

Injectable anti-cancer drug unveiled in Iran



IRNA

An Iranian knowledge-based company developed an injectable drug used in the treatment of a broad range of cancers.

The pharmaceutical product named "cyclophosphamide" has been unveiled by an Iranian company based in the province of Alborz, Tasnim news agency reported.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Iranian Vice President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy Ruhollah Dehqani Firouzabadi.

In comments at the ceremony, the head of the Science and Technology Park of Alborz, Mahdi Abbasi, pointed to the effects of the injection of the newly-developed medicine in the treatment of a wide spectrum of cancers, saying the drug is used to treat many diseases including ovarian cancer, breast cancer, blood cancer and eye cancer.

Until recently, 100 percent of Iran's demand for this widely-used drug was met through imports, Abbasi stated, noting that the mass production and supply of the homegrown drug will settle the problems facing cancer patients and prevent the high exchange rate used for importing the product.

The provision and supply of the anti-cancer drugs have always been one of the major concerns of health officials and patients in Iran, he added.

The production of cyclophosphamide inside Iran and the patients' sustainable access to this anti-cancer drug will be facilitated optimally from now on, he stated.

Cyclophosphamide is used to treat cancers of the breast, blood and lymph system, and nerves (mainly in children). Cyclophosphamide is also used for retinoblastoma - a type of eye cancer mainly in children - and multiple myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow.



Putin hosts Raisi for talks on trade

National Desk

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, in Moscow on Thursday to discuss trade and economic sectors.

During a five-hour meeting, they addressed bilateral relations, including banking and monetary affairs, transit, railways, power plant cooperation, agriculture, energy, scientific collaboration, university partnerships, technology, tourism, and industry. The ongoing situation in Gaza was also a significant topic, president. ir reported.

Both heads of state emphasized regional and international collaboration.

Raisi highlighted the strong relations between the two countries, expressing that there is definitely room for further development.

Putin also touched on growing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, saying under the current plan, signing of a free trade agree-

ment between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) mission is on Russia's agenda.

He cited transportation and energy, noting signed contracts for railway construction and oil and gas field development.

"We also have good relations in the field of education, as Iranian and Russian students study in each other's universities, and we actively work in all fields to move forward," added Putin.

Following the bilateral meeting, a joint meeting of high-ranking economic and political delegations took place in the presence of the presidents. During this joint session, discussions and exchanges of views on mutual interests occurred.

The two countries also have closer military relations. Last month, Iran finalized arrangements for the delivery of Russian-made Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets and helicopters, along with jet trainers. Plans for these aircraft to

join the combat units of the Iranian Armed Forces were confirmed by Iran's Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Mahdi Farahi.

In the Thursday meeting, President Raisi called for an immediate stop to Israeli "genocide and crimes against humanity" in the besieged Gaza Strip, Press TV reported.

"Gaza is a land where a child is martyred every ten minutes, so it is necessary to stop these bombings as soon as possible and find a quick and immediate solution," he said, adding, "What is happening in Palestine is a genocide and a crime against humanity".

"The Zionist regime's crime in Gaza is supported by the US and Western countries, and it is unfortunate that international organizations claiming to advocate human rights have lost their effectiveness," he added.

"What is afflicting humanity today is unilateralism and the unjust global system, and its manifestation can be seen in Gaza," Raisi said.

Israel sharply ramps up Gaza strikes ahead of rare UN vote

International Desk

Israeli forces squeezed Gaza's main cities Friday, ahead of an extraordinary UN bid for a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas resistance group.

The UN extraordinary bid was set for a vote on a resolution urging an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, after UN chief Antonio Guterres took the extraordinary step earlier in the week of invoking the UN charter's Article 99 to call the vote.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in a statement on Thursday, welcomed the UN chief's move to wield his power under Article 99 of the UN Charter to urge the Security Council to halt Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

On Friday, Israel sharply ramped up strikes on the Gaza Strip, pounding the

length of the Palestinian enclave and killing hundreds in a new, expanded phase of the war that Washington said veered from Israeli promises to do more to protect civilians.

Israel's assault on Gaza that started on October 7 by Hamas's deadly attack have left at least 17,487 people dead, mostly women and children, according to the latest toll from Health Ministry in the besieged strip.

Vowing to destroy the resistance movement, Israel has relentlessly bombarded Gaza and sent in tanks and ground troops since the war began by Hamas fighters that killed about 1,200 people in Israel.

On the verge of collapse

With the vast majority of Gazans now displaced and

unable to access any aid, hospitals overrun and food running out, the main UN agency there said society was "on the verge of a full-blown collapse".

Residents and the Israeli military both reported intensified fighting in both northern areas, where Israel had previously said its troops had largely completed their tasks last month, and in the south where they launched a new assault this week.

Thomas White, Gaza head of UNRWA, the UN aid agency for Palestinians, wrote on X: "Civil order is breaking down in Gaza - the streets feel wild, particularly after dark - some aid convoys are being looted and UN vehicles stoned. Society is on the brink of full-blown collapse."

Ramy Abdu, head of the Geneva-based Euro-Med-

iterranean Human Rights Monitor, posted pictures showing severe damage to the vast medieval Great Omari Mosque, the most important landmark in Gaza's Old City, apparently hit for the first time. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

US alarms

"As we stand here almost a week into this campaign into the south... it remains imperative that Israel put a premium on civilian protection," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told a press conference in Washington on Thursday.

"And there does remain a gap between... the intent to protect civilians and the actual results that we're seeing on the ground." In a phone call Thursday with Israeli Prime Minister



Smoke rises over Gaza, amid the ongoing war on the besieged strip, as seen from southern Israel, on December 8, 2023. HASSAN SHIRVANI

Benjamin Netanyahu, US President Joe Biden, whose country provides billions of dollars in military aid to Israel, "emphasized the critical need to protect civilians and to separate the civilian population from Hamas," the White House said.

Biden also called for "corridors that allow people to move safely from defined areas of hostilities."

With the fighting now extended across both halves of the Gaza Strip at the same time, residents say it has become almost impossible to find refuge. Israel says it is providing more detail than ever about which areas are safe and how to reach them, and blames Hamas for harm that befalls civilians by operating among them, which Hamas denies.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Syrian PM in Tehran to boost cooperation

Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous began his three-day official visit to Tehran to discuss ways to promote economic cooperation with Iran.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Arnous arrived in the Iranian capital on Friday evening, receiving a warm welcome from Iranian Minister of Justice Amin Hossein Rahimi.

The visits takes place at the invitation of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber, who will officially welcome the Syrian official today, IRNA reported. Mohammad Jamshidi, the Iranian president's deputy



chief of staff for political affairs, said Arnous plans to take part in the 15th meeting of the High Committee of Iran-Syria Economic Cooperation. He would also hold talks with President Ebrahim Raisi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer



Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous (2nd L) is welcomed by Iranian Minister of Justice Amin Hossein Rahimi (2nd R) upon his arrival in Tehran on November 8, 2023. HASSAN SHIRVANI/IRNA

Qalibaf and Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian.

In line with the implementation of agreements inked during President Raisi's visit to Damascus in May and the topics agreed upon, the Iranian and Syrian authorities would sign documents for the enhancement of relations of cooperation, Jamshidi said.

On May 3, Raisi and his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad signed an agreement on "long-term strategic comprehensive cooperation" between the two countries.