

[Iran chess star fleeing to Spain after playing without hijab](#)

Thu, 2022-12-29 16:23

LONDON: An Iranian chess player is moving to Spain while fearing for her life after playing in a tournament without a hijab, the Daily Telegraph reported on Thursday.

During the FIDE World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships in Kazakhstan earlier this week, Sara Khadem appeared without a hijab, in an apparent show of support for women and anti-regime protesters in her home country.

However, sources close to the player said the 25-year-old has decided to move to Spain with her husband and young child following the events as a result of safety fears.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Iran to hold military exercises near Strait of Hormuz

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Thu, 2022-12-29 12:41

TEHRAN: Iran's army begins Thursday military exercises in strategic southern regions east of the Strait of Hormuz, state news agency IRNA reported. Joint drills involving air, land and naval forces – including both drones and submarines – will take place around the southeastern port of Jask “east of the Strait of Hormuz,” deputy coordinator of the armed forces Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said. The Strait of Hormuz is the strategic chokepoint at the head of the Gulf through which a fifth of world oil output passes.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

US Navy to name ship after Marine

[battles in Fallujah, Iraq](#)

Thu, 2022-12-29 00:08

WASHINGTON: The Navy's next amphibious assault ship will be named after the city of Fallujah, which saw some of the bloodiest battles in the Iraq war when US Marines fought Al-Qaeda extremists in deadly house-to-house combat.

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said the USS Fallujah will commemorate what have become known as the "First and Second Battles of Fallujah," following the tradition of naming the assault ships after Marine Corps battles or other early sailing ships and aircraft carriers.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

[Tunisian prosecutors move to try 13 judges on 'terror' charges](#)

Wed, 2022-12-28 23:59

TUNIS: Tunisian prosecutors asked the top judicial body to strip 13 judges of immunity so they can be tried on terror charges, their lawyer said Wednesday, describing the case as "purely political."

The move comes nearly seven months after President Kais Saied sacked 57

judges, accusing them of corruption and blocking enquiries into two left-wing political figures in 2013, among other purported transgressions.

Defense lawyer Ayachi Hammami said the 13 were among 49 judges reinstated in August.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

[Smugglers blamed as Lebanon bans cancer drug](#)

Wed, 2022-12-28 22:35

BEIRUT: A drug used to treat cancer patients has been banned from sale in Lebanon following a World Health Organization alert on a contaminated batch of the product, which officials believe was smuggled into the country.

The WHO on Tuesday cited adverse effects in pediatric patients receiving the drug, and said that its product alert referred to a batch of substandard Methothrex (methotrexate), which had been identified in Yemen and Lebanon.

The drug, an immunosuppressant used to treat cancer and autoimmune diseases, is on the WHO model list of essential medicines.



Main category:
[Middle-East](#)