

Russia, Iran to Cooperate on Building Research Spacecraft
TEHRAN - Top universities from Iran and Russia have embarked on a joint project to manufacture a research spacecraft. In an interview with Tasnim, the president of the University of Tehran said the academic center has recently signed an agreement with the Moscow State University to develop a research spacecraft within two years. Mohammad Mogimi noted that the execution of the project has kicked off, a working group has been set up, and the scientific activities related to the joint project have gotten underway. A secretariat has also been established at the University of Tehran's scientific and research department to oversee the project, he added. He said the Iranian vice president has assigned the Plan and Budget Organization of Iran to finance part of the joint project.

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Viewpoint

France Ought to Stop Being US Agent against Iran

Saudi Ambassador Submits Credentials to Iranian FM



Iran Women Ice Hockey Team Runner-Up at EHL Tournament



Palestinian Teenager Martyred in Al-Khalil, Resistance Fires Rocket at Settlement



Trial Opens in Terrorist Attack on Shah Cheragh

TEHRAN -- Iran on Sunday held the first trial session for the three perpetrators of last month's deadly terrorist attack on the Shah Cheragh shrine in the southern Iranian city of Shiraz.

During the hearing, the representative of Fars province's general and revolutionary prosecutor accused the prime suspect, Rahmatollah Nowruzof from Tajikistan, of waging war on God, corruption on earth, and membership in the Daesh terrorist group with the intention of acting against Iran's security.

He also accused the two other suspects of abetting the commission of the aforesaid crimes, calling for a severe punishment.

On August 13, Nowruzof, nicknamed Aslamyar, went on a shooting spree in the Shah Cheragh shrine, martyring two and injuring seven people. He carried an assault rifle and eight magazines with 240 bullets, 11 of which he managed to get off before being arrested.

The Daesh terrorist group claimed responsibility for the

terrorist assault.

Speaking during the trial, Nowruzof said that he had joined Daesh through a foreign messaging application and was recommended to travel to Turkey.

The terrorist added that from Turkey, he had illegally entered Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, saying the latter was the place where he received military training.

He said that after re-entry to Iran, he had lived for almost a month at a home near Shah Cheragh shrine, reconnected with Daesh, and taken delivery of weapons.

"I did not count the number of the people targeted, but I intended to continue the operation until the last bullet in the magazine," the terrorist further said.

He said that he had been ordered to get two containers of gasoline, however, he had entered the holy shrine with one gasoline container in his backpack and was arrested before he could torch the carpets where the worshipers were.

Death Toll Rises to 2,100 Morocco Races to Find Possible Quake Survivors

TAFEGHATTE, Morocco (AFP) -- A magnitude 3.9 aftershock rattled Moroccans on Sunday as they prayed for victims of the nation's strongest earthquake in more than a century and worked to rescue survivors while soldiers and workers brought water and supplies to mountain villages in ruins.

The death toll has risen to 2,122, while 2,421 people were injured, state TV said.

Authorities declared three days of national mourning, but the Red Cross warned that it could take years to repair the damage.

The United Nations estimated that 300,000 people were affected by Friday night's magnitude 6.8 quake and some Moroccans complained on social networks that the government wasn't allowing more help from outside. International aid crews were prepared to deploy, but remained in limbo waiting for the Morocco government to request their assistance.

With strong tremors also felt in the coastal cities of Rabat, Casablanca and Essaouira, the quake caused widespread damage and sent terrified residents and tourists scrambling to safety in the middle of the night.

"I was nearly asleep when I heard the doors and the shutters banging," said Ghannou Najem, a Casablanca resident in her 80s who was visiting Marrakesh

when the quake hit.

"I went outside in a panic. I thought I was going to die alone."

In the mountain village of Tafeghaghte near the quake's epicenter, virtually no buildings were left standing. The traditional clay bricks used by the region's Berber inhabitants proved no match for the rare quake.

In the late afternoon, soldiers continued to search through debris, but most survivors headed to the cemetery where loud screams punctuated the last rites as some 70 villagers were laid to rest.

"Three of my grandchildren and their mother were killed - they are still under the rubble," villager Omar Benhanna, 72, told AFP. "Just a while ago, we were all playing together," he added.

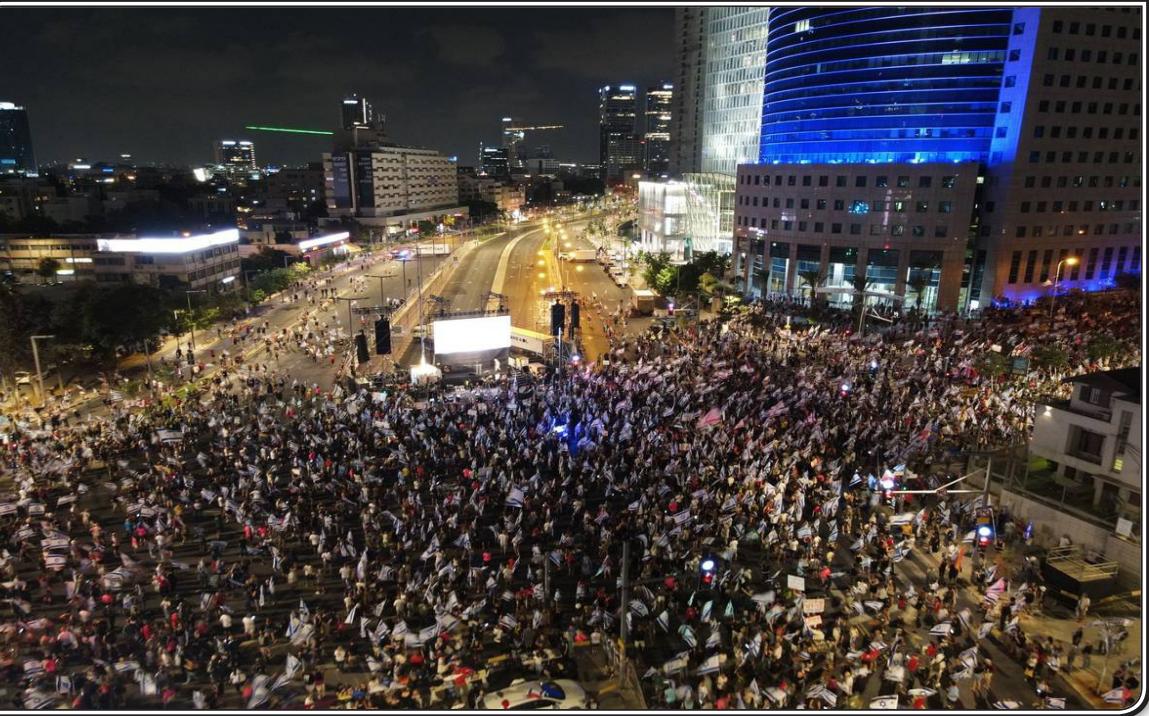
It was the strongest-ever quake to hit the North African kingdom, and one expert described it as the region's "biggest in more than 120 years".

"Where destructive earthquakes are rare, buildings are simply not constructed robustly enough... so many collapse, resulting in high casualties," said Bill McGuire, professor emeritus at Britain's University College London.

Civil defense Colonel Hicham Choukri who is heading relief operations told state television earlier the epicenter and strength of the earthquake created "an exceptional emergency situation".

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Tens of Thousands Rally for 36th Week Protesters Carry Palestinian Flags in Occupied Territories



An aerial view of protesters marching at the Kaplan Street in Tel Aviv on August 26, 2023.

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) -- Tens of thousands of demonstrators have held huge rallies across the occupied territories for the 36th straight week in protest against the far-right Israeli cabinet's extremist policies, including the highly controversial judicial overhaul scheme.

The protest rallies were held late Saturday ahead of a key decision by the regime's supreme court over a legislation passed in the Knesset by prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet,

which stripped the court of some of its oversight powers.

In addition to the coastal city of Tel Aviv, where tens of thousands took to the streets, similar rallies were also held in dozens of other locations across the occupied territories, including Haifa, Beer Sheba, Modiin, Herzliya, the occupied city of Al-Quds and some other cities.

The Israeli police closed a number of main roads in Tel Aviv after the demonstration started.

Some Israeli media reported

that a number of demonstrators had raised Palestinian flags.

In addition to the weekly protests, several thousand people also completed a three-day march in the northern part of the occupied territories in protest at the so-called overhaul scheme.

"This is the 36th weeks in a row that we are demonstrating against Netanyahu's attempts to make a coup.... This demonstration is three days before the deliberations in the Supreme Court to disable the law that they passed....

We are gonna demonstrate ... on Monday ... in front of the supreme court [in Al-Quds] in our efforts to stop this horrible legislation," one protester was quoted by Reuters as saying.

"I am demonstrating ... to make sure that there is a supremacy of ... the Supreme Court. Right now, we have clowns and criminals [in the cabinet] ... and I wanna make sure that they go away," another demonstrator said.

Thousands-strong weekly rallies have been a fixture since January, when the regime's hard-right cabinet announced its plans to turn the scheme into law.

Proponents of the plan say it helps redistribute the balance of power between the politicians and the judiciary. Its opponents, however, accuse Netanyahu of trying his hand at a power grab. They say the premier, who is on trial on several counts of corruption charges, is also attempting to use the scheme to quash possible judgments against him.

The far-right cabinet has already passed one of the scheme's bills through the Knesset, which removed the court's power to strike down the cabinet's decisions or appointments on the basis of being "unreasonable."

The regime's supreme court, for the first time in its history, is to convene its entire 15-judge bench on Tuesday to hear an appeal against that bill.

Research: Cancer Cases Surge in UK

LONDON (Guardian) -- A growing epidemic of preventable cancers will lead to 184,000 people in the UK being diagnosed with the disease this year and will cost the country more than £78bn, research reveals.

The cost of the cancer cases diagnosed in 2023 caused by smoking, drinking, obesity and sunburn leads to £40bn in lost productivity, costs the people affected £30bn and takes up £3.7bn of the NHS's budget, the study found. Preventable cancers also cost families and carers £3.4bn and the social care system £1.3bn.

The stark findings sparked calls by doctors and public health campaigners for a crackdown on smoking, drinking and poor diet to reduce avoidable cancers because of the huge human toll they involve and their financial consequences.

Organizations such as Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) estimate that about 40% of all cancers, in the UK and worldwide, are potentially preventable

because they are closely linked to lifestyle factors such as diet, smoking and sunburn.

"This report is a stark reminder of the countless lives that could be saved by preventing cancer and a call to the UK government that health prevention strategies are key to relieving pressures on our NHS and economy," said Michelle Mitchell, CRUK's chief executive.

She called for "bold political action" to tackle the harm caused by tobacco and bad diet. "If recent trends continue, smoking could cause around 1m more cancer cases in the UK between now and 2040. And more than 21 million UK adults could be obese, which would increase their risk of over 13 types of cancer", she said.

The findings are contained in a study of the social and economic costs of preventable cancers in the UK undertaken by Frontier Economics for the Guardian. Frontier, a leading economics consultancy, specializes in projecting the costs of major diseases using data published by government, official and medical bodies. The £78bn cost is the equivalent of 3.5% of GDP, it found.

It estimated that on current trends the number of avoidable cancer diagnoses is due to rise from 184,000 to 226,000 a year by 2040 because of population changes. Between now and then, 3.7 million people will be diagnosed who would have not developed the disease if it had not been for the four known main risk factors - smoking, drinking, obesity and UV radiation. Those cases combined will cost the UK £1.26tn, Frontier believes.

Doctors and public health experts said the government must be prepared to confront powerful commercial lobbies such as supermarkets and the food industry in order to reduce the toll of avoidable cancer. Existing measures are ineffective and give too much influence to vested interests such as the alcohol trade, which means meaningful change is stymied, they said.

Frontier's report looked at the four most preventable cancers: skin, lung, bowel and breast cancer. It says 79% of the 54,500 new cases of lung cancer diagnosed in the UK each year are preventable and almost three-quarters of those are caused by tobacco. Similarly, 87% of the 20,500 cases of melanoma could have been avoided if the people concerned had not been exposed to UV radiation through spending time in the sun.

In addition, 54% of bowel cancers are deemed preventable - they are "due to modifiable risk factors", the study says - because they are linked to a lack of fiber, intake of processed meat or being overweight or obese. And almost one in four of the 61,500 new cases of breast cancer in the UK every year are also deemed preventable because they involve excess weight or alcohol.

Overall, 97,500 of the 179,000 cases of those four cancers combined that will be diagnosed this year - 54% of the total - will have been preventable, Frontier found.

The £30bn cost of avoidable cancer to individuals reflects mainly (Continued on Page 7)