use of limited resources to create a sustainable urban environment. The city's ancient qanat system—underground channels that transport water from distant mountains—has been the lifeline of this desert city for centuries. Yazd's historic wind catchers and domed homes maintain cool temperatures in the harsh desert climate, making it an architectural marvel.

The Yazd Water Museum offers a deep dive into the city's qanat system, giving visitors insight into the nearly 2000-year-old water management techniques that helped this city thrive in the arid landscape.

Shiraz

Known as the heartland of Persian culture, Shiraz has a rich history stretching back over 2000 years. This city is synonymous with poetry, education, and the arts, and has been a hub for creativity and intellectual pursuits. Once the capital of Iran during the Zand dynasty, Shiraz is home to some of the most iconic landmarks in the country, including the Eram Garden, the Tomb of Hafez, and the ancient ruins of Persepolis.

Shiraz's historical gardens, like Bagh-e Narenjستان and Eram Garden, are masterpieces of Persian landscaping and a top draw for tourists. The city's enduring connection to Persian culture, coupled with its majestic architecture and natural beauty, continues to make it a prime destination for both domestic and international travelers.

Together, Isfahan, Yazd, and Shiraz represent a "Golden Triangle" of Iranian tourism, each offering a unique glimpse into Iran's rich cultural, architectural, and historical heritage.

Iran to host major tourism exhibition for ACD member states

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, met with Nasser Al-Mutairi, Secretary-General of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), on the sidelines of the 18th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition.

During the meeting, Salehi-Amiri announced plans to host a major tourism exhibition for ACD member states in Tehran, describing it as an opportunity to showcase the tourism potential of member countries, Mehr reported on Monday.

He also emphasized the need to reschedule the ACD summit, originally planned for Yazd last year.

The tourism minister then highlighted Iran's extensive historical and cultural heritage,

noting that the country has over one million historical sites, more than 40,000 nationally registered monuments, and 28 UNESCO World Heritage labels.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi-Amiri underscored Iran's rich civilization and cultural assets, asserting that the country's untapped archaeological treasures hold greater value than the oil and mineral wealth of [many] other nations.

Discussing Iran's tourism strategy, Salehi-Amiri identified the 13 countries within the [UNESCO-designated] Nowruz cultural sphere as the country's top priority for tourism development, followed by the Persian Gulf littoral states. He also underlined a target of attracting 15 million foreign tourists, predicting that Iran's tourist arrivals would exceed 7 million and approach 8 million by the end of the cur-

rent Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Al-Mutairi, in turn, acknowledged Iran's significant tourism potential and cultural appeal. He emphasized the importance of cooperation in this sector and noted the esteemed presence of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian at the exhibition's opening ceremony as a sign of the event's significance.

He further highlighted Iran's attractiveness as a destination for Muslim travelers, particularly in religious cities like Mashhad, where international pilgrims frequently visit. Al-Mutairi then expressed confidence in Iran's ability to become a key destination for Muslim families, given its cultural and religious offerings.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue, established in 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand, aims to enhance regional integration and cooperation among Asian governments and organizations.

Influencers from Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Pakistan visit Tehran fair

TEHRAN - On Wednesday, 20 well-known social media influencers from Pakistan, Kenya, and Zimbabwe visited the 18th Tehran International Tourism Exhibition as part of a cultural exchange initiative.

Invited by Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the influencers explored the exhibition on its second day.

The influencers toured five exhibition halls featuring booths from private sector businesses and provincial cultural heritage and tourism offices. They had the opportunity to learn about Iran's tourist attractions and engage with local stakeholders, CHTN reported.

Additionally, the social media bloggers attended a session at the pavilion of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the B2B hall, where they met with Moslem Shojaei, the ministry's director-general of tourism marketing and development. They discussed Iran's tourism potential and strategies for facilitating travel to the country.

Their seven-day trip to Iran includes visits to several key tourist destinations. As part of the promotional campaign, each influencer received a package containing multilingual brochures about Iran, a CD featuring 100 top photographs, multiple videos, among some other material.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bo-



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

2nd Intl. Congress on AI in Medical Science to be held in May

TEHRAN – The 2nd International Congress on Artificial Intelligence in Medical Science (AIMS) is scheduled to be held in Tehran from May 14 to 16.

The event serves as a platform for exchanging expertise and ideas and establishing international collaborations among researchers and experts interested in the application of AI in the medical industry to conduct joint research projects using AI technologies.

The main objective of the congress is to facilitate interaction between researchers and those interested in AI, allowing them to share their knowledge and experiences while discussing the latest achievements, challenges, and emerging trends in the area.

Additionally, the congress will offer a unique opportunity to identify weaknesses and key challenges facing the development of AI in medical sciences.

The congress will also focus on the exploration of new opportunities in various areas, such as the diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the development of novel drugs, and the improvement of healthcare systems.

The congress will center around personalized medicine, biomedical data processing, AI in pharmacy, AI in digital health, advanced technologies and medical equipment, generative AI in health care, and health policy, law, and management in AI.



AI innovation in telehealth

On February 16, Smart University of Medical Sciences (SMUMS) will host a preliminary event, titled 'AI innovation in telehealth', before the second international congress of AIMS with both national and international lecturers addressing the event.

The event will showcase the latest AI tools in telehealth, and discuss the use of AI in telehealth platforms, the use of AI to enhance the patient experience, and future trends in AI and telehealth. It will also foster collaboration among healthcare professionals.

MOU signed to use AI in medical treatment

In January, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences signed a memorandum of understanding to use artificial

intelligence for medical treatment purposes.

The agreement aims to promote the targeted support of the knowledge-based ecosystem in the field of health with a focus on omics and genomics studies, cell therapy in endocrinology and metabolism, person-centered medicine with artificial intelligence tools for prevention, prediction, diagnosis, and treatment, and finally innovation in the commercialization of products and services, ISNA reported.

Statistics have shown noticeable cost savings, about 40 percent, using artificial intelligence in health in advanced countries. In some specific cases, like breast or lung cancers, artificial intelligence can lower healthcare costs by 80 percent, hence knowledge-based economy should aim to utilize AI to save healthcare costs, IRIB quoted

Mostafa Qaemi, the secretary of the Biology Development Headquarters, as saying.

"Smart University of Medical Sciences has compiled a smart healthcare document, which is currently in the final stages of approval.

Once approved, the document is a valuable step taken towards digital transformation in the country's healthcare system," Hassan Bakhtiari, the SMUMS president, said in December 2024.

The SMUMS research center is a suitable place for conducting applied research and recruiting medical researchers. The center can also help develop treatment and reduce treatment costs, he noted.

Highlighting that most of the regional countries are pioneers in artificial intelligence, he said: "Iran needs to strengthen its position in the artificial intelligence sector in the region."

AI plays a key role in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases. It also improves the quality of medical services.

Bakhtiari went on to say that by using AI technology, the development of medical services in disadvantaged and rural areas can be put on the agenda.

Telemedicine is one of the areas in which AI can help establish health justice by providing access to advanced medical services in remote areas, he added.

Mongolia welcomes cooperation with IRCS



TEHRAN – Secretary General of Mongolia Red Cross Society, Bolormaa Nordov, has voiced Mongolia's readiness to expand cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

Lauding the capabilities of IRCS in addressing hazards, Nordov said, "Mongolia is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world, with harsh winter. We are interested in benefiting from the experiences, and capacities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, particularly in providing relief services," Mehr news agency reported.

The official made the remarks on Tuesday in an online meeting with the head of the IRCS, Pirhossein Kolivand.

"Mongolian Red Cross Society is responsible for people's health and well-being. We are willing to utilize the Iranian Red Crescent Society's knowledge in medical and pharmaceutical sectors, as well," Nordov further noted.

Highlighting the significance of boosting synergy among international societies, Kolivand, for his part, proposed running a joint university to train participants on the critical actions required to respond to emergencies, disasters, and accidents.

Establishing joint medical centers, pharmaceutical and textile companies, as well as launching health tourism comprehensive centers were among other suggested issues for the expansion of collaborations.

The official went on to say that the IRCS quick response teams are ready to provide assistance to other societies in any part of the world, highlighting that one of the main objectives of the IRCS is to educate and empower other societies.

Signing a memorandum of understanding

will facilitate and lay the basis for furthering cooperation, Kolivand added.

IRCS is a top organization

In September 2024, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) project manager, Faisal Mahboob, lauded the capabilities of the IRCS as outstanding.

The official said he was really impressed by the capacity and the wide range of activities carried out by the IRCS.

"The International Federation will support the activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society to commence a new phase of collaboration with the society," Mahboob added, the IRCS website reported.

In May 2024, Pir-hossein Kolivand, head of the IRCS, said the IRCS is recognized as one of the five prominent societies worldwide thanks to its wide range of activities and great achievements both nationally and internationally.

Referring to health, treatment, and rehabilitation as one of the parts of the IRCS activities, Kolivand said the IRCS hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics meet the medical and therapeutic needs of thousands of citizens every day.

The IRCS medical centers abroad are reputable worldwide. As a humanitarian organization, the IRCS is trying to alleviate the suffering of the people involved in accidents, emergencies, and conflicts.

"Today, collaborations with knowledge-based firms have resulted in advancements in manufacturing orthoses, prostheses, artificial organs, and new medications, with plans to extend cooperation to rescue and relief efforts as well," the official noted.

IRCS signs MOUs with 19 societies over three years

The IRCS has signed memorandums of understanding with red crescent societies of 19 countries over the past three years to expand and enhance cooperation in humanitarian as well as rescue and relief operations.

The IRCS looks forward to boosting cooperation with other societies to promote awareness, resilience, and capabilities of the societies in confrontation with disasters and the provision of relief services.

Iran adds 'senior tourism' to age-friendly environment domains

TEHRAN – Senior tourism has been added by Iran as the ninth domain to the age-friendly city international project run by the World Health Organization.

The project currently includes transportation, social participation, civic participation, employment, respect and social inclusion, housing, communication, and information.

Age-friendly communities are places where age is not a barrier to living well and where the environment, activities, and services support and enable older people to have opportunities to enjoy life and feel well.

"Concerning Iran's transition into an aging country, its geography, and ecosystem, we will do our best to register senior tourism as the ninth domain of the age-friendly city in the World Health Organization," IRNA quoted Mojgan Rezazadeh, the head of the secretariat of the National Council of the Elderly, as saying.

In October 2024, Rezazadeh said that the national document for creating age-friendly environments across the country has taken effect.

"The world's population, especially in developing countries, is growing old, and Iran is no exception. The percentage of the elderly

population in the country has increased from five percent in 1976 to about 10.5 percent, reaching around 9 million people," IRNA quoted Rezazadeh as saying.

The document works towards improving physical and social environments to become better places for the elderly.

It is compiled in three parts: Principles of indicators and criteria of the strategic plan of an age-friendly city, holding workshops on how to prepare a strategic document for an age-friendly city, and planning indicators for an age-friendly city.

Each province should develop a strategic provincial document based on their environment, and implement the program with the cooperation of the member institutions and the strong participation of municipalities and governor-general offices in each city, Rezazadeh stated.

She went on to say that the needed training will be carried out step by step with domestic experts and international consultants to monitor it.

Currently, Tehran, Gilan, Isfahan, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Lorestan, Hamadan, and Bushehr are the nine pilot provinces of the project, IRNA quoted Re-



zazadeh as saying in January.

In the next 30 years, the population aged 60 years or older is projected to hold a 32 percent share of the whole population, that is, the elderly will account for one-third of Iran's population by 2050, the official noted.

Currently, men and women aged above 60 constitute some 11.5 percent of Iran's population, an official with the health ministry has said. For the time being, elderly women account for 52.3 percent of the total population, outnumbering men (47.7 percent), ISNA quoted Saber Jabbari as saying.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Salt particles from Lake Urmia contained by 80%'

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80 percent, Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program at West Azarbaijan has said. In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted in the catchment basin of Lake Urmia to slow down the wind giving rise to salt particles since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million), Sarkhosh said. He went on to say that the major salt particle hotspots in the West Azarbaijan province include Jabal Kandi village in Urmia County, Saporghan, Urmia, Choopanloo and Mian-doab, which are highly contained by planting vegetation, ISNA reported on Saturday. According to the law, agricultural development around the lake's basin is banned, and investigation results demonstrated that no land seized illegally for the agricultural development, he highlighted.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سپورغان ارومیه، چوپان لو سلماس، و میان‌دوآب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

طبق مصوبه دولت توسعه اراضی کشاورزی در حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه ممنوع است و با بررسی‌های انجام شده در حوضه آبریز دریاچه نیز هیچ توسعه‌ای انجام نشده است.

UNODC procures 4 drug trace detector devices for Iran

TEHRAN – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has provided four drug trace detector devices to the Customs Organization and Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran under the Japanese government's funding.

The hand-over ceremony was organized at the premises of Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) in Tehran on February 5, with the presence of Alexander Fedulov, the UNODC representative in Iran, Tsukada Tamaki, the Japanese Ambassador to Tehran, Mohammed Narimani, Interim Director General of the International Relations Office of DCHQ, dolat.ir reported.

Addressing the event, Fedulov said these devices have been procured under sub-program 1 of the UNODC Country Partnership Programme (CPP), 2023 -2026, based on the requirements of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police shared with the UNODC Iran.

The UNODC has been actively present in the Islamic Republic of Iran since 1991 and considers Iran as one of the strategic partners for drug control and crime prevention in the region. It has been supporting the country by providing technical assistance and training since its establishment in Iran.

The need for these devices, including body scanners and drug trace detectors, is still necessary due to the increase in the production of methamphetamine in Afghanistan and its extensive transit through Iran, as well as the significant increase in discoveries in Iran, the official noted.

Referring to activities of UNODC Iran in 2023 and 2024, he said through the generous donation of the Government of Japan, the office procured key devices including drug identification devices, drug-detecting dogs, Canine Trailers and other accessories for drug-detecting dog centers.

For his turn, Narimani said despite changes

in the priorities of supporting countries, Mr. Fedulov has done his best to attract their support.

"Supporting Iran in the fight against drugs is supporting the international community," he stressed.

The official went on to laud Japan's efforts in funding technical devices to combat narcotics, saying "Iran will never forget your assistance particularly if you equip the country with X-ray scanners for containers."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for the world's highest seizure rates with some 76 percent of opium and 67 percent of morphine, and 17 percent of heroin. In 2024, Iranian anti-narcotics police managed to discover 440 tons of different narcotics including 38 tons of methamphetamine," Narimani highlighted.

"Please let the contributors know that their aid conveys the message to the law enforcement forces and the families of the martyrs that the world understands and respects the importance of their sacrifice. However, these contributions are insignificant compared to the cost the country is paying," the official further noted.

To enhance the operational capacity of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police, in November 2024, the UNODC provided them with two Medical Devices, including a portable Doppler sonography, and a veterinary anesthesia machine to support drug supply reduction activities in Iran.

In August 2024, the UNODC procured and installed three X-ray Body Scanners crucial for efficiently identifying narcotic drugs concealed in the body or swallowed at three international airports of the country, namely Imam Khomeini International Airport, Gorgan International Airport, and Ahvaz International Airport.



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FEBRUARY 13, 2025

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:19 Evening: 18:02 Dawn: 5:29 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:05 (tomorrow)

“I Want to See Mioussov” on stage at Niavaran center

TEHRAN- An adaptation of Russian writer Valentin Kataev’s 1947 play “I Want to See Mioussov” is currently on stage at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural Center.

Mohammad Javad Habibi is the director of the play, which has been translated into Persian by Mahmoud Azizi.

Hasti Jafari, Amir Shariat, Matin Tajik, Goudarz Hajari, Mehdi Kazemlu and Saba Amiri are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage for a month.

“I Want to See Mioussov” is a comedic play, which revolves around a series of misunderstandings and mistaken identities.

The story follows a dedicated handyman named Zaitsev, who is responsible for renovating a nursery in Moscow. One day, he needs to meet with Comrade Mioussov, a patient at a prestigious rest home called The Sunflowers, to secure his signature on a delivery receipt for 50 kilograms of white enamel paint.

However, Zaitsev soon discovers that entry to this esteemed institution is not so easily obtained, particularly since it caters to prominent individuals.

To navigate this bureaucratic obstacle, Zaitsev improvises a clever deception. He fabricates a story claiming to be the husband of Klava Ignatyuk, a renowned agronomist who has just been awarded a gold medal for her agricultural achievements and is currently making headlines.

In a twist of fate, Klava also arrives at The Sunflowers on the same day, intending to meet her actual husband. The rest home staff,

unaware of Zaitsev’s true identity, mistakenly assume him to be Klava’s secret lover, a misunderstanding that sets off a chain of comedic events.

As the plot unfolds, Zaitsev’s initial intent—to obtain a simple signature—spirals into a comedic farce filled with misunderstandings. He cleverly navigates the social dynamics of the rest home, interacting with Klava and the staff while keeping up the pretense of being her husband. The comedy hinges on the absurdity of the situation, illustrating how easy it is for miscommunication and false identities to complicate what should be a straightforward encounter.

The humor of “I Want to See Mioussov” is layered with social commentary on the bureaucratic nature of Soviet society. Through laughter, Kataev critiques the red tape and arbitrary restrictions that govern personal interactions. The play reflects a universal theme: the folly of bureaucracy and the human desire for connection, even amidst confusion and deception.

The first performance of “I Want to See Mioussov” took place on November 12, 1965, at the Theatre des Nouveautés, with a production directed by Jacques Fabbri, who also played the title role.

The play has since been translated into French by Tamara Dalmat and Marc Gilbert Sauvajon and has seen significant success, resonating with audiences beyond its Russian origins. Through its blend of humor and social critique, the play remains a relevant examination of societal norms and human behavior in the face of absurdity.

Cartoon of Day



Big Mouth!

Cartoonist: Muzaffar Yulchiboev from Uzbekistan

40th International Fajr Music Festival honors two veteran musicians at opening ceremony

TEHRAN-The opening ceremony of the 40th International Fajr Music Festival was held at the Boys’ Music Conservatory in Tehran on Tuesday.

Speaking at the event, Reza Mahdavi, the secretary of the festival, said: “Let us honor the memory of Master Fereydoun Shahbazian, who was also a graduate of this conservatory and left valuable works in the contemporary history of music through his learned skills. I hope the graduates of the Music Conservatory appreciate this precious legacy”. The next part of the program was honoring masters Hassan Riahi and Seyyed Hamid Shahangian, composers of Iranian music and revolutionary anthems. After screening a tribute video, the two distinguished musicians were honored on stage.

Expressing his gratitude for the ceremony, veteran Iranian composer Hassan Riahi said: “As I entered the Boys’ Music Conservatory, I was reminded of the days when I graduated from this institution.

I am delighted that the conservatory continues to thrive and introduce young musicians to the music community”. For his part, Hamid Shahangian also remarked: “Despite all the pressures, the art of music has remained steadfast



thanks to the tireless efforts and perseverance of musicians”. The ceremony also featured an 80th birthday celebration for Riahi and Shahangian, as well as performances by music students from the Boys’ Music Conservatory.

The 40th International Fajr Music Festival is organized by the Deputy of Artistic Affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, in collaboration with the Music Office

of the Culture Ministry, the Iran Music Association, and the Rudaki Foundation.

It aims to showcase and honor the best works of Iranian musicians, promote the art of music, enhance the audience’s taste and listening culture, preserve national identity rooted in religious and Iranian teachings, support creative art—especially ideas and performances by the younger genera-

tion—and identify and strengthen the quality of form and content in various genres of music.

For the current edition, six musicians and bands from Turkey, Spain, India, the Netherlands, Tunisia, and Armenia have attended the festival along with 100 Iranian bands comprising over 1,400 musicians.

The festival will be held in two competitive and non-competitive sections until February 17 in Tehran.

Iran, Tajikistan strengthen cultural ties at “Diplomatic Night”



TEHRAN- A cultural event titled “Tajikistan Night” was held in Tehran on Tuesday, aiming at boosting cultural ties between the two nations.

Organized by the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in Iran, the Hurshid Institute of Culture and Literature, and the Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association, the event marked the inaugural event of the “Diplomatic Nights” series, ISNA reported.

The gathering brought together prominent figures from the worlds of culture and literature, including Ahmad Masjed-Jamei, Deputy of the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia, Hojatollah Ayyubi, the director of the Hurshid Institute, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran Nizomiddin Zohidi, Mir Jalaleddin Kazzazi, an expert on Persian poet Ferdowsi’s epic masterpiece

Shahnameh, Farzona Khujandi, a distinguished literary figure in Tajikistan, and Ali Ashraf Mojtabeh Shabestari, head of the Iran-Tajikistan Friendship Association.

Keynote speakers shared insights on the rich cultural heritage of both countries, highlighting the importance of cooperation in preserving Persian language and literature.

Speaking at the event, Masjed-Jamei shared a personal memory from his visit to Tajikistan. He recounted his trip prior to Tajikistan gaining independence, during which he met with the Union of Writers of Tajikistan.

At that meeting, Tajik cultural figures expressed their concerns regarding the renaming of the Rudaki Hall after the Revolution.

Responding to this, he mentioned that a proposal was brought to Iranian parliament, resulting in the establishment of the Rudaki Foundation. He credited this initiative to suggestions made by Tajik representatives.

Masjed-Jamei also discussed the topic of Persian language and literature in Tajikistan, noting that he entrusted the late Hassan Anousheh to write a book on the subject.

This book was later gifted to the President of Tajikistan during a visit from former Iranian President Mohammad Khatami.

Another significant project was the compilation of a list of manuscripts from Tajikistan, carried out by Ali Bahramian and Seyyed Ali Mojani. Additionally, he mentioned the donation of over 30,000 volumes of books to the National Library of Tajikistan.

He further emphasized that Persian is the language of civilization and that the relationship between Iran and Tajikistan is deeply rooted and rich. “We must pay more attention to our capacities. The low exchange of tourists is a result of our neglect. Consequently, cultural, political, and social links between the two nations need further development,” he asserted.

The evening also included musical performances led by Majid Derakhshani, with singing by Ali Khodai, and a recitation of the Shahnameh by Keykhosro Dehqani.

23rd Pune International Film Festival to host 8 Iranian films

TEHRAN-Eight films from Iran will participate in the 23rd Pune International Film Festival (PIFF) in India from February 13 to 20.

The Iranian participants in the Global Cinema section include “At the End of the Day” directed by Babak Bahram-Beygi, “Captain” by Mohammad Hamzei, “In the Land of Brothers” by Alireza Ghasemi and Raha Amirfazli, “Roxana” by Parviz Shahbazi, “Shoomah” by Mojgan Bayat, “Summertime” by Mahmoud Kalari, “The Old Bachelor” by Oktay Baraheni, and “The Wasteman” by Ahmad Bahrami.

“At the End of the Day” is a 99-minute film made in 2024. It shows one day in the life of three young women in different generations, who are dealing with an emotional crisis each.

The cast includes Hanieh Tavasoli, Mahtab Servati, Shayesteh Sajadi, Shabnam Moghadami, and Reza Behbodi among others.

Running for 90 minutes, “Captain” was produced in 2023. It shows two boys named Isa and Ali, who dream of becoming football players while being in the cancer department of the children’s hospital.

Pantea Panahiha, Pejman Bazeghi, Sepideh Eydi, Amir Hossein

Bayat, and Parham Gholamlou are in the cast.

In “In the Land of Brothers,” under the shadow of the U.S. invasion, an extended Afghan refugee family begins their new lives in Iran unaware of the ultimate price expected of them as outliers in this environment.

The cast of the 2024 joint production of Iran, France, and the Netherlands include Hamideh Jafari, Bashir Nikzad, and Mohammad Hosseini.

“Roxana” was made in 2023. The two-hour movie is about Fred, an unemployed young man who lives with his sick mother. He meets Roxana who films the wedding ceremonies and becomes her assistant. When they face some problems, they have to find a way to deal with them.

Yasna Pourtahmasb, Mahsa Akbarabadi, Maedeh Tahmasbi, Behrang Alavi, and Rambod Motalebi perform in the film.

In “Shoomah,” Mitra is a single mother who runs an ecotourism complex with her son Arvand. When the bodies of divers killed in the war are found, there is no clue of Mitra’s husband so she decides to find him.

Fatemeh Motamed-Arya, Pejman

Bazeghi, and Rouzbeh Hesari are in the cast of the 94-minute movie produced in 2024.

“Summertime” was produced in 2024. The story follows two young cousins, Atta and Masi, as they navigate the innocence of childhood in 1953 in Tehran. Decades later, 77-year-old Atta, who had gone abroad, returns to Iran to visit the old house, where memories of childhood bonds, betrayal, and enduring emotions come flooding back.

The cast of the 108-minute film includes Ali Shadman, Fariba Naderi, Ryan Sarlak, Ronika Bahramzadeh, and Samira Hassanpour.

“The Old Bachelor” is a production of 2024. It is about two middle-aged brothers who live with their bullying father. When the man rents out the flat above to a young woman, the family conditions get worse and reach a breaking point.

Leila Hatami, Hamed Behdad, Hassan Pourshirazi, and Mohammad Valizadegan perform in the globally-acclaimed movie.

“The Wasteman” depicts a strange, silent village bereft of all apparent life, where a middle-aged wagon-driver trundles a lifeless corpse towards the cemetery.

Ali Bagheri is the only actor per-

forming in the 89-minute film that was produced in 2024, and has so far appeared in several international festivals.

Pune International Film Festival started in 2002 with the idea of building and promoting a healthy film culture in Pune. The objective is to give film lovers in the city access to global cinema and spark a cultural exchange. With discussions, lectures and master classes on varied topics related to the craft, it tries to instill an academic flavor in the festival.

Every edition of PIFF has a unique contemporary theme. Through categories like World Competition, Marathi Competition, Global Cinema, Country Focus and Retrospective, it brings forth quality films from various countries and cultures. An acclaimed international jury decides awards for films in the competitive sections.

The Government of Maharashtra recognized PIFF as its official festival in 2010. PIFF is the only festival that gives international recognition to Marathi cinema. Every year, PIFF continues to grow with the participation of more and more accomplished film personalities, emerging filmmakers and film enthusiasts.