

Ayatollah Khamenei's reaction to Trump's letter:

Talks with US Will Ramp Up Pressure



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TEHRAN – Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has repeated the country's stance on talks with the United States, saying Tehran will not engage with Washington under any circumstances as long as President Donald Trump keeps sanctions in place and threatens Iran with military action.

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Iran, China, and Russia to convene in Beijing to discuss nuclear issue, sanctions removal

TEHRAN – In a move to counter Western economic pressure and reinvigorate nuclear negotiations, Iran, China, and Russia are scheduled to hold trilateral talks in Beijing this Friday.

Announced by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Wednesday, the talks underscore Tehran's strategic pivot toward Eastern powers as it seeks to dismantle U.S.-led sanctions and assert its role in an emerging multipolar world order.

The upcoming high-stakes trilateral meeting, which is set to include China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, will focus on dismantling 'unjust and oppressive sanctions' against Iran.

Additionally, the agenda will stress the need to strengthen cooperation within BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a means to counter Western dominance. ▶ Page 2

Iran's 'Tourism Triangle' showcased at cultural week in Qatar

TEHRAN – Iran's renowned "Tourism Triangle"—the cities of Shiraz, Isfahan, and Yazd—was a major highlight of Iran Cultural Week in Qatar, where their rich cultural heritage and tourism potential were prominently showcased.

Alireza Masah, head of the Tourism Department at Isfahan Municipality and the city's representative at the event, emphasized the significance of this collaboration, marking the second international partnership between the three cities after their joint presentation at the International Tourism Exhibition.

"These three cities, renowned for their historical and cultural significance, serve as the face of Iranian tourism. Their participation in this event offers a unique opportunity to present Iran's rich heritage to an international audience," Masah stated.

Isfahan's contribution to the event centered around its celebrated handicrafts, as the city holds the prestigious title of a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art. ▶ Page 6

America may survive, but not as it has been for decades...

By Martin Love

NORTH CAROLINA – Masculine republics give way to feminine democracies which give way to tyrannies, claimed the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. Is the U.S. there yet? Is the U.S. being overwhelmed by a Trump tyranny?

It's difficult to say but the U.S. is severely and rancorously split between those who agree with what President Donald Trump and his administration and Republican supporters are doing, and those especially on the side of the Democratic Party, which lost big in last November's elections. The Democrats claim Trump is tyrannical, and he may well be to some extent given the extreme rapidity he is forcing huge changes in Washington and across the country. Also, notably, Trump addressed the U.S. Congress this week and his speech was horrible. He burned any bridges to his opponents and was insulting to the Democrats. At the least he could have explained to the American people why he has been in a frenzy to cut waste in government. He blew a serious opportunity.

US order to Lebanon: Normalization with Israel, first and last

By Sondoss Al Asaad

SOUTH LEBANON — Following her previous provocative statement in Beirut that Hezbollah should have no share in the government, Morgan Ortagus, the deputy presidential special envoy to the Middle East, has said the outcome of current events is ultimately a "peace" agreement between Beirut and Tel Aviv.

In an exclusive interview with the Lebanese Al-Jadeed TV channel, Ortagus said the current goal is limited to launching diplomatic negotiations between "three diplomatic working groups."

According to Ortagus, the goal of these negotiations is to address pressing issues such as the release of Lebanese prisoners, determining the fate of sites occupied by Israel, and demarcating the land border, which do not require "diplomatic" working groups and can be secured by the Supervisory Committee for the Implementation of Resolution 1701.

Yemen reinstates Israeli ship ban

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Yemeni Forces have resumed a ban on Israeli ships from docking at the regime's ports.

This move shows support for the Palestinian people and comes after the deadline to end the Israeli blockade on Gaza passed.

On Tuesday, the Yemeni Armed Forces announced they would enforce the ban in specific operational areas, including the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden.

The Yemeni Forces "stated that this action is in response to the ongoing suffering of the Palestinian people and in support of their resistance fighters."

The decision comes after a deadline set by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, the leader of Ansarallah, for mediators to demand Israel reopen border crossings and allow humanitarian aid into Gaza. Those efforts were unsuccessful.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, spokesperson for the Yemeni Armed Forces, confirmed that the ban took effect immediately on Tuesday at 11:50 p.m. local time.

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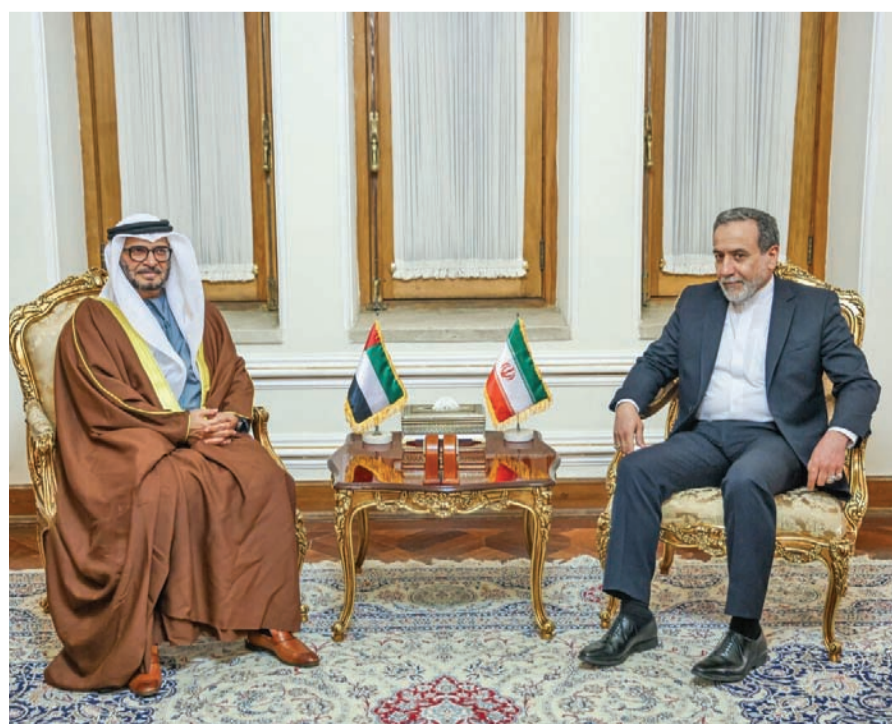
"Picasso in Tehran" exhibition opens at TMOCA

TEHRAN—"Picasso in Tehran" exhibition featuring works by Pablo Picasso opened at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) on Tuesday evening.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Nadereh Rezaei, the ambassadors of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica, China, Japan, and Indonesia, and several cultural officials as well as art enthusiasts.

There are 66 works by the renowned Spanish painter and sculptor from the collection of the TMOCA on display at the exhibit.

At the beginning of the event, Nadereh Rezaei said: "Today, we have gathered at the Museum of Contemporary Art to witness a new narrative of outstanding works from its collection. Museums are no longer merely repositories for artworks; they serve as centers for innovative storytelling, creativity, and artistic research." ▶ Page 8



Senior Emirati diplomat arrives in Tehran with Trump's letter

TEHRAN – Anwar Gargash, the diplomatic advisor to the President of the United Arab Emirates, was received by Iran's foreign minister in Tehran on Wednesday, as he carried a letter from U.S. President Donald Trump.

The letter is addressed to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Gargash reportedly delivered the letter to Abbas Araghchi, Iran's top diplomat. It remains unclear whether the letter has been forwarded to Ayatollah Khamenei.

The content of the letter is also not known. But Trump said during an interview aired on Friday that he had written to Iran's Leader and asked him to engage in new nuclear talks or risk getting attacked by the United States.

Trump left an international deal on Iran's nuclear program in 2018. Despite consistently expressing an alleged interest in a new nuclear agreement with Iran, the president has declined to dial back sanctions or tone down his threatening language.

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

We should not show weakness by insisting on negotiations

In an interview with Foad Izadi, an expert on American affairs, Kayhan discussed the relationship between not negotiating with the United States and preserving national interests. He said: Preserving national interests is an important indicator when considering negotiations or not. If there is a chance that will help guard national interests, we should pursue it, but if negotiations harm national interests, they should be abandoned. It is not honorable to repeatedly talk about negotiations with the United States. Repeated referrals will create an assumption among U.S. officials that the pressure policy has worked well and should continue. Currently, there is a consensus in Washington that Iran has been weakened. Insistence on negotiations will strengthen this assumption. The reality is that sanctions on Iran are not in Trump's hands but in Congress's. So far, Trump has not spoken about negotiating with Iran and has only used the word negotiation with other countries; therefore, we must be realistic and use the past experiences to make smarter decisions.

Iran: The snapback challenge

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed the UN Security Council meeting on the level of uranium enrichment by Iran and wrote: The rapid speed of developments regarding the Iranian nuclear file strengthens speculation the West is seeking to accelerate pressure on Iran by triggering the snapback mechanism to restore the previous UN resolutions sanctions on Iran lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal. It seems that the European sides (Britain, France, and Germany, which are known as E3) party to the nuclear deal are trying to follow the American anti-JCPOA approach and defend Donald Trump's sanctions policy against Iran for its nuclear program. This has also caused the Europeans, led by the U.S., to make unproven claims against Iran and ask the International Atomic Energy Agency to submit a comprehensive report on Iran. This atmosphere, which demonstrates the West's unconstructive and destructive approach to the Iranian nuclear issue, will quickly reinstate international sanctions against Iran, affect the negotiations that Iran has initiated in Geneva with three European countries party to the JCPOA, and destroy all diplomatic capacities.

Jam-e-Jam: The unipolar world is over

In a situation where geopolitical develop-

ments in the region and the world are becoming more complex day by day, strategic cooperation between emerging powers has become one of the key components in ensuring international security. The joint naval drill (Maritime Security Belt 2025) with the participation of Iran, China, and Russia in the northern Indian Ocean is highly significant. The importance of this drill is not just limited to its military dimension. Rather, the cooperation between the three major powers in this strategic waterway carries a clear message about the changing balance of power in the international system. Given the presence of observers from different countries, the military exercise can be considered a step toward consolidating Iran's position as an effective player in ensuring regional and global security. According to Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, Commander of the Iranian Navy, the drill shows that Iran is a player in regional stability and security and it has placed its capacities on a positive path alongside other countries. We can play our role properly and with maximum power in the stability that exists in the region.

Ettelaat: We must prevent snapback mechanism

In an interview with Abdolreza Faraji Rad, an analyst on international affairs, Ettelaat examined the current atmosphere between Tehran and the European trio (France, Germany and Britain) regarding Iran's nuclear program. He said: Negotiations will surely take place between Iran and European countries. In fact, the parties to the nuclear deal are looking at negotiations more seriously. Discussions related to the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the Agency's focus on Iran to exercise greater control over Iran's nuclear activities, are the main obstacles between Iran and Europe. However, since we are in a very sensitive situation, both parties are interested in negotiations and seek an agreement that will ultimately resolve the Iranian problem and reassure the Europeans' concern about Tehran's nuclear activities. Considering Trump's recent statements, which announced his efforts to work and have relations with Iran, it should be said that if the United States changes its tone towards Iran, the possibility of negotiations is not inaccessible. We must try to prevent the activation of the snapback mechanism.

Iranian court holds US responsible for divers' massacre in Iran-Iraq War

TEHRAN – On Wednesday, coinciding with Martyrs' Day, a Tehran court announced a verdict condemning the United States for its role in the brutal killing of Iranian divers captured during Operation Karbala-4 in the 1980s Iran-Iraq War.

The International Relations Court, branch 55, ruled that the United States provided crucial satellite and spy plane intelligence to Saddam Hussein's Ba'athist regime in Iraq. This intelligence, the court found, directly led to the capture, torture, and martyrdom of Iranian commando divers during the operation.

The Iran-Iraq War, a devastating eight-year conflict initiated by Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iranian territory in 1980, saw some of its fiercest fighting during Operation Karbala-4. Saddam buried some of the divers it had captured alive with their hands tied. Their remains were uncovered in southern Iraq in 2017.

The verdict ceremony, attended by high-ranking military and government officials and families of the fallen divers, included a powerful address by Mohsen Jameh Bozorg, a freed captive and comrade of the martyrs. Jameh Bozorg recounted the hor-

rific treatment endured by the captives, including denial of medical care and inhumane conditions in Iraqi hospitals that led to many deaths.

"During captivity, some of the injured were taken to hospitals in Iraq," Jameh Bozorg said. "Among the injured were Iraqis or members of the Mujahen-e-Khalq (MEK) terror organization, brought in for espionage under the guise of being wounded. These hospitals lacked proper care, and Iranian captives were often denied even basic treatment. We were asked to insult Imam Khomeini to get our bandages changed, a request we refused. As a result, we were left to tend our own wounds, enduring unimaginable suffering." He added that 57 out of the 1800 captives perished.

Another comrade, Motahari, spoke of the meticulous efforts to maintain secrecy during Operation Karbala-4. Despite these efforts, American satellite intelligence proved decisive, providing Saddam Hussein with critical information that led to the operation's failure. Motahari lauded the divers' bravery and resilience in the face of relentless enemy attacks.

The U.S. provided crucial intelligence to Saddam Hussein, which was instrumental in capturing the divers

'Do whatever the hell you want,' Pezeshkian says in response to Trump's threatening language

TEHRAN – Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has repeated the country's stance on talks with the United States, saying Tehran will not engage with Washington under any circumstances as long as President Donald Trump keeps sanctions in place and threatens Iran with military action.

"If negotiations are conducted with dignity and based on mutual respect and shared interests, we will sit down and talk," Pezeshkian stated during a meeting of the Iran Entrepreneurs Forum in Tehran on Tuesday, adding, "But the language of threats and coercion is absolutely unacceptable."

The president pointed to Volodymyr Zelensky's recent encounter at the Oval Office, where the Ukrainian leader was berated by Trump and his vice president, JD Vance, multiple times in front of cameras. Zelensky was asked to say "thank you," admit that Ukraine has "no cards," and "respect" the Americans after he asked for security guarantees in any potential ceasefire agreement with Russia. Reports say he was subsequently kicked out of the White House.

"We must maintain relationships with the world. We do not want to



be estranged or quarrel with anyone, but that does not mean we will bow in humiliation before anyone," Pezeshkian explained. "It is unacceptable for someone to come along and say, 'Don't do this, don't do that, or else.' I won't come to negotiate with you. Go do whatever the hell you want."

Ever since Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Iran nuclear deal, in 2018, he has called for new negotiations with Iran regarding its nuclear program. After abandoning the JCPOA, Trump reimposed sanctions that had been lifted

under the agreement and initiated a "maximum pressure" campaign, seeking to dismantle not only the entirety of Iran's nuclear program but also huge parts of its missile and drone programs as well as its alliances with regional Resistance groups.

Pezeshkian, who took office as Iran's president in July, was far less strict on talks with the United States compared to his conservative rival Saeed Jalili. But since Trump renewed the maximum pressure campaign in February, Pezeshkian too has taken a hard stance on potential negotiations, reflecting the senti-

ments of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who has said that talks with the U.S. are "unwise, unintelligent, and dishonorable". He also said that for the "bullying" U.S., negotiations are a way to impose demands, rather than find a real solution.

That assessment seems correct as Trump has threatened to "bomb the hell out of Iran" if the country does not sign the deal he wants.

Analysts point out that Iranians are increasingly distrustful of the U.S., and Trump's continuing and intensifying aggressive policies are only worsening the situation.

Trump announced earlier this month that he had written a letter to Ayatollah Khamenei. Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei stated that the letter was given to UAE official Anwar Mohammed Gargash, who visited Tehran on Wednesday.

Whether Ayatollah Khamenei will accept the letter remains uncertain. In 2019, the Leader refused to accept a letter from Trump, delivered by then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. A similar rejection is possible given the lack of change in U.S. policy.

Strategic military ties strengthened as Iran, Belarus ink defense agreement in Minsk



Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh (L) and Belarusian Defense Minister General Viktor Khrenin on March 12, 2025

TEHRAN – Iran and Belarus solidified their partnership by signing a defense cooperation agreement on Wednesday, a move both nations described as critical to countering shared security threats and advancing a multipolar world order.

The pact, sealed during Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh's visit to Minsk where he engaged with Belarusian Defense Minister General Viktor Khrenin, illustrates the growing military collaboration between the two nations.

During the signing ceremony, Nasirzadeh emphasized the agreement's role in "reinforcing de-

fense and security interactions through practical measures," while Khrenin hailed it as a foundation for "long-term stability in an era of escalating unilateralism."

The deal builds on a 2023 memorandum of understanding and expands collaboration into military technology, counterterrorism, and joint training programs.

Another significant aspect of the discussions was tapping into multilateral venues, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), to address what Nasirzadeh termed "artificial crises

imposed by hegemonic powers."

Both ministers criticized Western sanctions and NATO expansion, advocating instead for "defensive diplomacy" and regional alliances independent of U.S. or European frameworks.

The agreement also highlights technological exchange, with Iran's significant domestic defense manufacturing possibly offering a platform for cooperation.

Strategic context

The accord follows months of prior engagement between the two nations, including a January 2024 meeting in Tehran between Iranian Army Chief Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Belarusian Air Force Commander Major General Andrey Lukyanovich.

Regional observers note the timing aligns with heightened U.S.-EU pressure on both nations.

Belarus, a close ally of both Russia and China, has encountered considerable pressure from Western nations in recent years—intensifying since the onset of the Russo-Ukrainian War—while Iran has been the target of Western sanctions for many decades.

Even though the agreement avoids overtly provocative language, its emphasis on "multipolarity" and "resistance to coercion" reflects Tehran and Minsk's shared rhetoric

West Asia can ensure its own security, foreigners should stay out: Navy commander

TEHRAN – Iran's Navy Commander, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, stated that countries in West Asia are capable of handling their own security and urged external actors to rethink their involvement in the region.

Speaking to Al Jazeera, he emphasized that regional nations are no longer as vulnerable as they once were and possess the means to protect themselves. "The region is no longer what it used to be, and its countries are equipped to ensure their safety; therefore, foes must change their policies and respect regional nations," The commander stressed.

Admiral Irani also asserted that Iran rejects isolation and will operate within international legal frameworks. "The behavior of Iranians, particularly in the current regional context, aligns with international laws," he noted.

"Regional instability will harm the global economy," Admiral Irani said, adding that Iran is offering expertise to West Asian regional countries.

The statement came as Iran, Russia, and China wrapped up a joint maritime exercise dubbed "Maritime Security Belt 2025" in the Indian Ocean on Wednesday, alongside ob-



servers from several other nations. In related remarks on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi congratulated Admiral Irani on the successful execution of the exercises, emphasizing the Navy's strength and international dominance.

The top diplomat said the drills, beginning on March 10, demonstrated the Navy's decisive attitude and global operational capabilities. He also stressed the importance of an assertive presence in expansive oceanic areas for maritime security and development. "Iran has an unwavering determination to maintain and enhance the security of the strategic and sensitive Persian Gulf region, the strategically crucial Strait of Hormuz within it, the Sea of Oman, and beyond. These exercises were a reflection of that resolve," Araghchi noted.

Iran to publish list of US elements involved in terrorism

TEHRAN – Iran is compiling a list of American individuals it's found are linked to terrorist actions, a Foreign Ministry official has announced.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi stated on X that the U.S., known for meddling in other countries' affairs, frequently sanctions Iranian citizens under its "Rewards for Justice" program, citing various pretexts and offering money for information, however, "It seems that they [Americans] have forgotten that wherever there is talk of terror, sabotage, interference in internal affairs, threats, and sanctions, the name of the United States comes up," Gharibabadi wrote.

He also noted that the Foreign Ministry's Legal and International Affairs Department is working with other organizations and coordinating with the Supreme National Security Council to create a catalog of American individuals involved in terrorism, cyberattacks, violations of Iranian citizens' rights, and other activities that harm Iran's national security.

According to Gharibabadi, legal professionals will base the list on existing laws, including those concerning human rights abuses, U.S. aggression and terrorism in West



Asia, and legislation concerning retaliatory measures for the U.S. designation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a "terrorist" organization.

Also on Wednesday, Saeed Ohadi, head of the Foundation of Martyrs and War Veterans Affairs, announced that Tehran will be submitting a comprehensive legal dossier to the United Nations detailing "almost unprecedented crimes" committed against 175 Iranian divers captured by Iraq's Ba'athist regime during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.

A Tehran court has ruled that the U.S. bears partial responsibility for the tragedy, given the fact that U.S. assistance to Saddam Hussein's forces, including satellite imagery and intelligence briefings, contributed to the divers' capture.

Ayatollah Khamenei's reaction to Trump's letter: Talks with US will ramp up pressure

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – As a senior Emirati diplomat arrived in Tehran on Wednesday to deliver a letter from the U.S. President to Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said for the third time in recent weeks that Iran will not be negotiating with Washington, pointing out once again that the U.S. has yet to uphold its previous commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), hence there is no reason for Iran to sit down with the Americans.

The JCPOA, signed in 2015, limited Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for the termination of sanctions. Donald Trump left the deal during his first term as the U.S. president in 2018, re-imposing sanctions against Iran and intensifying them under what he termed the "maximum pressure campaign". Trump said he wants a new nuclear deal with Iran, a sentiment he repeated at the beginning of his second term in February while signing a renewal of the campaign.

"The fact that the President of the United States claims he is ready to negotiate with Iran and is inviting talks is an attempt to deceive public opinion around the world. This implies that we [U.S.] want to negotiate and seek peace, but Iran is not interested," Ayatollah Khamenei said during a meeting with Iranian university students.

"We spent years negotiating, and then this same person tossed the completed and signed agreement aside and ripped it up. When we know negotiations won't be effective, what kind of talks should



we pursue?" the Leader explained. It took two years of comprehensive talks for Iran, the U.S., UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China to sign the JCPOA.

It was not immediately known if Ayatollah Khamenei's remarks were made with knowledge of the content of Trump's letter. Notably, in 2019, he refused to accept a message from Trump, delivered by then-Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, dismissing the American president as not worth exchanging messages with.

Iran's Leader also addressed unspecified Iranian officials who believe negotiating with the U.S. could ease economic pressure through sanctions relief: "Some people within the country keep pushing for negotiations: 'Why aren't we responding? Why aren't we sitting down with the U.S.?'"

Ayatollah Khamenei clarified that engagement with the current U.S. administration would not alleviate sanctions: "If the aim of negotiation is to get rid of the sanctions, engaging with this U.S. administration won't achieve that. Instead, it will complicate

the sanctions issue further and increase pressure on us. Negotiating with this government will only heighten that pressure."

The Leader noted that, in a recent meeting with Iranian authorities, he warned new talks with Washington would only lead to further demands: "New issues will be raised, unrealistic expectations will be set, and unreasonable demands will come up."

This will only make the problem worse than it is today. So, negotiating doesn't really resolve any issues; it doesn't untangle any of the complexities we face."

While recognizing the impact of U.S. sanctions, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that internal factors also contribute to Iran's economic difficulties. "Sanctions aren't completely ineffective, but it's important to recognize that our economic struggles aren't solely due to them. Often, a significant part of our issues comes from our own negligence. While sanctions do play a role, many of our problems stem from within. Over time, sanctions can also lose their effectiveness, which is something we need

to keep in mind."

Iran doesn't have nukes, because it's never wanted to

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the reason Iran does not possess nuclear weapons and isn't pursuing them is simply because it chooses not to. "There are various reasons for this decision, which we've discussed before. If we had the desire to pursue nuclear weapons, no external force could prevent us from doing so," he said, adding "If Iran truly wanted to develop them, the U.S. wouldn't be able to stop us."

Decades ago, the Leader issued a fatwa (religious decree) banning the development and possession of weapons of mass destruction, deeming them contrary to Islamic principles.

In perhaps the most important part of his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei issued a stern warning regarding the escalating threats from the United States: "Iran is not seeking war, but if the Americans and their agents make the wrong move, Iran's response will be decisive and certain, and the one who will suffer the most will be the United States."

Trump has been saying that he would resort to military action if Iran does not enter talks and agree with his terms for a new agreement.

The Leader characterized the U.S. military threats as irrational and warned that such provocations could lead to significant consequences. "Creating war and inflicting damage is not one-sided," he stated.

Iran, China, and Russia to convene in Beijing to discuss nuclear issue, sanctions removal

TEHRAN – In a move to counter Western economic pressure and reinvigorate nuclear negotiations, Iran, China, and Russia are scheduled to hold trilateral talks in Beijing this Friday.

Announced by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi on Wednesday, the talks underscore Tehran's strategic pivot toward Eastern powers as it seeks to dismantle U.S.-led sanctions and assert its role in an emerging multipolar world order.

The upcoming high-stakes trilateral meeting, which is set to include China's Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxun and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov, will focus on dismantling 'unjust and oppressive sanctions' against Iran.

Additionally, the agenda will stress the need to strengthen cooperation within BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a means to counter Western dominance.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei also confirmed the upcoming talks, stating that the discussions would focus on developments concerning the nuclear issue and the lifting of sanctions.

Baqaei added that the talks "will also discuss and exchange views on other issues of interest to the three countries," including regional and international developments, as well as issues related to cooperation within the framework of BRICS and the SCO.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reiterated Moscow's support in a recent interview, stating, "We are in favor of restoring the original Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," while criticizing U.S. efforts to link sanctions relief to unrelated geopolitical demands.

However, the Russian diplomat had some reservations, stating: "what is worrying is that there are some indications that the Americans would like this new deal to be accompanied by political conditions, insisting that there should be some verifiable arrangement for Iran not to support [Resistance] groups in Iraq, in Lebanon, in Syria, anywhere, which I don't think is going to fly."

"To say that everybody has the right to project influence except Iran is unrealistic," he asserted, rejecting Washington's push to isolate Tehran regionally.

Earlier on Saturday, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei delivered a scathing rebuke of Western diplomacy in a speech to senior Iranian officials, asserting that the U.S. and its allies try to use negotiations as a tool to extract concessions rather than resolve



disputes.

"The expectations of bullying states will never be accepted," he declared, condemning Washington's framing of talks as a zero-sum game.

The leader's remarks reinforced his February warning against "unwise, unintelligent, and dishonorable" engagement with the U.S.—a sentiment echoed by other senior Iranian officials.

Araghchi condemns UNSC session as 'unprecedented'

Addressing another JCPOA-related development, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi sharpened Iran's critique of Western maneuvers during a post-cabinet briefing on Wednesday, condemning a closed-door UN Security Council session on Iran's uranium enrichment—scheduled for the same day—as "an unusual and unprecedented approach."

"This session has cast doubt on the goodwill of the countries that requested it," Araghchi stated, urging the Council to focus on its "primary duty of maintaining peace and security" rather than advancing adversarial narratives.

He reaffirmed Iran's openness to dialogue, noting, "We have always been ready to negotiate on equal terms regarding our nuclear program," while underscoring ongoing talks with European powers, China, and Russia.

Araghchi detailed Tehran's diplomatic efforts: "In the past, we negotiated the JCPOA, and negotiations continue despite the U.S. withdrawal. We recently held a fourth round with European states, with another soon—all while advancing talks with China and Russia."

He confirmed the upcoming trilateral summit with Eastern powers, stating, "We operate our nuclear program within the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) framework. It is dynamic, growing, and advancing, but we impose no limitations on ourselves outside that framework."

The top diplomat also lambasted Europe's

"flawed policies," accusing them of renegeing on post-JCPOA commitments.

"After the U.S. withdrew, Europe pledged to uphold the deal but failed. They must now be held accountable," he said, adding, "Our consultations with nations worldwide are extensive. We feel no isolation."

JCPOA: A fractured legacy

Shortly after he moved back to the White House in 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump signed a presidential memorandum that accused Iran of "destabilizing behavior," reinstating sanctions against the West Asian country and rolled out plans to further strangle the country's economy.

The directive's stated goal is to bring Iran's oil exports to "zero" through renewing the so-called maximum pressure campaign.

The maximum pressure campaign was first introduced in 2018 after Trump, during his first term, announced Washington's official withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The subsequent campaign included the re-imposition and intensification of anti-Iran sanctions that had been removed under the JCPOA in exchange for limits on Tehran's nuclear activities.

The unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and the reinstatement of sanctions were widely criticized as destabilizing and counterproductive.

Despite Iran's adherence to the deal's nuclear restrictions—a fact repeatedly confirmed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" strategy targeted critical sectors like oil, banking, and shipping, crippling Iran's economy and exacerbating humanitarian challenges.

The campaign disproportionately harmed civilians, with inflation soaring and access to medicines dwindling, while failing to produce meaningful diplomatic progress.

European signatories, while advocating for the deal's preservation, have struggled to offset U.S. pressure or provide Iran with tangible economic benefits.

The Biden administration's efforts to revive the JCPOA since 2021 were initially seen as a potential step toward easing tensions. However, these attempts have largely failed to produce meaningful progress.

Meanwhile, Iran has incrementally scaled back its JCPOA commitments, enriching uranium to higher purity levels and restricting IAEA monitoring—a move it defends as a lawful response to the deal's erosion.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Al Taawoun beat Tractor to advance to 2024/25 ACL Two semis

TEHRAN – Al Taawoun football club booked their spot in the semi-finals of the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25 after a 4-2 penalty shootout win against Tractor at Wolves Park on Tuesday.

The tie ended 2-2 on the night and on aggregate with Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun proving sharper in the shootout.

Boosted by their home crowd, Al Taawoun started the stronger side with their steady build-up and possession putting Tractor on the defensive.

Tractor were awarded a penalty two minutes into the second half after a VAR review when the ball struck the left arm of Renné Rivas. Ricardo Alves sent keeper Atiay the wrong way and the visitors were suddenly in control.

Al Taawoun fought back and drew level in the 54th minute when Musa Barrow wrong-footed a defender and sent a cracker of a shot from outside the box which curled past a diving Beirnavand.

Buoyed by the goal, the hosts kept the pressure on but were let down by poor finishing from Barrow and Abdelhamid Sabiri and Tractor's packed defence, forcing the match into extra time.

Al Taawoun's Sultan Mandash, who had come on 10 minutes before the end of regulation tie, scored right at the start of extra time when he latched onto a free-kick from Aschraf El Mahdioui, went past the keeper and slammed the ball into the back of the net.

The visitors equalled the score in the 105th minute via Domagoj Drozdek, who headed in from close range off a pass by Danial Esmailifar.

The ensuing penalty shoot-out had Tractor's Mehdi Shiri ballooning his shot and teammate Sajjad Ashouri seeing his attempt saved by Atiay. Al Taawoun converted all their chances to continue their bid for the title.

Mehdi Taremi: Inter Milan fans expect more

TEHRAN – Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi says that the Inter Milan fans expect a lot more from him.

Taremi replaced the goalscorer Marcus Thuram midway through the second half.

The Italian side defeated Feyenoord 2-0 Tuesday night.

"To tell the truth, in my opinion I've had several physical problems so far," Mehdi Taremi said of his underwhelming form at Inter to date.

"I've had to play with painkillers. I know that the fans expected a lot more," the 32-year-old admitted.

"And I'll try to do better. I don't want to talk about the issues I've had," said the former Porto striker. "But when you're in pain, it's hard to play well."

"I'll give my best from now until the end of the season. And I'll try to live up to the fans' expectations," Taremi concluded.

Coach Al Abdali thanks Al Taawoun fans

TEHRAN – Al Taawoun football team head coach Mohammed Al Abdali thanks his team's fans after win over Tractor.

A dramatic 4-2 penalty shootout win against Tractor leaves the Saudi Arabian team only two steps away from being crowned AFC Champions League Two 2024-25 winner.

"The match wasn't easy due to the injuries to Mutab (Al Mufarrij) and (Renne) Rivas, in addition to the suspension of Waleed (Al Ahmad)," said Al Abdali.

"Things were complicated, but we won. I thank the Al Taawoun fans and promise them

that we won't stop at this stage, as we will continue until the end.

"Everything that happened to us had a positive impact. Maybe Tractor having the weekend off to prepare for this game affected them negatively," he added.

"We worked recently to prepare all the players to avoid fatigue. We worked to ensure that they were ready for every match, and this helped us a lot," Al Abdali concluded.

Iran beach soccer lose to Russia on penalties

TEHRAN –Iran beach soccer team lost to Russia 4-3 in penalty shootout in a friendly match Tuesday night.

The match ended 3-3 in regular time.

Russia beach soccer team had defeated Iran 5-1 on Sunday.

Led by head coach Ali Naderi, the Iran beach soccer team are preparing for the 2025 AFC Beach Soccer Asian Cup, scheduled for March 20 to 30 in Thailand.

Team Melli have been drawn in Group C alongside the UAE, Indonesia, and Afghanistan.

Skocic rues first leg's missed chances against Al Taawoun

TEHRAN – Tractor head coach Dragan Skocic felt his side competed well but admitted their failure to finish chances in the first leg cost them.

Tractor failed to reach AFC Champions League Two 2024-25 semi-finals after losing to Al Taawoun 4-2 in penalty shootout.

"Our home match is the reason we are eliminated, as we had six chances but failed to score," said Skocic.

"This match was even, with both teams exchanging scoring opportunities, and there were good moments for each team throughout the match," the Croat added.

Iranian teams learn fate at AVC Men's and Women's Volleyball Champions League

TEHRAN – The draw for the 1st Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Men's and Women's Volleyball Champions League has been completed, and the Iranian teams have learned their opponents.

The event will be the first edition of the newly-rebranded AVC Men's and Women's Volleyball Champions League.

The men's competition is scheduled to be held from 11 to 18 May in Japan.

Pools:

Pool A: Suntory Sunbirds Osaka (Japan), Queensland Pirates (Australia), FK Aktobe (Kazakhstan)

Pool B: Osaka Bluteon (Japan), Shanghai Bright (China), Signal HD Spikers (Philippines)

Pool C: Champions of Iran, Taichung Bank (Chinese Taipei), Nakhon Ratchasima QminC (Thailand)

Pool D: Al Rayyan (Qatar), Sport Center (Vietnam), champions of Bahrain

The women's competition is scheduled to be held in the Philippines from 20 to 27 April.

Pools:

Pool A: Creamline (Philippines), Zhetsysu (Kazakhstan), Al Naser Club (Jordan)

Pool B: Petro Gazz (Philippines), Taipower (Chinese Taipei), Hip Hing (Hong Kong)

Pool C: Baic Motor (China), VTV Binh Dien Long An (Vietnam), champions of Iran.

Pool D: Nakhon Ratchasima QminC (Thailand), PLDT High Speed Hitters (Philippines), Australia Queensland Pirates (Australia)

'Diplomatic engagements key to enhancing Iran Expo 2025's impact'

TEHRAN - Hossein Pir-Moazzen, Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has emphasized the crucial role of diplomatic interactions in maximizing the effectiveness of Iran Expo 2025.

In an interview with the ICCIMA newsroom, Pir-Moazzen stated that governments must foster constructive international relations to create a conducive environment for economic activities, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"When political relations strengthen the foundation of economic cooperation, countries can leverage various tools, including exhibitions, to showcase their capabilities and economic potential," he noted.

Pir-Moazzen highlighted that Iran Expo

2025 presents an opportunity to expand target export markets.

He stressed that the current reliance on a limited number of trading partners is unacceptable to Iran's private sector, as it restricts economic growth.

The seventh edition of Iran's Export Capabilities Exhibition (Iran Expo 2025) is scheduled to take place in Tehran from April 28 to May 2, 2025.

The exhibition will feature various sectors, including the food industry, agriculture and fisheries, handwoven carpets, handicrafts and tourism, pharmaceuticals, laboratory equipment, chemical and cosmetic products, construction, techno-engineering services, and the petrochemical industry.

Iran issues permits for 29,000 MW of solar power plants

TEHRAN - Iran has issued permits for 29,000 megawatts (MW) of solar power capacity, reflecting growing private sector interest in renewable energy. However, the Planning and Budget Organization and economic authorities must further facilitate investment conditions for private sector participation.

President Masoud Pezeshkian has emphasized the need to shift towards renewable energy to address Iran's power imbalance. In a recent high-level meeting on power shortages, he stressed the urgency of accelerating solar and wind power plant construction by private investors.

"With the current electricity supply-demand gap, all relevant agencies must work together to ease the development of clean energy power plants by private investors," Pezeshkian said.

He noted that investors have expressed readiness to develop 30,000 MW of solar and wind power capacity, requiring only permits and limited financial support from the government. "This meeting is aimed at removing obstacles for these investors so that projects can begin without delay," he added.

Speaking at the "Clean Air Day" conference, Pezeshkian highlighted Iran's high energy consumption, stating that the country uses three to four times more electricity and gas than European nations.

He reiterated the government's commitment to generating 30,000-50,000 MW of solar power in the coming years.

To expedite renewable energy projects, a government meeting in February gathered officials to assess progress on Iran's goal of adding at least 30,000 MW of renewable power capacity.

"The key priority is achieving a power generation capacity that enables stable management of peak summer demand," Pezeshkian said, proposing the formation of a consortium led by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) under the Energy Ministry. The consortium would include financial institutions and industry stakeholders to collectively procure solar panels at the lowest cost and highest quality.

Iran's non-oil export to Saudi Arabia rises 99 times

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil export to Saudi Arabia increased by 99 times during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-December 21, 2024), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to Ruhollah Latifi, spokesperson for the Trade Development Committee of the House of Industry, Mining, and Trade.

Latifi said that Iran exported 58,971 tons of commodities valued at \$23,319,448 to Saudi Arabia in the mentioned nine-month period.

The official said that Iran has exported 331 tons of goods worth \$235,672 to Saudi Arabia in the first nine months of the past year.

He named iron and steel products, sponge iron, pistachio, raisin, carpet, glass sheets, and apple as the major products Iran exported to

Saudi Arabia in the first nine months of the present year.

With the increase in political interactions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, commercial relations have also been accompanied by changes, the official further highlighted.

Speaking at a celebration held on the occasion of the Saudi National Day in last September, Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad expressed hope that the Joint Economic Committee meeting of Iran and Saudi Arabia would be held in the near future.

Paknejad said: "As the head of the joint economic committee of the two countries, I am very pleased to congratulate National Day to the government and the dear people of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

'Expanding trade with Kuwait requires visa facilitation, land transport route'

TEHRAN - The head of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce said economic relations between the two countries are hindered by issues such as the lack of visa issuance for Iranians and the absence of a land transport route for goods.

Ebrahim Gholamzadeh, in a meeting with the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), stated that 40 percent of Kuwait's population is Shiite, many of whom frequently travel to Iran. He stressed that trade with Kuwait requires special attention and support from the Iranian government.

Abazar Barari, Secretary-General of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber, emphasized the need to hold exclusive exhibitions showcasing the capabilities of both countries and to establish a joint Iran-Kuwait trade commission.

Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the TPO, also



highlighted the visa issue and the absence of a joint economic commission, noting that the matter should be pursued through the Foreign Ministry.

He further pointed to the importance of leveraging the potential of Iranians residing in Kuwait to strengthen economic ties, adding that priority should be given to sectors with competitive advantages to boost exports to Kuwait.

organize exhibitions showcasing Iran's export capabilities, particularly in the food sector.

Furthering these efforts, in September 2024, Gholamzadeh criticized the low level of trade between the two countries. He noted that Kuwait's annual imports total approximately \$52 billion, yet Iran's share remains minimal.

Gholamzadeh called for increased Iranian exports to Kuwait, highlighting sectors like food products, construction materials, and minerals. He also invited Kuwaiti investors to explore opportunities in Iran's industry, agriculture, services, and tourism sectors.

These initiatives reflect a mutual commitment to strengthening economic ties, addressing existing challenges, and capitalizing on shared opportunities to benefit both nations.

NISOC, NIOC sign cooperation agreement



TEHRAN - The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) and the Exploration Directorate of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) have signed a cooperation agreement to enhance collaboration in exploration, development, and production processes.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ebrahim Pirmoun, head of NISOC, emphasized the company's role as the country's primary oil producer, highlighting the vast amount of exploration data it holds. He stressed the need to identify and discover new geological structures, adding that accelerating exploration processes and transitioning to development projects remain a top priority.

"Exploration is an ongoing process; it never stops. Each phase leads to the next, continuous-

ly contributing to increased production and field development," he said.

Seyed Mohyeddin Jafari, head of NIOC's Exploration Directorate, commended NISOC's efforts to boost production, calling it a key pillar of Iran's oil industry. He underlined the importance of synergy between the two entities to achieve strategic industry goals.

Jafari outlined the scope of the Exploration Directorate's operations, stating that apart from the Caspian Sea, exploration efforts cover all onshore and offshore areas, including the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman. He noted significant progress in conventional resource exploration, as well as the identification of approximately five billion barrels of unconventional oil, with ongoing studies aimed at assessing their economic viability.

He also highlighted the importance of exploring stratigraphic traps in the Zagros region, where substantial geological knowledge has been acquired but further discoveries remain necessary. Additionally, he noted advancements in seismic surveys, citing the completion of geophysical studies in the Haftkel oil field, which is set to conclude in the coming year.

The newly signed agreement aims to facilitate knowledge-sharing, data exchange, and

the integration of technical and operational capabilities between NISOC and the Exploration Directorate. The collaboration seeks to optimize resource utilization and enhance project efficiency.

Key objectives include preventing redundancy, expanding scientific and technical capacities, and expediting upstream oil sector processes, including exploration, appraisal, development, and production.

Under the agreement, both parties committed to joint initiatives such as data-sharing, leveraging scientific and technical expertise, and undertaking research and development projects. The partnership is expected to accelerate field development and maximize the efficient use of existing resources.

The meeting also addressed potential areas of collaboration, including commercializing successful exploratory wells, utilizing drilling rig capacities, conducting joint seismic surveys, exchanging technology, and cooperating on reservoir and geophysical studies.

Furthermore, the two sides agreed to hold training programs, scientific workshops, and joint research projects to enhance technical capabilities and operational efficiency in Iran's oil sector.

Iran-Turkey trade surges by \$7 billion

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to Turkey announced a significant rise in bilateral trade between Tehran and Ankara, stating that the trade volume between the two nations reached \$11.8 billion last year and has surpassed \$17.5 billion as of February this year. The figure is expected to hit \$19 billion by year-end.

According to IRNA, citing Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, Mohammad-Hossein Habibollahzadeh made the remarks during a virtual session of the Iran-Turkey Joint Transport Committee, emphasizing the importance of transit development. He noted that transit and transport volumes between the two countries have increased by \$7.0 billion this year, though further infrastructural improvements are required in rail, air, maritime, and port sectors.

Growing trade and transit links

Habibollahzadeh highlighted the significant traffic between Iran and Turkey, stating that six million passengers and approximately 330,000 trucks crossed the two countries' borders last year. In response to the growing trade volume, both countries have agreed to increase border crossings from three to five. Expanding rail connectivity and increasing flights are also part of the

agenda.

The envoy welcomed the swift follow-up on recent meetings between the two countries' transport ministers, which reflects a strong commitment to expanding transport and logistics cooperation. He expressed hope that key decisions would be made to further advance transport ties between Iran's Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and Turkey's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure.

Iran's Deputy Transport Minister, Saeed Rasouli, emphasized the strategic importance of Iran and Turkey in the southern Caspian Sea corridor linking China to Europe. He said that transit would remain a key subject in upcoming ministerial talks between the two countries.

Turkey's Deputy Transport Minister, Durmu? Enver, reaffirmed Ankara's commitment to expanding transport and transit cooperation, underscoring the need for modern infrastructure and necessary investments. He also stressed the importance of completing the Iran-Turkey railway connection at the Cheshmeh Soraya border crossing.

The meeting focused on maximizing road, rail, maritime, and air transport cooperation, as well as

resolving existing transit challenges. Other key issues included facilitating border crossings, addressing restrictions and tariffs on Iranian and Turkish fleets, and adjusting fuel pricing for Turkish trucks in Iran.

Discussions also covered the recently launched Tehran-Van passenger train and the possibility of extending the route to Ankara and Istanbul. Both sides reviewed rail freight operations, plans to boost cargo transport, and the status of empty freight wagons in both countries.

Further topics included the Iran-Turkey rail link at the Cheshmeh Soraya-Dilucu border crossing, reconstruction of the Bazargan-Gurbulak border terminal, road infrastructure leading to Turkish borders, and plans for a new border crossing at Kouzeh Rash.

Additionally, the two sides explored expanding air links and maritime cooperation, including port investments. It was agreed that an in-person meeting of the Iran-Turkey Transport Committee would be held in Tehran or Ankara after the holy month of Ramadan.

Joint investments in free trade zones

Also, during a meeting with Tur-

key's Minister of Trade, the Secretary of Iranian Free Zones High Council emphasized the need to strengthen economic ties through free trade zones.

Reza Masrou, who traveled to Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish Ministry of Trade, held talks with Mustafa Tuzcu, focusing on implementing agreements from the 8th Iran-Turkey High-Level Cooperation Council. Both sides underscored the importance of enhancing economic cooperation via free trade zones and special economic areas.

Delegations from both countries assessed potential cooperation in free trade and special economic zones, discussing joint projects and mechanisms to boost trade and investment.

In a statement, the Turkish Ministry of Trade reaffirmed Iran and Turkey's determination to expand economic relations through trade and investment. The ministry welcomed Masrou's visit and reiterated that both countries remain committed to achieving the \$30 billion trade volume target set by their presidents.

Masrou was accompanied by Iran's ambassador to Turkey, Mohammad-Hossein Habibollahzadeh, during the talks.

Iran seeks resumption of direct Tehran-London flights

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization has called for discussions on resuming direct flights between Tehran and London.

According to the Civil Aviation Organization, Hossein Pourfarazneh, deputy minister of transport and urban development and head of the Civil Aviation Organization, met on Tuesday

with Seyed Ali Mousavi, Iran's newly appointed ambassador to the United Kingdom, to discuss expanding Iran-UK air transport cooperation.

During the meeting, Pourfarazneh congratulated Mousavi on his appointment and expressed hope for his success in the role. He urged that the issue of restoring direct flights between Iran and

the UK be raised in negotiations with British authorities to achieve a favorable outcome.

Iran and the UK signed an aviation agreement in 1998, and under the latest memorandum of understanding between the two countries in 2016, up to 21 weekly flights are permitted.

US order to Lebanon: Normalization with Israel, first and last

From page 1 ▶ Regarding the Lebanese prisoners kidnapped by the Israeli enemy, there is no point in negotiation, as Lebanon has no Israeli prisoners to negotiate over!

Steve Witkoff, Donald Trump's special envoy, had previously noted Washington's urgency in launching "peace" negotiations with both Lebanon and Syria. He had also expressed optimism about the possibility of Riyadh joining the so-called "Abraham Accords."

Witkoff firmly stated that the political transformations in the region could extend to Lebanon.

Prior to the election of Lebanon's president and in the midst of the US-led Israeli aggression on Lebanon during September and November, the American "surveillance den" (embassy) in Beirut had interrogated several candidates regarding their positions on normalization with the Israeli occupation regime and weapons in possession of the Hezbollah resistance movement.

Lisa Johnson, the US ambassador to Beirut, informed prominent Lebanese figures that they must be



prepared to secure a comprehensive and permanent solution with Tel Aviv.

The American witch frequently claimed that Hezbollah had – militarily and politically – collapsed and was barely able to manage its own affairs, and would therefore be unable to rebuild what her hostile country had destroyed.

As Washington is quite sure that there are just a few independent Lebanese officials who would reject American dictates, the White House will relentlessly go ahead with its

imperialist and racist agenda.

Obviously, Washington has limited the mandate of the UN's five-member committee to monitor Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty, while the committee repeatedly claims that Israeli "procedures" are in response to the "violations" by Hezbollah, which has not handed over its military arsenal or the coordinates of its military installations!

Accordingly, the shameful silence of Lebanon has made it easier for Washington to immediately jump to the stage of forming "diplomatic"

working groups, as it claims.

These "diplomatic" working groups require violating the Lebanese constitution, which criminalizes any direct meeting between Lebanese diplomats and those from the Israeli colonial entity!

Naturally, the Lebanese leaders in power today must learn a lesson from the disastrous consequences of normalization for Egypt, Jordan, and even the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. At the very least, they must learn a lesson from what is happening in neighboring Syria!

Yemen reinstates Israeli ship ban

From page 1 ▶ He warned that any Israeli ship attempting to break the blockade "will be targeted within the declared operational zones."

Saree added that the ban will remain in effect until Gaza's border crossings are reopened and essential aid, including food and medicine, is allowed to enter.

The Yemeni Armed Forces also expressed solidarity with the "resilient Palestinian people in occupied Gaza and the West Bank" and affirmed their support for the Palestinian resistance front.

On March 7, Ansarullah leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi set a four-day deadline for mediators to persuade the Israeli occupation to allow humanitarian aid into Gaza.

He warned that if Israel failed to comply, Yemen would resume its naval operations targeting Israeli interests.

On Tuesday, al-Houthi emphasized the importance of delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza and criticized some Arab and Muslim governments for their lack of serious efforts to address the crisis.

He stressed that the Yemeni Armed Forces were ready to take military action if the blockade on Gaza continued after the deadline.

The Ansarallah leader declared that "military actions will begin immediately once the deadline expires."

Hebrew media reported that the Israeli Air Force had increased its alert level and reinforced its air defense systems.

This move comes amid concerns over potential

drone and ballistic missile attacks launched from Yemen.

The Israeli Kan channel reported that the Air Force had reinforced air defense systems and deployed fighter jets to patrol the skies.

Despite the heightened alert, the news outlet noted that the Israeli Home Front Command had not made any changes to civilian safety guidelines.

Israeli media also reported disruptions to the GPS system in central Israel, which they attributed to concerns over potential attacks originating from Yemen.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) welcomed the Yemeni announcement, describing it as a "bold step that aims to pressure the entity and its sponsors to reopen the crossings and allow humanitarian aid into the besieged Gaza Strip."

The Gaza-based resistance group stated the courageous position "reflects the authenticity and bravery of the Yemeni people in supporting our brothers in Gaza and backing the cause of the Palestinian people and their resistance."

In a statement, PIJ pointed out, "It reaffirms the unity of position against occupation and oppression. Through this announcement, the Yemeni people have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and standing by their resistance in the face of ongoing Zionist aggression."

The statement went on to "call upon all Arab and Islamic nations to take similar positions that strengthen our people's steadfastness and uphold their legitimate rights."

Hamas has also welcomed the stance of Yemen.

The group said, "The Zionist occupation (regime) continues to completely close the crossings of the Gaza Strip, preventing the entry of humanitarian aid and basic supplies, exacerbating the suffering of over two million Palestinians in the region."

The closure of border crossings has been condemned as a violation of the ceasefire agreement, which requires the unrestricted entry of humanitarian aid.

Hamas underlined that this move breaches international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions, describing it as a war crime and an act of collective punishment that endangers innocent civilians.

The blockade has severely restricted the flow of food, medicine, fuel, and essential relief supplies, causing food prices to soar and medical resources to dwindle. This has significantly worsened the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Additionally, the prevention of heavy machinery entry has hampered efforts to recover bodies, repair infrastructure, and rebuild damaged areas, compounding the suffering of residents.

Hamas has called on mediators to pressure authorities to reopen the crossings and facilitate aid delivery.

Condemning the use of humanitarian aid as a political tool, Hamas asserted that these aggressive measures will not weaken the resolve of the people.

Despite the hardships, the movement said the Palestinians remained determined to continue the struggle until they achieved their legitimate rights.

America may survive, but not as it has been for decades...

By Martin Love

NORTH CAROLINA - Masculine republics give way to feminine democracies which give way to tyrannies, claimed the ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle. Is the U.S. there yet? Is the U.S. being overwhelmed by a Trump tyranny?

It's difficult to say but the U.S. is severely and rancorously split between those who agree with what President Donald Trump and his administration and Republican supporters are doing, and those especially on the side of the Democratic Party, which lost big in last November's elections. The Democrats claim Trump is tyrannical, and he may well be to some extent given the extreme rapidity he is forcing huge changes in Washington and across the country. Also, notably, Trump addressed the U.S. Congress this week and his speech was horrible. He burned any bridges to his opponents and was insulting to the Democrats. At the least he could have explained to the American people why he has been in a frenzy to cut waste in government. He blew a serious opportunity.

Trump and his supporters, probably a majority of Americans, would say that "NO" he is not imposing "tyranny" on the country at large. They would say the President is attempting to rectify bad governance and bad policies at home and

abroad and deep corruption that has been extant for at least the last 30 years, and much of that corruption burgeoning with the Democratic Party warmongers in Congress and with presidents like Bill Clinton and Barack Obama and lately, the brain dead Joe Biden. But Republican Party "leaders" all along have been FAR from faultless, too, in creating the mess and chaos that is a fact of America nowadays. In many instances they have been worse than Democrat leaders. But there is overall and balance of horrors.

Biden was arguably the worst President. In retrospect, he often appeared incapable of rational thinking himself, and he was fed marching orders and what to promote or say from the beginning by his advisors, by his appointees and by so-called "Deep State" ideologues in various departments of governance such as the FBI, the CIA, even the Treasury and other departments.

Complicit with the Biden White House was the mainstream U.S. media – for examples newspapers like the New York Times and the Washington Post. Those and other formerly magnificent bastions of truth telling which dominated "news", which this writer well recalls from youth back in the 1970s and earlier, have fallen some but by no means been extinguished. (And most Amer-

icans simply do not have the time with families and jobs to tend to become themselves more than just superficially knowledgeable about world and national issues, and perhaps particularly about other countries including Iran!)

It seems clear that Trump styles himself by experience, history and habit first and foremost a businessman, and he is trying to govern the "business" of America as such, as now the "CEO" of America in his mind. There is no doubt a "dictatorial" if not tyrannical aspect to his attempted management so far as with all potentially effective CEOs who at least nominally are trying to manage properly their organizations. The tyranny angle comes up with Trump's many detractors often because of his attempts to downsize government where many citizens working in some part of government are getting fired, their lives turned upside down. There are thousands of alleged "victims" of Trump's White House already after just a few weeks. Biden had little managerial talent and if nothing else aimed to keep going what was in fact a failing status quo in the U.S. But Biden did more and worse: funding and promoting Israel's genocide and the proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Trump is attempting to halt the Ukraine travesty. Credit Trump for trying that.

Trump in any event is not going to make the U.S. "great" again because he cannot if "great" to him means the economic and military hegemony that arose after World War 2. Underneath everything he does is at least some reasonable recognition of a changed world with rising countries like Russia and China and their allies. What he is doing is by pure necessity because the U.S. has been headed to moral and economic bankruptcy for some time. This process has speeded up dramatically this century and may not abate economically given almost \$37 trillion in debts and 200 or so trillion bucks in unfunded liabilities. As for the moral rot, that's Trump's Achilles heel, most evident in his unchecked support for Israel and his own past personal moral failings. His administration seems Hell bent to criminalize anger and dismay, especially among protesting students and any expressions of that kind. Free speech is becoming far less free over the crimes of Apartheid.

The U.S. under Trump is not a tyrannical monster provided Trump's moves are strictly aimed at weeding out vast corruption, especially in Washington and restoring some sense and sanity regarding U.S. finances. But it can feel like tyranny to those whose personal lives have been upended by what seems to be at least some recognized necessity to act.

UNICEF: 90% of Gazans lack access to clean water

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Tuesday that the severe water shortage in the Gaza Strip has reached critical levels, noting that nine out of ten people cannot access clean drinking water.

Rosalia Bollen, a UNICEF official in Gaza, said 600,000 people who had regained access to drinking water in November 2024 are once again cut off, Middle East Monitor reported.

"It's really vital for thousands of families and children to restore this connection," she said.

UN agencies estimate that 1.8 million people, over half of them children, urgently need water, sanitation and hygiene assistance.

The UN says the situation has deteriorated further following Israel's decision on Sunday to cut power to the enclave, disrupting vital desalination operations.

For her part, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, con-



demned Israel's decision describing it as a warning of genocide.

"GENOCIDE ALERT! Israel cutting off electricity supplies to Gaza means, among others, no functioning desalination stations, ergo: no clean water," Albanese wrote on X.

On Sunday, Israeli Energy and Infrastructure Minister Eli Cohen decided to immediately halt electricity supply to the Gaza Strip, a decision Hamas considered a continuation of Tel Aviv's war of extermination against Gaza.

EU invites Syria's HTS regime to Brussels after slaughter of Alawites

The European Commission has invited Syria's Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) administration to an official conference in Brussels after the slaughter of hundreds of Alawites in the country's west.

Anita Hipper, the European Commission spokesperson, revealed at a daily press briefing that "an invite was sent" to HTS foreign minister Asaad al-Shaibani to attend the donor conference for Syria's new rulers on March 17, Press TV reported.

Titled "Standing with Syria: Meeting the Needs for a Successful Transition", the donor conference – which the EU has been organizing annually since 2017 – is set to be the first held since the ouster of the Assad administration in December.

Hipper said the conference presents a "very important occasion" to engage with the new Syrian rulers.

HTS-led forces have over the past weeks perpetrated a vast array of massacres against minorities, especially Alawites, in the country's northwestern coastal region.

A so-called Syrian war monitor says militants aligned with Syria's HTS administration have killed nearly 1,000 civilians in recent

days in the western coastal region.

More than 1,540 people, the majority of them civilians, have been killed so far in the violence in the provinces of Tartus, Latakia, Hama and Homs, according to the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR).

In harsh rebuke of the massacres by HTS-led forces, human rights groups as well as the international community have called for an immediate halt to ethnic cleansing and sectarian-based atrocities in Syria.

They have also called for the establishment of an independent international investigation committee under the UN's direct oversight.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas on Tuesday stopped short of condemning the killings and defended the deeds of HTS militants.

"It is very, very early to tell whether this goes to the right direction. The first signals are good, but we are not rushing into any kind of arrangements yet, if we don't have certainty," she said.

Kallas only expressed concern about the risks of sectarian violence in Syria and a resurgence of extremism in the Arab country.

Greenland's opposition wins election dominated by independence and Trump

Greenland's center-right opposition has won a surprise general election victory – in a vote dominated by independence and US President Donald Trump's pledge to take over the semi-autonomous territory.

The Centre-right Demokraatit party – which favors a gradual approach to independence from Denmark – achieved around 30% of the vote, near-complete results show, BBC reported.

"Greenland needs us to stand together in a time of great interest from outside," party leader Jens Frederik Nielsen told local media. "There is a need for unity, so we will enter into negotiations with everyone."

His party will now have to negotiate with other parties in order to form a coalition.

Greenland – the world's biggest island, between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans – has been controlled by Denmark, nearly 3,000km (1,860 miles) away, for about 300 years.

Greenland governs its own domestic affairs, but decisions on foreign and defense policy are made in Copenhagen.

Five of the six main parties in the election favors independence from Copenhagen, but disagree over the pace with which to reach it.

The Democratic party, whose vote was up by more than 20% on 2021, is considered a moderate party on independence.

Another opposition party, Naleraq, which is looking to immediately kick-off the inde-



pendence process and forge closer ties with the US, was on course for second place with almost a quarter of the vote.

The two current governing parties, Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA) and Siumut, are heading for third and fourth place – marking an upset for Prime Minister Mute B Egede.

About 44,000 Greenlanders out of a population of 57,000 were eligible to cast their votes to elect 31 MPs, as well as the local government. Six parties were on the ballot.

The voting took place at 72 polling stations scattered across the vast island.

Greenland's strategic location and untapped mineral resources have caught Trump's eye. He first floated the idea of buying the island during his first term in 2019.

Since taking office again in January, Trump has reiterated his intention to acquire the territory.

Historical caravanserai in Khuzestan set for restoration



TEHRAN – The historical Dehdez caravanserai, a centuries-old structure in the southwestern province of Khuzestan that has long stood abandoned, is set to undergo a major restoration, according to a county official.

Reza Kiani-Qaleh-Sardi, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Dezpart county, highlighted the significance of the site, stating: “The Dehdez caravanserai is one of the province’s most valuable historical landmarks. After years of neglect, it is finally undergoing much-needed restoration.”

Once a vital rest stop for passing caravans, the caravanserai is being renovated with the dual aim of preserving its architectural integrity and developing the region’s tourism sector. According to Kiani-Qaleh-Sardi, the first phase of the project has received an 8-billion-rial budget, with an additional 15 billion rials expected to be allocated in the next stage.

“Our goal is to transform this caravanserai into a multipurpose cultural and administrative center,” he explained. “Beyond its historical preser-

vation, this initiative will create new opportunities for tourism, cultural activities, and local craftsmanship.”

Officials believe that the restoration of the caravanserai could position Dehdez as a key tourist destination in Khuzestan. “This site will offer an inviting space for history and culture enthusiasts while helping to showcase Dezpart County’s tourism potential,” Kiani-Qaleh-Sardi added.

He expressed gratitude to provincial heritage officials for their support in advancing the project and acknowledged the role of local government representatives and officials in securing funding. “Preserving and revitalizing historic buildings is essential for the sustainable growth of our region’s tourism industry,” he said.

The project is not only about restoration but also about redefining Dehdez’s cultural identity. “This caravanserai is a living reminder of our city’s historical and civilizational heritage,” Kiani-Qaleh-Sardi noted. “Bringing it back to life will strengthen community pride and connect Dehdez’s past with its future.”

Plans for the site include hosting handicraft workshops, art exhibitions, and cultural events, providing a platform for local artists while drawing visitors to the area. Kiani-Qaleh-Sardi emphasized that beyond attracting tourists, the initiative aims to raise public awareness about the historical and cultural significance of Dehdez.

“This project will play a key role in turning Dezpart into one of Khuzestan’s premier cultural and tourist destinations,” he concluded.

Archaeologists uncover Asini’s hidden ancient port beneath the waves of Greece

An international team of underwater archaeologists has made a groundbreaking discovery at the submerged site of Asini, near Tolo in Argolis, Greece, unearthing significant remnants of an ancient port infrastructure that promises to reshape our understanding of Mediterranean maritime history.

This research is part of a broader underwater archaeological initiative that began in 2022, a collaborative effort involving the Ephorate of Underwater Antiquities of Greece, the Swedish Institute at Athens, Stockholm University, the University of Gothenburg, and the Nordic Maritime Group. Under the leadership of Greek archaeologist Dr. Panagiota Galiatsatou, alongside Swedish experts Prof. Ann-Louise Schallin and Dr. Niklas Eriksson, the team meticulously examined a key area of the submerged harbor.

The 2024 fieldwork concentrated on the northwestern edge of a submerged artificial platform, an area previously identified as retaining much of its original form. Utilizing high-resolution photogrammetry, the archaeologists documented a 16-square-meter section in detail, uncovering significant architectural remains indicative of the ancient port’s infrastructure. The findings included numerous stones and fragments of construction materials, suggesting a gradual collapse of the structure over time.

Among the most intriguing discoveries were ceramic fragments, including ostraca from amphorae embedded within the stone structures

and a broken vessel located in an area designated as “Sector 4A.” These artifacts are expected to provide critical insights into the dating of the submerged port, potentially linking them to the period when the platform was operational or to the time following its abandonment.

Asini boasts a continuous occupation history dating back to prehistoric times, complicating efforts to pinpoint the exact construction date of the artificial port. However, the new findings bolster the hypothesis that this infrastructure was vital for maritime trade throughout various historical epochs. Previous excavations in 2021 and 2022 had already indicated the extensive size of the port, revealing that the main structure consists of a large artificial platform in shallow waters, with indications of rooms or buildings that suggest a multifunctional use beyond mere trade.

Looking ahead, the archaeological team plans to conduct further excavations on the upper section of the artificial platform. This next phase will involve careful sediment removal, both by hand and through controlled dredging, to uncover additional structural elements.

The results from the 2024 excavation campaign are set to be published in the scientific journal *Opuscula*, edited by the Swedish Institutes of Athens and Rome, along with other specialized publications focused on archaeology and maritime studies.

(Source: arkeonews.net)

Echoes of Iran



The stunning Mokasar Coast, located along the Persian Gulf in Hormozgan province, is named for its unique, eroded rocks with intricate fractures. Recently added to the national heritage list, this picturesque spot is a must-see.

Iran’s ‘Tourism Triangle’ showcased at cultural week in Qatar

TEHRAN – Iran’s renowned “Tourism Triangle”—the cities of Shiraz, Isfahan, and Yazd—was a major highlight of Iran Cultural Week in Qatar, where their rich cultural heritage and tourism potential were prominently showcased.

Alireza Masah, head of the Tourism Department at Isfahan Municipality and the city’s representative at the event, emphasized the significance of this collaboration, marking the second international partnership between the three cities after their joint presentation at the International Tourism Exhibition.

“These three cities, renowned for their historical and cultural significance, serve as the face of Iranian tourism.

Their participation in this event offers a unique opportunity to present Iran’s rich heritage to an international audience,” Masah stated.

Isfahan’s contribution to the event centered around its celebrated handicrafts, as the city holds the prestigious title of a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art.

To highlight this distinction,



organizers displayed 40 graphic panels featuring Isfahan’s handicrafts, each accompanied by Arabic subtitles to introduce the city’s artistic legacy to visitors.

The exhibition also featured panels highlighting the top tourism attractions, religious landmarks, and natural and historical sites of Shiraz, Isfahan, and Yazd, offering attendees an immersive journey through Iran’s cultural heartland.

As part of Iran Cultural Week, a special ceremony was held to honor Iranian artists and cultural activists residing in Qatar for their contributions to the event.

The gathering, organized by the Cultural Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Qatar, was attended by 140 Iranian expatriates, along with Iran’s Ambassador to Qatar, Ali Salehabadi, and Cultural Attaché Ali Bakhtiari.

Bakhtiari expressed appreciation for the dedication and collaboration of Iranian artists, emphasizing that their efforts not only showcased Iran’s rich artistic heritage but also facilitated the sale of Iranian handicrafts and artworks while strengthening connections with local audiences.

He described the strong par-

ticipation of Iranian residents as a key factor in the event’s success, underscoring its role in promoting Iranian culture and fostering cultural exchange in Qatar.

He expressed hope that such initiatives would continue to enhance Iran’s cultural presence abroad.

Ambassador Salehabadi echoed these sentiments, praising the efforts of the Cultural Attaché and Iranian artists in ensuring the event’s success.

Noting the strong public interest at Darb Al-Saai, the event’s venue, he emphasized the role of Iranian expatriates in enhancing cultural diplomacy and strengthening bilateral relations.

The ambassador also highlighted the strong sales of Iranian handicrafts and artworks, stressing the importance of economic opportunities within the cultural sector.

He concluded by advocating for further development of cultural industries and the empowerment of Iranians residing in Qatar, expressing optimism about expanding cultural and artistic initiatives in the future.

Seven historical sites in Isfahan added to Iran’s heritage list



TEHRAN – Seven historical monuments in Isfahan Province have been officially added to Iran’s National Heritage List, further cementing the region’s reputation as a cultural and historical treasure trove.

According to Mehdi Seyed al-Asgari, Deputy Director of the Isfahan Provincial Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the newly registered sites span various historical periods, from the Sassanian era to the Qajar dynasty.

Among the most significant

additions is Darmian Castle in Shapurabad, a fortress with a remarkable history dating back 2,500 years.

Seyed al-Asgari further announced the official registration of Karbasis’ House, an important Qajar-era residence in Isfahan, which received majority approval from the Supreme Council for the Registration of Historical Monuments. Moreover, Kazerooni Mosque, a significant religious site, has now been recognized as part of Iran’s national heritage.

Beyond the new additions, ef-

orts are also being made to protect existing historical sites.

Isfahan Province is already home to two globally recognized underground water channels, known as qanats, which are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites. In addition to these, Seyed al-Asgari revealed that protective boundaries have now been defined for other historic structures, including Moazzam al-Molk Qajari House in Chadegan and some ancient qanats which date back to the pre-Islamic period.

Listed as a national heritage site, the Kazerooni Mosque is one of Isfahan’s contemporary mosques, built in the early 1950s.

With over 22,000 historical sites, including approximately 2,000 nationally registered monuments and 15 UNESCO-listed sites, Isfahan continues to at-

tract history enthusiasts, cultural tourists, and scholars from around the world. The province also boasts over 600 historic houses, along with a diverse array of natural, cultural, religious, and recreational attractions, making it one of Iran’s most significant destinations for both domestic and international visitors.

Isfahan, once a bustling hub of international trade and diplomacy in Iran, has transformed into one of the country’s premier tourist destinations for compelling reasons. Filled with architectural marvels, including unparalleled Islamic structures, vibrant bazaars, enriching museums, serene Persian gardens, and picturesque tree-lined boulevards, Isfahan beckons visitors to immerse themselves in its charm. Strolling through its labyrinthine bazaars, lounging in its enchanting gardens, and engaging with its friendly locals offer a glimpse into the rich tapestry of life in this extraordinary destination.

The ancient city has earned the endearing nickname “Nesf-e-Jahan,” meaning “half the world,” reflecting the sentiment that experiencing Isfahan is akin to exploring half of the globe.

‘Find of a lifetime’: 15th-century gold and silver coins discovered by amateur metal detectorists in Scotland

A collection of over 30 gold and silver English and Scottish coins from throughout the 1400s were discovered near the Scotland border by hobbyist metal detectorists.

Amateur metal detectorists in Scotland have discovered a 600-year-old treasure trove of gold and silver coins they’re calling “the find of a lifetime.”

Initially, the detectorists unearthed a total of 30 coins from both Scotland and England that were minted throughout the 15th century.

This rare find was discovered by Keith Young and Lisa Stephenson, who had been exploring near the village of Cappercluch, in the Scottish Borders region.

“The hoard is the find of a lifetime,” Stephenson said in a statement from Scotland’s Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

Some of the coins were English silver groats, minted by both Henry V (ruled from 1413 to 1422) and Edward IV (ruled from roughly 1461 to 1483), while others were Scottish gold demy and half-demys, minted by James I of Scotland (reigned from 1406 to 1437) and James II (ruled from 1437 to 1460). The coins were marked with the likeness of each monarch at the time of their minting.

The groat was a large silver coin first introduced in England by Edward I in 1279, and was valued at four pence.

The Scottish gold demy was named after the French word “démier,” meaning “half,” since it was roughly half the value of a noble (a gold English coin), and was typically valued at nine shillings in Scottish money.

The gold half-demy was a smaller version of the demy, valued at about 4.5 shillings.

The pair reported their find to the Scottish Treasure Trove Unit, which is responsible for investigating any archeological discoveries that are unearthed around the country.

An initial investigation by archaeologists at the unit revealed that the coins may have been left at this site in the early- to mid-1460s. The archaeologists then discovered five additional coins lurking nearby, bringing the hoard’s total to 35 coins.

“Coin hoards containing a mix of both English and Scottish coins are not unusual, but we do not see many hoards from this period in Scotland, so it’s a fascinating find,” Antony Lee, who runs the Treasure Trove Unit, said in the statement.

“Keith and Lisa acted promptly and correctly in reporting it to us,” Lee said. “In turn



we, along with archaeologists from National Museums Scotland, were able to attend and excavate the site, finding five more coins and documenting the circumstances of the hoard alongside the finders.”

After the Treasure Trove Unit has finished its analysis, the coins will be passed to the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel (SAFAP), an independent panel that will make them available for museums to display.

The SAFAP will also assign a monetary value to the coins, which will then be paid to the finders as a reward for their discovery.

Any museum hoping to display the coins will be expected to raise the funds for this “ex-gratia” reward themselves.

(Source: livescience.com)

UNDP, DOE beef up ties to tackle air pollution

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance the country's capacity to address air pollution using new technologies.

The MOU was signed on Tuesday by Sediqeh Torabi, an official with the DOE, and Ayshanie Medagan-goda-Labé, the resident representative ad interim for UNDP in Iran, IRNA reported.

"Access to special [air] pollution monitoring systems provided by the United Nations Development Office can contribute to solving the country's environmental problems, particularly air pollution, more effectively," the head of the DOE, Shina Ansari, said on the sidelines of the signing ceremony.

The systems can detect particulates in the air and identify the source of emissions. Based on the results, the best decisions can be made to address the problems, Ansari added.

"We are interested in benefiting from modern technologies to improve waste management, as well," she noted.

The official went on to express optimism for the expansion of cooperation with the UNDP, saying that in the next step, the DOE is planning to develop a document on managing the country's air pol-



lution in cooperation with internal and external consultants.

Referring to the economic costs associated with air pollution, Ansari said, "Environmental issues should not be impacted by sanctions. We expect the UNDP office, as an international agency, to help us resolve the problems."

For her part, Torabi said collaborations between the two organizations can be centered around air pollution, waste and water resource management, and combating sand and dust storms and climate change using international resources.

With the help of the new technologies procured by the UNDP, the DOE aims to monitor air pollution using emission inventory, which contributes to detecting different air pollution sources, Torabi further noted.

Air pollution

Emission sources of fine particles include a variety of combustion activities (motor vehicles, power plants, wood burning, etc.) as well as specific industrial processes. These particles are emitted directly or as secondary pollutants in the atmosphere.

In general, the main sources of particulate matter emissions are fuel combustion such as burning coal and wood, diesel engines, industrial and agricultural processes, and vehicle emissions. Suspended particles generally affect the air quality during the cold months.

Numerous scientific studies on particles show that exposure to the particles causes many health problems including premature death in patients with heart and lung diseases, non-fatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeats, lung cancer,

exacerbation of asthma, decreased lung function and increased respiratory symptoms, reduction in fertility rates, and ultimately it leads to a decrease in life expectancy.

According to a report released by the Health Ministry, air pollution in Iran leads to 50,000 deaths each year, of which 7,000 occur in Tehran.

Air pollution also accounts for 2,029 and 661 deaths in Isfahan and Arak, respectively. Costs of air pollution on the health system in Isfahan amount to 796 million dollars, and in Arak, it is equal to 2 million 564 thousand dollars.

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

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

Policies to reduce air pollution, therefore, offer a win-win strategy for both climate and health, lowering the burden of disease attributable to air pollution, as well as contributing to the near- and long-term mitigation of climate change.

Regular screening key to kidney health

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN –Regular screening, adhering to nutritional guidelines, and avoiding risky behaviors are the effective ways to keep kidneys healthy and prevent kidney cancer, an official with the health ministry has said.

Some 90 percent of kidney or renal cancer cases remain asymptomatic in early stages, which doubles the importance of regular screening, health ministry website quoted Mohammad-Ali Amir-Zargar as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Kidney Day, which is observed on March 13 every year.

The day aims to educate the public and policymakers about kidney health, kidney disease prevention, and treatment. It highlights the urgent need for global strategies to combat kidney disease.

"Kidney cancer may be diagnosed through ultrasound and urine tests after visiting a doctor because of symptoms which include mass in the kidney area, blood in the urine, and pain in the side or abdomen," Amir-Zargar noted.

Behavioral factors such as smoking cigarettes, hookah, and opium consumption are associated with an increased risk of cancer, he added.

The other major risk factors for kidney disease are diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and obesity. So, a healthy diet can significantly lower the risk.

Kidney screening is essential from fetal de-

velopment to old age. Some kidney cancers, such as Wilms tumor, are common among children. Therefore, screening tests, such as ultrasound and urine tests, are recommended at all ages.

The cost of these tests is much lower than the cost of treating cancer in advanced stages and can save patients' lives, the official stressed.

Referring to the treatment methods for this disease, he said renal masses can be benign or malignant. If detected early, malignant masses can be removed by surgery.

However, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and radiation therapy are the methods used to treat advanced kidney cancer.

Adopting a healthy lifestyle, engaging in regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, managing stress, having mental peace, and avoiding smoking or taking drugs, as well as taking regular tests, are the best ways to prevent kidney cancer, Amir-Zargar noted.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is estimated to affect approximately 850 million people worldwide. If left undetected and not treated timely, CKD can progress to kidney failure, leading to severe complications and premature mortality.

By 2040, CKD is projected to become the 5th leading cause of years of life lost, highlighting the urgent need for global strategies to combat kidney disease.

World Kidney Day 2025 is celebrated under the theme of 'Are Your Kidneys OK? – Detect



early, protect kidney health'.

Early detection policies for individuals at risk should be implemented globally to reduce the healthcare costs associated with kidney failure and improve the quality of life.

Primary care clinicians and frontline health workers should be trained to integrate CKD testing into routine care for high-risk populations, even when time and resources are limited.

CKD testing should be integrated into existing community interventions (e.g., those targeting maternal health, HIV, tuberculosis, and other non-communicable diseases) to decrease cost and enhance efficiency.

Testing may also occur outside of medical settings, such as in town halls or markets, depending on local regulations and available resources.

Efforts should also focus on raising awareness among the general population, promoting health, and implementing education programs that empower patients.

Iranian, Polish universities to boost scientific ties

TEHRAN –Marcin Wilczek, the chargé d'affaires of Poland in Iran, and Elham Aminzadeh, the vice president of the University of Tehran for international affairs, have explored avenues for developing scientific interactions between the universities of the two countries. During a meeting held on Tuesday, the two sides discussed organizing joint conferences focusing on Polish refugees residing in Iran, presenting Polish cinema, exchanging professors and students, and holding educational workshops collaboratively, IRNA reported.

University of Tehran in intl. rankings

The status of Iranian universities has increased in the latest versions of the Times Higher Education (THE) and the QS World University Rankings, according to the head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC). World university rankings demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of universities, as well as their scientific positions relative to one another. However, they can contribute to boosting science diplomacy and attracting international faculty members and students. It can also shape policies that develop international competitions and lead to the globalization of universities. The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) by international outlook 2025 has ranked 85 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world. The University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 401-500, ranks third in Iran. THE World University Rankings 2025 placed 81 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 sub-

ject areas, compared to 73 universities in 2024. In Computer Science and Engineering, University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 401-500) ranked third in the country. University of Tehran (201-250) was the top institution in Business and Economics; it was placed second in Computer Science. In Life Sciences, University of Tehran ranked first nationally; it ranked 401-500 globally.

It ranked first in Physical Science and Social Science (ranking 301-400 globally). THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings (ISR) placed 29 Iranian universities among the top institutions worldwide for interdisciplinary science research. University of Tehran, with a global ranking of 77, was placed first in the country. The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings placed 32 Iranian universities on the list of top universities in 2025, compared to 31 universities in 2024. University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 87) was placed first among Iranian universities.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 placed 85 Iranian universities among the top institutions compared to 75 universities in 2024. University of Tehran was placed third with a global ranking of 401-500. According to the report by EduRank University of Tehran, was the best university in the country, IRIB reported. University of Tehran won the best ranking among Iranian institutions, ranking 291 globally, in the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, also known as the National Taiwan University (NTU) Rankings.

Normal, less than normal precipitation forecast for a month

TEHRAN –Average rainfall is forecasted to be less than normal from March 10 to April 4 and normal from April 5 to 20, according to the Meteorological Organization. From March 10 to 16, the temperature in central parts will be less than normal and above normal in other areas, ISNA reported.

Rainfall in the northeast, the provinces on both sides of the Alborz Mountains, the northwest, both sides of the Zagros Mountains, and the south of the country are below normal, and in the provinces located in the interior and eastern parts of the country is normal and above normal.

Within the first week, the average temperature in provinces near the Persian Gulf, the interior, and eastern regions of the country will be 1 to 5 °C less than normal. Over the coastal strip of the Sea of Oman, the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains, and the northern Zagros Mountains, it will be 1 to 3 °C. In the northwest, it will be 3 to 5 °C above normal; in other areas, it will be normal.

In the second week (March 17 to March 23), precipitations are projected to be less than normal in most parts of the country and normal in some parts of the northwest and west of the country.

In the northern half of the country, the temperature will reach 3 to 6 °C, and in some parts of the northwest strip, it will exceed 6 °C. The temperature will be less than 3 °C in other parts. In the third week, the average rainfall is forecast to be less than normal. The temperature over the Caspian coastal strip is expected to be normal. In the northern half, it will get 3 to 5 °C, and in other areas, it will be about 1 to 3 °C above normal.

Precipitations in the fourth weeks are estimated to be normal with a tendency to be below normal. The average temperature will be normal along the Caspian coastal strip and 1 to 3 °C above normal in other regions. Within the fifth and sixth weeks, rainfall is forecast to be normal and above normal. The air temperature in the northern half of the country will be 1 to 3 °C above normal over the fifth week. In other areas, it will be 1 °C above normal. The air temperature in most parts of the country will be normal during the sixth week.

Over 250mm rain in previous water year

The previous water year (September 22, 2023 – September 22, 2024) came to an end with 252.7 mm of precipitation, showing a 19 percent increase compared to the year before.

The low precipitations at the beginning of the previous water year were worrisome, but the volume of precipitations improved with the passage of time. Due to successive years of drought, the increase in rainfall amounts did not compensate for the water deficit in the country, some provinces are suffering from water shortage, IRNA reported.

A total of 10 provinces received less than normal rainfall. According to the latest reports, the total amount of recorded rainfall in the previous water year (ended on September 23) amounted to 252.7 mm, which signifies a 19 percent increase compared to the 212.9 mm rain received in the water year before (September 2022 –September 2023). Compared to the long-term figure, 248.7 mm, it shows a two percent increase.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival.

More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.



IRCS ready for Nowruz services

The Iranian Red Crescent Society held a drill on Tuesday for dispatching forces to different parts of the country to offer services to travelers during the Nowruz holidays, which start on March 21.



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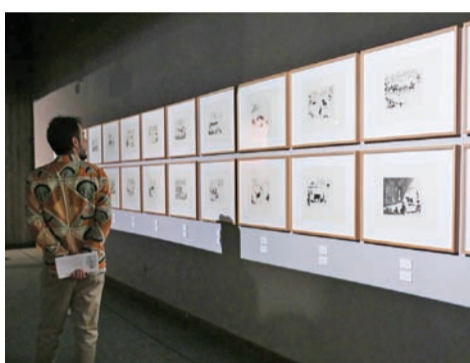
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Heaven lies beneath the feet of mothers.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:14 Evening: 18:08 Dawn: 4:56 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

“Picasso in Tehran” exhibit opens at TMOCA



TEHRAN—“Picasso in Tehran” exhibition featuring works by Pablo Picasso opened at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) on Tuesday evening.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Nadereh Rezaei, the ambassadors of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica, China, Japan, and Indonesia, and several cultural officials as well as art enthusiasts.

There are 66 works by the renowned Spanish painter and sculptor from the collection of the TMOCA on display at the exhibit.

At the beginning of the event, Nadereh Rezaei said: “Today, we have gathered at the Museum of Contemporary Art to witness a new narrative of outstanding works from its collection. Museums are no longer merely repositories for artworks; they serve as centers for innovative storytelling, creativity, and artistic research.”

“With your support and collaboration, we hope to present more innovative and inspiring narratives through artworks. Today, we come together to celebrate the works of Picasso—an artist who had a profound impact on the art world, influencing styles and artistic movements beyond his time. Anyone interested in art in Iran is undoubtedly familiar with his work,” she added.

“Artists like Picasso, with their unique styles, revolutionized global art. Contemporary art in Iran also holds a significant place, deeply influencing our culture and artistic identity. I hope this exhibition will inspire larger and more impactful exhibitions in the future,” Rezaei continued.

Following her remarks, the Ambassador of Spain to Iran Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar said: “Born in Málaga, Picasso is one of the greatest artistic geniuses of the 20th century. His works were always innovative, evolving over seven prolific decades. He was a pioneer in Cubism, collage, and decorative arts. It seems he was always ahead of his time.”

“Picasso was an artist with deep concerns, always seeking new artistic methods. In his masterpiece ‘Guernica,’ he dramatically depicts the horrors of war—an artwork that, once seen, cannot be ignored. Through ‘Guernica’ and his other works, Picasso conveys a universal message of peace and coexistence,” he added.

“I am delighted to be part of this event, not just as the Spanish Ambassador but as someone born in Málaga. I believe this exhibition will pave the way for future cultural collaborations between Iran and Spain. I sincerely thank the deputy minister and her team for their efforts in organizing this exhibition. I hope it achieves significant international recognition for both Iran and Spain,” the ambassador noted.

The exhibition features 66 works by Picasso, covering various periods of his career. Among these, 26 aquatint prints from the renowned series “La Tauromaquia” (The Art of Bullfighting)—which have never been exhibited in Iran before—will be a highlight.

“La Tauromaquia,” a rare and exquisite portfolio created by Picasso, consists of 26 aquatint prints, produced in 1957. This collection is one of his most celebrated works in the realm of printmaking, showcasing his deep fascination with Spanish culture, particularly the dramatic and ritualistic spectacle of bullfighting.

The series was inspired by José Delgado’s 18th-century book “La Tauromaquia o arte de torrear” (Tauromachia, or The Art of Bullfighting), which detailed the history and techniques of bullfighting. José Delgado, known as Pepe Illo, was a famous matador, and his book became a significant reference in Spain’s bullfighting tradition. Picasso, who was passionate about bullfighting since childhood, visually reinterpreted these historical accounts through his unique artistic style.

Picasso employed the aquatint technique, a printmaking process that allows for rich tonal variations, giving the images a dramatic, almost painterly effect. The works are minimalist yet expressive, often featuring bold black-and-white contrasts that emphasize movement, tension, and the raw energy of the bullfight.

Through swift, gestural lines and fluid compositions, Picasso captures the essence of the bullfight—the grace of the matador, the power of the bull, and the tension of the confrontation. His depictions are not merely literal illustrations but abstract and emotionally charged representations of the spectacle.

“La Tauromaquia” reflects Picasso’s lifelong fascination with bulls and bullfighting, themes that appear frequently in his work, from early sketches to his masterpiece “Guernica” (1937). The series is also seen as a tribute to Spain’s cultural heritage and the enduring mythos of the bull as a symbol of strength, danger, and artistry.

Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist, and theater designer who spent most of his adult life in France. One of the most influential artists of the 20th century, he is known for co-founding the Cubist movement, the invention of constructed sculpture, the co-invention of collage, and the wide variety of styles that he helped develop and explore.

Alongside the works by Picasso, the exhibition includes selected works by Iranian artists such as Bahram Dabiri, Bahman Mohasses, Jalil Ziapour, Mohsen Vaziri Moghaddam, Garinik Der-Hacopian, Hannibal Alkhas, and Parvaneh Etemadi, as well as international artists like Georges Braque, Robert Delaunay, Fernand Léger, František Kupka, and Joan Miró.

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

The museum was designed by Iranian architect Kamran Diba who employed elements from traditional Persian architecture. The building itself can be regarded as an example of contemporary art, in the style of an underground Guggenheim Museum. Most of the museum area is located underground with a circular walkway that spirals downwards with galleries branching outwards. Western sculptures by artists such as Ernst, Giacometti, Magritte, and Moore can be found in the museum’s gardens.

The exhibition will be open daily (except Mondays) at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art until April 20.

Lasting legacy of Hakim Nizami commemorated in Tehran

TEHRAN—Hakim Nizami is a poet who has an enduring status and lasting legacy throughout the Persian-speaking lands. With the power of poetry, he took a step in Iranian literature that is everlasting, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance said.

Seyyed Abbas Salehi made the remarks on Tuesday evening at the fourth commemoration ceremony of Hakim Nizami, held on March 12, which is named as Nizami Ganjavi Commemoration Day in the official Iranian calendar, IRNA reported.

The ceremony was held at Vahdat Hall in Tehran with the presence of ambassadors and cultural attachés from ten foreign countries, including the ambassadors of Tajikistan, Sierra Leone, the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Croatia, as well as a large gathering of professors and researchers of Persian language, literature, wisdom, and Islamic mysticism.

Referring to Nizami’s poetry on earthly love and its connection to divine and eternal love, he said: “This is a highly delicate realm, and Hakim Nizami is someone who was able to speak of earthly love without crossing the three-fold boundaries of love or slipping from one domain to another.”

“In the path that Hakim Nizami took in earthly love, he managed to intertwine it with divine love—a path that, although it did not continue as it should have, was initiated by him,” he added.

“Narrative and storytelling have a deep-rooted history in Persian literature, and there is a significant difference between a fable and a story. A fable, unlike a story, does not necessarily require climaxes and downturns. Hakim Nizami is the storyteller of Iranian literature and a poet who narrates through stories, which is why he holds a significant position in Persian literature,” Salehi continued.

He further stated: “Hakim Nizami is a turning point in Iran’s lyrical literature. He had a deep sense of belonging and attachment to Iran, and throughout his poetry, this affinity is intricately woven. Myths, kings, and everything that carries the essence of Iran are evident in his works.”

Also speaking at the event, the Ambassador of Tajikistan to Iran said: “The name and works of Nizami serve as a connecting link among regional countries such as Iran, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and



other Persian-speaking nations in the region. His literary contributions are shared across these countries, and today, they invite us to strengthen our cultural ties in this ever-changing world.”

“Hakim Nizami was one of the great poets who held a special role in several aspects. Like Ferdowsi, he was given the title of ‘Hakim’ (sage), and his poetry is not merely verse but a fusion of knowledge, wisdom, and deep thought, earning him a high status in this field,” Nizomiddin Zohidi noted.

“Hakim Nizami is regarded as the greatest composer of wise and romantic tales. He was one of the most innovative Persian poets, and with his ‘Khamasa’ (Five Treasures), he left an eternal mark of originality. Many poets have composed imitations of Nezami’s ‘Khamasa’ in the form of masnavis,” he stated.

Zohidi further said: “Poets like Jami, Abdallah Hatefi, and others have continued the tradition of ‘Khamasa’ writing in the best possible way. Even in the Indian sub-continent, poems inspired by him have been composed, with Persian poetry deeply woven into them.”

“Nizami’s esteemed position in Persian literature, both regionally and globally, has led scholars around the world to preserve his works. In Tajikistan, Nizami’s works are accessible to literary scholars and are also included in university literature curricula,” he added.

Another speaker at the ceremony was the President of the Soci-

ety for the National Heritage of Iran, who said: “Currently, 27 provinces across the country are hosting programs in honor of Hakim Nizami.”

In addition, Mahmoud Shalouei pointed out that Iran’s cultural attachés in various countries have also organized related events.

“Since last year, a statue of Hakim Nizami has been installed in Tehran’s Vanak Square, several books about him have been published, and additional books will be unveiled at the upcoming Tehran International Book Fair,” Shalouei continued.

“The Ambassador of Tajikistan has shown great dedication to the commemoration programs of Hakim Nizami. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Embassy of India for its commendable efforts in this regard,” he stated.

Furthermore, Shalouei urged the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to provide serious support for producing cinematic works that honor and preserve the country’s cultural figures.

Jamal al-Din Abu Muhammad Ilyas ibn Yusuf ibn-Zakki, popularly known as Nizami Ganjavi and Hakim Nizami, was a Muslim poet and is considered the greatest romantic epic poet in Persian literature who brought a colloquial and realistic style to the Persian epic. His heritage is widely appreciated in Iran as well as the Republic of Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the Kurdistan region, and Tajikistan.

Nizami influenced Persian po-

ets who came after him. He had a wide range of knowledge of the common sciences of his time (such as literary sciences, astronomy, Islamic sciences, jurisprudence, theology, and Arabic language) and this feature can be clearly witnessed in his poetry.

He was very particular in selecting appropriate words and phrases, creating new and innovative combinations, inventing new and pleasant meanings and themes, depicting details with the power of his imagination, describing landscapes and describing nature and people, and using pleasant and new similes and metaphors, which ranks him among those who were unparalleled in comparison to those poets who came after him.

The famous and unparalleled masterpiece left behind by Nizami is “Khamasa” or “Panj Ganj” (Five Treasures), a lofty work in the realm of lyrical stories. He had spent 30 years of his life arranging and compiling his poetry.

“Panj Ganj” comprises five Mathnavis (long narrative poems) of “Makhzan al-Asrar” (The Treasury or Storehouse of Mysteries, one of the prominent examples of educational literature in the Persian language), “Khosrow and Shirin” (the love story of Khosrow Parviz, the great king of the Sassanid Empire and the Armenian princess, Shirin), “Leily and Majnun” (the most famous classic love story of Persian literature), “Haft Peykar” (The Seven Beauties), and “Eskandarnamah” (The Book of Alexander).

Persian vocalist Sina Sarlak to Perform in Los Angeles

TEHRAN—The acclaimed Iranian vocalist Sina Sarlak will perform in Los Angeles next month, together with Raz Band.

The Persian music performance is set for April 12 and will be staged at the historic Wilshire Ebell Theater, Honaronline reported.

Known for his rich, soulful voice and masterful interpretation of Persian melodies, Sina Sarlak will take the audience on a captivating musical journey that beautifully blends tradition with modernity.

The first half of the concert includes traditional Persian music, celebrating the elegance

and depth of Iran’s classical heritage. The second half will be dedicated to contemporary Persian pop, featuring Sina Sarlak’s chart-topping hits that have resonated with audiences worldwide.

Accompanied by the renowned Raz Band, the concert is under the musical direction of Hamid Behrouzina, a virtuoso celebrated for his exceptional artistry and profound musicality. A master of his craft, Behrouzina brings an innovative touch and emotional depth to every note, ensuring a mesmerizing musical experience.

Adding to the evening’s enchantment, there

will be a performance by the L.A. Daf Ensemble, an all-female Iranian percussion group led by the esteemed Arezoo Koochakan. Their hypnotic rhythms and dynamic energy will weave a spellbinding layer of sound, enriching the evening’s celebration of Persian musical traditions.

The Wilshire Ebell Theater, a cultural landmark in Los Angeles, is known for hosting world-class performances that celebrate the arts and cultural diversity. Its historic charm and intimate atmosphere provide the perfect setting for this exceptional night of Persian music and artistry.

“DallerGut Dream Department Store” at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN—A Persian translation of Korean author Miye Lee’s book “DallerGut Dream Department Store” has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Kimia Fazai.

“DallerGut Dream Department Store,” which is a whimsical department store nestled in a mysterious town, represents a sanctuary for dreamers. Both humans and animals flock to this extraordinary establishment to purchase and experience their wildest dreams, each crafted with care and intention.

The store is divided into various floors, each dedicated to unique

dream experiences—from nostalgic childhood memories and culinary fantasies to aspirations of fame and delightfully elusive flying dreams, which are perpetually sold out. Some of the visitors seek solace in dreams that reconnect them with lost loved ones.

Penny, an eager new employee, views her job at the dream department store as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. As she immerses herself in the enchanting operations of this surreal world, she forges deep connections with a vibrant cast of characters.

Among them is DallerGut, the wise and flamboyant owner who imparts wisdom about the significance of dreams; Babynap

Rockabye, a renowned dream designer whose creations capture the essence of joy; and Maxim, the somber nightmare producer who grapples with the darker side of dreaming.

Through these relationships, Penny discovers that dreams serve various purposes—healing, personal growth, and the flourishing of the spirit.

The narrative weaves a rich tapestry of adventure and exploration, ultimately imparting a profound message about the importance of dreams in coping with the challenges of everyday life.

“DallerGut Dream Department Store” is the first book in a capti-

ating duology, offering readers a magical escape and reminding them of the beauty that can be found within their own imaginations.

Miye Lee, born in Busan in 1990, graduated from Busan National University with a degree in Materials Science and Engineering. She began her career as a semiconductor engineer at Samsung Electronics.

In 2020, she released her debut novel, “DallerGut Dream Department Store,” which was fully funded through crowdfunding in Korea and received enthusiastic acclaim. Her latest work is titled “Break Room.”