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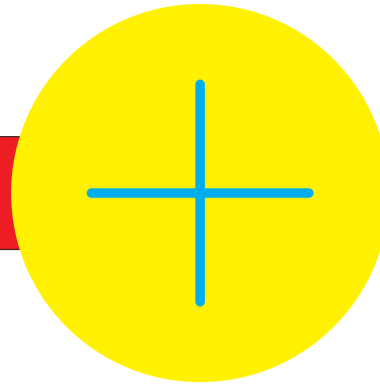
## Iran, Venezuela have constructive ties: Minister



IRNA – Iran's minister of culture said that Iran and Venezuela have had constructive and good ties in various fields despite the long distance between them.

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# North Khorasan Province a center of grape production in Iran

The suitable climatic and geographical conditions have made North Khorasan Province one of the important centers of grape production in Iran.

Having many grape vineyards, both rainfed and irrigated, North Khorasan Province supplies a large part of northeastern Iran. This province has more than 344,000

hectares of agricultural land, of which about 38,000 hectares are fruit orchards, surfiran.com wrote. Also, about half the gardens in the province, i.e., over

18,000 hectares are vineyards, which have a great contribution to the agricultural economy of this province, with an average annual production of 160,000

tons. The grapes produced in the province include Kolhadari, Kheshmeshi, Askari, La'al, Yakuti, black grapes, and Mikami.

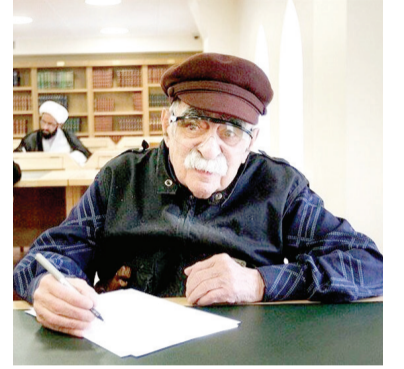
In the last few years, new cultivars have entered the province, 83 of which have reached fruition. The existence of suitable climatic and geographical conditions has made North Khorasan Province one of the important centers of grape production in the country. Of the total production of grapes in the province, about 13,000 tons are fresh, 25,000 tons are processed, and about 90,000 tons are surplus.

North Khorasan Province has the sixth place in the country in terms of grape production. Grape cultivation has been common in this region for a long time, which is well adapted to the region's climate. The vine growers of the province produce a variety of products from grape, which are very marketable; raisin, vinegar, and juice are among them.

Grapes produced in the province are of very good quality, and the popularity of this product in world markets is also high. Thus ground should be provided for the sale of these products.

Every year, with the beginning of the autumn season, the grape harvest begins in the orchards of North Khorasan Province. Kolhadari and raisin grapes are the main types of production in the province.

## Prominent researcher Abdullah Anwar passed at 98



### Arts & Culture Desk

Abdullah Anwar, a prominent researcher on Iran and Islam passed away on Thursday at the age of 98 due to old age.

Anwar was one of the researchers who contributed a lot to Iran's culture. He had various skills in many fields. Many important manuscripts of Islamic philosophy were revived and explained by him, among which the explanations of the works of Farabi and Avicenna are of particular importance.

His essays based on the quotations of Nasir al-Din Tusi are also famous. He was also involved in translating important works from Eastern and Western philosophies.

Iran's Minister of Culture Mohammad Mahdi Esmaili sent a message of condolences on Anwar's passing, calling him a "treasure of wisdom, knowledge and philosophy."

"As one of the cultural heritages of this land, Professor Anwar, while mastering classic texts, was also a master of modern sciences. He was comprehensive in various sciences, mastering logic, philosophy, music, mathematics, history, astronomy and manuscripts," said the minister's message of condolences.



## Largest hospital in Middle East opened in Tehran

Iran has launched a mega hospital dubbed by authorities the largest in the Middle East region as President Ebrahim Raeisi vows his administration will be committed to complete unfinished projects in the country despite financial difficulties caused by sanctions. Raeisi on Wednesday opened the Mahdi Clinic hospital, a 1,000-bed, 18-storey health complex located in downtown Tehran, Press TV reported.

He said the hospital is the largest healthcare project opened in Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Construction of Mahdi Clinic began in 2011, according to official media reports, which state the hospital will benefit from

permanent services of some 380 doctors and medical professors. Raeisi said in a speech after inaugurating the hospital that his government would provide the funds needed to finish infrastructure projects that have stalled in recent years because of US

sanctions. He said services currently provided by Iran's healthcare sector are incomparable to the past, adding that many provincial capitals in Iran have turned into major health tourism centers in the region. Raeisi also said that Iran has managed to cut back

its reliance on other countries for supplies of medicine and medical equipment. Figures released on Wednesday showed that the number of new hospital beds launched in Iran since Raeisi's administration took office in August 2020 had topped 15,000.



Women in local traditional clothes carry haft-seen items in Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh, Gilan Province, on March 10, 2023, to welcome Norouz, the Iranian New Year, which begins on March 21, 2023.

OMID RAJABIPOUR/TASNIM