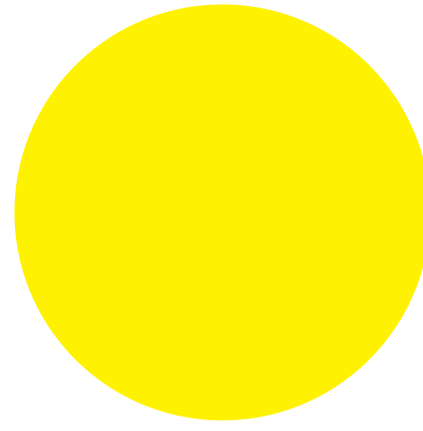




In Support of Palestine  
Yemen Bears Standard  
of War Against Israel

SPECIAL ISSUE

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# Truce Takes Effect

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Palestinians return to their homes in eastern Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip during the first hours of a four-day truce in the battles between Israel and Hamas on Nov. 24, 2023.

AFP



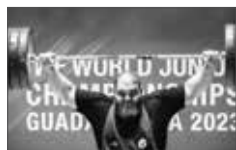
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# Two-year FDI in Iran hits \$9.2b: *Official*

## Economy Desk

Iran attracted \$9.2 billion of foreign direct investment in the past two years, indicating 170 percent growth compared to the preceding two years, announced the head of the Organization of Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran.

Referring to the changes that have occurred regarding FDI in the incumbent government, compared to the previous one, Ali Fekri said the \$9.2-billion investment is not satisfactory for us, as we still have to work a lot until we reach the desired figures, IRNA reported.

"In the Iranian year of 1401 (ended March 20, 2023), the country attracted nearly \$4.2 billion

of foreign investment, which was a significant increase compared to previous years."

It is possible to set a target of about \$10 billion for each year, Fekri noted, adding that its realization depends on how we can pave the ground for the entry of foreign capital.

After the signing of JCPOA in 2015, the French giant Total did not invest a single dollar in the oil and gas sector of Iran, he said, adding that Russian companies have started an oil project worth \$2.7 billion in the southwestern province of Ilam.

"There were investors who had concerns about sanctions, but we opened the way for them to invest in Iran without worrying about sanctions," the official said.

In the Iranian year of 1402, the Chinese have first place in investment as during the eight months since the beginning of this year (March 21-November 21), they have invested \$1.2 billion in the fields of mining, tourism, technologies, renewable energy, sanitary products and cosmetics, he noted.

The official went on to say that after China, the UAE ranked second, with over \$1 billion of FDI in Iran, and Russia ranked third in investment in our country. He described these achievements as the result of the government's economic diplomacy along with the development of relations with neighboring states, as well as membership in SCO and BRICS.



## Ports development leads to transit growth, economy improvement



By Reza  
Abesh Ahmadlou

Staff writer

### OPINION

Iran has been seeking the development of its ports and transit infrastructure in recent years. As a result, the country has seen a significant growth in its transit trade and economic prosperity. The strategic location of Iran, as it sits at the crossroads of key shipping routes connecting Europe and Asia, has made it an important transit hub for trade in the region. The government's efforts to improve its ports and transit facilities have played a crucial role in further enhancing Iran's position as a key player in the global trade network.

The development of ports in Iran has been a top priority for the government, with significant investments being made to modernize and expand key ports across the country. The aim is to enhance the efficiency and capacity of these ports, thereby making Iran an attractive option for transit and trade.

In recent years, major ports such as Bandar Abbas, Bandar Imam Khomeini, and Chabahar have seen significant upgrades in terms of infrastructure and facilities. These ports are going to be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and machinery to handle shipments more

efficiently. The capacity of these ports has also been expanded to accommodate larger vessels and greater volumes of cargo.

The upgrade of ports has not only benefited Iran's trade network but has also improved the country's economy. The increased efficiency and capacity of these ports have resulted in reduced transit times and costs for shipments passing through Iran. This has made Iran an attractive option for transit trade, with more companies and countries choosing to use Iranian ports as part of their trade routes.

The growth in transit trade has contributed positively to Iran's economy. The increased trade volume has led to a surge in revenue for the government, with the transit trade sector becoming a significant source of income for the country. In addition, the improved transit facilities have also led to the creation of job opportunities and economic development in port cities and surrounding areas.

One of the key factors contributing to the growth of transit trade in Iran is the country's strategic location. Iran's proximity to key markets in Europe and Asia makes it an ideal transit point for trade. This has made Iran an attractive option for companies looking to streamline their supply chains and reduce transit times for their shipments.

Furthermore, the development

of Chabahar port has been a game-changer for Iran's transit trade. Located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, the port has been developed as a key transit point for trade between India, Iran, and Afghanistan. The port's strategic location and the development of a new railway line connecting it to Afghanistan have made Chabahar an important hub for transit trade in the region.

In addition to the development of ports, Iran has also invested in improving its transit infrastructure, including roads, railways, and customs facilities. The aim is to provide seamless connectivity for shipments passing through Iran, further enhancing the country's appeal as a transit hub.

The improvements in ports and transit facilities have not only benefited Iran but also contributed to the growth of trade in the region. By providing efficient and cost-effective transit options, Iran has become an integral part of the global trade network, connecting key markets and boosting economic prosperity for the country and its trading partners.

Continued investments in ports and transit facilities are expected to further enhance Iran's position as a key player in the global trade network, contributing to economic prosperity and development in the country and the region as a whole.

## Path to progress: Entrepreneurs, governance, and media



By Zohreh  
Qanadi

Staff writer

### PERSPECTIVE

The journey towards becoming a developed country and subsequently achieving sustainable development is unique for each country, given the diverse challenges and opportunities they face in improving the lives of their citizens. A look back at the path of the top 20 developed countries, often referred to as industrialized countries, shows that they have predominantly focused on industrial development rather than alternative paths such as tourism, agriculture, livestock, etc. The Western model for development predominated in 1950s and 1960s. There was a shift from a static, agricultural, primitive and rigid society to a dynamic, industrialized, and urbanized society.

Nevertheless, the route for each country varies, allowing them to bolster their specific strengths and areas of competitiveness. In today's world economic progress occurs through processes driven by various factors. Entrepreneurs play a key role in this progress by identifying opportunities, innovating, and taking risks. As catalysts for economic development, they have changed the way of thinking about

business; they have provided practical ideas for expanding business around the world.

In Iran, the Iranian Entrepreneurs Forum, as a private sector, has identified 20 industrial sectors as propulsion.

Established in 2013, the forum is collaborating with 80 private entrepreneurial companies, taking more serious steps since 2022.

Still a developing country, Iran has fallen short in accomplishing its eight-decade-old development plans. However, the country's economy has been gradually recovering after a ten-year period affected by economic sanctions, oil prices, and the pandemic. But the question still remains: Why hasn't this expected growth materialized yet? Perhaps the recent decade-long sanctions are part of the question but, throughout the years, various explanations have been given. These range from the stagnation of the private sector – notably influenced by the policies adopted in the early years after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 – to the lack of dialogue between the government and the private sector.

It is essential to create a dialogue between the private sector and the government for development, where the role of the media also becomes more prominent. This falls under cultural or social development, that is often considered essential for overall development,

and has been ignored during the past decades in Iran. These aspects of development are crucial since they contribute to a sustainable society by fostering education, dialogue, and a sense of identity.

In recent years, Iranian Entrepreneurs Forum has successfully established this discourse at a higher level within society, bridging private companies, entrepreneurs, and the government. Essentially, it has embraced the path of global progress, but with a focus on indigenization, indicating its alignment with cultural development.

Media, as another actor, has played a somewhat weak role in shaping development communication in Iran.

By acknowledging strengths and weaknesses, both promoting and criticizing, the media has the potential to contribute to development communication. Its ultimate goal is to actively contribute to sustainable development by fostering positive social change, enhancing people's quality of life, and establishing a fair and equitable society.

Media in Iran should focus on this matter, with permission to access data and information rather than just general program information. This approach would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the situation and facilitate informed public discourse.



SHANA

## Second phase of Danan oilfield project completed

### Economy Desk

Daily oil production in Iran increased by about 11,000 barrels with extraction from new wells that were fully commissioned as the second phase of the development of the Danan oilfield was completed.

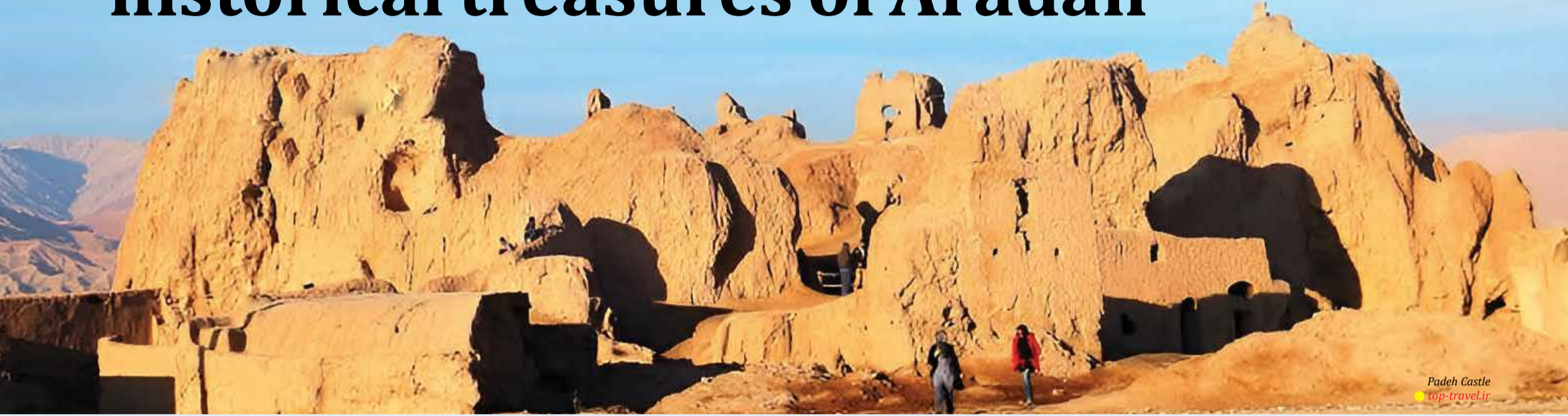
Mehdi Heidari, the managing director of the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company, announced the above, adding that by drilling 11 new wells, the total number of oil wells in the Danan field in the southwestern Iranian province of Ilam jumped to 20 wells, Shana reported.

"The oil pumped from the wells of the field is transferred to the processing and desalination unit of Dehloran by pipelines. As it was targeted, the production capacity of the field has increased from 8,000 barrels to 19,000 barrels per day." The contract for the main-

tenance and expansion of the Danan field was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company and MAPNA Group.

Danan oil field is located 30 km southeast of the city of Dehloran in Ilam Province and 80 km northwest of the city of Andimeshk.

# Visit cultural and historical treasures of Aradan

Padeh Castle  
top-travel.ir

## Iranica Desk

A picturesque town in Semnan Province, Aradan offers a wealth of cultural and historical attractions. With its fertile plains and the Hablehrood River, it has become an agricultural center in the region. This town is renowned for its diverse range of agricultural and livestock products, which include high-quality wheat, cotton, watermelon, figs, tomatoes, walnuts, and olives. In addition, the town is well-known for its thriving livestock and poultry farming, as well as its flourishing beekeeping industry.

Let's delve into some of the notable landmarks that make Aradan a must-visit destination.

### Aradan Bazaar

Built in the early Qajar period, this charming bazaar showcases remarkable masonry work by the Yaghmaei merchant family. With 31 rooms and beautiful arches, adorned with intricate designs, it is a testament to the architectural heritage of the town. The bazaar also features an octagonal open space, which remains a vibrant hub for locals.

### Imamzadeh Ali Akbar Shrine

Located in the south of Aradan, this shrine holds a history that spans 850 years. The main dome originates from the Ilkhanid era, while additions during the Qajar period include a portico and octagon. Despite the absence of tile work, the mausoleum's

brick construction exudes a unique charm.

### Imamzadeh Sultan Shah Nazar Shrine

Situated in the heart of Aradan, the building of this mausoleum dates back to the early Qajar period. Its distinctive architectural style and the exquisite plasterwork inside the dome make it a sight to behold. Perched on a hill with historical significance dating back to the Parthian era, the mausoleum draws visitors seeking solace and historical insights.

### Tekiyeh of Aradan

Constructed during the Qajar period, this *tekiyeh* served as an avenue for the traditional *ta'zieh* performances. Comprising chambers and an open courtyard, this historical gem boasts two porticos – one to access the *tekiyeh*, and the other facing west. Immerse yourself in the rich cultural traditions that unfolded in this remarkable structure.

### Yatari Oliya Castle

Found in the village of the same name, this ancient castle stands atop a hill, offering breathtaking views. Built on an extensive area, it once served as a hostel. Explore the remnants of this remarkable fortress, which has silently witnessed the passing of time.

### Padeh Castle

Serving as the gateway to the village of Padeh, this castle showcases its Parthian-era origins. Standing at an imposing height of 14 meters and with walls measuring 12 meters in diameter, it played a pivotal role as a watchtower along the Silk Road.

Be captivated by the strategic significance of this historical structure.

### Aliabad Water Reservoir

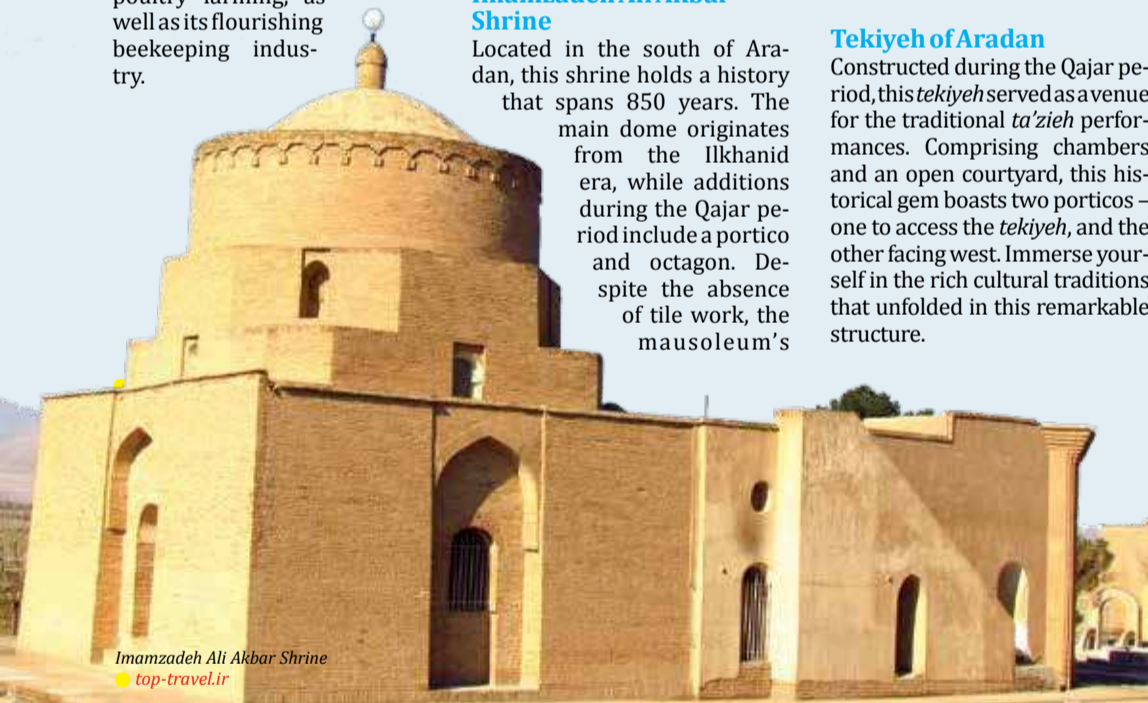
Dating back to the Qajar period, this water reservoir was designed by renowned architect Haj Ghorban Memarian. Its impressive brickwork staircase, roof, and entrance bring out the beauty of its architecture. Admire the intricate geometric patterns that adorn this centuries-old reservoir.

### Dehnamak Caravanserai

Located on the ancient stone-paved road, this Safavid-period

caravanserai captivates visitors with its four-ivan (portico) layout. Step into the famous southern hall, known as the *shahne-shin* (royal seat), and explore the numerous small rooms surrounding the grand courtyard. Don't miss the water reservoirs alongside the road, integral for meeting the needs of travelers in the past.

Aradan's rich heritage, encompassing its bazaar, mausoleums, castles, reservoirs, and caravanserai, offers a glimpse into the region's captivating past. Immerse yourself in the cultural treasures of this enchanting town and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Imamzadeh Ali Akbar Shrine  
top-travel.irDehnamak Caravanserai  
top-travel.ir

## Stabilization efforts underway for western wall of Shushtar's historical hydraulic system

### Iranica Desk

The director of the Shushtar World Heritage Site, Amin Mahdavi, has announced that specialized measures are being implemented to stabilize the western wall of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System. The importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of visitors to historical sites, as emphasized by international conventions, has driven these efforts.

He added that through regular monitoring, it was discovered that the western wall, spanning approximately 600 meters in length and standing at a height of 25 meters, exhibited movements and signs of deterioration.

"With a movement of around 1.5 centimeters, there was an inherent risk of sudden collapse. Of particular concern was the fact that this wall overlooks the mill areas and is closely surrounded by residential structures. Hence, the majori-

ty of the building owners have been made aware of the potential risks associated with its stability," he noted.

Mahdavi noted that the significance of addressing this issue lies in the potential destruction of a significant

portion of the mill buildings in the event of a sudden wall collapse. Moreover, the Gargar River, an artificial river of historical significance dating back to the Achaemenid period, could experience blockage, leading to irrepara-

ble social and human losses downstream.

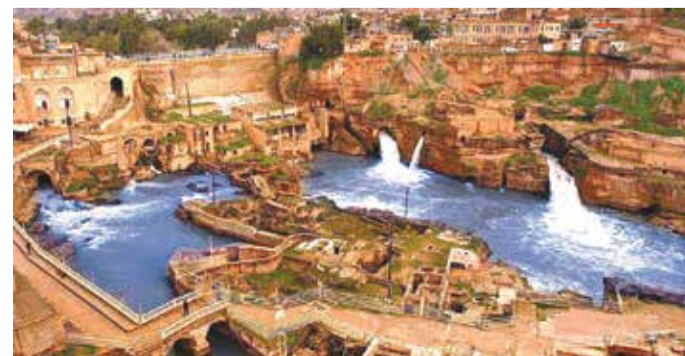
He observed that this stabilization plan has been in development since 2009, requiring the expertise of qualified consultants and the implementation of various executive measures.

Consequently, access to the western section of the site has been blocked, preventing visitors from entering the middle area.

"News agencies have diligently communicated this closure to tourists, emphasizing that access will remain restricted until the completion of the workshop operations," he stressed. He stated that the projected timeline for the execution of the stabilization plan is estimated to be around 14 months, accounting for the schedule outlined by the design consultant and the factors involved with the contracted company. In its initial phase, the plan will encompass a length of 60 meters, covering the entire height of the wall.



arandtour.com



rokna.net

## In support of Palestine

# Yemen bears standard of war against Israel



A Yemeni military helicopter flies over the Galaxy Leader cargo ship in the Red Sea in this photo released November 20, 2023.  
● REUTERS

On March 25, 2015, the forces of the Arab coalition started a brutal war against Yemen, which continued for about eight years and, according to the United Nations, over 377,000 people were killed as a result of this war. Economic statistics also indicate that the Yemeni economy has been damaged by about \$200 billion, all this without mentioning the crises of internal displacement, disease outbreaks, and the complete destruction of Yemen's infrastructure.

But these circumstances did not prevent this authentic Arab country from standing by the Palestinian people; the people of Yemen and their brave leadership have taken the most concrete actions in defense of the oppressed Palestinian people against injustice, destruction and genocide.

Three weeks ago, the government of Yemen, through the military spokesman of the armed forces, announced the official involvement in the war with the Zionist enemy. From a military and geopolitical point of view, Yemen's intervention in the war is seen as an important turning point, because this intervention shows the Arab countries' inability or unwillingness to help the Palestinian people in practice.

At a time when rich Arab and Islamic countries are not sanctioning Israel, or putting more pressure on their ally, the United States, to approve a ceasefire, or even open the Rafah crossing to deliver humanitarian aid, the poor and war-torn country of Yemen has opened a new resistance front against Israel.

Since then, Yahya Sare'e, the spokesperson of the Yemeni Army, has become another Abu Obaida, while the world is waiting for his statements and monitoring his accounts in social networks because he can artfully change the rules of the game in favor of the axis of resistance. Despite the superficial analysis of some analysts, who considered Yemen's involvement in the war as only a symbolic gesture, as well as those who doubted the ability of Yemeni missiles to reach Israel, the Yemeni Army has been equipped with a comprehensive and gradual strategic plan to perform counteractions.

Yemen started its war against Israel by launching ballistic missiles and precision-guided drones. Ansarullah's missiles had to travel more than 1,600 kilometers to reach the occupied territories. The Yemeni Army is also trying to evade the air defenses of Egypt and Saudi Arabia by crossing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba. In fact, these attacks have caused huge human and material losses in the city of Eilat, Israel, but the Israeli censorship machine does not allow truth to be broadcast.

In continuation of Yemen's military plan to confront Israel, the Yemeni Navy seized the Israeli ship "Galaxy

Leader," belonging to an Israeli businessman and a relative of one of the key elements of Mossad, Rami Onger. This ship was taken to the coast of Yemen and all its crew were arrested.

What the Houthis did is not considered piracy or terrorism according to international maritime laws, as Sare'e had announced a few days before the ship's seizure that the Yemeni Army would target Israeli ships in its territorial waters, he also advised other countries who are present in the Red Sea to stay away from Israeli ships. Therefore, the seizure of this ship is done in a purely military context, and Israel cannot raise the theory of disrupting international trade, or threatening maritime navigation in the Red Sea.

Israel, as usual, denied the ownership of this commercial ship and the presence of Israelis on it. This incident reminds us of the incident of targeting an

Israeli ship by a suicide drone off the coast of Oman in July 2021, which killed two people. The crew of the Israeli ship was captured. The irony regarding the statements of Israeli spokespersons is that if this ship did not belong to Israel, then why all the threats and statements of Israel against Yemen?

Israel's continued denial of ownership of vessels attacked in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, or Bab al-Mandeb appears to provide it with a safe haven to evade a military response. In any case, it seems that Ansarullah is aware of all the detailed information of this and other Israeli ships that pass through the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, which was stated in the statement of the Minister of Information of the National Salvation Government.

Zaifullah al-Shami confirmed that Sanaa has information about all Israeli ships that pass through the Red Sea.

Based on the above, Ansarullah knows very well that most of the Israeli ship workers have dual citizenships and other foreign nationalities.

In the above lines, Ansarullah's strategic and integrated plan and their intervention in the war against the Zionist enemy were mentioned, which started by targeting the port of Eilat with missiles and drones, and seizing the ship to complete the disruption in the port of Eilat and the sea lanes leading to it.

The whole world, especially the United States, is aware of the importance of the Bab al-Mandab strait and the waters of the Red Sea for global trade, because about 6.2 million barrels of crude oil pass through this waterway every day. About 30 percent of the world's natural gas trade passes through this strait. For these reasons, the Ansarullah movement is a challenge for America because the Yemeni Armed Forces

”

From a military and geopolitical point of view, Yemen's intervention in the war is seen as an important turning point, because this intervention shows the Arab countries' inability or unwillingness to help the Palestinian people in practice.





Houthi fighters take positions on the deck of the Galaxy Leader cargo ship in the Red Sea in this photo released November 20, 2023.  
● REUTERS



A Houthi military helicopter hovers over the Galaxy Leader cargo ship as Houthi fighters walk on the ship's deck in the Red Sea in this photo released November 20, 2023.  
● REUTERS



Yemeni forces open the door of the cockpit on the ship's deck in the Red Sea in this photo released November 20, 2023.  
● REUTERS

seized the Zionist ship with basic and not very advanced facilities, and nothing was done in return by the American ships. In addition to the global impact of this operation, there are serious economic impacts on Israel, which shows Ansarullah's ability to disrupt the supply routes of Israel's essential goods from the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. If there is an ability to disrupt the port of Eilat in the south of the occupied territories, which is considered Israel's most vital port, then creating disruption in the port of Haifa can be considered Ansarullah's next option. In general, Israel has five maritime corridors for receiving its oil, gas and basic goods imports, the most important of which passes through the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which is under the control of the Yemeni Army. The first strategic corridor, which is considered the backbone of Israel's

economy, is the corridor that connects India to Israel and passes through the Gulf of Aden, Bab al-Mandeb and the Red Sea, and ends at the port of Eilat in the south. Thirty percent of Israel's imports (worth about \$30 billion) are made through this corridor. The second corridor is a waterway that connects South America and Israel, which passes through the Atlantic Ocean, then the Gulf of Aden, Bab al-Mandab and the Red Sea, and reaches the port of Eilat. After Ansarullah's capture of the Israeli ship, the depth of the Islamic Revolution's analysis and view of the elements of force that restrain Israel was revealed. The Iranian Leader's emphasis on the necessity of stopping the export of oil and goods to Israel, and inviting Islamic countries to sever relations with the occupying regime, even for a limited time, indicates that if

Islamic countries adhere to these recommendations, Israel's economy will collapse. Yemen's intervention in the war in favor of Gaza is the real embodiment of the concept of the unity of the battlefields, that is, conflict with the enemy on multiple fronts, the practical application of the message of the commander of the Quds Force, Major General Esmail Qa'ani, to the leaders of the Palestinian resistance, in which he emphasized that the Palestinian resistance has shown the whole world that Israel is weaker than a spider's web. One of the important results that the process of seizing the ship and Yemen's general intervention in the war alongside our brothers in the Gaza Strip will achieve is strengthening the position of the Palestinian negotiator at the negotiating table. This negotiation trump card was obtained when Netanyahu

avoided and rejected any exchange of prisoners or cease-fire for nearly 50 days. However, after the Yemeni operation, Israelis began negotiating a prisoner exchange and a five-day cease-fire. At the regional level, Ansarullah's intervention in the war shows their decisive Arab and Islamic positions towards the Palestinian issue, and what we see today is that the Arab people, including the people of Saudi Arabia, support and praise this Yemeni action. Some media reports also announce the imminent signing of a reconciliation agreement between the Yemeni parties, and all this shows that despite the seeds of all the conspiracies and conflicts that America has sown in the region, Yemen today is becoming a regional and geopolitical power that can never be ignored in the equations and balance of power.

“ Israel's continued denial of ownership of vessels attacked in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, or Bab al-Mandeb appears to provide it with a safe haven to evade a military response.



The Galaxy Leader cargo ship is escorted by Yemeni boats in the Red Sea in this photo released November 20, 2023.  
● AFP

## Rodrygo racially abused after Messi argument



Argentina Lionel Messi (l) and Brazilian Rodrygo clash before the delayed start of a World Cup qualifying match in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on November 21, 2023.  
● RICARDO MORAES/REUTERS

ESPN – Rodrygo said he received racist insults on social media after Brazil's 1-0 World Cup qualifying defeat to Argentina in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. The game at the Maracana stadium kicked off almost 30 minutes late after clashes between Brazilian police and Argentine fans in the stands.

Nicolás Otamendi's 63rd-minute goal for world champions Argentina was enough to inflict Brazil's first-ever home loss in World Cup qualifying, leaving them sixth in the CONMEBOL standings with just seven points from six games.

As the two teams waited on the pitch for the match to begin, TV images showed Brazil forward Rodrygo in a heated discussion with Argentina captain Lionel Messi and midfielder Rodrigo de Paul.

In a post on Instagram and X (formerly known as Twitter) on Thursday, Rodrygo said he had been targeted by racists on social media after the game.

"Racists are always on duty," he said. "My social networks were invaded with insults and all kinds of nonsense. It's there for everyone to see!

"If we don't do what they want, if we don't behave as they think we should, if we wear something that bothers them, if we don't lower our heads when we are attacked, if we occupy spaces that they think are theirs alone, racists take action with his criminal behaviour. Their bad luck. We will not stop!"

Rodrygo's Brazil and Real Madrid teammate Vinicius Júnior offered his support shortly afterwards, tweeting, "We won't stop!"

Vinicius has been repeatedly targeted with racist abuse by opposition fans while playing for Real Madrid in LaLiga. A criminal case against three Valencia fans who allegedly racially abused him during Madrid's game at Metalla in May is ongoing.

Ahead of the game against Argentina, Vinicius launched an anti-racism campaign in Brazil this week, with posters carrying messages appearing on billboards in cities across the country.

## IWF World Junior Championships:

# Yousefi dominates superheavyweight as Iran wins men's crown



### Sports Desk

Iranian weightlifter Alireza Yousefi made a clean sweep of three superheavyweight gold medals to steer the country to the men's title at the IWF World Junior Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The Iranian 10-man squad collected five golds, nine silvers, and a single bronze to tally 660 points for a fifth crown in 12 years – first since 2018.

Taha Ne'mati Moqaddam walked away with three silver medals to complete a dominant one-two for Iran in the +109kg con-

tests, while the 17-year-old's 176kg lift shattered the world youth record in the snatch category of the weight class.

A two-time Asian youth champion, Ne'mati added 21kg to his personal best total in making 176-205-381 despite failing with two clean and jerk attempts.

Yousefi, meanwhile, proved to be in a league of his own in the junior superheavyweight class by yet another 400kg-plus performance in securing a triple-gold winning campaign in the competitions for a second year running.

Making his final appearance as a junior weightlifter, the Iranian, a Youth Olympic Games champion in 2018, withdrew from his third snatch attempt but the 180-240-420 display was still enough to see Yousefi write his name into the history books of the sport in the country.

Yousefi became the third Iranian to claim back-to-back world golds in the age category – following Kianoush Rostami (2010 and 2011) and Saeed Mohammadpour (2011 and 2012). Had Yousefi not missed his second C&J lift, the 20-year-

old would have had a shot at his own world record of 246kg, which he established during a career-best performance (190-246-436) in May's senior Asian Championships in South Korea, where he finished fifth.

Yousefi stepped into the event in Mexico with six world records in junior and youth age classes under his belt, until his fellow Iranian took one away on Thursday. Slovakian Vladimir Macura grabbed the snatch and total bronzes with 168kg and 359kg, while a successful 192kg lift saw Polish contestant Igor Osuch settle for

the third podium in the C&J contest.

Thursday's results took Iran's medal haul in the final three days to two golds and three silvers on total, moving Hadi Panzvan's squad up to fourth in the medals table behind the United States, Mexico and Armenia. Alireza Nasiri got Iran off the mark in Guadalajara when he finished third in the snatch contests with a 166kg lift before grabbing the C&J (205kg) and total (371kg) golds in the men's 96kg showdown.

Abolfazl Zare' added three silvers to Iran's medal



Iranian weightlifter Alireza Yousefi is seen in action in the men's +109kg contests at the IWF World Junior Championships in Guadalajara, Mexico, on November 23, 2023.  
● IWF

count, registering 166-199-365 to stand on the runner-up podiums – behind Armenian Garik Karapetyan (175-203-378) – in the 102kg class.

The 109kg event also yielded three silver medals for Iran, courtesy of Arya Paydar, who finished on 168-205-373.



Serbian Novak Djokovic reacts to the crowd during his Davis Cup singles victory over Briton Cameron Norrie in Malaga, Spain, on November 23, 2023.  
● FRAN SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

## Djokovic says British fans disrespectful during Davis Cup win

REUTERS – Novak Djokovic accused British fans of disrespect during Serbia's Davis Cup quarter-final victory in Malaga on Thursday.

The 24-time Grand Slam winner said some fans had tried to annoy him during his straight sets win (6-4, 6-4) over Cameron Norrie and snapped at them when they drummed loudly during his post-match interview, telling them to shut up.

"That's disrespect but that's something you have to be prepared for in a Davis Cup," he later told reporters.

"It's normal that sometimes fans step over the line. In the heat of the moment sometimes you react too and you ... show

that you don't allow this kind of behaviour.

"I mean, they can do whatever they want but I'm going to respond to that. They were trying to annoy me the entire match, so yeah, we had a little bit of a chat in the end," he added.

Djokovic said he was not feeling fresh after a long season but wanted to end the year by helping Serbia with the Davis Cup.

"Being there on the court for my country is always extra push, extra motivation," added the 36-year-old world number one, who is looking to complete a remarkable year after winning three Grand Slam titles and the ATP Finals.

"Part of me looks forward

to rest and recalibration and leave the racquet on the side but right now I cannot allow myself to enjoy those thoughts about holidays."

Serbia face Italy in the semi-finals today.

Jannik Sinner inspired the former champions to a 2-1 comeback win over the Netherlands, the world number four winning his singles and a decisive doubles.

Sinner paired up with Lorenzo Sonego to overcome the duo of Tallon Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof 6-3 6-4 as Italy reached back-to-back semi-finals in the premier men's team competition for the first time since three successive last-four appearances in 1996-98.

# Gaza truce in effect, setting stage for prisoner swap, aid delivery

## International Desk

A four-day cease-fire between Israel and Hamas began Friday, allowing sorely needed aid to start flowing into Gaza and releasing of dozens of prisoners of both sides.

The first group of 13 Israeli hostages released by Hamas crossed into Egypt. The first exchange Friday afternoon involved swapping 39 Palestinian prisoners – 24 women, including some convicted of attempted murder for attacks on Israeli forces, and 15 teenagers jailed for offenses like throwing stones – for 13 Israeli prisoners, Palestinian authorities said.

There were no reports of fighting in the hours after the truce began. The deal offered some relief for Gaza's 2.3 million people, who have endured weeks of Israeli bombardment and dwindling supplies of basic necessities, as well as for families in Israel worried about their relatives imprisoned during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack.

## Optimism for aid

UN agencies have voiced hope that the shaky truce would allow aid to flow to northern Gaza for the first time in weeks, while the World Health Organization said it is working on further hospital evacuations. Aid agencies have said they are aiming to deliver supplies to the northern part of the Palestinian enclave, where hospitals

have collapsed due to bombings and lack of fuel, and where there are major concerns about dehydration and disease outbreaks.

WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier said the agency was working on further hospital evacuations as soon as possible. "We're extremely concerned about the safety of the estimated 100 patients and health workers remaining at Shifa (Hospital)," he said.

Tommaso Della Longa, spokesperson for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told Reuters that its local partner had a convoy of ambulances heading north to evacuate patients from Ahli Baptist Hospital.

## Iran's pivotal role

Ahead of the cease-fire, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Thursday held talks with Hamas politburo chief Ismail Haniyeh in Doha, where he has traveled as part of a regional tour for consultations amid the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

Meanwhile in Doha, Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani discussed the exchange of prisoners with Amir-Abdollahian and thanked Iran for its "pivotal role and valuable efforts in helping to achieve a humanitarian cessation of the war against Gaza".



"We have reached a good stage," the Qatari minister said, adding the first priority is the cease-fire, and then "our effort is to extend the temporary cease-fire and stop the war and killing of Palestinians completely and prevent a return to war".

Amir-Abdollahian also welcomed the truce, saying if the Israeli regime continues the war, "the situation in the region will become more tense and the reactions will be more widespread".

Also on Wednesday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that Israel has fallen short of realizing all of the

goals that it had sought by launching its ongoing war against the Gaza Strip.

The president pointed to the regime's killing of more than 14,500 Palestinians so far during the war, saying, "Killing of women and children does not mean victory."

The truce raised hopes of eventually winding down the conflict, which has flattened vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East. Israel, however, has said it is determined to resume its massive offen-

sive once the cease-fire ends.

On Friday, there was calm after weeks in which Gaza saw heavy bombardment and artillery fire daily as well as street fighting as ground troops advanced through neighborhoods in the north. The last report of air raid sirens in Israeli towns near the territory came shortly after the truce took effect.

Not long after, four tankers with fuel, and four with cooking gas entered the Gaza Strip from Egypt, Israel said.

UN aid agencies pushed back against the claim, saying fuel deliveries were

closely supervised and urgently needed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe since fuel is required to run generators that power water treatment facilities, hospitals and other critical infrastructure.

The Israeli military dropped leaflets over southern Gaza, warning hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians who sought refuge there not to return to their homes in the territory's north, the focus of Israel's ground offensive.

**AP, Reuters, AFP, Press TV, and the Guardian contributed to this report.**

## Tehran raps European Parliament's anti-Iran resolution

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman vehemently condemned the "interventionist" resolution that the European Parliament (EP) recently passed about what they called the situation of human rights in the country. Nasser Kanaani, in a statement released on Friday, said the resolution approved by the legislative body of the European Union stems from the "destructive approach that several European currents have adopted vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran," Press TV reported.

"The European Parliament's meddling resolution indicates the confusion of a number of European parties over the reality of the Islamic Republic of Iran's might and anti-arrogance stances," the senior Iranian diplomat said as he denounced the EP's resolution.

On Thursday, the EP adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in Iran, condemning what it claimed were rights abuses against women in the country. The nonbinding resolution was adopted by 516 votes in favor, 4 against, and 27 abstentions.

Kanaani went on to criticize certain European countries for siding with terrorist groups over the past four decades against the Iranian nation, stating that their "theatrical measures and bogus humanitarian slogans" will never erase their "dark records" of sponsoring anti-Iranian criminals.

"Whilst the public opinion across the world, including European countries, is distressed, traumatized, and infuriated by continuation of the most inhumane crimes in Gaza, which are being committed by the apartheid and child-killing Israeli regime, and asks the officials of their respective countries to stop the genocide and war crimes against the defenseless and oppressed people of Gaza by raising their voices in streets of various cities across that continent (Europe), the European Parliament that alleges to be the symbol of democracy, so-called human rights, and humanitarian values has turned a blind eye to the most unprecedented and barbaric collective punishment and vicious massacre of tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian citizens, of whom 70 percent are women and children," he said. The spokesman emphasized that Europeans' double standard would not go unnoticed by the world's scholars and those whose consciences are awakened.

## Bibi's cabinet at end of rope



By Mehdi Shakibaei

Israel's affairs expert

## OPINION EXCLUSIVE

One should hesitate before using the term cease-fire for the pause in fighting between Is-

rael and Hamas. Usually, cease-fire is used to describe a cessation of war between two countries or armies in the traditional sense. Therefore, using the term may mislead some to believe that Israel and Palestine, with their traditional armies, are two parties to a conflict, which is simply not true as their power is incommensurable. So, I

prefer to coin and use the term "an agreement to stop Israeli crimes". The attack on October 7 by Hamas came as a massive shock to the Israeli regime and plunged it into analysis paralysis. As Israel was not in a stable position, it rushed to declare certain goals and milestones that has yet to achieve. Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime

minister, shared three goals: conquering Gaza, destroying Hamas, and freeing captives.

To attain these goals, it first bombarded Gaza heavily and then launched a ground assault. For 47 days, its Western allies turned a blind eye or actively backed the crimes of Israel. Netanyahu further declared that after conquering Gaza, it would relinquish the control of the enclave to neither Hamas nor the Palestinian Authority but rather to Egypt, Jordan, the Islamic Cooperation Council, or the United Nations. When the ground invasion was met with difficulties and resistance from Hamas and other groups, Tel Aviv cunningly changed its declared goals by focusing on freeing captives rather than crushing Hamas. Nevertheless, IDF forces failed to find even one captive after days of committing various crimes in Gaza since the ground assault started. Not only that, but it suffered casualties, too. Israel's Merkava tanks and some of its elite forc-

es were hunted by Hamas fighters in Gaza.

These facts, along with domestic pressure coming from the families of the captives and international pressure from public opinion in support of Gazans, pushed Israel's hand to yield to Hamas's demands. The agreement between Israel and Hamas basically reflects the same demands that Hamas made two weeks prior, which were rejected by Israel at the time. This was, in fact, another defeat that Israel suffered after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Now, the question in everyone's mind concerns whether the cease-fire will hold or be broken by Israel to start the war anew? As long as there's occupation in Palestine, the conditions for Israel and Palestinians will be unstable. Since 2008, the Israelis have waged several major wars against Palestinians, the root of which is in the occupation. But this time, I believe that the cease-fire will hold. This, of course, does not mean that Israel has let Palestinians be, at least not until this cabi-

net is in office. From the viewpoint of the current hawkish Israeli cabinet, this cease-fire agreement is a defeat. They think the further they retreat on the battlefield, the faster their collapse will occur. Thus, it would come as no surprise if, despite pressure from the US, the IDF violated the agreement. In the end, however, the cabinet has no choice but to accept defeat and face reality. The reality is that Netanyahu's cabinet will fall apart. The US administration and Joe Biden are standing ready to accelerate Netanyahu's downfall when the opportunity arises. Now, the opportunity seems to have presented itself to see the ouster of Bibi's cabinet as the immediate result of the agreement. The US seeks to see Netanyahu's opposition assume power to create a so-called lasting state of affairs in Israel and Palestine. Whether they will reach their goal or not remains to be seen, but what is certain is that Netanyahu and his war-mongering cabinet are at the end of their rope.



Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Emergency organization to be boosted

Social Desk

With the cooperation of the government and parliament, Iran's National Medical Emergency Organization plans to meet the needs of pre-hospital emergencies in both land and air fields.

The head of the organization has announced their intention to purchase 500 ambulances and 18 new helicopters, ISNA reported.

During the closing ceremony of the 9th Olympiad of Emergency Personnel, Jafar Mi'adfar announced that the event was of excellent quality. The competition was intense, with a close margin between the winners and participants.

He highlighted the good emergency situation in Mashhad and Razavi Khorasan Province but pointed out the main problem of having 3,500 worn-out ambulances in the country. He called for special attention to the country's emergency organization, as its forces are the first responders who provide assistance to the sick and injured at all hours. He also emphasized the need for special attention to air emergency supply and requested authorities to address this issue before approving the next year's budget.

Regarding the country's air emergency helicopters, Mi'adfar stated that there are currently 52 in operation, but according to standards, 70 should be active. Therefore, they require an additional 18 helicopters.

He also revealed plans to strengthen the fleet of emergency motor ambulances in major cities. They aim to graduate 400 female emergency technicians by the end of the year and assign them to urban bases, particularly in religious cities like Mashhad, to provide aid to sick and injured women.

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# A young man with a big heart set on saving addicts



By Mahdiyeh Qazvinian  
Staff writer

Homelessness is not just a problem limited to Iran; it has become a global issue. Furthermore, it is not restricted to a specific group such as addicts, criminals, or alcoholics. Sometimes, individuals find themselves sleeping on the streets due to reasons like financial bankruptcy or women facing circumstances like divorce and lack of housing. However, the highest incidence of homelessness is observed among drug addicts. In response to this, individuals of significant stature, both men and women, have established institutions that play a crucial role in reintegrating these individuals into society. Saeed

Maleki, born in 1988 in the southern

part of Tehran, is one such individual. As a coach at a bodybuilding club, Maleki's altruistic nature has guided him towards helping addicts find salvation.

His story begins in 2020 when, after several years of wandering in Turkey and Georgia, he returned to Iran and reunited with his old friend Mohsen Eftekharian, who operates a detox camp near Tehran.

Saeed says, "At Mohsen's suggestion, recognizing my spirit, we began assisting homeless addicts. Despite our financial limitations, we embarked on this path. I used to be afraid to enter the camp, and even if an addict got into my car before, I would be scared. But now, I fearlessly roam the streets, searching for the homeless, and with determination, I approach them and personally escort them to the camp. Although I have faced numerous threats, I have

persisted." One of his primary goals was to create an environment where these individuals could find employment after overcoming addiction, maintain their sobriety, and actively participate in work and society, just like any other member.

"The selfless support of people has been instrumental in my mission, from the sandwich vendor who messaged me, stating their need for workers, to various production workshops. I aspire to continue my work on an international scale, and as long as I am alive, I will remain committed to this path."

### Covering the Costs

Eftekharian and I cover the expenses through advertising on our Instagram page and the support of people who see us and contribute. For each 21-day treatment cycle for an addict, we allocate a minimum of \$120 for food and approximately \$420 for dental expenses. Volunteer doctors and psychologists collaborate with us, and fortunately, they do not charge us. Additionally, the country's State Welfare Organization sends psychologists to the camp on a weekly basis and provides individual sessions with patients daily.

### The Young and the Rescued

Negar, a 34-year-old woman who has been residing in the women's addiction treatment camp for 5 months, shares her story.



"One night in a western neighborhood of Tehran, while wrapping myself in a makeshift blanket to ward off the cold, I collapsed in a corner of the street, on the brink of death. Suddenly, in the depths of despair, I saw a young man standing above me; he offered assistance and brought me to the women's addiction treatment camp in the neighborhood. It has been 5 months since I became clean, and I even earn a living within the camp. I have no desire to leave this place."

"I was disconnected from my family for four years and had become homeless. The day Saeed took me from the outskirts of Tehran to the camp, I expressed my wish to see my family again. On the day I achieved sobriety, he surprised me. That day, I held my son in my arms," remembers Khalil, who has successfully over-

come addiction. With Saeed's help, Khalil strives to rescue addicts and prevent them from being consumed by this abyss.

"I can never forget Ahmad. I encountered him near the camp office, and when he saw me, he burst into tears. I embraced him and promised to help. Although he escaped from the camp numerous times, I managed to bring him back. Today, he is 26 years old, employed at a company, and on the verge of marriage," Maleki shares.

"I believe one of the main reasons young people are drawn to drugs is the absence of family bonds. During adolescence, I felt inferior to everyone and wished to mature quickly. I thought smoking would make me appear older," Ahmad says.

"An addict is not lowly; they are victims of their own ignorance."

## Climate change-induced 'anxiety' on the rise

According to data gathered by Google, online search queries related to "climate anxiety" have risen. Studies also suggest that women are more affected by climate anxiety than men.

The rise of wildfires, floods, and droughts around the world are just some highly visible signs of climate change. However, what is reported less is the impact of climate change on human minds, BBC reported.

Climate anxiety, defined as feelings of distress about the impacts of climate change, has been reported globally, particularly among children and young people. Data from Google Trends shows a dramatic increase in search queries related to "climate anxiety". In the first 10 months of 2023, search queries in English around "climate anxiety" were 27 times higher than the same period in 2017.

The Google Trends data combines search queries for "climate anxiety" and "eco-anxiety," terms that are often used interchangeably but have slightly different meanings. Climate anxiety specifically

refers to anxiety associated with awareness of climate change, while eco-anxiety is a more general anxiety associated with threats to environmental health, including pollution and loss of biodiversity. Google Trends does not simply measure the total volume of searches but looks at a sample of searches to identify trends worldwide. It uses a measure called "search interest" to examine the relative popularity of search queries over time.

Over the past five years, Nordic countries have had the biggest share of global search queries related to climate anxiety. Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway accounted for over 40 percent of search queries related to "climate anxiety". Google adjusts its data to account for differences in overall search volume, allowing for comparisons between countries of various population sizes. As a result, smaller countries may top the ranking instead of more populated ones.

Countries in the Global South, such as Chile, the Philippines, and South Africa, represented smaller

shares of search queries. Countries with low search volumes have been excluded from the analysis.

Google has also noted a global increase in search queries about the future of the planet, as well as queries about the environment, in the last 12 months. People are not only seeking understanding but also wanting to take action. For example, "how to solve climate change" was one of the trending queries about climate change worldwide in the last two years. Although Google did not release data on the gender of people searching for queries related to "climate anxiety," research indicates that women are more predisposed to climate anxiety than men. Findings from a 2023 study published in the academic journal Sustainability showed that female respondents around the world reported greater levels of concern and negative emotions about climate change. Male respondents, on the other hand, were more optimistic and expressed greater faith in government. The study, based on an online

survey of 10,000 people aged 16 to 25 across 10 countries, was not the only one to highlight this gender difference. Analysis of more than 44,000 respondents from the European Social Survey in 2019 also concluded that women registered greater concern about climate change than men.

Professor Susan Clayton, co-author of the Sustainability study, offers possible explanations for this gender disparity. She suggests that women may be more open to discussing emotions, leading them to consistently report higher levels of concern. Additionally, some women may worry more about climate change because they are at greater risk than men of experiencing real-life impacts. Physiological vulnerability, such as the impact of high temperatures and air pollution during pregnancy, can make it more difficult for women to escape extreme climate conditions.

Furthermore, research suggests that women are more likely than men to die in climate change-related disasters. For instance, a study examining cyclones in Ban-

ladesh between 1983 and 2009 found that women had an increased mortality risk compared to the general adult population. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that human contributions have likely intensified some cyclones.

Gender-based inequalities play a role in limiting women's access to information following a climate change event, particularly in poorer countries. They may have fewer opportunities to travel to a place of safety and may prioritize the

safety of others over themselves due to caring responsibilities. Indirect and longer-term impacts of climate change can also have detrimental effects on the well-being of women and girls.

In 2022, the IPCC reported on the mental health impacts of climate change for the first time. This year's COP28 in Dubai will also feature several discussions about mental health. Just as the physical impacts of climate change are on the rise, so too is the attention paid to its impacts on the mind.



Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh in 2007 caused thousands deaths and left millions homeless, particularly affecting women and children. ● GETTY IMAGES