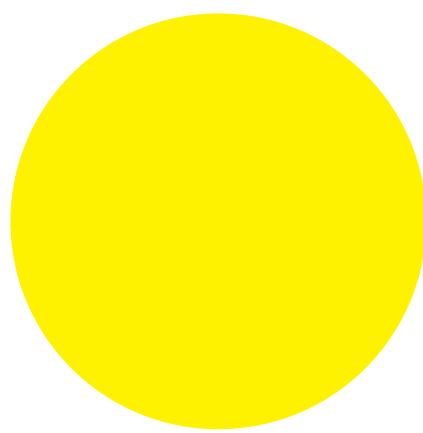


Tax-evading doctors in Iran under scrutiny



'World War III' portrays destructive power of humanity's worst impulses

8 > EXCLUSIVE



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Leader: Iraq's progress, independence important for Iran



National Desk

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that progress, prosperity and independence of Iraq is of great importance for Iran. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with visiting Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid in Tehran on Saturday. The Leader underlined that the expansion of bilateral cooperation and the implementation of agreements signed between the two neighboring countries are in the interest of both nations. Earlier in the day, the Iraqi

president held separate meetings with his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raeisi and Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and participated in a meeting between high-ranking delegations of the two countries. During the meeting, Raeisi said that enemies are not pleased with the improvement of relations between Iran and Iraq, stressing that enhanced mutual ties will serve the interests of the two nations and the entire region. "Iran and Iraq will expand their interactions in proportion with the interests of the two countries in the

region. Strengthening and consolidating relations between Tehran and Baghdad will secure the interests of the two nations and will also benefit the region," Raeisi said. Raeisi described the visit by his Iraqi counterpart to Tehran as a major step in improving relations and said both sides are implementing agreements, but "nevertheless, there are many capacities to boost relations in the political, economic and cultural fields." Raeisi stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation in the economic, energy, transit, transporta-

tion, trade exchanges and security sectors and urged both Tehran and Baghdad to accelerate the implementation of the existing agreements. The Iraqi president, for his part, said Baghdad is keen to expand relations with Tehran and said the two sides enjoy diverse capacities to develop economic, political, cultural cooperation and trade exchanges. At the end of the meeting, both presidents signed a security agreement. Leading a high-ranking delegation, Rashid arrived in Tehran on Saturday in his first visit to Iran since taking office last year.



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (R) talks with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid (C) at a meeting also attended by Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi in Tehran, Iran, on April 29, 2023. [khamenei.ir](#)

Call for direct talks between Iran, U.S. over legal issues

Political Desk

Iran's Vice President in Legal Affairs Mohammad Dehghan has suggested to the government to hold direct negotiations with the U.S. government on legal issues. Dehghan said that the proposal for this dialogue is to determine the amount of damage caused by the U.S. after a ruling by the International Court of Justice that Washington had illegally allowed courts to freeze Iran's assets. Dehghan believes that dialogue is the best way to settle the issue. The case was initially brought by Tehran against Washington in 2016 for breaching a 1955 Treaty of Amity.

About seven years ago, the Iranian government filed a complaint with the ICJ, protesting the U.S. move to seize and confiscate about two billion dollars of the assets of the Central Bank of Iran and some Iranian companies and institutions. Iran says the U.S. actions are in contradiction with the standards of international law, especially the provisions of the 1955 Treaty of Amity between Tehran and Washington. The Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights between the United States and Iran was signed in Tehran on August 15, 1955 and entered into force on 16 June 1957.

Page 2 >

Iran's pharmaceutical industry diagnosed with fatal US sanctions



By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

Iran is grappling with a severe crisis in its pharmaceutical industry as harsh US sanctions continue to wreak havoc on the sector. Mohammad Ali Mohseni Bandpey, a member of the parliamentary Health Committee, has enumerated several predicaments, including dearth and exorbitant costs, as the grave ramifications of these sanctions on Iran's healthcare system. In an interview with Iran Daily, Bandpey said that US sanctions pose a grave threat to the wellbeing of Iranians, emphasizing

ing that Iran's pharmaceutical needs must be fulfilled either through domestic production or imports. Despite the US government's repeated claims that food and medicine are exempt from its economic sanctions against Iran, the cruel sanctions have adversely impacted the country's pharmaceutical industry and market. Inflation and rising foreign currency rates have been exacerbated, extending the pernicious effects to the medical sector as well. The grim specter of the sanctions has cast a long shadow on the lives and well-being of many patients in Iran, contrary to the assurances given by the US government.

Page 6 >



Armenia, Azerbaijan to hold peace settlement talks today

3 >



Lorestan, land of roaring waterfalls

4 >



Hoveyzeh refinery to add 500 mcf/d of gas

6 >

North Korea: US-South Korea plan risks 'serious danger'

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's powerful sister warned Saturday that a US-South Korean agreement aimed at strengthening deterrence against Pyongyang will lead to "more serious danger", state media reported. The United States and South Korea vowed this week that North Korea would face a nuclear response and the "end" of the leadership there should it use its own nukes against the allies, as the two countries' presidents met in Washington, AFP reported. In Pyongyang's first response to the Washington summit, Kim Yo Jong said the North remained convinced

that its nuclear deterrent "should be brought to further perfection." "The more the enemies are dead set on staging nuclear war exercises, and the more nuclear assets they deploy in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, the stronger the exercise of our right to self-defence will become," she said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and US counterpart Joe Biden on Wednesday issued what was called the Washington Declaration, bolstering the US nuclear umbrella over South Korea, which is increasingly nervous about Pyongyang's aggression.

Fandoqlou forest in Iran: A haven for biodiversity under smugglers' threat

Social Desk

Fandoqlou forest in northwestern Iran is a magnificent natural reserve, stretching over 16,000 hectares of land, with more than four thousand hectares covered in lush green forests, replete with bountiful hazelnut trees. The forest is an extension of the Hyrcanian forests in Iran, home to various distinctive flora and fauna, including the rare Iranian red deer. Sadly, this natural habitat is under threat from smugglers who are cutting down trees to make charcoal. The illegal



logging activities have put the forest's biodiversity in danger, and the government's efforts to combat this criminal activity have been insufficient.

Page 7 >