

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## ان المرأة في الثورة الإسلامية

# Door Open for Women's Political, Social Activities in Islam

### Iran envoy reiterates rights to retaliate against Israel

TEHRAN- According to Iran's UN envoy, Tehran has the inherent and lawful right to respond forcefully to the Israeli regime, which martyred an Iranian military adviser in a recent strike on Syria, at any time it considers necessary.

Amir Saied Iravani called on the UNSC to uphold its charter obligation in the maintenance of international peace and security in a letter to the UN secretary-general and president of the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

He also strongly condemned the actions of the Israeli regime, which are a serious threat to regional and global peace and security, as well as its malicious activities.

His message was sent following the martyrdom of General Seyed Razi Mousavi, an Islamic Revolution Guards Corps member, in an Israeli bombardment on Monday in the residential area of Zeinabiyah district in the outskirts of Damascus while acting as a military advisor in Syria.

What follows is the text of the UN envoy's letter: ▶ Page 2

### Nuclear chief reaffirms commitment to obligations

TEHRAN- The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, has dismissed recent enrichment claims, reiterating adherence to protocols.

Eslami also refuted recent media reports alleging a shift in Iran's uranium enrichment activities, emphasizing that the agency remains committed to its existing protocols.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Eslami stated that the recent wave of media attention surrounding Iran's enrichment program is nothing new and was already addressed in the Board of Governors' Director General's report. He dismissed these claims as mere media hype, emphasizing that they serve a clear agenda.

Eslami explained that certain parties, particularly Western powers, are attempting to divert attention away from the ongoing situation in Gaza by focusing on Iran's nuclear program. He urged the public to remain vigilant and recognize that the AEOI is operating within the established framework and regulations.

In conclusion, he reiterated that the Agency has not deviated from its current activities and remains committed to upholding the established standards. He emphasized that Iran's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes and adheres to international obligations. ▶ Page 3

### UN: Israel working to expel civilians of Gaza

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons said that Israel is "working to expel" the civilian population of Gaza.

She said Tuesday that Israel reneged on its promises of safety in southern Gaza through its evacuation orders urging Palestinians to evacuate from northern to southern Gaza.

Meanwhile, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and King Abdullah II of Jordan said in a statement they oppose any efforts to end the Palestinian cause or displace Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank either externally or internally within their territories.

"The two leaders affirmed their complete rejection of all attempts to end the Palestinian cause or to displace the Palestinians outside their lands or internally displace them, stressing that the only solution that the international community must push towards its implementation is an immediate ceasefire and the entry into force of relief aid," the Egyptian Presidency statement reads.

Also in a commentary on Wednesday, CNN said escalating attacks on U.S. troops and commercial shipping and incidents often are causing new concerns that Israel's war in Gaza could widen into a regional conflagration with grave political and economic consequences.

### Gaza death toll at 21,110, most of them women and children

Gaza's Health Ministry says 195 people were killed and 325 injured in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of people killed in the Gaza war since October 7 to more than 21,110.

The ministry spokesperson, Ashraf al-Qudra, says Israeli forces are increasing their attacks around Khan Younis's Nasser Hospital in southern Gaza, warning the facility faces a similar fate as al-Shifa Hospital.

"We call on UN institutions to take effective and urgent steps to ensure the protection of the Nasser Medical Complex, its staff, the wounded and sick, and the thousands of displaced people there," he said in a post on the ministry's Telegram channel.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society says an Israeli army attack in Khan Younis close to El Amal City Hospital has led to several people being killed and others injured.

Turkish President Erdogan has said there is "no difference" between what Israeli PM Netanyahu is doing in Gaza and what Nazi leader Adolf Hitler did in Europe.

### How will the war on Gaza end?

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- There could be foreign-mediated negotiations that will foresee the end of the Israeli attacks against the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza.

There could be a wider conflict in the region that would force the Israeli regime to end its "indiscriminate" strikes. Indiscriminate is a term that is now being used by President Joe Biden, but his administration is sending more weapons to Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the regime will fight for as long as it takes to "eradicate Hamas".

This statement should be studied and considered in the context of one of the scenarios on how the war will end.

According to analysts, the Israeli regime is committed to continuing its aggression against Gaza for many weeks and perhaps even for many months to come.

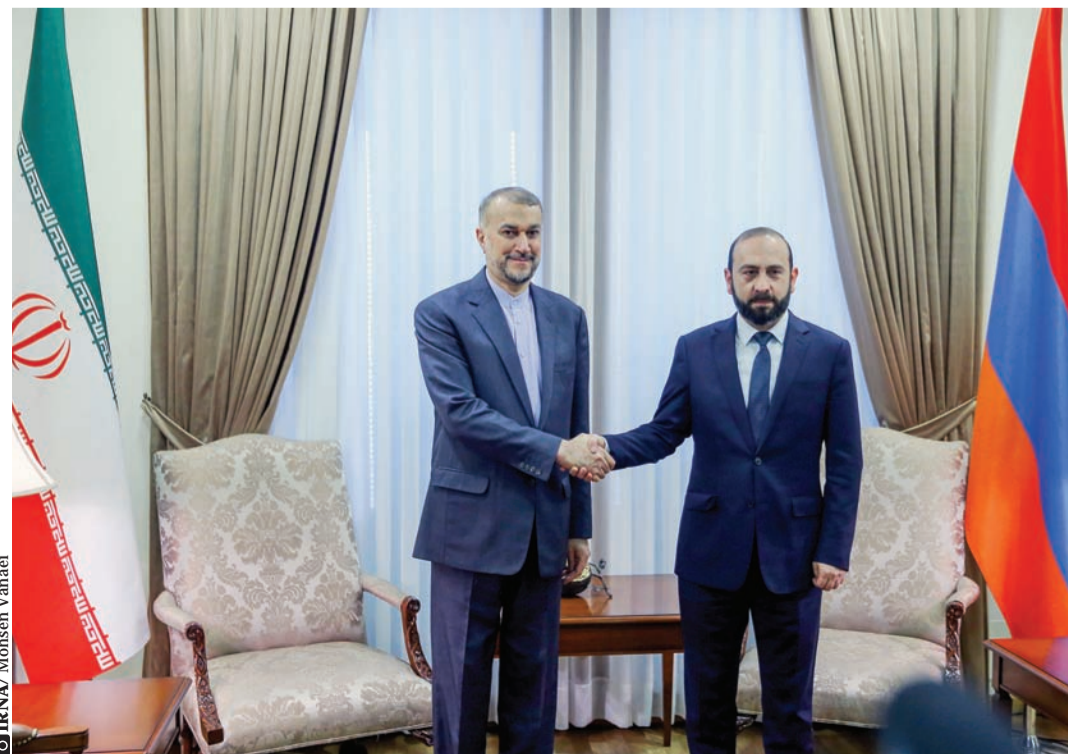
What can shorten that period of many weeks and many months because the longer the war continues, the more Palestinian civilians will be killed, the majority of whom are women and children. ▶ Page 5

### Nicaragua calls for boosting technological ties with Iran

TEHRAN – In a meeting between Amir-Hossein Mir-Abadi, an official with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and Denis Moncada, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Moncada asked for expanding technological ties with Iran.

While visiting Iran House of Innovation and Technology (IHIT) in Tehran on Tuesday, Moncada asked Iranian knowledge-based companies to present their products in Nicaragua's market, and share their technological knowledge with Nicaragua, IRNA reported.

He went on to laud Iranian knowledge-based companies achievements as expressing Nicaragua's interest in cooperating with these companies in various fields, including fisheries, agriculture, renewable energy, health, and etc. ▶ Page 7



### Iran FM visits Armenia amid peace talks

TEHRAN – In a significant diplomatic move, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, has arrived in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia amid a flurry of diplomatic activities to achieve lasting peace in the South Caucasus region.

Accompanied by a distinguished political and parliamentary delegation, Minister Amir Abdollahian embarked on this crucial mission to engage in discussions with Armenian authorities.

The warm reception at Yerevan airport, orchestrated by high-ranking officials of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, marked the beginning of the visit. ▶ Page 3

### Yazd named 2024 tourism capital of Asian dialogue forum

TEHRAN - Yazd, a central Iranian city steeped in historical significance and cultural richness, has achieved a momentous honor by being designated as the tourism capital among member countries of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), a continent-wide forum, in 2024.

This significant announcement, marking Yazd as the nucleus for international discussions and collaborations within the ACD, stands as a testament to the city's profound heritage and enduring allure.

Iran, presiding over the ACD since October 2023, witnessed Yazd's triumph over candidates Kerman and Mashhad, solidifying its position as a beacon of cultural exchange and cooperative diplomacy. ▶ Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

Iran's new trade relations with Shanghai and BRICS through Eurasia

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

In a note, Kayhan dealt with the signing of the free trade agreement between Iran and Eurasia. The paper said: The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy considered the signing of the free trade agreement with Eurasia as a new horizon. Because through it, Iran is connected to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, ECO, and BRICS. Iran has a very good knowledge of the goods needed by the member countries of the Eurasia Union and the Commonwealth, and recently the standard of Iranian car parts has also been accepted. The free trade agreement for the first time faces Iran with a significant volume of exports and imports in the world; therefore, this agreement is an important measure to defeat the sanctions policies of the West, despite the sanctions of the past years. On the other hand, Iran's membership in the Shanghai Organization and the ECO Cooperation Organization along with some members of the Eurasian Economic Union can be a capacity to enter third countries and provide many commonalities for the market of other countries.

**Shargh: The new claim of the International Atomic Energy Agency is the same old words**

In an article, Shargh addressed the new allegations of the International Atomic Energy Agency and said: Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, on Tuesday, in his latest report to the member countries of the Agency about Iran's activities in the field of enrichment, claimed that Iran has been producing uranium in recent weeks. It has increased its enrichment by 60%. According to Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization, this report is not new and we are doing 60% enrichment. In fact, this is propaganda that the White House, 3 European countries, and Israel always use. They are under the pressure of public opinion for the crimes they have committed in Gaza and they are very interested in changing the atmosphere. By raising these issues, they want to divert attention from Gaza and focus on Iran.

**Hamshahri: Iran will respond to the crimes of the Zionists**

Hamshahri analyzed the criminal act of the Zionist regime and wrote: The assassination of

martyr Mousavi who was present at the invitation of the Syrian government as a military adviser, is considered a clear violation of international law. In such a situation, the authorities of the Zionist regime must know that such a criminal act will not be definitely unanswered. The Islamic Republic will give a firm response to such heinous acts at the right time. Actions such as the assassination of Iran's military advisor in Syria, who was present in this country in order to fight terrorism, are carried out in the hope that it will lead to Iran's reaction and involvement with the United States and other Western governments supporting Tel Aviv in the war. The main point is that an appropriate response should be given to such actions at the right time. In the current situation of developments in the region and the occupied territories, the position of the Islamic Republic is that it may be a little early to take direct action. Necessary investigations should be done in this field because there are other tools for responding.

**Iran: The expansion of Iran's foreign relations will defeat America**

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the psychological operations of enemies against Iran. It wrote: Iran's foreign relations can be very successful in defeating America's strategy against Iran. The Shanghai Agreement, BRICS, and the normalization of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia were among the important measures taken by Iran and contributed to the failure of this strategy to an acceptable extent. Iran's foreign policy has been effective in the Gaza war. American analysts have concluded that although America was able to form a good consensus against Putin in the context of the Ukraine war, it is isolated in the Gaza war; the strategy was to introduce Iran as a threat and say that such an attack was done with Iran's support to Hamas, but the opposite happened. In fact, Iran's foreign relations and its role in the country's diplomacy, which began with the start of the Gaza war, turned America's strategy to the detriment of this country and isolated the United States. Therefore, the more Iran's foreign relations expand, the more it can defeat the U.S. government's strategy.

**Iran envoy reiterates rights to retaliate against Israel**

From page 1 ▶ At 4:20 pm on Monday 25 December 2023, Seyed Razi Mousavi, a senior military advisor who was on a mission supporting the Syrian Army in its anti-terrorism efforts near Damascus, was tragically martyred by three missiles fired from the Israeli regime's positions in the occupied Golan Heights. This heinous and terrorist act represents the second assault on Iranian advisors this month, following a strikingly similar attack perpetrated by the Israeli regime on 2 December 2023. Tragically, this earlier attack led to the martyrdom of two Iranian military advisors, Mohammad Ali Ataee Shoorche and Panah Taqizadeh.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally condemns these heinous and cowardly acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Israeli regime. Iran reserves its legitimate and inherent right, under international law and the United Nations Charter, to respond decisively at an appropriate time deemed necessary. Iran also reaffirms the inherent right of the Syrian Arab Republic, under international law, to take all necessary measures in

response to terrorist attacks and acts of aggression by the Israeli regime against its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Undeniably, the Israeli regime bears responsibility for the tragic loss of innocent lives of Iranian military advisors as well as for its atrocities against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Syrian Arab Republic. Iran undoubtedly holds this regime accountable for such heinous crimes.

The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the UN Security Council to fulfill its charter obligation in the maintenance of international peace and security and strongly condemn the Israeli regime's malevolent activities and its acts of aggression and terrorism in the region, which pose a serious threat to global peace and security. This regime must be compelled to comply with international law and abandon its destabilizing activities in the region.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

**General Mousavi a tireless supporter of entire resistance front: IRGC chief**

TEHRAN- Major General Hossein Salami, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), has called General Mousavi "a unique and reliable" person who had permanently supported the entire resistance front.

Speaking on Wednesday, General Salami highlighted martyr Mousavi's influence on the governments and armies of the host countries.

"Martyr Mousavi is a brave and unknown commander, but famous and shining in the sky. And he had amazing effects during more than 3 decades and almost 37 years of emigration in Syria and

Lebanon," the general added.

He added, "I offer my congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of the loyal comrade of Hajj Qassem Soleimani."

"These martyrdoms represent new growths of divine virtues, which are multiplied by the martyrdom of these loved ones, and the fragrance of the presence of these great commanders and martyrs spreads through the atmosphere of the society," the top general noted, adding that anyone who encounters these pleasant scents of patience, perseverance, and jihad becomes a new mujahid.

**Lavrov reiterates Moscow respect for Iran territorial integrity**

TEHRAN- Sergei Lavrov, the Foreign Minister of Russia, has reiterated Moscow's regard for Iran's territorial integrity in response to the Islamic Republic's rejection of an Arab-Russian statement that supported the United Arab Emirates' baseless claim over three Iranian islands.

In a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Tuesday, the top diplomat for Russia stated, "Russia cordially, honestly, and unconditionally respects Iran's territorial integrity."

Lavrov said, "And this is Moscow's inflexible position."

Since December 20, when the final statement of the 6th Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum, held in Morocco, reiterated the UAE's baseless claims to the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb, and the Lesser Tunb, Russia has repeatedly vowed to respect Iran's territorial integrity.

Iran's Foreign Ministry expressed "strong protest" in writing to the Russian envoy over Moscow's continuous support for the "groundless claims" that were contained in the statement, and on Saturday it summoned the Russian chargé d'affaires to Tehran in protest over the statement.

In a Friday telephone conversation between Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov, Iran asserted its territorial integrity, designating the Iranian trio islands as an inseparable part of the nation's sovereign territory.

**Russian diplomat says U.S., E3 thwarted JCPOA resuscitation last year**

TEHRAN- A top Russian official has criticized the U.S. and the European parties to the Iran nuclear deal for impeding the agreement's resuscitation.

"According to the #IAEA report, #Iran has reversed a months-long slowdown in the rate at which it is enriching uranium to up to 60% purity," Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's Permanent Representative to International Organizations in Vienna, wrote in an X post on Tuesday night.

"FYI: if the #US and #E3 had not blocked the restoration of the #JCPOA last year, the enrichment level in Iran would not exceed 3,67% now," he said, referring to the deal by its official acronym. It comes as the UN nuclear watchdog reported that Iran had reversed a months-long delay in refining uranium to up to 60% purity.

According to Reuters, Iran has "increased its production of highly enriched uranium, reversing a previous output reduction from mid-2023," the IAEA said in a statement on Tuesday.

The U.S. and the European troika are to blame, according to Iran's UN envoy, for the deadlock in the Vienna negotiations on the revival of the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"The responsibility for the JCPOA's current situation rests squarely and exclusively with the United States and then with the E3/EU for their multiple cases of 'significant non-performances' of their obligations under the JCPOA as well as continuous systematic material breaches of their explicit legal obligations under resolution 2231," Saied Iravani said in an address to a meeting of the UN Security Council on "non-proliferation: implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)," held in New York in December.

Also in the same month, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said Iran would not

**Defense chief vows to respond to Israel at proper time and place**

TEHRAN- Iran's Defense Minister vowed to retaliate against the Zionist regime for its cowardly terrorist act that claimed the life of IRGC General Razi Mousavi in Syria.

General Mohammad-Reza Ash-tiani issued a statement follow-

**Commander says Iran ready to respond to any threat**

TEHRAN- Iranian Army Ground Force Commander Kioumars Heydari reaffirmed on Wednesday that the army is prepared to respond to any threat, at any time, and in any location.

During a visit to the 840th Missile Group, General Heydari highlighted the Army's plan to establish five additional missile bases across the country to enhance its combat readiness and defense capabilities.

"In line with the Leader's directive to insti-



The phone call touched upon key issues addressed at the 6th Arab-Russian Cooperation Forum in Morocco in regard to the three Iranian islands. Amir Abdollahian emphasized the rejection of any claims made by external parties regarding this matter.

The top Iranian diplomat addressed the trio islands as an integral part of Iran's territorial integrity, stating, "Concerning Iran's territorial integrity and governance matters, we hold no formalities with any party."

Amir Abdollahian acknowledged the positive and growing relations between Iran and Russia, highlighting that respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries is a fundamental principle in international relations.

Numerous historical, legal, and geographical records from Iran and other countries throughout the world attest to the fact that the three Persian Gulf islands have traditionally been a part of Iran. On the other hand, the UAE has presented claims to the is-

lands on several occasions.

The British lost control of the islands in 1921, but Iran regained control over them on November 30, 1971, two days before the United Arab Emirates was set to become an official federation and one day after British soldiers departed the region.

**Iran, Azerbaijan FMs review developments in South Caucasus**

On Tuesday evening, the foreign ministers of Iran and Azerbaijan spoke over the phone on bilateral ties and the most recent events in the South Caucasus.

Amir Abdollahian mentioned his visit to Armenia and expressed satisfaction with the state of the peace negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia during the phone call.

He underlined once more Iran's ongoing positive efforts to bring about a long-lasting peace between Baku and Yerevan.

Jeyhun Bayramov, for his part, provided a good assessment of the negotiating process between Azerbaijan and Armenia while also praising Iran's supportive stances.



Consequently, Washington's European allies, including France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, aligned with the sanctions by curtailing their trade activities with Iran.

The "maximum pressure" campaign initiated by Trump, although falling short of achieving its intended goals, had severe repercussions on ordinary Iranians, especially those grappling with life-threatening illnesses. Even with the change in administration to Joe Biden, the sanctions persisted, constricting financial channels crucial for acquiring basic goods and medicine. This, in turn, disrupted supply chains by limiting the number of suppliers willing to facilitate the sale of humanitarian goods to Iran.

Despite claims by Washington and its Western allies that humanitarian goods were exempted from sanctions, tens of thousands of patients in Iran have over the years died or developed critical ailments due to the non-availability of essential drugs over the years. Iran vehemently denounced these sanctions as acts of "economic war," "economic terrorism," and "medical terrorism."

The subsequent Vienna talks, initiated in April 2021 with Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China, aimed at reinstating the JCPOA. Iran, firm in its stance, insisted on the verifiable removal of all U.S. sanctions and sought guarantees against a future abandonment of the agreement by Washington.

lences to Mousavi's family and the Iranian people, and reiterated that the Zionist regime's cowardly actions would not be tolerated. He assured that the right time and place would come when a powerful response would be given to the Zionist enemy.

enhance combat readiness," he affirmed.

"Relying on the expertise of domestic and local experts, the Army Ground Force has consistently emphasized the four characteristics of long-range, pinpoint accuracy, intelligence, and network capability in the production, and design of its weapons and missiles," the commander remarked. With this emphasis on self-reliance and advanced weaponry, General Heydari asserted that the Iranian Army Ground Force is capable of effectively countering any threat that may arise.



## Door open for women's political, social activities in Islam

TEHRAN- In a meeting with a group of women, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, explained the logical and rational view of Islam regarding the various dimensions of the presence of women in the family and their unlimited activity in society, politics and management at various levels.

The meeting took place at the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on Wednesday, a week before the birth anniversary of Lady Fatimah Zahra (pbuh), which also marks Women's Day on the Iranian calendar, according to khamenei.ir

The Leader considered the identity of a woman, her values, rights, duties, freedoms and limitations as a vital and very pivotal issue, while underlining that there are two general approaches to women's issues in the world that oppose each other – a Western approach and an Islamic approach.

Ayatollah Khamenei explained that the Western civilizational and cultural system often avoids

discussions that revolve around women's issues. He further added because Westerners have no logic regarding women, they try to convey their point of view through controversies, through rowdiness, by paying political and non-political figures to say what they want, by using art, literature, and cyberspace as tools, and by dominating international centers that are related to women.

While noting that the official statistics on moral corruption in the West is appalling, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution raised a question about the West's conduct towards women: "Why is it that every issue that destroys families becomes more highlighted in the West every day, while, in contrast to this, we see no condemnation or serious action being taken against the perpetrators who attack women that wear a hijab?"

Ayatollah Khamenei asserted that Islam's approach to the issue of women is based on logic and reasoning and is the exact opposite of the Western approach.

"The issue of women is one of the strengths of Islam and it should not be presumed that we need to provide answers for issues relating to women," he added.

The Leader considered gender equality with regards to a person's dignity and values as one of the constituents of Islam's strong rationale. "With regards to human values and spiritual ascension, neither gender is favored over the other."

In addition to this, he added that, "In the fields of spirituality, God has even sometimes preferred women over men in the Quran and introduced women such as the Pharaoh's wife [Asiya] and Maryam [the mother of Jesus (pbuh)] as role models for all believers."

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei also remarked that being present in the society and undertaking social responsibilities are some of the other areas where men and women can equally play an active role. "According to Ayatollah Khamenei, being

involved in the politics and the fundamental issues of the country is the right and duty of women. Furthermore, according to certain hadiths, everyone has a duty to deal with society's affairs and this includes paying attention to the affairs of Muslims, such as the current issue that is taking place in Gaza."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution considered family duties to be an area in which men and women have different duties according to their physical and mental capabilities. "Based on this, the slogan 'gender equality' which some state in absolute form is wrong, and that which is correct is actually 'gender justice.'"

Ayatollah Khamenei asserted that a woman's special duties such as the raising of her children is in accordance with a woman's mental, physical and emotional format. "Even though the duties of men and women differ in the family, they still have equal family rights according to that which is specified in the Holy Quran."

## Iran FM visits Armenia amid peace talks

From Page 1 ▶ Notable figures, including Vahan Kostanyan, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Hayk Darbinyan, the head of Second Division for Bilateral Relations in Armenian Foreign Ministry, and other esteemed officials, were present at the reception ceremony.

This diplomatic endeavor aimed to encompass a spectrum of topics, ranging from political and economic collaboration to cultural exchange. Furthermore, the discussions were to delve into pressing matters concerning the South Caucasus region, emphasizing cooperation within the framework of the 3+3 cooperation format.

Crucially, bilateral meetings between the Foreign Ministers of Iran and Armenia are poised to pave the way for constructive dialogues, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation. In a joint press conference with Ararat Mirzoyan, the Armenian Foreign Minister, Minister Amir Abdollahian expressed contentment with the visit, highlighting Iran's alignment with peace, stability, and security in Armenia.

"Iran aspires for Armenia to experience peace, stability, and security, emphasizing that sustainable peace, untainted by external interventions, and facilitated by regional

guarantors, can yield significant advantages for all parties involved," he noted.

An additional announcement unveiled during the discussions pertained to the inauguration of the Armenian Consulate in Tabriz. Amir Abdollahian conveyed Tehran's approval for this consulate, expressing optimism about the official ceremony taking place in the early weeks of the new Gregorian year.

Acknowledging Armenia's dedicated pursuit of sustainable peace, the top Iranian diplomat shed light on recent dialogues with Azerbaijani counterparts, emphasizing their joint commitment to peace. Optimism prevailed regarding the prospects of enduring peace in the early months of the new Gregorian year. "Iran, Turkey, and Russia were proposed as potential regional guarantors to foster peace in the South Caucasus between Armenia and Azerbaijan," Amir Abdollahian added.

In a continuation of the press briefing, the Iranian Foreign Minister commended the constructive stances of the Armenian Foreign Minister during the recent meeting of 3+3 cooperation format's Foreign Ministers in Tehran. He expressed gratitude to Armenia for opposing warfare and atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, underscoring the need to prevent the Zionist regime from committing more

crimes in the region.

Addressing the United States, Amir Abdollahian cautioned that an honorable resolution to the Gaza issue necessitates halting extensive military support for the Zionist regime. He asserted the improbability of a Zionist regime victory in Gaza, saying that the 80-day Gaza massacre that started from October 7 has caused Israel nothing but pure defeat and humiliation in front of the global community. He urged the U.S. not to persist in a path of failure and to let the people of Gaza determine their fate.

In another notable development, Minister Amir Abdollahian had a bilateral meeting with Nikol Pashinyan, the Prime Minister of Armenia, underscoring the commitment of both nations to strengthen ties and explore new collaboration opportunities. These diplomatic efforts underscore Iran's commitment to positive neighborly relationships and regional stability. As discussions unfold, the world watches, anticipating outcomes that could potentially shape the geopolitical landscape of the South Caucasus region.

The diplomatic efforts exemplify the ongoing commitment of Iran to cultivate positive relationships with its neighbors and contribute to regional stability.

## Interior minister calls terrorism sign of Israel's weakness

TEHRAN- Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has called terrorism a sign of weakness of the declining Zionist regime, emphasizing that the regime is facing a certain downfall.

Following the martyrdom of former IRGC advisor Seyyed Razi Mousavi in Syria on Monday by the Zionist regime's attack in the Zainabiyah area of Damascus, the interior minister issued a

message on Wednesday where he congratulated and condoled the martyrdom of Seyyed Razi Mousavi.

"The barbaric attack of the Zionist criminal regime on Damascus, which led to the martyrdom of Brigadier General Seyyed Razi Mousavi, one of IRGC's senior military advisers in Syria, is undoubtedly a clear sign of the powerlessness and

incapacity of the Zionist regime," Vahidi reiterated.

Vahidi also touched on the resounding and certain response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to this crime.

"Undoubtedly, the irreparable defeat of the Zionist regime in the battle against the brave Palestinian resistance has forced this regime to resort helplessly

and commit crimes. However, this regime knows that it is going to be destroyed, that it will never return to the day before October 7, and it is facing the inevitable downfall," he added.

General Razi Mousavi, one of the advisors of the IRGC Quds Force and a friend and companion of General Qassem Soleimani, was supporting the resistance axis in Syria.

## IRGC addresses assassination of senior commander, promising swift response

TEHRAN - Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has asserted its commitment to respond to any disruptive actions in the region, particularly in the aftermath of the recent martyrdom of Iranian Commander Seyyed Razi Mousavi.

In a press conference held on Wednesday, Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, the spokesperson for Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps, discussed the implications of Commander Mousavi's assassination in Syria.

Expressing condolences, General Sharif underscored the continuous battle against security threats, reiterating the IRGC's dedication to safeguarding the Islamic Revolution of Iran. He highlighted Commander Seyyed Razi's pivotal role in fortifying the security of Iran's borders.

He highlighted that the killing of Mousavi represents a persistent breach of international laws by the Israeli government. He urged the global community to intervene and put an end to the actions of the occupying regime, emphasizing the threat it poses to international peace and security.

Praising Mousavi's diplomatic contributions, especially during ISIS attempts to destabilize the Syrian nation and assist the Zionists, General Sharif provided context to the international impact of the commander's efforts.

Addressing Iran's response, General Sharif assured that it would be swift and decisive.

In response to inquiries about a potential Gaza ceasefire, General Sharif outlined the Israeli regime's primary objective: the complete eradication of Hamas and the displacement of

innocent Palestinians from their homes. Given this objective, he expressed skepticism about the likelihood of a ceasefire. General Sharif confidently stated that the first aftershock of Al-Aqsa Storm would mark the collapse of the Zionist regime, a development evident throughout the ongoing events.

Touching on Yemen's actions against the Zionist regime, General Sharif expressed admiration for Yemen's intelligence in supporting Gaza's oppressed population.

Brigadier General Seyyed Razi Mousavi, a senior IRGC member, was martyred in an Israeli airstrike in the Zeinabiyeh district of Damascus on Monday. Seyyed Razi played a crucial role in providing logistics support for the Resistance Front in Syria and was a companion of the late Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

### Momeni to vie for Best Men's Goalkeeper

TEHRAN - Iran's men's futsal team goalkeeper Saeid Momeni was nominated for the Futsalplanet Awards 2022 Best Goalkeeper in the World.

The 23rd edition of the annual futsal prizes was released by Futsalplanet.com on Monday.

The Best men's Goalkeeper in the World nominees are as follows:

#### Nominees

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Andre Melo Bandeira Almeida Sousa (POR)

SL Benfica (POR) - PORTUGAL N.T.

Didac Plana Oltra (ESP)

Barça (ESP) - SPAIN N.T.

Giovanni González (PAR)

Club Cerro Porteño (PAR) - PARAGUAY N.T.

Thiago Mendes Rocha «Guitta» (BRA)

Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR) - BRAZIL N.T.

Leonardo De Melo Vieira Leite "Higuita" (BRA/KAZ)

Kairat Almaty (KAZ) - KAZAKHSTAN N.T.

Guilherme Kuromoto (BRA/JPN)

Tachikawa Athletic FC (JPN) - JAPAN N.T.

Lucas Cássio de Oliveira (BRA)

SC Corinthians Paulista (BRA)

Saeid Momeni (IRN)

Crop Alvand FSC (IRN) - IR IRAN N.T.

Nicolás Sarmiento (ARG)

Real Betis Futsal (ESP) - ARGENTINA N.T.

Diego Roncaglio (BRA)

Sport Lisboa e Benfica (POR) - R.S.C. Anderlecht (BEL) - BRAZIL N.T.

### Iran's men's futsal team nominated for Futsalplanet Awards

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Best Men's National Team in the World nominees are as follows:

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Argentina

Brazil

Iran

Japan

Morocco

Paraguay

Portugal

Spain

Thailand

Uzbekistan



### Female rower Malaei announces surprise resignation

TEHRAN - Iranian female rower Nazanin Malaei announced surprise resignation on Wednesday. She represented Iran at the 2020 Olympic Games, where she ranked 11th in the Women's single sculls. Malaei has won six gold medals in the Asian Championships as well as two silver and two bronze medals. Iran rowing coach Afshin Farzam has said Malaei has not participated in the national team qualification test.

"I was informed last night and didn't about that but she can take part in the qualification test's second round in the next two weeks," Farzam said.

## Russia allocates 6.5b-ruble credit line to Iran to expand banking ties



TEHRAN- Russia allocated a credit line worth 6.5 billion rubles to Iran during the visit of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Mohammad-Reza Farzin to Moscow, the CBI portal published.

As reported by the Public Relations Department of the CBI, following the trip of Farzin to Russia with the aim of increasing monetary and banking cooperation with this country and also strengthening relations within the framework of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), a meeting was held between the directors of Sberbank of Russia and Bank Melli Iran (BMI), based on that, a credit line worth 6.5 billion rubles was created for Iran to import basic goods from Russia.

In this meeting, which was attended by Farzin, directors from Sberbank of Russia and Bank Melli of Iran emphasized the opening of a 6.5 billion-ruble credit line between Iran and Russia.

This credit line is supposed to become operational by Sberbank and BMI to finance the import of basic goods needed by Iran.

The credit is based on the brokerage agreements and contracts concluded between the two banks in a minimal form and as the beginning of banking operations.

It should be noted that the opening of this credit is the first important step in the direction of the development of cooperation between Iran and Russia after the signing of the free trade agreement between Iran and EAEU.

Iran and the member states of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Armenia, signed a free trade agreement (FTA) in a ceremony in St. Petersburg on Monday.

Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Abbas Aliabadi signed this agreement, which is the result of more than two years of negotiations and expert work, on behalf of Iran.

On behalf of the EAEU, the deputy prime ministers of the member countries signed the agreement.

The signing ceremony was attended by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari, EAEU Minister in Charge of Trade Andrey Slepnev, Iran's Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, and a number of EAEU officials.

After signing, this agreement needs to be approved by the parliaments of six countries (Iran and EAEU five member states) in order to become a law and become operational.

According to the information received by the IRNA reporter in St. Petersburg from the free trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU, the parties will completely eliminate tariffs for 87 percent of goods in their trade exchanges.

In the meantime, each of the parties prepares a negative list that includes goods that are considered sensitive goods for one of the parties and it is not possible to remove the tariff.

\*\*\* Iran's first LC opened after years

Following the consultations and creation of monetary and banking platforms and technical negotiations of the Central Bank of Iran, the first LC of Iran's banking network abroad was opened by Bank Sepah in Russia.

This action is unprecedented after Trump's sanctions or the so-called "maximum pressure

policy".

As reported by the CBI Public Relations Department, the value of this LC, which has been used since Wednesday (December 27), is 17 million euros to begin with, and it is used for imports with the condition of long-term payment.

This mutual and pioneering cooperation will represent the beginning of a new chapter of Iran's banking relations with other countries.

In fact, this credit opening has provided the possibility of easy and creditable purchases by Iranian traders from Russia, which will help in facilitating imports to the country.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of trade between Iran and Russia rose 18 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that 3.748 million tons of products worth \$1.756 billion were traded between the two neighbors in the mentioned eight-month period.

The weight of eight-month bilateral trade also rose 43 percent year on year, the official added.

He put the value of Iran's export to Russia at \$616.326 million in the first eight months of the present year, which was 32 percent higher than the figure of the same period of time in the past year.

The IRICA head also announced that Iran imported commodities valued at \$1.14 billion from Russia in the eight-month period, with 12 percent growth, year on year.

Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps to boost their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic exchanges between the two countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21, upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

As major players in the world and West Asia's political and economic scene, Iran and Russia have been expanding political and economic ties for many years, however, the relations between the two countries have entered a whole new level over the past few months.

The imposition of sanctions on both countries has been a major factor in bringing the two sides closer together, making them a strong alliance against U.S. pressures. Over the past few months, senior officials from the two sides have been meeting and visiting each other to consolidate bilateral cooperation in various fields, including energy, oil, gas, and transit, as well as diplomatic and political relations.

As the most significant event among the mentioned exchanges, Russia's President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran on July 19 to attend the 7th Summit of the Guarantor States of the Astana Process.

During his visit to Tehran Putin met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Raisi and exchanged views on the recent development in the world and the relations between the two countries.

In these meetings, the two sides reached new agreements and stressed the need to take the necessary measures for broadening political and economic ties between the two countries to nullify the impacts of the U.S. sanctions.

Among other issues, Tehran and Moscow have been negotiating a free trade agreement to ensure acceleration in the economic relations between the two countries.

## TEDPIX drops nearly 1,300 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 1,296 points (0.06 percent) to 2,177,455 on Wednesday, which is the fifth day of Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

# Iran exports non-oil commodities worth \$36.43b in 9 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported 101.904 million tons of non-oil goods valued at \$36.43 billion during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-December 21), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that the nine-month non-oil export indicates 26.48 percent growth in weight, but 0.68 percent fall in value, year on year.

The official also said that the country's exports in the first nine months of this year, including oil, electricity, and technical and engineering services, and excluding the export via suitcase trade, reached \$63.97 billion.

Appreciating the cooperation of the Ministries of Oil, Energy, and Industry, Mining and Trade in providing relevant statistics, he said: "It is for the first time that the statistics of the export of oil, electricity and technical and engineering services along with the export of non-oil goods are published by the customs. This government action is aimed at transparency in the performance of foreign trade."

The IRICA head put the value



of the export of oil at \$26.46 billion, electricity at \$300 million, and technical and engineering services at \$780 million in the nine-month period.

Rezvani-Far further announced that Iran has imported 28.7 million tons of goods worth \$48.42 billion in the first nine months of the present year, of which \$60 million was the value of electricity import.

The nine-month import indicates 12.29 percent rise in value and six percent growth in weight, year on year, he added.

He named China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, and India as the major export destinations of Iranian goods in the said time span, and the UAE, China, Turkey, Germany,

and India as the main sources of import.

The IRICA head said that the value of Iran's trade rose seven percent during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As previously announced by the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade, the value of Iran's non-oil export rose 10 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Ruhollah Latifi said that 122.056 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$53.166 billion were exported in the previous year.

China with the purchase of \$14.584 billion of commodities (no change), Iraq with \$10.238 billion (15 percent growth), Turkey with \$7.459 billion (23 percent growth), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$5.767 billion (28 percent growth), and India with \$2.146 billion (18 percent growth) were the first five export destinations of Iranian goods in 1401, the official stated.

Latifi further announced that 37.18 million tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$59.655 billion were imported to the country during the past year, with a 10 percent drop in weight, and a 13 percent rise in worth, year on year.

The UAE with sales of \$18.395 billion (11 percent growth), China with \$15.744 billion (24 percent growth), Turkey with \$6.99 billion (15 percent growth), India with \$2.019 billion (80 percent growth), and Germany with \$2.019 billion (five percent growth), were the first five countries supplying goods to Iran in 1401, he stated.

The official went on to say that the country's non-oil trade reached 159.236 million tons worth \$112.821 billion in the previous year, with an 11.2 percent growth year on year.

## Dushanbe hosts Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee meeting

TEHRAN - Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe hosted the 16th meeting of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee on December 26 and 27.

Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Tajikistan Energy and Water Resources Minister Daler Juma co-chaired of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

Meanwhile, the first specialized exhibition "Made in Iran" is being held on the sidelines of this meeting.

The exhibition, aimed at introducing the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in basic industries, with the presence of 30 top Iranian companies, is being held in Dushanbe, during December 26-29.

Iran and Tajikistan on November 8 signed a

joint statement and 18 cooperation documents and memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to deepen bilateral strategic relations.

The joint statement was signed between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe.

The documents and MOUs were inked by the Iranian and Tajik ministers in the presence of the two presidents.

As reported, the documents and MOUs pertained to a roadmap for the long-term bilateral trade and economic cooperation till 2030, mutual visa-free access, anti-drug trafficking operations, transportation, crisis management and the establishment of joint free economic zones, as well as inter-city

cooperation in various fields.

During a meeting earlier in the day, Raisi said Iran and Tajikistan could increase their annual trade transactions to \$500 million in the first step.

Raisi stressed that historical, religious, and cultural commonalities shared by the two countries provide a favorable ground for enhancing bilateral relations in all aspects.

The Tajik president, for his part, highlighted the necessity to develop bilateral ties, particularly in mining, health, science and technology, and agriculture sectors

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Raisi arrived in Dushanbe on November 8. During the day, he also attended a meeting of the two countries' traders and businessmen.

## Nearly 900 idle industrial units revived in Iran since late March



TEHRAN - Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Farshad Moghimi said that 897 idle industrial units have been revived in the country's industrial parks and zones since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

The mentioned units returning to the production cycle have created

jobs for about 36,000 persons, the official stated.

Over the past few years, many of the production units across Iran have been wrestling with financial issues as well as the problem of supplying their raw materials, so that, many have been forced to shut down or decrease their activities.

The Industry Ministry's program for reviving such units has tried to identify major problems and issues that the production units are facing in order to bring them back into the production cycle by resolving such problems.

In September, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi inaugurated 20 industrial, infrastructure, and development projects valued at 294.8 trillion rials (over \$60 million) in industrial parks and zones across the country through video conferencing.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Farshad Moghimi.

Put into operation in 11 different provinces, the mentioned projects were inaugurated on the occasion of the national day of supporting

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The projects include nine infrastructure projects with a total investment of 1.88 trillion rials (about \$3.82 million), seven industrial projects with an investment of 18.35 trillion rials (over \$37.8 million), and the revival of four idle industrial units with an investment of 9.24 trillion rials (over \$18.9 million).

As reported, the inauguration of the mentioned projects has created direct job opportunities for 723 people.

The projects were carried out in the provinces of Kermanshah, Markazi, Zanjan, Yazd, Alborz, Lorestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Golestan, Isfahan, Qazvin, and East Azarbaijan.

## Export from Kordestan province rises 26% in 8 months on year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, the value of non-oil export from Kordestan province, in the west of Iran, rose 26 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Taha Samiei, the deputy head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department for commercial affairs and trade development, said that non-oil goods worth \$335 million were exported from the province in the eight-month period of this year, while the figure was \$265 million in the same time span of the past year.

He put the weight of exported

goods at 738,000 tons in the first eight months of this year, which indicates 16 percent rise from 636,000 tons in the first eight months of the previous year.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports exceeded \$32 billion in the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran exported 90.044 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$32.243 billion in the mentioned eight months.

The non-oil exports in the mentioned period increased by 27

percent in terms of weight, and 1.6 percent in terms of value, year on year.

The average value of each ton of exported goods in the first eight months of the current year was \$358 while the average value of each ton of exported goods in the previous year's same period was reported to be \$462.

Liquefied natural gas, liquefied propane, methanol, petroleum bitumen, and liquefied butane were the five main exported goods in the period under review.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$9.158 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed

by Iraq with \$6.023 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$4.162 billion, Turkey with \$3.028 billion, and India with \$1.466 billion.

Meanwhile, some 24.709 million tons of goods valued at \$42.199 billion were imported into the country in the said period, indicating a 12.36-percent rise in terms of value, and a 4.32 percent increase in terms of weight, year on year.

The average customs value of each ton of imported goods during this period was \$1,708, which shows a 7.70 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

## WORLD HEADLINES

From page 1 ▶ The damage that the Palestinian resistance is inflicting on the regime's ground forces is one scenario that can put an end to this war and push the regime into serious negotiations over a prisoner exchange.

Experts say Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are doing exactly that by destroying the capabilities of the Israeli army.

It is important to highlight that the Israeli army had previously refrained from a ground incursion into Gaza, knowing the price its soldiers pay.

What changed this time was the calculations of the regime in that it lost hundreds of troops on October 7, and the consensus was that it would not lose so many in any ground offensives and so it decided to press ahead with "a ground invasion".

Some experts have pointed out that the Israeli regime is waging its ground offensives in three phases.

The initial 20-day bombardment is not considered a phase but a campaign of shock and awe, terror, and an attempt to weaken Palestinian morale. It didn't work, and so the Israeli regime headed for a ground offensive.

If the Israeli military wanted to claim its sovereignty over Gaza by only dropping bombs from the air it can neither "eradicate Hamas" nor bring about a victory which the regime is desperately seeking.

The first phase was the ground offensives in northern Gaza, where the Israeli military has yet to achieve anything.

A few days ago, Israel claimed it had taken control of northern Gaza, and today, most of the battles are taking place in northern Gaza.

The Israeli claims surrounding the al-Shifa hospital raid in northern



Gaza were one of the biggest scandals by the regime.

Where were those Hamas leaders and the Hamas command center that the Israeli military claimed were hidden under the hospital?

The Israelis didn't achieve anything in northern Gaza apart from its elite Golani forces withdrawing from the battlefield and returning to their bases, having suffered a large number of casualties.

The second phase has been Khan Younis, where the regime claims Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have fled to.

This is despite the fact that the Palestinian resistance is still fighting in northern Gaza. And if the resistance isn't killing Israeli soldiers in northern Gaza, then who is?

Again, the regime has suffered heavy losses in Khan Younis and is now speaking about a third phase.

From a logical point of view, there is no third point of destination for the Israeli army to operate in Gaza apart from Rafah?, which means, in the third phase, the fighting will expand to the Egyptian border.

The problem the regime faces is that it has been unable to break the

resolve of the Palestinian resistance.

What it is conducting is a campaign of death and destruction against civilians. It is reducing most of the enclave to rubble in a bid to please its settler population.

But this comes at a price that analysts believe will prove large for the regime to pay.

The military casualties will continue to grow to such an extent that the regime's army will suffer from severe fatigue and a lack of will to continue fighting.

Hamas says it has destroyed more than 750 Israeli military vehicles since the ground offensives began. Tanks are being blown up on a daily basis.

Yet the Israeli military still claims it is in control of parts of the urban areas of the Gaza Strip.

From a military perspective, controlling an area means clearing it first and then taking full control of that area, and only after that has been achieved, advancing to the next area.

But at the same time, the Israeli army must keep a second military unit stationed and in control of the first area so that it cannot be taken over again by the Palestinian resistance fighters.

So far, the Israeli military has been unable to establish this simple military strategy in urban warfare in one single spot of the Gaza Strip.

This is another major sign of weakness and fatigue among the Israeli army.

The longer it continues the ground offensives in Gaza, the more this fatigue will weigh into the Israeli army.

At the end of the day, Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant say the war in Gaza is extracting heavy prices, in reference to the Israeli soldiers who have been killed.

The Israeli military has announced that around 160 soldiers have been killed so far in Gaza. On a daily basis, it announces the names of 3, 5, 10, or 15 soldiers who are being killed.

Yet the number of around 160 soldiers who have been killed so far appears to have not been revised.

At the end of the day, it may not even be the number of Israeli army casualties (which some Israeli media outlets have put in the thousands and others in the tens of thousands - between those killed and injured - and then been forced to withdraw the reports by the regime itself).

It may not come down to casualties, although that would explain why the regime withdrew 10,000 soldiers from the north (against Hezbollah) and another 10,000 from the West Bank and deployed them to Gaza.

Experts believe the war will end when Israeli army fatigue begins to take a seriously heavy toll.

Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad are still firing missiles. They are still militarily intact. Their morale has increased according to analysts. And in phase two, Khan Younis, is where many predict more ferocious fighting will take place. Much more than in northern Gaza.

## Hamas attack shattered Netanyahu's long-cultivated image as "Mr. Security": American professor

TEHRAN - In an article published in the National Interest, American professor Paul Pillar says Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel shattered Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's long-cultivated image as Israel's "Mr. Security".

In his article headlined "Will Netanyahu be the end of Joe Biden's presidency?", the former chief of analytic units at the CIA says if Joe Biden loses the election in 2024, one of the reasons will be his "embrace" of Netanyahu who has no love for either "U.S. interests" or Biden's political prospects.

Following is the text of the article:

Israel's war in Gaza has become one of the biggest political negatives of Joe Biden's presidency. Part of this political fallout was inevitable once Hamas staged its attack on October 7. The attack, like most conspicuously untoward events in the world, would be perceived as a black mark on whoever occupies the White House at the time, regardless of whether a U.S. president could have done anything to prevent the event. Moreover, the attack upset the Biden administration's foreign policy strategy, which had assumed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would stay sufficiently sidelined, allowing the administration to focus more attention on other parts of the world.

But much of the fallout is of Biden's own making due to his immediate and unconditional embrace of Benjamin Netanyahu's Israeli government, an embrace that Biden has had difficulty backing away from since that same government started inflicting unspeakable death, destruction, and other suffering on the residents of the Gaza Strip. Now, Biden shares ownership of one of the largest manmade humanitarian catastrophes of the past half-century. His "bear hug" strategy of trying to restrain Netanyahu's government by staying close to him has largely failed. He has lost favor with much of his base within the Democratic Party, whose active support he will need to win re-election.

The most important consequences of these events involve the blow to U.S. interests, which has been painfully obvious as anger and resentment against the United States have surged. Washington has become increasingly isolated in international diplomacy, with a loss of support among other nations for U.S. objectives. But there are parallels with how domestic politics works against Biden. The motivations of the man Biden embraced have much to do with this.

Benjamin Netanyahu is in plenty of domestic political trouble himself. Hamas's attack shattered the prime minister's long-cultivated image as Israel's "Mr. Security." That shattering was reflected



### "Washington has become increasingly isolated in international diplomacy."

in polls immediately after the attack that showed a plunge in support among Israelis for Netanyahu and his Likud party.

To reverse this situation and rescue his political standing, Netanyahu has a strong incentive to continue Israel's devastating assault in Gaza and to disregard American entreaties regarding either restraint in the military operations or the need for a political resolution that provides for Palestinian self-determination. In the near term, the assault caters to the still unsated Israeli thirst for revenge against Palestinians. And even if Netanyahu can never restore his previous "Mr. Security" reputation, he can now pose as a leader who is steadfastly opposing, through force of arms as well as obdurate diplomacy, any establishment of a Palestinian state.

The resulting friction with the Biden administration is not a negative for Netanyahu and is even a plus. The friction demonstrates to Israeli constituents the prime minister's determination to stand up to any U.S. pressure to allow a Palestinian state. Besides, the current of influence in the U.S.-Israeli relationship still flows in the one direction in which it usually flows. U.S. military aid is still coming, and the dynamics within American politics that have always kept the assistance flowing continue to deter Biden from attaching meaningful conditions to the support.

Then there are the corruption charges against Netanyahu, the trial for which recently resumed after an interruption of several weeks because of the Hamas attack and the war. That personal legal problem provides additional motivation for Netanyahu to continue hardline policies that entail a war that distracts from everything else. Those policies also help to satisfy the most extreme elements in his right-wing coalition, thereby keeping that coalition together and further

delaying the day when he might have to face the full legal consequences of his conduct.

As for the effects of those policies on American domestic politics and how they weaken Biden's political position, this is a bonus for Netanyahu. Netanyahu would certainly be pleased to see Donald Trump beat Biden in the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Notwithstanding how far Biden has bent over backward to show support for Israel, the bending still does not match the flow of gifts Israel got from Trump, including moving the U.S. embassy to the contested city of Jerusalem, recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, and advancing a "peace plan" that would consign the Palestinians to permanent subordinate status rather than ever having their own state. The past political alliance between Trump and Netanyahu has been extensive, to the point of featuring each other in each man's campaign advertising.

This partnership reflects part of a longer-term trend, as documented by opinion polls, in American attitudes toward Israel increasingly breaking down along party lines. Although the Democrat Joe Biden personifies how the old bipartisan deference to Israel survives, it is the Republican Party that has become what former U.S. peace negotiator Aaron David Miller aptly calls the "Israel, right or wrong" party. The larger alliance is less one between the United States and Israel than between the Republican Party and the Israeli Right, which includes the Israeli government.

Amid these circumstances, Joe Biden appears to be a glutton for political punishment. Netanyahu has a long record of embarrassing and undermining Biden. Just hours after Biden, as vice president, visited Israel in 2010 and proclaimed unqualified U.S. support for Israeli security, a previous Netanyahu-led government announced more construction of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem. After Biden became president in 2021, Netanyahu falsely suggested, based on a misleadingly cropped video clip, that Biden had fallen asleep in a meeting with Naftali Bennett, the Israeli prime minister at the time.

In many ways, Joe Biden exemplifies an old-line American politician. In that respect, it was almost instinctive for him to resort to a traditional stay-out-of-trouble default position for American pols, which is to express at least as much love for Israel as any political opponent. Against the backdrop of the horrors in Gaza, that default is not working now for Biden. If he loses next year's election, there will be many reasons, but one of them will be his embrace of a foreign politician who has no love for either U.S. interests or Biden's political prospects.

## Cuba condemns 'genocide' committed by 'terrorist state of Israel'

On Tuesday, Cuba's president called for an end to Israel's war in the Gaza Strip, which has been raging for more than two-and-a-half months.

"The genocide committed by the terrorist state of Israel in Gaza is a humiliation for all humanity. How long will there be impunity? How long will there be a free way to murder? Cuba, which will never be among the indifferent, raises its voice for Palestine again and again," Miguel Diaz-Canel said on X.

The island nation has repeatedly condemned the violence in Palestine and even the Cuban Parliament declared solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On Dec. 20, Cuba's congress condemned "the killing of thousands of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, more than 70% of them children and women, as a result of the indiscriminate bombardments carried out by Israel since Oct. 7."

"The current situation is a consequence of 75 years of Israeli practices of illegal occupation and colonization, in flagrant violation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in their own territory," the declaration said.

The document also pointed to "the complicity of the United States government with this genocide by obstructing the actions of the UN Security Council through the undemocratic and obsolete power of veto to protect the excesses of the government of Israel". It added, "The impunity with which Israel has acted can only be explained by its confidence that there will be no consequences due to the support of the United States government."

## Gaza authorities say Israel steals organs from bodies of Palestinians

Local authorities in Gaza late Tuesday accused Israel of stealing organs from the bodies of Palestinians and urged for an international probe into it.

In a statement, the Gaza-based government media office said the examination of bodies revealed that their shapes changed significantly due to the theft of vital organs from the corpses.

It added that the Israeli army handed bodies without their names and refused to specify from where they were seized.

It also said that the Israeli army repeated such an act during the ongoing war on Gaza and also exhumed bodies from graveyards.

The statement criticized "the silent position of the international organizations operating in Gaza, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, towards such an awful crime by the (Israeli) occupation."

## US military base in northeastern Syria comes under missile attack

A US military base in northeastern Syria's Al-Hasakah governate came under a missile attack on Tuesday.

No casualties were reported in the attack on the base in the town of Al-Shaddadi, local sources told Anadolu.

There was no immediate comment by the US on the incident.

US military bases in northern and northeastern Syria including the Tanf area, the city of Al-Malikiyah on the border with Iraq, Al-Hasakah governate and Al-Shaddadi have been targeted many times.

The attacks have involved unidentified unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and ground-to-ground weapons.

## Russia warns Japan over providing Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine

A move by Japan to provide Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine will have "grave consequences" for Russia-Japan ties, Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.

Relations between Moscow and Tokyo, already difficult, have deteriorated sharply since Russia sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in Feb. 2022. Japan has joined its Western allies in imposing sweeping economic sanctions on Russia.

## Hamas faces 'unprecedented battle' against Israel, says Sinwar

Hamas is facing an "unprecedented battle" with Israel, Hamas leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar has said, in his first public message since the Oct. 7 attacks.

Sinwar also rejected any possibility of compromising to end the war.

Hamas, he said in a letter published by Al Jazeera on Monday, is "fighting a fierce, violent and unprecedented battle against the Israeli occupation forces, and the occupation army suffered heavy losses in life and equipment".

According to him, Hamas forces had killed more than a thousand Israeli soldiers.

## Russia tells South Korea not to be surprised if Moscow retaliates over sanctions

Russia told South Korea on Wednesday not to be surprised if Moscow retaliates against Seoul for expanding the list of goods which cannot be exported from the East Asian nation to Russia without special permission.

Seoul said this week it would add over 600 types of goods which could potentially be used for military purposes to its export control list for Russia.

The list includes heavy construction equipment, rechargeable batteries, aeronautical components, and some cars.

## Israel army arrests senior Palestinian lawmaker Jarrar

The Israeli army on Tuesday said it had arrested senior Palestinian politician Khalida Jarrar in the occupied West Bank, along with other activists of her leftist party.

Jarrar, 60, is a prominent figure in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a faction in the Palestine Liberation Organization considered a "terrorist" group by Israel, the United States and the European Union.

"Khaleda Jarrar, a wanted terrorist, was arrested... along with other PFLP activists," the army said in a statement.

Jarrar had been previously arrested by Israeli forces in October 2019 and released in September the following year, after being held without trial.

Her husband, Ghassan Jarrar, told AFP soldiers stormed the family home in the city of Ramallah "by breaking open the front door at 5:00 am (0300 GMT)".

Anybody or any political group or faction that opposes the occupation of Palestinian lands is called terrorist by Israel and its allies.

## Chinese media crew initiates documentary project at Iran's carpet museum



TEHRAN – A group of Chinese documentarians has commenced preparations for filming a documentary at the Carpet Museum of Iran, marking the initial stages of their project during their visit.

These documentarians are affiliated with China's national network and broadcast their programs through the Guangdong provincial network, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

Their primary objective is to produce and broadcast a documentary covering various cultural aspects of Iran on Chinese national television, the report said.

The head of this documentary team stated, "The cultural affinity between Iran and China, along with the deep-rooted cultural heritage of both countries, coupled with the interest of Chinese tourists in the Carpet Museum, inspired this documentary initiative."

The visit of these Chinese filmmakers to the Carpet Museum signifies a collaborative effort between nations to showcase and promote cultural exchange on a global platform.

Covering an area of 3,400 square meters, the Carpet Museum of Iran boasts a treasure trove of some 2,000 Persian carpets that date from the Safavid era onwards. It also puts on display a rich patchwork of rare and centuries-old rugs, kilims, and tableau rugs.

### Glimpses of Persian carpets

The art of carpet weaving has been an integral part of Iranian culture and tradition for millennia. They have long been sought after internationally due to their extraordinary quality and delicate designs.

Some say each handmade carpet is a scene that seems ageless, a procedure that can take as long as a year.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Fortress city of Fasil Ghebbi

In the 16th and 17th centuries, the fortress city of Fasil Ghebbi was the residence of the Ethiopian emperor Fasilidas and his successors. Surrounded by a 900-m-long wall, the city contains palaces, churches, monasteries, and unique public and private buildings marked by Hindu and Arab influences, subsequently transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries.

The serial property consists of eight components. Within the Fasil Ghebbi palace compound are: the Castle of Emperor Fasilidas, the Castle of Emperor Iyasu, the Library of Tzadich Yohannes; the Chancellery of Tzadich Yohannes; the Castle of Emperor David, the Palace of Mentuab and Banqueting Hall of the Emperor Bekaffa. The remaining seven components are located in and around the city of Gondar: the Debre Berhan Selassie (Monastery and church); the Bath of Fasilidas; Kiddush Yohannes; Qusquam (Monastery and Church); Thermal Area; the Sosinios (also known as Maryam Ghemb); the Gorgora (Monastery and Church) and the Palace of Guzara.

Between the thirteenth and seventeenth centuries, Ethiopian rulers moved their royal camps frequently. King Fasil (Fasilidas) settled in Gondar and established it as a permanent capital in 1636. Before its decline in the late eighteenth century, the royal court had developed from a camp into a fortified compound called Fasil Ghebbi, consisting of six major building complexes and other ancillary buildings, surrounded by a wall 900 meters long, with twelve entrances and three bridges.

The fortress city functioned as the center of the Ethiopian government until 1864. It has some twenty palaces, royal buildings, highly decorated churches, monasteries, and

To complete their work, weavers spend several months sitting in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of threads. These efforts have long put Iran's carpets among the most complex and labor-intensive handicrafts in the world. When the weaving is finally done, the carpet is cut, washed, and put out in the sun to dry.

Throughout history, invaders, politicians, and even enemies have left their impact on Iran's carpets. As mentioned by the Britannica Encyclopedia, little is known about Persian carpet-making before the 15th century, when art was already approaching a peak.

For instance, the Mongol invasion of the 13th century depressed Persia's artistic life, only partially restored by a revival under the Mongol Il-Khan dynasty (1256–1353). Although the conquests of Timur (who died in 1405) were in most respects disastrous to Persia, he favored artisans and spared them to work on his great palaces in Samarkand.

Later in the 17th century, there was a growing demand for the production of many gold and silver-threaded carpets that were ultimately exported to Europe. Some were made in Kashan, but many of the finest came from Isfahan. With their high-keyed fresh colors and opulence, they have affinities with European Renaissance and Baroque idioms.

At the beginning of the 18th century, nomads and town dwellers were still making carpets using dyes developed over centuries, each group maintaining an authentic tradition. Not made for an impatient Western market, these humbler rugs of the "low school" are frequently beautifully designed and are of good material and technique.

unique public and private buildings, transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries. The main castle has huge towers and looming battlemented walls, resembling a piece of medieval Europe transposed to Ethiopia. Beyond the confines of the city to the northwest by the Qaha River, there is a two-story pavilion of a bathing palace associated with Emperor Fasilidas. The building is a two-storey battlemented structure situated within and on one side of a rectangular pool of water which was supplied by a canal from the nearby river. The bathing pavilion itself stands on pier arches and contains several rooms reached by a stone bridge, part of which could be raised for defence. Subsequent rulers, such as Iyasu the Great, continued building, improving the techniques and architectural style, and expanded to the hills northwest of the city center, in the area known as Qusquam.

Fasil Ghebbi and the other remains in Gondar City demonstrate a remarkable interface between internal and external cultures, with cultural elements related to Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Ethiopian Jews, and Muslims. This relationship is expressed not only through the architecture of the sites but also through the handicrafts, painting, literature, and music that flourished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

After its decline in the 19th century, the city of Gondar continued to be an important commercial and transport hub for northwest Ethiopia. Some of the monuments still retain their original spiritual function and the surrounding landscape has significant cultural importance for the local inhabitants.

(Source: UNESCO)

# Iran's Yazd named 2024 tourism capital of Asian dialogue forum

From page 1 ▶ With 35 member nations, the ACD remains a prominent platform fostering economic, social, and cultural growth since its establishment in 2002.

Yazd's historical eminence, underscored by its UNESCO World Heritage status as the world's premier adobe city, further enhances its newfound role. Renowned for its architectural marvels, Yazd encapsulates a tapestry of historical monuments, earning titles such as the "land of wind towers" among its many enchanting accolades.

This prestigious recognition propels Yazd onto the global stage, celebrating its legacy as a guardian of ancient traditions and a pivotal bridge for nurturing dialogue and collaboration among nations.

### Yazd, a don't miss destination

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mud-



A view of Yazd, a UNESCO-registered historical city in central Iran

brick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Cultural heritage experts believe that Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in

the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving un-

derground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

The historical core of Yazd is chockfull of mudbrick houses, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years. The man-carved underground qanat system relies on snow-fed streams flowing down the foothills of surrounding mountains. The earliest water supply to Yazd is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 to 651 CE). However, many others have been continually repaired and used over time, and most surviving Ab-Anbars (traditional mudbrick cisterns) can today be traced to the late Safavid and Qajar periods.

## Hindu Caravanserai echoes Silk Road tales



A black-and-white photo of the 18th-century Hindu Caravanserai in Kerman, southern Iran.

TEHRAN – Situated on the eastern flank of the bustling Meydan-Qala Bazaar in Kerman lies an extraordinary gem of historical and cultural importance — the Hindu Caravanserai.

This two-story edifice silently echoes tales of a bygone era, offering an enchanting experience for visitors keen on glimpsing the historical significance of the Silk Road in Kerman.

Dating back to the 18th century, the caravanserai served as a pivotal inn along the ancient Silk Road trade route. Its strategic location between Yazd and Kerman transformed it into a bustling hub for merchants, traders, and travelers navigating the Iranian desert. Initially designated for Hindu merchants as a place of respite, the caravanserai embodies a fusion of Indian and Persian architectural styles.

Where does the name come from? Between 1850 and 1925 CE, Kerman experienced a 75-year British colonization. During this period, trade between Iranians and India flourished, with Kerman exporting shawls, rugs, and coats to India while importing sugar, candles, tea, spices, and textiles. This vibrant exchange bestowed upon this caravanserai the moniker of the Hindu Caravanserai.

A visit to the Hindu Caravanserai unfolds an unforgettable journey through the intricate tapestry of Iranian history and culture. Immerse yourself in its architectural splendor, meander through the adjacent bustling bazaar, and embrace the warmth of hospitality and cultural heritage this remarkable site presents.

Stepping into the massive inn, visitors are greeted by a grand courtyard adorned with intricately designed arches, captivating motifs, and elegant tilework. The symmetrical layout, complemented by picturesque inner courtyards, evokes an ambiance reminiscent of eras past. At the heart lies a fountain, once a sanctuary for weary travelers seeking solace from their arduous journeys.

Today, the labyrinthine hallways and interconnected chambers of the Hindu Caravanserai host a captivating array of handicraft shops, boutiques, and local artisans showcasing handwoven rugs, traditional pottery, exquisite jewelry, and ornate fabrics.

Beyond its architectural allure, the caravanserai serves as a vibrant cultural nucleus. Engage with local musicians and traditional dancers, savor the rich artistic heritage of

Iran, and converse with shop owners whose warm hospitality and deep craft knowledge promise insightful interactions.

Adjacent to the Hindu Caravanserai lies the mesmerizing Meydan-Qala Bazaar, a bustling market reflecting Kerman's vibrant lifestyle. Visitors can relish sumptuous Iranian cuisine at nearby eateries or immerse themselves in local culture observing daily life in the charming surrounding neighborhoods.

Moreover, a Hindu temple adjacent to the northern side of the caravanserai boasts its distinct architectural style, while the Henood Bazaar runs parallel to its northern side.

Accessing the Hindu Caravanserai is convenient from Kerman's city center, well-connected via Kerman International Airport catering to domestic and international flights. Various accommodation options, from luxury hotels to cozy guesthouses, ensure a comfortable stay for tourists.

Staying or merely visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can offer a memorable experience, allowing travelers to immerse themselves in the past. Envision the vibrant scenes of merchants haggling over prices while their camels leisurely chew on hay, reliving the essence of ancient times.

Earlier this year, a selection of 54 centuries-old roadside inns won a UNESCO label under the name: The Persian Caravanserai. The registration was made at the 45th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh, after carefully examining the proposed caravanserais located in 24 provinces across the country.

## Several 'first-ever' archaeological achievements in Beijing reveal city's cultural origins

Including a publication that reveals the latest conservation plans for the Great Wall of China, several archaeological achievements in Beijing over the past few years have recently been introduced to the public.

Major discoveries in several of the city's notable archaeological spots such as the Xingong site of the Xia (c.2070BC-c.1600BC) and Shang (c.1600BC-1046BC) dynasties and the Liulihe site known for its related DNA research were all included in the announcements.

The Xingong site is located in Beijing's Fengtai district. Prior to its discovery, there was no physical embodiment revealing what that part of Beijing looked like back during the Xia and Shang periods. Prolific artifacts including gold, jade and pottery wares were unearthed.

Ancient tombs discovered at the site were identified to have been created in multiple dynasties like the Xia, Shang as well the Qin (221BC-206BC) and Han (206BC-220CE).

"Even relics from the Qing Dy-

nasty were also found. The Xingong site proves the city's history developed continually, this is also a characteristic of China's historical civilization," archaeologist Lu Zhaojun told the Global Times.

With the support of high-tech DNA research, experts identified the occurrence of "intermarriage" after investigating nine human skeletons unearthed from the Liulihe site in Beijing's Fangshan district.

Ning Chao, the lead archaeologist of the project, said the discovery sheds light on the "burial patterns and potential social organization structure of the ancient Yan people." The Kingdom of Yan was a vassal state in what is today Beijing during the Zhou Dynasty (1046BC-256BC) more than 3,000 years ago.

"The Liulihe site reveals the 'origin' of Beijing," Ning noted.

The Jinzhongdu site is another blockbuster. It was the most important capital site of the Jin Dynasty and has witnessed how Beijing became a capital with different yet unified ethnic cultures.

The "horse face" Mamiyan ruin at

the Jinzhongdu site is one of the latest discoveries. Archaeologist Qu Fulin explained to the Global Times that it was a "defensive structure" that contributed to the Jinzhongdu site's "overall military system," a most needed function of an ancient capital.

Also hidden in the Jinzhongdu site was the earliest central axis of Beijing. It divided the northern and southern parts of the ruin with buildings symmetrically distributed along a central axis. Qu emphasized that such a configuration sheds light on the research of the construction of an ancient Chinese capital.

To further enhance the site's importance, an archaeological report titled Jinzhongdu (2019-2020): Archaeological excavation report of city wall ruins was published in 2023. It was the first publication in China to focus on the Jinzhongdu site.

Along with the report, a book called The Great Wall Archaeology of Beijing was also revealed.

It collects the major archaeological achievements of the Beijing sec-

tion of China's Great Wall between 2018 to 2022. Through the analysis of Great Wall remains in Beijing's six districts, like Pinggu and Mentougou, the book offers new suggestions for the future conservation of the Great Wall. "Identifying potential damage" has been seen as a priority.

In October, a total of 29 tombs were discovered to belong to the Lei family during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The Lei family was known for designing Qing imperial architecture including the prestigious the Summer Palace. The architectural aesthetics created by the Lei family is described as "Yangshi."

Inside of Beijing's cultural landmark the Palace Museum, its zaobanhu, a special agency manufacturing royal supplies, was found alongside a prolific amount of relics. Those relics include ceramics, glass and jade wares. Another discovery at the zaobanhu was that it dated back to the the Yuan (1279-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties.

(Source: Global Times)

# Iranian traditional medicine suggest ways to manage diabetes

TEHRAN – In traditional Iranian medicine, to treat diabetes, like other diseases, paying attention to the principles of a healthy life is essential.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that may involve all people from any age range. There are different types of diabetes, the type that seniors usually get involved in type 2 diabetes. Despite type 1 diabetes, called juvenile diabetes, type 2 diabetes occurs due to a bad lifestyle and obesity.

Watching one's diet, weight, and sleep play a key role in monitoring diabetes.

Getting a good night's sleep is very important in regulating digestion, metabolism, and lowering blood sugar.

It is recommended for patients to sleep about 6 to 8 hours (sleeping at 9 -11 p.m.) and getting up early in the morning (at 5 to 7a.m.).

New studies have also shown that sleeping less than 6 hours and more than 9 hours, as well as poor quality of sleep, have been associated with increased insulin resistance and risk of diabetes.

Sleeping late in the morning and taking a nap in the afternoon, is prohibited.

The patient's psychological



well-being plays a very important role in the prevention and control of diabetes. It seems that in many cases constant stress, prolonged sadness or even acute and short-term tension and anger can be considered as factors for the initiation or significant exacerbation of diabetes.

Very salty and fatty foods and snacks, beef, fried potatoes, leftovers and frozen foods, foods such as pasta and cheese and other high-fat cheeses and all kinds of sweets and sauces, canned goods, fast Foods such as pizza, sausages, soft drinks, chips should be removed from the patients' diet.

Replacing sugar with honey, dates or raisins is very effective in

treating diabetes.

Although eating fruits is useful, their excessive consumption can raise blood sugar, on the other hand, it is wrong to eliminate or drastically reduce fruit consumption; it is better to consume two to three portions of fruit per day.

It is important to provide carbohydrates using a combined diet of bread and rice.

Using nuts such as almonds (5 and 10 pieces) has beneficial effects in creating a feeling of satiety and preventing overeating and thus regulating blood sugar.

Daily physical activity is one of the best ways to prevent and control diabetes. Overweight people should avoid hard and vigorous

exercises.

Light soups containing vegetables such as coriander, fenugreek, parsley, purslane, nettle and spinach with small amounts of barley or rice and lentils can be a suitable meal for most people with diabetes.

Moreover, People with diabetes should avoid exposure to very cold and very hot weather. Breathing fresh air in less-polluted areas is very helpful, paying attention to seasonal changes and observing health tips for each season are other recommendations of Iranian traditional medicine.

## Diabetes prevalence

In Iran, diabetics make up about 11.5 percent of the population.

About 6 million people of Iran's diabetic population are aware and the other half are unaware of their diabetes. The figure is 50 percent in the world and 60 percent in West Asia and North Africa region.

Both the number of cases and the prevalence of diabetes have been steadily increasing over the past few decades. As it is expected that by 2030, 578 million people will develop diabetes, and the number of patients may exceed 700 million by 2045.

## Tehran, Islamabad to strengthen synergy in fight against narcotics



TEHRAN – Iran anti-narcotics police chief, Iraj Kakavand, in a meeting with Pakistan Major-General Muhammad Aniq Ur Rehman Malik, on Wednesday emphasized the need to boost synergy and exchange online information on drug trafficking in the region.

Kakavand emphasized the need to expand interactions and cooperation between the two countries in the field of anti-narcotics, ISNA reported.

Referring to Rask terrorist attack that led to the martyrdom of 11 policemen he stated since terrorist groups and drug traffickers are connected in the region, it is necessary for the two sides to fight against drug traffickers more decisively and purposefully by expanding collaboration, exchanging information and conducting joint operations.

Pointing to the geographical position of Iran and Pakistan, as neighboring countries of Afghanistan, Kakavand said it is essential to improve the level of interactions between the two countries by holding bilateral meetings and border meetings as well.

By adopting common positions in international forums, the two countries can be intro-

duced as main forces to combat illicit trafficking in the international arena, he added.

Rehman Malik, for his part, stressing the need to enhance cooperation and sharing information in the filed of the fight against drug trafficking, called it necessary for the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) to support Iran and Pakistan as forefront countries in the fight against narcotics.

\*\*\*\*Iran, Pakistan discuss enhancing security along borders

On November 21, Iran and Pakistan stressed the need to boost security along borders in a bid to promote relations and improve coordination between the two neighboring countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran fights hard against drug smugglers and prevents them from entering the region, the commander of the Iranian border guards said.

"We are pleased to hold the second joint border meeting of Iran and Pakistan since it affects the two countries' relations," IRNA quoted Brigadier General Ahmad-Ali Goudarzi as saying.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ali, the director general of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA).

The Iranian official said former joint meetings have had a significant impact on border security relations. "These meetings should continue to be held with the focus on improving maritime security and fighting drug trafficking, as the main objectives."

\*\*\*\*Global support essential in fight against narcotic

On October 8, Kakavand, in a meeting with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC) representative in Tehran, Alexander Fedulov, called it essential to support Iran in the fight against drug trafficking.

During the meeting, Fedulov said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been committed to a serious and decisive fight against narcotics at the regional and global level, IRIB reported.

Iran has spent a huge sum of money fighting the war on drugs, and apart from that, many anti-narcotics forces have sacrificed their lives in this way. The high number of martyrs and injured shows Iran's serious determination to deal with this scourge, the UN official added.

"Considering the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking, the UNODC and the international community support of Iran should be proportionate to the activities and actions at the regional and global level."

He stated since new smuggling routes and concealment methods are emerging, it is necessary for the anti-narcotics police to be equipped with new detection equipment and tools. Needless to say, the UNODC in Tehran plays a prominent role in providing some of these tools.

Kakavand, for his part, highlighted the need to promote regional cooperation and said, "The Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran has always announced its readiness to collaborate and improve cooperation with all the countries in the region and the world to eradicate narcotics."

Holding meetings with the anti-narcotics police of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the form of a tripartite initiative in previous years is a strong proof of this claim, he noted.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## 20,000 residential units to be constructed for the deprived

The Welfare Organization and the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to construct 20,000 housing units for the financially struggling families, Mehr reported. Alireza Tabesh, the Foundation's head, and Vahid Qobadi Dana, the Organization's head, inked the MOU during a meeting held in Tehran on Monday. As per the agreement, 20,000 housing units will be provided to breadwinners with disabilities, breadwinner women, and the ex-addicts under the Organization's coverage residing in villages with a population of less than 25,000, Qobadi Dana explained.

## احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر تفاهم نامه مشترک برای احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای محرومان بین بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و سازمان بهزیستی کشور منعقد شد. تفاهم نامه احداث ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی روستایی با حضور علیرضا تابش رئیس بنیاد مسکن انقلاب اسلامی و وحید قبادی دانا رئیس سازمان بهزیستی کشور روز دوشنبه به امضا رسید. قبادی دانا گفت: این تفاهم نامه به منظور ساخت ۲۰ هزار واحد مسکونی برای معلولین سرپرست خانوار، زنان سرپرست خانوار، و بهبودیافتگان از اعتیاد که در روستاها و شهرهایی با جمعیت کمتر از ۲۵ هزار نفر ساکن و تحت پوشش بهزیستی هستند، منعقد میشود.

## Nicaragua calls for boosting technological ties with Iran



From page 1 ► Mir-Abadi, for his part, referring to the capabilities of Iranian knowledge-based companies in different fields, such as agriculture, energy (oil, petrochemicals, etc.), health, medical equipment, games, animation, and so on, announced Iran's readiness for transferring technology to Nicaragua.

### Nicaragua welcomes Iranian expertise to develop knowledge-based centers

On January 20, The Rector of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua UNAN-Managua, Ramona Rodriguez, called for using the experiences of Iran for developing knowledge-based centers.

"In recent years, growth and technology centers have been set up in Nicaragua, and we would like to use Iran's experiences to strengthen and grow these centers and knowledge-based companies," she said.

Rodriguez made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with the Iranian science minister, Mohammad-Ali Zolfaghol, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, Rodriguez welcomed Zolfaghol's proposal about starting a system of needs and ideas and Iran's readiness to share experiences with Nicaragua.

She went on to say that in Nicaragua, there is a national innovation center that operates under the supervision of the president and is in charge of coordinating the various technology and innovation sectors of the country.

"We also intend to launch a center like the system of ideas and needs," she added.

The Nicaraguan official cited Iran's experience in setting up technical and vocational universities for training specialized forces to be very important and asked Iran to share its experiences in this field with Nicaragua.

Within the framework of the joint committee for scientific and technological cooperation, the transfer of these experiences should be pursued, she stressed.

The Iranian minister, for his part, said that after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, notable achievements have been made in the country's higher education sector, including ranking first in the region by publishing 78,000 articles in international journals in 2022.

When innovative ideas reach the stage of commercialization and presentation in the market, researchers can establish a knowledge-based company, he said.

The issue of setting up centers for teaching the Persian language in Nicaraguan universities was also proposed by the Iranian science minister.

In July 2022, Peyman Salehi, the deputy science minister, said despite U.S. sanctions, the international activities of Iranian scientists have increased year by year, so that more than 35 percent of Iranian articles in Scopus have been multi-national projects.

He made the remarks at the COMSTECH (the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) ceremony.

Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and build constructive international partnerships.

Pointing to the history of Iran's scientific activities in the past two decades, Salehi said that Iran ranked 56th in science production in 1996 and ranked 15th in 2021. Accordingly, we are leading the region in science production.

Out of a total of 77,000 articles published by Iranian scientists in the Scopus database last year, 35.7 percent were related to international joint activities. Despite the sanctions, the amount of joint scientific activities of Iranian researchers has increased every year.

Iranian scientists are not limited by geo-

graphical and political borders, and apart from multi-national projects, the increase in Iranian researchers' citations also proves this issue.

Referring to research centers, institutes, and science and technology hubs, he highlighted that in the past years, with the establishment of 240 innovation centers, as well as 49 science and technology parks, we have launched a complete roadmap to transform science into technology.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the new Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, as the year of "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating."

Over the past couple of years, the concept of a 'knowledge-based company' has changed to a 'knowledge-based society', meaning that supporting knowledge-based companies will lead to many social and economic advantages for the public.

There are more than 7,000 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets.

Iranian knowledge-based companies marketed their products in 70 countries, and in some global markets have overtaken European and American companies, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, has said.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, the Iranian houses of innovation have been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

### Knowledge-based companies

The total number of knowledge-based companies in the country reached 8,368 companies in the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), showing a 90 percent growth year on year.

"Biotechnology, agriculture, and food industries", "high-tech pharmaceuticals and products for diagnosis and treatment", "advanced materials and products based on chemical technologies", "advanced machinery and equipment", "devices, and medical equipment", "electricity and electronics", "telecommunication", "information technology and computer software", are the fields of activity of the country's knowledge-based companies.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund has paid a total of 27.8 trillion rials (nearly \$55 million) to support knowledge-based companies over the last [Iranian calendar] year, IRNA reported.

In line with the law enforced on May 24, 2022, knowledge-based production is a priority of the government so the plan for promoting knowledge-based products has progressed well so far.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian calendar year, which started on March 21, 2022, as the year of "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating."

Over the past couple of years, the concept of a 'knowledge-based company' has changed to a 'knowledge-based society', meaning that supporting knowledge-based companies will lead to many social and economic advantages for the public.

The Leader reemphasized the importance of boosting domestic production, as he had done in past years, saying the reason he placed so much emphasis on production was "because it boosts economic growth, it creates employment, it reduces inflation, it increases per capita income and it improves public welfare."



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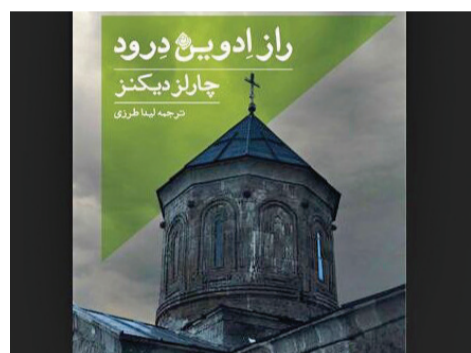
## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Whoever warns you against sins and vices is like the one who gives you good tidings.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:06 Evening: 17:19 Dawn: 5:43 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:13 (tomorrow)

## “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” revealed in Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN- “The Mystery of Edwin Drood” by the English author Charles Dickens has recently been published in Persian.

Translated by Lida Tarzi, the book has been published by Neyestan Publications in Tehran.

“The Mystery of Edwin Drood” is an unfinished novel written by Dickens. It is one of Dickens' last works, as he tragically passed away before completing it, leaving many readers and literary scholars intrigued by the unresolved plotlines and mysteries that reside within its pages.

The novel is set in the small English town of Cloisterham and centers around the disappearance of its eponymous character, Edwin Drood. Edwin is a young man engaged to the beautiful Rosa Bud, though their relationship is somewhat complicated as they were betrothed by their deceased parents. The novel also introduces several other significant characters, such as John Jasper, Edwin's uncle and choirmaster, and Rosa Bud's guardian, who secretly harbors an unrequited love for her.

The mystery surrounding Edwin's disappearance begins to unravel when he and his fiancée Rosa have a private conversation, which sparks the interest of Jasper. He becomes increasingly obsessed with Rosa

and develops a dark and sinister side, leading readers to question his possible involvement in Edwin's vanishing. The novel delves into the depths of Jasper's psyche, his opium addiction, and his hidden desires, creating a rich, psychological backdrop for the central mystery.

To further deepen the intrigue, Dickens introduces a range of eccentric characters, such as Durdles, a stonemason known for his peculiar habits, and Deputy, a bumbling and highly superstitious police officer. These characters add a touch of whimsy and comic relief to the narrative, while also potentially holding some vital clues to the ultimate resolution of Edwin's disappearance.

Despite Dickens' untimely death, numerous theories and speculations have arisen about the intended ending of “The Mystery of Edwin Drood.” Some believe that Dickens planned to reveal Jasper as the culprit, given his increasing obsession with Rosa and the hints of violence in his character. Others speculate that Dickens intended a more complex ending, featuring multiple antagonists as part of a grand conspiracy.

In recent times, several authors and scholars have attempted to complete the novel, offering their own versions of what Dickens may have intended. These adaptations have allowed readers to explore possible endings to the mystery, each with its unique interpretations and resolutions.

“The Mystery of Edwin Drood” stands as both a testament to Dickens' skill as a writer and an enigmatic reminder of his unfinished masterpiece. It remains a treasured piece of literature, keeping readers engaged with its tantalizing mysteries and enticing them to unravel the secrets concealed within its pages for years to come.

## Cartoon of Day



Gaza Genocide

Cartoonist: Ahmad Qaddura from Sweden

# Imam Reza festival could help reverse rural-urban migration, organizer says

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- Focusing on the rural and nomadic section of the 21st edition of Imam Reza (AS) International Festival, known as Eight Sky, could help reverse rural-urban migration, the organizers have announced.

During a press conference held in Tehran on Wednesday, Morteza Saeidzadeh, the director of Imam Reza (AS) International Art and Cultural Foundation, highlighted the goal of the festival to promote Razavi culture in rural areas and propel their progress.

“As a result, it aims to facilitate reverse migration.”

He emphasized the need to alleviate deprivation in these rural areas and foster comprehensive progress. He further noted that the festival aims to spread culture, create opportunities for progress in villages, and revive rural traditions and customs.

This year, five distinct areas will host the festival, encompassing rural song, traditional performances that prioritize the preservation of indigenous culture, Pardeh-Khani (a type of traditional storytelling), eulogy recitation, and rural photography, all aimed at mitigating deprivation, he added.

For his part Seyyed Amir Hossein Madani, the vice president for rural development emphasized the significance of highlighting rural culture through festivals like Imam Reza Festival. Madani underscored the importance of reconnecting



to “rural authenticity” and addressing the social problems resulting from the detachment from rural areas.

In different eras, Iranian governments showed equal consideration for rural infrastructure and economy, however, these measures alone cannot effectively counter migration, as special attention must be given to rural culture, considering that approximately 80 percent of the Iranian population has rural roots, he mentioned.

“The cultural issue is the root cause of migration, not merely economic or infrastructural matters. The cultural aspect takes precedence, and rural identity must be our priority,” highlighted Madani.

He further emphasized the need to divert focus and

resources from cities to rural areas, as individuals in the current post-modern era display a growing interest in rediscovering their rural heritage.

To safeguard cultural security, Madani advocated a comprehensive approach that restores the essence of rural life. By directing attention to cultural matters, he outlined that economic and infrastructural issues would gradually find their solutions.

“If we redirect our focus towards rural areas, including government officials and authorities, we can ensure our cultural security lies in the countryside,” he remarked.

According to Madani, comprehensive cultural reform will not only address population challenges but also offer resolutions to broader societal

concerns. By embracing rural authenticity, he believes that the nation can pave the way for a prosperous future.

The 6th edition of the Eighth Sky Festival will be held in Kardar Razavi Village in southern Hormozgan province in March 2024.

The Imam Reza (AS) International Festival is held annually in various provinces of the country as well as in several other countries.

This festival encompasses various fields such as articles, plays or screenplays, produced shows, stories, visual arts, books, literary texts, poetry, press and digital works, and radio and television productions.

The festival will come to an end in Mashhad on May 19, 2024 that marks the birthday of Imam Reza (AS).

## Kiarostami's sketch film for “Taste of Cherry” to be screened in Tehran

TEHRAN- “The Project,” a 47-minute sketch film for “Taste of Cherry” that Abbas Kiarostami made with his son Bahman in 1997 will be screened and reviewed at the Art Garden in Tehran on Thursday.

The review session will be held with the presence of the actor Homayoun Ershadi who performed the lead character in “Taste of Cherry,” Honaronline reported on Wednesday.

Abbas Kiarostami often made sketch films while conceptualizing his features. In this one for “Taste of Cherry,” the director, along with his son Bahman, acts out some of the parts, considers the film's structure and dialogue, and plans some shots.

Bahman Kiarostami, 45, is a documentary film director, editor and cinematographer. Most of his documentaries focus on valuing and legitimizing processes in art, but also cover the visible yet obscured and unnoticed details which define Iran's post-



revolutionary visual culture. His films have been shown at numerous international film festivals and won some awards as well.

“Taste of Cherry” is a 1997 Iranian minimalist drama film written, produced, edited and directed by Abbas Kiarostami, and starring Homayoun Ershadi as a middle-aged Tehran man, who drives through a city suburb, in search of someone willing to carry out the task of burying him after he commits suicide. The film won the Palme d'Or at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival.

Since the film's release,

multiple other critics have also declared it a masterpiece; in the British Film Institute's 2012 Sight & Sound poll, six critics and two directors named it one of the 10 best films ever made. It was also named the 9th best film of the 90s by Slant Magazine.

Abbas Kiarostami (1940-2016) was an Iranian film director, screenwriter, poet, photographer, and film producer. An active filmmaker from 1970, Kiarostami had been involved in the production of over forty films, including shorts and documentaries. Kiarostami attained critical acclaim for directing “Close-

Up” (1990), “The Wind Will Carry Us” (1999), and “Taste of Cherry” (1997). In later works, “Certified Copy” (2010) and “Like Someone in Love” (2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran: in Italy and Japan, respectively.

Kiarostami was part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and emphasized the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with political and philosophical issues.

Kiarostami is known for his use of Persian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films. His films also contain a notable degree of ambiguity, an unusual mixture of simplicity and complexity, and often a mix of fictional and documentary elements. The concepts of change and continuity, in addition to the themes of life and death, play a major role in Kiarostami's works.

## Actor Lee of Oscar-winning “Parasite” found dead

Lee Sun-kyun, a South Korean actor who drew global attention with his performance as the wealthy patriarch in the Oscar-winning film “Parasite,” was found dead on Wednesday in an apparent suicide in a Seoul park, officials in the capital said.

Lee, 48, who met a gory end in the 2019 film, South Korea's first to win any Oscar, had faced police questioning three times over accusations of illegal drug use amid a government crackdown, with one session running 19 hours over the weekend, Reuters reported.

The actor had said he was tricked into taking drugs by a bar hostess trying to blackmail him, the Yonhap news agency reported.

Authorities found Lee in a search triggered by a missing person report, a fire official told Reuters on condition of anonymity, as the matter is a sensitive one.

Lee was found in a car at a park in Seoul,

after his manager told police the actor had left home, leaving behind an apparent suicide note, a police official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Lee's agency, HODU&U Entertainment, did not respond to calls. However, domestic media cited a statement by the agency that expressed sadness at the death, while urging restraint regarding false information, speculation, or malicious reports.

Infringements of South Korea's tough drug laws can lead to six months in jail, or up to 14 years for repeat offenders and dealers.

A dark-comedy thriller directed by Bong Joon-ho, “Parasite” won the Academy Award in 2020 in the four categories of best picture, best director, best original screenplay and best international feature film, off six Oscar nominations.

The film became the first non-English language movie to win the best picture

award. Bong hailed its popularity as a sign that the “one-inch-tall barrier of subtitles” was no longer a stumbling block to global success.

In the film, Lee played the character of Mr. Park, whose affluent home is infiltrated by members of a lower-class family posing as highly qualified domestic workers in a tangled scheme that ends in violence.

Lee, born in 1975, had leading roles in South Korean films such as the 2012 thriller “Helpless” and 2014's “All About My Wife,” as well as the acclaimed 2018 TV series “My Mister.”

He played the lead in Apple TV's first Korean-language original series, rolled out in 2021. A six-episode sci-fi thriller, “Dr. Brain” featured a cold-hearted neurologist hunting for clues to a mysterious family accident through brain experiments.

Lee's wife is award-winning actress Jeon Hye-jin, and the couple had two children.