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10-km-Long Feast

Mehrnews

Universal Ghadir

Shias show unity in magnificent Eid al-Ghadir celebrations

By Eshrat Mardi

TEHRAN- Every year, Shias worldwide celebrate Eid al-Ghadir with increasing grandeur. This sacred event has become a symbol of unity among Shias, transcending nationalities and ethnicities. This year, Shias from all corners of the globe gathered in streets and religious places to mark the momentous occasion.

Eid al-Ghadir is of immense significance to Shia Muslims as it marks the day when Imam Ali (AS) was chosen as the successor to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This Islamic commemorative holiday is revered as one of the most important occasions for Shiites.

The festival derives its name from the Pond (Ghadir) of Khumm, where the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is believed to have proclaimed Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) as his successor. It is a joyous occasion that celebrates the appointment of the Prophet Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law.

Eid al-Ghadir commemorates the Prophet's (PBUH) final sermon at Ghadir Khumm, which was uttered on the 18th of Dhu al-Hijjah, 10 AH. For Shia Muslims, this event forms the foundation for accepting Imam Ali (AS) as the successor to the Prophet.

In Iran, millions of people celebrated Eid al-Ghadir with great fervor. People from all walks of life participated in various ceremonies and rituals in different cities to cherish the auspicious day. The capital Tehran witnessed a grand ceremony spanning 10 kilometers: from Imam Hussein Square up to Azadi Square.

The commemoration of Eid al-Ghadir serves as a testament to the unwavering devotion and unity among Shia Muslims worldwide. As this sacred event is being celebrated magnificently each year, it reinforces the shared belief and strengthens the bonds among Shias.

On the auspicious occasion, people take to the streets to exchange greetings and felicitations, particularly with families who are descendants of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). ▸ Page **5**

Tehran holds massive celebration on Eid al-Ghadir

TEHRAN - On Friday, a celebration was held across 10 kilometers length from Imam Hossein Square to Azadi Square in Tehran, marking Eid al-Ghadir.

The Municipality of Tehran embellished the street by illuminating squares, installing decorative elements, and lighting alleyways and thoroughfares.

Cultural, art, and entertainment programs were held. People were served food and pastries.

Large celebrations were also held in other cities across the country.

Eid al-Ghadir is a source of unity for the Islamic nation. The event is the day on which Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as successor to Prophet Muhammad (S).

On the way back home from Hajj in 632, which is known as the Farewell Pilgrimage, Muhammad (S) asked for a stop in a region called Ghadir Khum, where in his sermon, he announced his cousin Ali (AS) as his successor and first Imam shortly before his death based on a revelation from God.

Afterward, two tents were pitched, in one of which Muslims congratulated the Prophet (S) for his excellent choice and, in the other one, Muslims from all tribes gave their allegiance to Ali (AS). One of the Muslims was Hazrat Fatima (SA), the wife of Imam Ali (AS) and daughter of the Prophet (S).

Some 1,300 service provision stations were set up on the 10-kilometer route, including food and drinking as well as cultural bases.

With the arrangements made, a special bus route was planned for entertainment games for children and teenagers as well as families.

There were also stages in the main squares of the city, and various songs and programs were presented on these stages.

Four big stages were set up in Imam Hossein, Ferdowsi, Enqelab, and Azadi squares.

Special programs were held for children and teenagers and some 500,000 flowers were distributed among people. Moreover, flower arrangements were made along the route.

Representation of the Ghadir event, lighting, and holding a special celebration for children were among other programs.

Also, lighting programs and firecracker celebrations were implemented at 100 points of this 10-km route.

The greatest Eid of God

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said the regulation of government, power, and ruling in the Islamic community was determined by Ghadir. This is the significance of Ghadir.

"No doubt, the day of Eid al-Ghadir is an extremely important day. The importance of this Eid--the most important Eid based on the Shia narrations-- relies on its theme: wilayah [governance]. It could be said that the goal of all the efforts made by the prophet Muhammad and other prophets and religious figures was to establish the wilayah of God."

Important points Muslims and non-Muslims must know about Ghadir

Based on which criteria was Imam Ali (pbuh) chosen by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) to be his successor?

As may be seen in the history of Islam, the issue of Imamate and Guardianship is a divine issue. It was not the case that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) appointed the Commander of the Faithful (pbuh) as his successor according to his personal assessment of the situation. This was God's decision. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) delivered the message of Islam to different Arab tribes from the beginning of his prophethood. He went to different tribes during the early stages of his prophethood. Once he visited the head of a tribe who told him that his entire tribe was prepared to convert to Islam on the condition that his tribe would take on the responsibility of leadership after the Prophet (pbuh). He said that his tribe would agree to convert to Islam provided that the Prophet (pbuh) would permit the head of his tribe to be the Prophet's (pbuh) successor. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) rejected his offer and said, "This is a divine issue." The Prophet (pbuh) said that the appointment of a successor was not based on his decision. As a result, the tribe did not accept the Prophet's invitation to Islam. This event is indisputable in the history of Islam. Our Sunni brothers have also narrated this event. Shi'a and Sunni have not narrated differing accounts of this event. Therefore, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) appointed Imam Ali (pbuh) as his successor based on a divine revelation. The appointment of a successor was a decision that was made by God.

But, if it was up to the Holy Prophet (pbuh), who would he have appointed as his successor? Logically, his successor had to be the embodiment of all the essential qualities specified in Islam. Muslims living in different parts of the world can compare the qualifications of the Commander of the Faithful with the other companions of the Prophet. Although several traditions have been narrated regarding the virtues of some of the Prophet's companions, Muslims can measure Imam Ali's (pbuh) ▸ Page **8**

president.ir

Advanced, equipped hospital inaugurated

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi on Friday officially inaugurated the country's second most advanced and most equipped hospital in Tehran.

Construction of the hospital, named Ghadir, started in 2011 on a plot of land measuring some 6,000 square meters.

With around 62,000 square meters of superstructure, the hospital is equipped with 821 beds, surgery rooms, as well as CCU, NICU, ICU, as well as labor, delivery, and recovery (LDR) rooms.

It is also equipped with brain angiography, imaging, dialysis, and physiotherapy units, as well as inpatient departments for women, men, and children.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Disgrace of human rights claimants

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Thursday's Iranian newspapers.

In a note, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the UN Human Rights Council's meeting about Iran and said: While the world is seeing the genocide and widespread crimes of the Zionist regime in Jenin, the widespread repressions in France, the daily killings in the streets and schools of America because of the freedom to carry arms and the warmongering of Western leaders, especially the United States and England, in Ukraine, the Human Rights Council held a meeting about Iran in an action contrary to global priorities. The so-called meeting to support the women and people in Iran was held while the United Nations and its Human Rights Council still have not taken any action to fulfill the demand of Mrs Douhan - UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures – in quickly cancelling sanctions and punishing the leaders of these sanctions. Instead, sanctions have even been intensified, including in the medical field. This inhumane behavior is a clear document of the mendacity, irrationality and disgrace of the Human Rights Council meeting, and it is also a sign of the necessity of a global strategy to change the international system from the irrational and anti-human unilateralism of the West to a justice-oriented multilateralism.

Kayhan: Hiding a big lie with censorship

In an analysis, Key said the Western media outlets censored Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. It wrote: Regardless of the importance of the news of the membership, the more important point is that the Western media had repeatedly claimed that without the FATF and also the re-agreement with the United States on the JCPOA, there is no possibility of Iran to become a member of the Shanghai Treaty.

This deceit was aimed at the bigger mission that forced our country to submit to the U.S. and Europe despite all the treasons by the West. But this did not happen and Trump, while withdrawing from the JCPOA, re-imposed tough sanctions against Tehran. Therefore, the minimum expectation was that such media would prominently publish the news on the front page and apologize to people for having published misleading assessments in favor of the enemies of the Iranian nation. But most of these publications preferred to cancel their false claims with the tactic of censorship.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Power transfer from the West to the East

In a commentary, Vatan-e-Emrooz wrote: Just in the days that America is losing West Asia, Iran joined an Eastern treaty (the SCO) with Beijing's support to make the Tehran-Beijing alliance stronger against America. After the diplomatic expulsion of America from the region and China as a stabilizing actor and our country in creating political-security arrangements in West Asia, Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai organization answers many doubts. In 2015, concurrent with the signing of the JCPOA, which many imagined the doors of cooperation had been opened between different countries with Iran, Tehran's request for membership was rejected due to the weak diplomacy of the former government. But the Raisi government, by abandoning Western-oriented diplomacy, put the development of relations with neighbors and friendly and allied countries on the agenda and restored the balanced approach to Iran's foreign policy. On the other hand, the aims of the organization are also in line with Iran's desired strategic and military doctrine, because Iran has always insisted on respecting the sovereignty of countries and strengthening economic, strategic and security cooperation. Therefore, Iran's membership means the completion of a new political-security front in the region, and it will expand the organization's activity areas.

Hamshahri: UN attempt to revive the nuclear agreement

Hamshahri discussed the UN meeting on Iran and said: Despite the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA agreement and intensification of other sanctions against Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran made an agreement again. But again, the last round of negotiations to lift sanctions in Vienna was interrupted. Experts say some factors such as propaganda war by the Western media, pressures by the Zionist regime, disputes with Congress and internal problems in the United States have been the reasons for the reluctance of the Biden administration to return to the JCPOA. However, Rosemary DiCarlo, Under Secretary General of the United Nations for Political Affairs, who had attended the (UN) meeting to assess the implementation of Resolution 2231 and described the JCPOA as the best option to ensure the "peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program", asked the United States to lift the sanctions against Iran. She added that diplomacy is the only way to deal effectively with Iran's nuclear program.

Tehran lauds Syria for reclaiming rightful place in the region and Arab world

TEHRAN- The Iranian foreign minister has praised Syria for reclaiming its rightful place in regional and Arab organizations, highlighting how its interactions with other nations will help build stability and security in the region.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on Thursday in Baku.

They discussed the most recent developments in the relations between Tehran and Damascus as well as the political and regional processes affecting Syria.

Amir Abdollahian greeted his Syrian counterpart on behalf of the Iranian president and discussed their recent productive and significant meeting, according to the website of the Foreign Ministry.

He then emphasized the need to pursue the implementation of bilateral agreements.

The Iranian foreign minister praised the restoration of links between Damascus and the other countries and commended Syria's return to its proper and significant position in the regional and Arab organizations.

He additionally hailed the new advances, saying they will help restore security and stability in Syria and the surrounding region.

Mekdad, for his part, sent cordial wishes on behalf of the president of his country and hailed the recent trip to Damascus by the Iranian president as significant.

Then, he gave Amir Abdollahian a briefing on the exceptional actions taken in Syria at the highest levels to fulfill the agreements made between the two presidents.

The two top diplomats also discussed the Astana peace talks, the Syrian refugee issue, and the latest developments in Iran's relations with Arab nations.

Iran, Iraq discuss regional coordination

On Thursday, the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq also discussed regional cooperation and the implementation of a bilateral security pact to guarantee regional security and stability.

Amir Abdollahian and his Iraqi counterparty Fuad Hussein addressed matters of mutual concern in many domains.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the significance of Iraq's role in the region and stated that Tehran and Baghdad's ties are at their best.

He also praised Iran and Iraq for making necessary efforts to explore various areas of cooperation.

Amir Abdollahian and Hussein also discussed regional cooperation, financial exchanges, border issues, and the status of Iran's gas export to Iraq.

Iran, Belarus considering plans to increase trade exchanges

The foreign ministries of Iran and Belarus also talked about measures to expand bilateral commerce, implement cooperative industrial projects, and foster political and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Amir Abdollahian and his Belarusian counterpart Sergei Aleinik discussed the future of bilateral cooperation in light of the agreements reached during the March visit of Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko to Iran.

The two senior diplomats also discussed the political, economic, scientific, cultural and consular cooperation between Tehran and Minsk.

They touched on regional and international issues, as well as collaboration between Iran and Belarus in regional and international institutions.

Amir Abdollahian and Aleinik also reviewed a road map for bilateral collaboration and assessed preparations for implementing bilateral agreements.

They emphasized the need to expand trade exchanges, carry out joint industrial projects, and improve transportation and transit cooperation.

Iran, Sudan vow to resume diplomatic ties

Amir Abdollahian also discussed the restoration of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Khartoum with Sudan's acting foreign minister, Ali Saddiq Ali.

The ministers shared ideas and discussed the two countries' decades-long ties before Sudan cut ties with Tehran.

It was the first encounter between the senior diplomats of Iran and Sudan in seven years.

The senior ambassador for Iran stressed how crucial and significant Sudan is to the Islamic world.

He expressed optimism that Sudan's administration of President Abdel Fattah would quickly restore peace and stability.

Saddiq Ali gave a summary of the present domestic situation in Sudan as well as the pertinent regional happenings during the meeting.

Both sides explored a plan for quickly reestablishing diplomatic ties between the two nations.

In a post on his Twitter account on Friday, Amir Abdollahian said, "During the visit to Baku, in addition to delivering a speech at the meeting of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Committee on Palestine, I held meetings and had talks with the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan and my counterparts from Nicaragua, Turkey, Belarus, Syria, Kuwait, Sudan, Iraq, Malaysia, and also Palestine's Fatah Liberation Movement (Minister Riyad al-Maliki)."

The two-day ministerial meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau was held in Baku on Wednesday and Thursday.

NAM was established in Belgrade in 1961 and currently consists of 120 members as well as 17 observer states that are neither explicitly allied with nor opposed to any major power bloc.

The Third World sees NAM a movement to make their voice heard amid a changing world that witnesses swinging geostrategic balances.

Iran summons British diplomat over London's 'destructive' comments

TEHRAN- The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Thursday summoned the British chargé d'affaires in response to "destructive and interventionist" comments of London's ambassador to the UN against the Islamic Republic.

In the absence of the British ambassador to Tehran, the ministry's director-general for Western Europe summoned Isabelle Marsh, hours after Barbara Woodward, the British representative to the UN, criticized Iran over its peaceful nuclear energy activity.

Woodward accused Iran of breaching UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear accord between Iran and world powers.

In 2018, the U.S. pulled out of the agreement and reinstated the sanctions it had previously waived.

Following American pressure, Western allies of Washington, particularly the UK, began carefully following the U.S.'s sanctions line and ceased conducting business with Tehran.

Without mentioning the Western nations' breaches of the agreement that led to the Islamic Republic's reaction, Woodward criticized a series of retaliatory actions that the Islamic Republic has been pursuing.

She also charged Iran with providing drones to Russia, an accusation that Tehran has always refuted in keeping with its opposition to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official sharply rejected the envoy's statements as meddling charges and informed the British chargé d'affaires of Iran's protest at them.

"Refrain from walking into traps that are laid by the Zionist regime of Israel and terrorist groups," he cautioned the British authorities.

The official was alluding to Tel Aviv's and the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization's (MKO) relentless defamation efforts against Iran that aim to harm Iran's reputation on the international scene.

"Continuation of the destructive approach

on Britain's part would be unacceptable, and would surely be met by the Islamic Republic's reciprocal, proportionate, and effective measures," the Foreign Ministry official warned.

Additionally on Thursday, British Foreign Minister James Cleverly announced that the nation has established additional sanctions against Iran that would give the UK more authority to target "decision makers."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said Tehran would respond to London's unacceptable strategy in a balanced and reciprocal manner.

The ministry deemed the most recent British sanctions against Iran as unlawful.

Iran calls on UN Human Rights Council to address Quran desecration

TEHRAN- General Kazem Gharibabadi, secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, has called for an urgent meeting of the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the recent burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

Gharibabadi made the demand while speaking with Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Thursday, in Geneva.

He vehemently denounced the act and asked the UN council to take quick remedial measures.

Gharibabadi stressed that the act of desecration does not comply with freedom of expression and instead promotes violence and hatred.

On June 30, the Foreign Ministry reacted to the despicable act of burning the holy Quran by a Swedish fanatic and summoned the Scandinavian country's chargé d'affaires to Tehran.

The ministry condemned the insult against the most important Islamic sanctities, saying the Swedish government's silence and passive behavior embolden violators of one of the basic and obvious principles of human rights, namely the principle of respect for religious and divine values, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

A Swedish court had given permission for two men to burn a copy of the Quran outside of Stockholm's main mosque last week.

Iranian Foreign Ministry slams the West for disavowing Israeli insane aggression in Jenin

TEHRAN- Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, on Thursday voiced skepticism on the likelihood that the United States and Europe will request a UN truth-finding committee to investigate the crimes committed by the Israeli government in Jenin.

"12 martyrs, 140 injured, complete destruction of water and electricity networks, complete demolition of 300 buildings, damage to approximately 500 houses, destruction of streets and shops, and more, are the result of the Zionist army's insane aggression against the refugee camp in Jenin," Kanaani tweeted.

He questioned the prospect of the U.S. and Europe requesting a truth-finding committee from the Human Rights Council in response to Israel's savage assault on Jenin and its refugee camp, stating, "Never!"

Israel resorted to airstrikes, ground operations, and drone attacks on innocent civilians in Jenin that forced hundreds of families to abandon their homes.

The raid lasted 44 hours before the regime's soldiers retreated in response to a resolute counterattack by Palestinian resistance fighters.

Iran blasts UK for inviting Ukraine to UN Security Council meeting

TEHRAN- Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN has expressed the Islamic Republic's adamant objection to the participation of a representative of Ukraine at the UN Security Council meeting, saying the UK is attempting to divert attention away from its failure to uphold its obligations under the JCPOA.

Addressing the Security Council meeting on Thursday, Saeed Iravani said, "We strongly object to the Presidency of the Council extending an invitation to a member state that has no direct or indirect relevance to the agenda item of this meeting. We perceive this action as neither constructive nor in good faith. Instead, it appears to be a cynical attempt to divert attention from the pressing matter at hand—the implementation of the JCPOA—and the failure of certain Western parties to fulfill their obligations under the agreement.

Let me make it clear: This meeting and Resolution 2231 (2015), have absolutely no connection to the conflict in Ukraine. The invitation extended to the representative of Ukraine for this meeting represents an abuse of the process and a misuse of the Council's presidency, serving the political agendas of certain states. Moreover, this action flagrantly contradicts established practices of the Council and its provisional rules of procedure and runs counter to the principles outlined in the UN Charter.

Iran categorically rejects the unfounded allegations made by Ukraine. Iran maintains its impartial stance on the Ukrainian conflict. We have patiently awaited the alleged evidence from Ukraine, following the preliminary meeting between Iranian and Ukrainian experts. If the intention is truly to address and resolve the issue at hand, it is crucial to refrain from employing illegal and politically motivated measures. Instead, Iran's request should be acknowledged and earnestly addressed in a constructive manner.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Parliaments of Islamic states should decisively act against Israel, MP says

TEHRAN – Iranian lawmaker Abolfazl Amouei has called on the parliaments of the Islamic countries to discuss the desecration of the holy Quran and Israel's attack against the Jenin camp in their next meeting.

Amouei made the suggestion in a message to Mouhamed Khouraichi Niass, the Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC member states.

"As you know, today, the Islamic world is facing emerging challenges that emphasize the need for unity and convergence of Islamic countries," he said in the message, adding, "The insulting action of the Swedish police in issuing permission to desecrate the Holy Quran, which was done under the pretext of freedom of speech and with the aim of spreading anti-Islamism and violence, is an open insult to Islamic sanctities and a violation of one of the fundamental and obvious principles of human rights, which is the principle of respect for religious and heavenly values. This matter has been agreed upon internationally in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

He pointed out that the recent encroachments of the Zionist usurper regime on the Jenin camp and the martyrdom and injury of defenseless Palestinian women and children and the destruction of residential buildings and houses in

this city make it necessary to take immediate and practical measures by the international community, especially by the parliaments of Islamic countries. He said these measures should be taken to force this usurper regime to stop its crimes against the oppressed Palestinian nation, according to IRIB News.

"Without a doubt, such violent and extremist actions, which are in conflict with humane, moral standards and violate international laws and resolutions, require a firmer determination of Islamic countries for greater unity and integration around supporting the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation in self-defense," he continued.

Amouei said, "I suggest that these two issues be discussed in a special way in the agenda of the meeting in front of the Executive Committee of the Union of Parliaments of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC)."

Also, the Iran-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group issued a statement on the situation in Palestine in light of the Israeli aggression against the Jenin camp.

The group condemned the recent crimes of the Zionist regime in Jenin and the West Bank and considered it a proof of resistance as the only way to free the Palestinian nation.

"The crimes of the Zionist apartheid regime in the West Bank and in Jenin are another proof of the legitimacy of the Palestinian nation in its all-out struggle against this regime and the truth of resistance, as the only way to liberate the Palestinian nation and defeat any compromise and reliance on the normalization of relations with this temporary fake regime," the statement said.

It added, "The silence and passivity of the international community with respect to the crimes of the Zionist regime in Jenin indicates the double standards of human rights claimants against the clear violation of basic human rights."

The statement noted, "Today's Palestinian resistance is rooted in the desire and will of Palestinian youth in all parts of Palestine, including Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, Quds, Gaza, etc. The killing of Palestinian youths in Jenin not only does not reduce their will, but also makes them more determined to continue the path of resistance."

"The Islamic Majlis of Iran and the Iran-Palestine Parliamentary Friendship Group, while emphasizing the need for the unity of the Islamic world and especially the Islamic parliaments to confront the unbridled crimes of the Zionist child-killing regime, call on the UN Secretary General to end the silence and passivity of the United Nations towards the crimes of the Zionist regime and take immediate and effective action to save the oppressed Palestinian nation from the hands of the child-killing Zionist regime," the statement concluded.

Lawmaker says Iran won't back down from rights in Arash field

TEHRAN – Iranian MP Mustafa Nakhaei has said the Islamic Republic will not back down from its rights in the Arash gas field, underlining that Iran doubts that Saudi Arabia has a share in the field.

Nakhaei, who is the spokesman for the Iranian parliament's Energy Committee, has criticized the Iranian authorities for not taking measures to exploit the Arash gas field.

"We have many joint fields with neighboring countries, and in all development programs, attention and focus on joint fields have been emphasized. Our lack of planning and focus on the joint Arash gas field in all the past years has caused competing countries to take action to develop it, but unfortunately, we have not done anything special about it," he told parliamentary news agency ICANA.

He added, "About 60 years have passed since the discovery of this common field and there are very valuable gas resources, to some extent gas condensates and a little oil in it."

Nakhaei pointed out, "In the past years, we should have resolved the disputes with competing countries in the joint Arash gas field and planned for its development, but unfortunately, we have not taken any action for this."

"Despite all the mentioned conditions, it is clear that Iran will not neglect its interests in the Arash field in any way, and no official of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the right to turn a blind eye on or neglect the country's interests in this gas field and its development," he said.

The Iranian lawmaker added, "We have differences in the Arash joint field, which we have to resolve in the first step by negotiating in a diplomatic framework. If for any reason the negotiations do not reach a conclusion, we will pursue it in a specific legal framework with the presence of international institutions."

He stated that demarcating the water boundaries of each country's share in this joint gas field and finally deciding how to develop the field should be brought up in negotiations and resolved.

"Considering the improvement of relations with the neighboring countries, it is better to solve the problems first in a diplomatic framework and through negotiations just as we negotiated with Turkmenistan and Iraq and solved many problems," he noted.

The lawmaker said Iran has doubts whether

Saudi Arabia has a share in the field, adding that no country should be allowed to develop the Arash gas field until all disputes are settled and each country's rights are determined.

The remarks come amid a dispute between Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait over the Arash field, which is known in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as Al-Durra. Recently, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia said the field exclusively belongs to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and that Iran has no share in it, a claim that Iran rejected.

Also, Iran has expressed readiness to begin developing the field. Amid all this, the foreign ministers of Iran and Kuwait have met in Baku on the sidelines of a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement. But it's not clear if the two top diplomats discussed the shared gas field.

China says to continue working on JCPOA

TEHRAN – Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin has criticized the U.S. for the withdrawing from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, saying that Beijing will continue to work toward resolving issues related to the tattered deal.

The remarks come amid stalled talks over reviving the deal, officially knowns the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The reason for the current situation surrounding Iran's nuclear issue is that the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and put Iran under the most severe pressure," Wenbin said at a regular press conference on Friday, according to IRNA.

He stated that the nature of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 is the implementation of the JCPOA and emphasized that Iran has taken appropriate countermeasures.

"The current priority of the relevant parties is to restore the full and effective implementation of the JCPOA through dialogue and negotiation," the spokesperson continued.

The diplomat also pointed out the importance of preventing any action that would lead to the escalation of the situation and the exacerbation of contradictions, in order to create conditions for diplomatic efforts.

"China will continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant parties, help to quickly return the JCPOA to the right track, maintain the authority and effectiveness of Security Council Resolution 2231, and advance the political-diplomatic settlement of the Iran nuclear issue," Wenbin said.

The remarks come after the UN Security Council held a meeting on the implementation of UN Security Council 2231 on Thursday with the participation of Ukraine. This is while the meeting was supposed to be held in June when the United Arab Emirates was the president of the Council. The meeting was postponed and ultimately held in July, when the Council's presidency is assigned to the UK.

In the Thursday meeting, Russia and the U.S. clashed over Iran and Ukraine. Also, the UN political affairs chief Rosemary DiCarlo told the meeting that diplomacy is the only way to effectively address the Iranian nuclear issue.

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs regretted that negotiations to restore the JCPOA remain stalled even though all participants, including the U.S., have reaffirmed that "a return to the full and effective implementation of the Plan" was the only viable option.

She reiterated the Secretary-General's appeal to the U.S. to lift or waive its sanctions and to extend waivers regarding the trade in oil with Iran.

The UK, France, and Germany put out a joint statement to the media after the UK-chaired session on Iran's implementation of Resolution 2231.

They leveled a bunch of accusations against Iran, including violation of the JCPOA, which is endorsed by Resolution 2231. "Iran has been in violation of its nuclear commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), endorsed by Resolution 2231, for more than four years and its nuclear program has escalated to dangerous levels. This is of utmost concern for international peace and security," they claimed.

Meanwhile, Iran criticized the UK for inviting Ukraine to the meeting. "We would like to state our position clearly and on the record regarding the participation of the representative of the Republic of Ukraine in today's meeting, under the agenda item of non-proliferation, and focusing on the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," Saied Iravani, Iran's ambassador to the UN, said.

"We strongly object to the Presidency of the Council extending an invitation to a member state that has no direct or indirect relevance to the agenda item of this meeting. We perceive this action as neither constructive nor in good faith. Instead, it appears to be a cynical attempt to divert attention from the pressing matter at hand—the implementation of the JCPOA—and the failure of certain Western parties to fulfill their obligations under the agreement," he added.

Iravani noted, "Let me make it clear: This meeting and Resolution 2231 (2015), have absolutely no connection to the conflict in Ukraine. The invitation extended to the representative of Ukraine for this meeting represents an abuse of the process and a misuse of the Council's presidency, serving the political agendas of certain states. Moreover, this action flagrantly contradicts established practices of the Council and its provisional rules of procedure and runs counter to the principles outlined in the UN Charter."

SPORTS

Iran suffer eighth loss at 2023 VNL

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Bulgaria 3-2 (21-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-22, 15-11) in the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 3 early Friday.

Asparuh Asparuhov scored 23 points for Bulgaria and Iran's Ali Hajipour scored 17 points.

Iran, who had lost to France 3-0 in their opening match, will play Argentina and Cuba in their following matches in Anaheim, the U.S.

Iran have lost to Japan, Poland, Slovenia, Italy, the Netherlands, the U.S., France and Bulgaria and defeated China and Germany.

The VNL Preliminary Phase features three weeks of competition, with each of the 16 teams playing 12 matches.

The eight best-ranked national teams in the Preliminary Phase will qualify for the Final Phase, which will be held in Gda?sk, Poland, from July 19-23 – host country Poland are already guaranteed a spot.

Iran one step away from 2024 Women's Junior Handball World

TEHRAN – Iran will qualify for the 24th IHF Women's Junior (U20) Handball World Championship if defeat Kazakhstan in the Asian championship on Saturday.

The Iranian girls defeated hosts Hong Kong 45-16 at the 2023 Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship on Friday.

The Iranian team lost to China 29-23 and Chinese Taipei 28-18 and defeated Uzbekistan 37-36 and India 39-31.

The Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship is the official competition for junior women's national handball teams of Asia, and takes place every two years.

The top five teams will qualify for the 24th IHF Women's Junior (U20) Handball World Championship in North Macedonia, slated for June 19 to 30, 2024.

Iran learn fate at 2023 IHF Women's World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran learned their opponents at the 2023 IHF Women's World Championship in draw ceremony held in Goteborg, Sweden.

The 26th Women's World Championships will take place from Nov. 29 to Dec. 17 in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark.

A total of 32 teams are divided into eight groups of four teams.

Iran are drawn in Group F along with Germany, Poland and Japan.

The top three teams in each group will advance to the main round, and the fourth-place teams will advance to the President` s Cup.

The two best teams in each of the four main round groups will advance to the knockout round. Due to the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, the teams will also play a placement round for placement 5-8.

GROUP A: Sweden, Croatia, China, Senegal

GROUP B: Montenegro, Hungary, Cameroon, Paraguay

GROUP C: Norway, South Korea, Greenland, Austria

GROUP D: France, Slovenia, Angola, Iceland

GROUP E: Denmark, Romania, Serbia, Chile

GROUP F: Germany, Poland, Japan, Iran

GROUP G: Brazil, Spain, Ukraine, Kazakhstan

GROUP H: Netherland, Czech Republic, Argentina, Congo

Iran rout Uzbekistan at 2023 Asian Women's U16 Volleyball

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Uzbekistan in straight sets (25-9, 25-19, 25-20) in the 2023 Asian Women's U16 Volleyball Championship Classification Round on Friday.

Iran will meet Kazakhstan for the fifth place on Saturday.

Iran have so far lost to Japan and Chinese Taipei and defeated Australia and Macau in the competition, which is being held in Hangzhou, China from July 1 to 8.

Iranian teams advance to 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone final

TEHRAN - Iranian men's and women's sitting volleyball teams earned their fourth wins in a row at the 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone Championships on Thursday and advanced to the final match.

The men defeated Iraq in straight sets (25-10, 25-7, 25-15) in the semifinals and will meet hosts Kazakhstan in the final match on Saturday.

The women also defeated Japan 3-0 (25-16, 25-7, 25-12) in the semifinals and are scheduled to face 2020 Paralympics runners-up China on Saturday.

The women will qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games if they win the title.

"We have a very good development program in our federation in order to promote the level of our team. Fortunately, they support us in order to find some new talents, very young players and right now, we are in a good level that could easily defeat Japan. We are hoping for a win in the final match," Iran assistant coach Farid Saebisaid.

The competitions started on July 3 in Astana, Kazakhstan and will finish on July 8.

Hadi Rezaei elected as PVAO vice-president

TEHRAN – Iran sitting volleyball head coach Hadi Rezaei was elected as vice-president of the ParaVolley Asia Oceania.

The PVAO General Assembly was held on Thursday evening at Park Inn Radisson Business Center in the Kazakh capital city.

Representatives from Australia, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea. Mongolia and Thailand were in attendance, as welcomed by PVAO President Lu Cailiang.

"It is an honor and pleasure for everyone to gather in a beautiful country like Kazakhstan to participate in our PVAO General Assembly. My warm welcome and my sincere gratitude to all of you for your participation. Thank you to all the national teams for bringing us such exciting level of competition. Thank you to all the Board members for your hard work and dedication for PVAO," the president said as he addressed the Assembly and the Board.

With the General Assembly coinciding with the 2023 WPV Sitting Volleyball Asian Zone Championships, the members agreed to cooperate more closely in strengthening the promotion of the sport and elevating the level of the members in such aspects as training and competition, coaching, media, and marketing initiatives.

Iran's men's and women's sitting volleyball teams have qualified for the 2023 WPV Sitting Volleyball Asian Zone Championships final.

Iranian oil minister pursues energy diplomacy in Vienna

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji who traveled to Vienna to attend the 8th OPEC International Seminar, held talks with several energy officials on the sidelines of the event to pursue the Islamic Republic's energy diplomacy in the region.

As Shana reported, Oji met and held talks with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq, and Egypt as well as the secretary general of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

Iranian, Saudi ministers hold energy talks

On the first day of the event on Wednesday, Oji and Saudi Minister of Energy Abdulaziz bin Salman sat down to discuss the global oil markets' status and decisions needed for setting oil prices.

Oji and bin Salman also exchanged views on investment in the oil and gas industry, joint ventures, hydrocarbon trade, and the development of joint fields.

Iran, UAE to promote oil cooperation

Later that day, Oji also met with UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei to discuss the trade of crude oil, natural gas, and petrochemical products.

Joint investment, development of joint fields, expansion of cooperation in oil and gas sectors, and the global oil markets' status were other topics explored by the officials.

Seeking resumption of energy ties with Egypt

Oji further met with Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek El Molla in the Austrian capital on Thursday.

The two ministers exchanged views on the energy market and trade, and also bilateral cooperation in energy, oil, and petrochemical sectors.

The export of technical and engineering services, particularly gas technology and the know-how to manufacture bi-fuel vehicles, were also among other subjects that Oji and his Egyptian counterpart discussed.

The meeting was held as Iran and Egypt are rebuilding their diplomatic relations after decades-long severance, and the political rapprochement is paving the way for Tehran-Cairo cooperation in the oil and gas sectors.

Discussing gas market with GECF

Later on Thursday, Oji sat down with GECF Secretary General Mohamed Hamel to discuss the latest developments in the global gas market.

The future of the global gas market, investments, prices, convergence of the gas exporting countries, and impacts of international developments on the gas market were the main topics explored during the talks.

The 8th OPEC International Seminar started in Vienna on Wednesday.

The two-day seminar themed "Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Energy Transition" was held at the Hofburg Palace, bringing together representatives from top oil-exporting countries as well as chief executives from global energy majors.

Raisi inaugurates 2nd section of Tehran-Shomal Freeway project

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, on Thursday, inaugurated the second section of the Tehran-Shomal Freeway in a ceremony attended by the Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash.

Over 170 trillion rials (about $337.8 million) has been invested to complete this 15.5-kilometer freeway section, IRNA reported.

The construction project includes the creation of nine bridges and 17 tunnels with a total length of 19.7 kilometers.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Raisi said the project could save people's time and cost and it plays a significant role in reducing road accidents.

As reported, with the project going operational, 12.5 million liters of gas are going to be saved annually and air pollutants will be reduced by 511 tons per year.

The first section of the long-awaited Tehran-Shomal freeway, which shortens the route between the Iranian capital and Mazandaran province in the north, was officially inaugurated in late February 2020.

The first section of the freeway which was nearly 32 kilometers connected the Azadegan freeway in the capital to Shahrestanak County in Alborz province.

Back in June, Iranian Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Kheirollah Khademi said 293 kilometers of freeways are going to be added to the country's road network by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2024).

According to Khademi, who is the managing director of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC), the figure is three times the average annual freeway construction in the country.

"Completing the first phase of section 2 of the Tehran-Shomal freeway, inaugurating the Shiraz-Isfahan freeway which is the longest freeway in the country, and completing the Manjil-Roudbar freeway as the bottleneck of the Qazvin-Rasht freeway, were some of the projects on the ministry's agenda for the current year," Khademi said.

Tehran hosting intl. furniture exhibition

TEHRAN – The 32nd International Export-Specialized Exhibition of Furniture Industry (HOFEX 2023) kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Wednesday, the portal of Tran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) reported.

The opening ceremony of the four-day exhibition was attended by senior industry officials including the TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab.

More than 221 domestic companies active in various fields including classic furniture, modern and comfort furniture, children's and youth furniture, sleeping goods, office furniture, partitions, and counters are participating in this exhibition.

Solar parks to be set up in each province this Iranian year

TEHRAN- The head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) said that solar parks will be established in every province in the country during the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2024).

Mahmoud Kamani said that these parks will be set up with the aim of renewable energy development in the country.

The official put the current capacity of Iran's renewable power plants at 1,070 megawatts (MW).

He has also previously announced the construction of 110,000 solar power plants with a capacity of five kilowatts (KW) for low-income groups in the current Iranian calendar year.

Kamani said that the tender for the construction of solar power plants with a capacity of 2,200 megawatts, left over from the plan for the construction of solar power plants with 4,000 megawatts capacity in the past year, will be also held this year.

Regarding the follow-up of the construction of renewable power plants in the new year, the official said that a plan for the construction of renewable power plants was announced by the minister of energy at the beginning of the 13th government, and in 1401 (past Iranian year), the necessary preparations for the implementation of this plan have been followed up and some measures have been taken in this due.

In early February, the official announced that the capacity of Iran's renewable power plants reached 1,020 megawatts (MW) with the 10-MW Pasargad Solar Farm of Damghan coming into operation.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of inaugurating the mentioned solar farms in Damghan County, in central Semnan province, Kamani said: "This power plant has a special feature as it can generate electricity from the reflection of sunlight. This feature makes its generation efficiency higher, which means it will have a 40-percent increase in efficiency".

"It is hoped that by setting up other renewable power plants, we will soon be able to implement the 10,000-MW renewable power plant program", the head of SATBA stated.

Iranian Energy Ministry has put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government administration (August 2025).

Considering the fact that the country's renewable power generation capacity stood at about 800 MW when the current government took office in August 2021, the mentioned increase in renewable energy capacity would mean a 13-fold rise.

Back in January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of new renewable power plants across Iran.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

23,000 ha of lands under greenhouse cultivation in Iran

TEHRAN- The director of the Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program announced that 23,000 hectares of lands are under greenhouse cultivation throughout the country.

Mehdi Lotfi-Zadeh also said that 150,000 hectares of new greenhouses is planned to be set up in the country during a five-year program based on the Seventh National Development Plan.

As stated by the deputy agriculture minister, the development of greenhouse cultivation is a major policy of the Agriculture Ministry.

In this regard, several projects have been defined and introduced to the banks, and as soon as the notification is made, the projects will receive facilities and their implementation will begin, the official added.

In recent years, the water crisis has caused serious challenges in Iran's agriculture sector.

To solve this problem, several solutions, including the implementation of pressurized irrigation project and greenhouse cultivation, have been emphasized by experts and officials in this sector.

Iranian Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program is one of the priority projects of this ministry which aims at increasing productivity, efficiency, and water consumption management in the agriculture sector.

The program was approved in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017) under the framework of the National Resilient Economy Plan.

The development of the country's agricultural parks and greenhouses not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country's non-oil exports and helps preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.

Cultivation in the controlled space of the greenhouse will have an average of 10 times higher yield per unit area than outdoor cultivation due to suitable environmental conditions.

For example, in the case of cucumber, each square meter in the greenhouse will have a production capacity of 20 kilograms of cucumber, while compared to an outdoor production, the production capacity of one square meter of arable land will be much lower and about two kilograms.

Significant reduction in water consumption in modern greenhouses is in fact the major advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to the closed environment, water loss through various evaporation ways is greatly reduced. Also, through mechanized irrigation methods such

as irrigation canvas and irrigation tape, water consumption is minimized.

Increased control over pests, weeds, and diseases is the other advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to accurate monitoring and control of pests and diseases, especially the use of biological control methods and a sharp reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, we will see an increase in product quality, that will lead to the popularity of the product in the market and increase export capability.

As a result, along with preserving the soil and environment, we will see good foreign currency income.

Transit of goods via Golestan province rises 257% in a quarter on year

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 257 percent during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Shahriyar Shahriyari, the director-general of the province's Customs Department, said that 16,000 tons of goods were transited via the province in the three-month period.

As previously announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 3.5 million tons of commodities were transited through the country during the first three months of the current year.

As reported, the figure shows a 7.86-percent fall as compared to the first three months of the past year.

As previously announced by the Iranian deputy transport minister, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Shahriyar Afandizadeh also announced that Iran registered a new record high with the transit of 8.3 million tons of non-oil goods in 1401, adding that 2.5 million tons of oil products were also transited via the country in the previous year.

"Considering the transit of 7.5 million tons of non-oil goods in 1400, we have seen a 10.7-percent growth in the transit of this type of goods in 1401 compared to the previous year", the official said.

"In 1401, we witnessed important developments and achievements in the strategic and operational areas of the country's transit, whose definitive effects will be seen gradually and steadily on the growth of transit from the country in 1402 and the coming years", the deputy transport minister further highlighted.

Afandizadeh then explained: "In line with the activation and development of the North-South International Transport Corridor, in a tripartite meeting in last September between the high-ranking officials of our country and the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, while aiming to achieve the transit of 15 million tons of goods through this corridor by 2030, agreements were reached in the field of strengthening the cooperation of the three countries in joint investment and financing, the completion and development of key infrastructures and their exploitation, especially the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway line, facilitating cross-border traffic of goods and increasing the quality and quantity of this traffic", adding that the implementation of these agreements is being followed up.

He went on to say, "One of the most important events last year was Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In a short period of time after the meeting of the heads of Shanghai in September 1401 in Samarkand, the first six-party meeting of the transport ministers of Iran and the countries of Central Asia, in addition to Russia and Azerbaijan was held in Tehran in October 1401 with the goal of achieving 20-million tons of annual transit between Iran and Central Asian countries, as an area with a very high role and importance in east-west and north-south transit, especially after the recent regional and international developments, which was approved by the members."

This year, the issue of transit and playing a role in major programs such as those related to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is one of the main priorities of the Transport Ministry in developing transport relations with regional and extra-regional target countries, the deputy transport minister noted.

After seven years of reduction in the transit of goods from the country, the growth path of transit resumed in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022) and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world, and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Universal Ghadir

Shias show unity in magnificent Eid al-Ghadir celebrations

From page 1 ▶ Many young Iranian couples choose this auspicious event as their wedding date, hoping for a blessed marriage in memory of Imam Ali (AS).

In Nigeria, Eid al-Ghadeer was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abuja organized a vibrant celebration on Wednesday. It was attended by ambassadors from Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, as well as intellectuals and scholars from Nigeria.

The celebration at the embassy began with a recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Iranian Qari Amin Hassani. Iran's Ambassador to Nigeria, Mohammad Alibak, delivered a speech highlighting the significance of Eid al-Ghadeer. He concluded his address by condemning desecration of Islamic sanctities in Sweden, which has sparked outrage among Muslims worldwide. Alibak questioned the meaning of freedom and emphasized that Islam does not permit insulting someone's religion or beliefs.

As another speaker in the celebration, Sheikh Umar Abubakar Kumo from Gombe State, who is the chief of the Ahlulbayt Muslim Community in Nigeria, emphasized that Imam Ali (AS) was the protector of Islam.

Iraq

Dr. Yusha'u, representing Sheikh Zakzaky, leader of the Islamic Movement, delivered a speech about the appointment of Imam Ali (AS) as the first leader of Muslims during the Eid Ghadeer celebration.

In Najaf, families embarked on a symbolic march to the shrine of Imam Ali (AS) early on Friday. They carried flowers and copies of Quran to honor the first Shia Imam. The atmosphere at the Alavi shrine in Najaf was particularly unique as Iranians baked an impressive 1,434-meter-long cake to commemorate Eid al-Ghadir. It was joyfully distributed among the pilgrims.

Shias in Afghanistan also celebrate Eid al-Ghadir. People gather in various places, including mosques, to mark the occasion. One participant in this year's ceremony expressed that today is significant because it marked when Islam reached perfection through the Prophet Mohammad in which he raised Imam Ali's hand and introduced him as his successor.

In Yemen, crowds also took to the streets across several provinces to celebrate Eid al-Ghadir.

Afghanistan

Yemen

West Bank migraine haunts Israel

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN - Israel's latest full-scale invasion on Jenin which it dubbed "House and Garden" is no more but new and rather useless terminology which it used on this occasion to indiscriminately attack Jenin in the occupied West Bank and its refugee camp.

It's quite ironic that Israel resorts to these names for its military offensives. If anything, "House and Garden" belongs to Palestine and the Palestinians living under occupation.

On Friday, the regime's forces stormed Nablus, close to Jenin, where it executed at least two Palestinians. A number of others have sustained injuries.

It is the latest raid in the West Bank that has failed to quell the growing resistance power inside the occupied territory.

The majority of the raids against Palestinians, at least after the Sword of al-Quds battle, now allude to a constant migraine haunting Israel, in which the regime is attempting to wipe out the resistance, but without any success.

"House and Garden" was just another name that refers to what Israel really wants. This is the erosion of Palestinian deterrence, resistance, and retaliatory operations.

When Israel invaded the Jenin refugee camp a few days ago, many experts said the largest offensive in 20 years would, soon or later, end. Indeed, the "extensive" offensive lasted no longer than two days, as the Israeli military feared more casualties among its ranks.

Israel has become known to hide the true number of casualties that its troops suffer. This is why the occupation regime said the Jenin offensive would last until the regime achieves its "military goals". Yet, under the rain of fire that Palestinian resistance leaders say led to many Israeli casualties, the regime ordered its troops to withdraw after only two days.

Over the past year or two, a pattern has emerged where the more force Israel uses against the Palestinians in the West Bank, the more powerful the West Bank resistance emerges, changing the equations on the ground that limit the occupation's special military units to limited Israeli raids and not a full-scale ground invasion of the West Bank.

The migraine that haunts Israel will not end but is likely to get worse. Israeli troops can no longer raid Jenin without the support of Apache helicopters and the use of countless drones. This was something unheard of just two years ago. But the situation on the ground is fluid, and developments are changing swiftly.

This all comes in light of the Israeli arrogance, the proliferation of settlements amid their illegal expansion throughout the West Bank under international law: in parallel with the continuous Zionist attacks on the sanctities and livelihoods of the Palestinians, along with the Israeli leaders' failure to hide their intentions to annex more land, it seems that the developments that has created an armed West Bank has turned into something that can deliver results on the ground, overtime, to liberate the occupied territory.

"Shield and Arrow" was the title of the unprovoked attack on Gaza less than two months ago. However, what shakes Israel, which has resorted to inventing fancy and attractive names for its atrocities, appears to be its own stubbornness in devising solutions. Every time the entity uses excessive force and when it initiates a military mission, it is forced to submit to a set of terms decided by the Palestinians.

When it comes to the West Bank, every time Israel tries to fix a hole with the Titanic with which it is sailing with, the regime returns and later to discover that the maintenance was only a local and temporary process, and nothing more than that. The regime later finds new holes have begun to appear in other locations and of different sizes.

Israeli media have quoted a political source as saying that the latest invasion of Jenin aims to restore Israeli deterrence and stop the camp from becoming a bastion of resistance, based on the understanding that if Israel does not act now, Jenin will become "another South Lebanon."

However, analysts in Israeli media are not optimistic. They have voiced doubt that the offensive will provide a real response to what they branded as the scourge that is developing in the northern sectors of the occupied West Bank, saying that perhaps it would only be a temporary response.

The matter is not limited to Jenin only, although it is the flashpoint city at this point in time. The reality that scares Israel is the real possibility of a strongly armed West Bank would force Israeli forces and their settlers out of the occupied region.

Young Palestinians have grown up in poverty, and over the past two years, they have become used to death and destruction, and so they have nothing to lose. As things stand, they will either be arrested or killed anyway, and so they have chosen the path to resist with arms.

It is a double-edged sword. Whilst Palestinians have gotten used to destruction and death ?, which has become the norm under a brutal occupation, they have also become used to occupation and taken advantage of it at Israel's expense.

The Israeli settlers, on the other hand, are not capable or living under destruction and death as result of Palestinian retaliation and they are fleeing the occupied Palestinian territories in their droves as nobody knows where the next retaliation operation will take place.

The developments also overlap and interact between what is happening within the Israeli political arena and what is occurring in the occupied West Bank. The latter of which is no longer isolated from the positive events emerging in the region.

Fortunately for the West Bank resistance, fighting Israel with the current coalition that governs the occupation represents the perfect recipe for the last dinner on the table of the dying Zionist apartheid project.

The West Bank constitutes almost the last stage in the path of closing the collapse of the occupation, assuming that other factors remain the same. If the West Bank resistance succeeds in developing guerrilla warfare in quantity and similar to that in Southern Lebanon and Gaza, its results will not be limited to increasing the sense of insecurity among the settlers. But rather it will go beyond that to stimulate the contradictions that are raging within Israel's domestic arena and perhaps between it and the international community, which ultimately provides a fertile environment to accelerate the explosion of the Zionist project.

It is quite remarkable that the continued demonstrations against the Netanyahu cabinet and the attempt to disrupt Ben Gurion Airport were accompanied by calls to refuse in joining the fight in the largest raid on Jenin in 20 years.

One of the leaders of the protest movement against Netanyahu's judicial overhaul said that the Israeli prime minister and his fascist cabinet waged the operation in Jenin in order to stop the protests at Ben Gurion Airport, indicating that this cabinet does not value the lives of its soldiers, who are being gunned down.

WORLD HEADLINES

Russia calls Western interference in Bangladesh elections as neo-colonialism

Russia sees the Western calls for "free and fair" elections in Bangladesh as an act of "neo-colonialism," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"We have taken note of certain European and American politicians publishing letters calling for 'free and fair' elections in Bangladesh. This is neocolonialism," Zakharova said, according to a tweet by the ministry.

Zakharova defined the calls as "another attempt at blatant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state."

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell acknowledged Thursday concerns cited by EU lawmakers about the democratic situation in Bangladesh.

"The EU ... will undertake an exploratory mission to the country to assess the advisability, usefulness, and feasibility of an Electoral Observation Mission," Borrell wrote in a letter.

Meanwhile, 17 Bangladesh-American have addressed US President Joe Biden in a letter that asked him to "change the current course of action to ensure a violence-free secular democratic future for Bangladesh," according to the Dhaka Tribune.

Bangladesh will hold general elections next January.

At least 1 dead, 5 wounded after shooting inside Lebanon mosque

A shooting inside a mosque during prayers left at least one person dead and five wounded Friday, a Lebanese security official said. The reason behind the shooting in the eastern town of Bar Elias was not immediately clear.

The state-run National News Agency said more gunfire broke out later between Lebanese troops and the shooting suspect, who was wounded in that exchange.

A security official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said the man killed and the five wounded were all Syrian citizens.

Inside occupied Palestine, on June 6 and 2023 ,7

The missing point

• Just a few days after the allegations of Israeli authorities regarding the abduction of an Iranian inside Iran by Mossad and his transfer to another country for interrogations (which was cheerfully denied by Iranian officials), an American website claimed on Wednesday that an Israeli "researcher" under the name of Elizabeth Tsurkov has been abducted in Iraq while conducting "research" and is probably transferred to Iran! Soon after the news broke out, the office of Israel's prime minister confirmed the information in a statement and called for Iraq's responsibility regarding the wellbeing of Tsurkov. The statement declared that the abduction happened in March and the government had decided to remain silent about it for an unknown reason. Unconfirmed information implies that Tsurkov, who has served in Israeli army, is a Mossad agent. Israeli sources believe that she's been abducted by a pro-Iranian Iraqi group and then transferred to Iran. Iranian officials have not made any comments about the allegations.

Tensions on the border

• On the early hours of June 6, Israeli army claimed that a number of shells had hit vacant areas in northern occupied Palestine. It was believed that they been fired from southern Lebanon. In retaliation, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) shelled an area in the south of Lebanon. Later the same day, Israeli army announced that what had been fired at Israel was not shells, but anti-tank grenades.

Anti-occupation ops continue to take toll

• In an anti-occupation operation near the city of Kedumim located in west of Nablus, an Israeli soldier was killed and another was severely wounded. The Palestinian hero carried out two operations in two different areas and was later martyred during the shootings. The gun which was used in the operation was a handmade "Carlo" which has recently turned into a nightmare for Israeli security forces. Later that day, the Al-Qassam Brigades accepted the responsibility of the operation and called it a reaction to the recent crimes of IOF in Jenin. Al-Qassam's statement was described "unusual" by the Israeli army radio.

Pahlavi's lover is hated by her own people

• As demonstrations keep surging all over the occupied Palestine, new trends have emerged which spotlights a specific cabinet member each time. This time, the minister of intelligence was the target. For three days, demonstrators gathered in front of Israel's minister of intelligence's home to express their dissatisfaction about almost everything. Security forces violently suppressed the gathering, assaulting everyone, including women. This specific cabinet member was the one who invited Iranian dissident Reza Pahlavi to visit the occupied Palestine and expressed her full support of the "movement" which "is led by Pahlavi" and "defends the women's rights"! The footage from what happened to women in front of this minister's house fully confirms her intention to support the rights of women... Another significant incident during this round of protests was the use of a rare and powerful type of stun grenade while Israel's Association of General Practitioners had previously requested the security forces to avoid using such weapon for suppressing the unrests due to the irreparable damages it inflicts to ears, nose, and eyes.

The UN seems to be still alive!

• After years of deadly silent in regards with Israel's war crimes against Palestinians in Nablus and the refugee camp of Jenin, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres eventually appeared in a press conference and condemned the Israel's crimes in the recent invasion of Jenin. "I was deeply disturbed by the news from Jenin in the occupied West Bank" Guterres said. He strongly condemned "all acts of violence against civilians" and claimed that "Israel's airstrikes and ground operations in a crowded refugee camp were the worst violence in the West Bank for many years with a significant impact on civilians, including more than one hundred injured and thousands forced to flee". But to avoid possible tensions between the UN administration and the Zionist regime, Guterres called on IOF to use "proportional force!!!" while attacking the Palestinians! Although the UN chief recognized Israel as an "occupation force", but he refrained to request an end to the occupation!

IOF terrorists attack Nablus again

• On July 7, around the afternoon, IOF attacked the city of Nablus and besieged a house. Two Palestinians were martyred by IOF terrorists.

Tourism minister visits ancient Kharanaq, urges restoration of its mud-brick fortress

TEHRAN – On Thursday, Iran's tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami paid a visit to the ancient town of Kharanaq, where he called for restoration work to be commenced on its mud-brick fortress.

"When it comes to the cultural heritage of the nation, Kharanaq fortress marks one of the treasured historical buildings of the country," the minister said.

"The fortress should be restored as a tourist destination... Its honored status among other historical monuments should be more evident than before," Zarghami said.

The minister said the stronghold was once very prosperous when it was on the path of many travelers and pilgrims for centuries.

Located in Ardakan county of Yazd province, Kharanaq approximately dates 4,000 years, while its dilapidated adobe buildings that draw sightseers from around the world date back around 1,000 years.

The abandoned town is a photographer's dream with a labyrinth of streets, tunnels, passageways, and rooms, as well as more impressive buildings such as a tiny mosque, a shaking minaret, and an old caravanserai that welcomed merchants and pilgrims centuries ago, according to Ancient Origins.

Meaning 'place of birth of the sun', Kharanaq is divided into two parts– the Old Town, which is almost completely deserted, and the New Town, where tens of families continue to live.

Moreover, Kharanaq is famed for its well-preserved houses and historically important monuments.

Built of sun-baked adobe bricks, the old town is one of the largest clusters of adobe buildings in Iran. It was once a prosperous farming village, but when the water supply dried up, residents abandoned the village and the town fell into ruins.

There are several magnificent monuments in the village. A mosque from the Qajar period (1789-1925) has been fully restored and features a 15 meter high minaret known as the "Quaking Minaret of Kharanaq". The 17th-century minaret has three floors and a spiral staircase leads upstairs. The minaret trembles and vibrates frequently. The cause of this phenomenon remains unknown.

In addition, on the outskirts of Kharanaq is a well-preserved caravanserai, a place where merchant caravans from the Qajar Dynasty era stopped. The caravanserai is fortified with stables for pack animals, storerooms and rooms for travelers.

Other highlights include an old castle associated with the historical era of Islam, old aqueducts built to irrigate the surrounding fields, and an old but still functional bridge.

Iran, UAE travel agents visit Malaysia on FAM tours

TEHRAN – Two groups of travel trade partners, consisting of 17 travel agencies from Iran and UAE, recently undertook a familiarization tour hosted by Tourism Malaysia as part of the campaign to promote Malaysia's colorful tourist destinations and publicize its attractions.

In cooperation with Air Arabia, the first batch was flown from Iran from Tehran to Kuala Lumpur via Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, the Financial Tribune reported.

The second trip involved nine UAE travel agents, including Air Arabia representatives, who traveled from Sharjah to Kuala Lumpur for an itinerary scheduled from June 5 to 10.

Last year, foreign tourists from Iran and the United Arab Emirates registered 7,570 and 3,230 arrivals in Malaysia, respectively, compared to 46,559 and 11,174 arrivals before the pandemic in 1999. There are currently three weekly Air Arabia direct flights from Sharjah to Kuala Lumpur with a seating capacity of 1,944 seats.

A heaven for sightseers and nature lovers, Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

مجتمع فولاد مبارکه

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY** intend to purchase 1,500 tons of Ferro Chrome through tender no **48573249**, hereby has been informed whom is interested in to participate, tender documents are available on our Website (www.msc.ir), the sealed and closed envelops according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP) not later than Tuesday. August 1rst .2023 Tehran Time (Tuesday 10.05.1402) at 1:00 pm.

Contact Details:

Contact Person: Mr. Dehghani

Email: d.dehghani@msc.ir

Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 0098 913 267 7093

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ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS

Eight Iranian villages vying for UNWTO label

TEHRAN – Iran has nominated eight villages for a special label given by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which recognizes exceptional rural tourism destinations.

Titled "Best Tourism Villages", the initiative recognizes qualified villages for their commitment to innovation and sustainability in all its aspects —economic, social, and environmental —and a focus on developing tourism in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Eight villages situated in various Iranian provinces are competing to be selected as a global village by the World Tourism Organization," IRNA quoted a tourism official as saying on Wednesday.

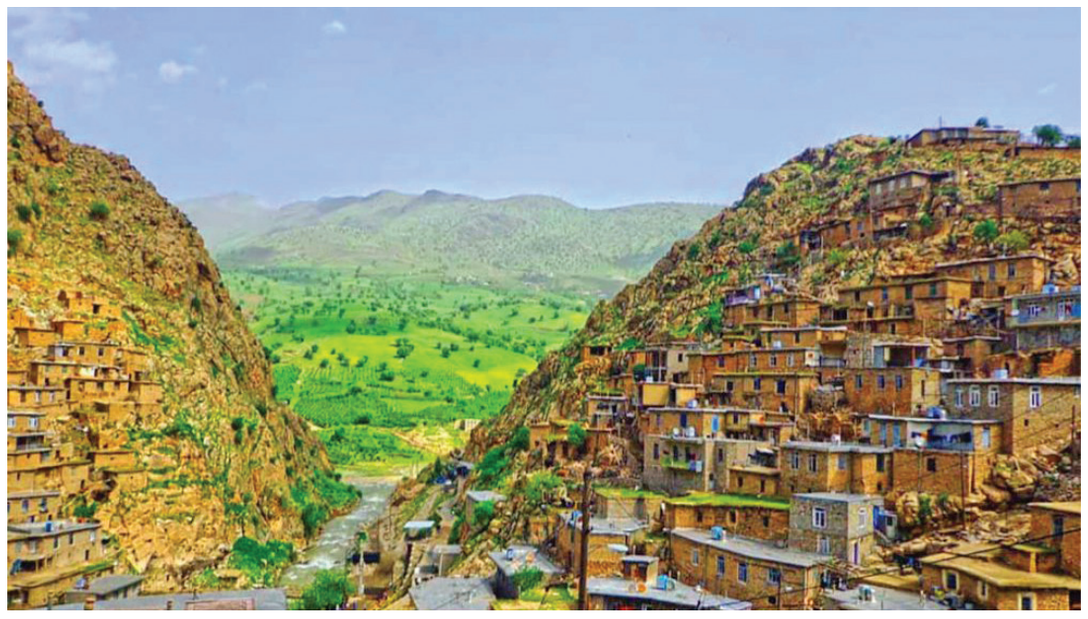
The eight nominees have been shortlisted from 130 villages by a working group affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the official said.

The shortlist comprises Kandovan in East Azarbaijan province, Meymand in Kerman, Soheili in Hormozgan, Qasemabad in Gilan, Kandelus in Mazandaran, Palangan in Kordestan, Abyaneh in Isfahan, and the village of Bisheh, which is located in Lorestan province.

The universal initiative aims to highlight those villages where tourism preserves cultural heritage and traditions, celebrates diversity, offers opportunities, and protects biodiversity, the report said.

Home to thousands of ancient villages, Iran perfectly suits the tastes of many domestic and even international vacationers who seek unique nature experiences and untouched landscapes, stay in authentic accommodations, and feel the local lifestyle.

Tourists can take a break from a rural or nomadic family or enjoy an independent stay and help them with daily life. It also opens up the possibility of feeling rustic routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture whose magical



know-how is passed from generation to generation.

Boasting many pristine yet diverse natural landscapes, Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers when it comes to rural tourism. Rural tourism, as well as agritourism and farm stays, can be seen as a win-win for both local communities and postmodern travelers looking for unique experiences.

Above all, rural tourism creates the basis for the economic development of rural areas by creating additional income and jobs. It can also improve social well-being in rural areas, for example, by encouraging improvements in infrastructure, sanitation, and electricity grids.

Since its introduction in 2021, over 70 villages from almost 40 countries have been recognized as Best Tourism Villages. The selection is based on an evaluation of initiatives in nine areas covering sustainable development.

According to the UN tourism body, villages, which do not fully meet the criteria can benefit from the 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Upgrade Program, which offers support to those villages to address the gaps identified in the evaluation process.

Moreover, the initiative also includes the 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Network, which offers a platform for exchanging experiences and good practices.

This initiative is expected to put Iran's rural destinations on the world map and earn them well-deserved recognition from the UNWTO.

The World Tourism Organization considers rural tourism to be a type of activity where the visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products, generally associated with activities in nature, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, fishing, and sightseeing. This tourism is also characterized by a low population density, a landscape characterized by agriculture and forestry, and a traditional social structure and way of life.

The UNWTO Best Tourism Villages award recognizes outstanding examples of rural tourism destinations with cultural and natural treasures that preserve and promote rural and community-based values, products, and lifestyles and has a clear commitment to innovation and sustainability in all its aspects. The selection is based on an assessment of their resources and initiatives in nine areas covering the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental).

Moreover, the 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Upgrade Program benefits a number of villages among those that do not fully meet the criteria to obtain the recognition. These villages receive support from UNWTO and partners to address the gaps identified in the evaluation process.

In addition, the 'Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO' Network provides a space for exchanging experiences and good practices and opportunities. It includes representatives of the villages recognized as 'Best Tourism Village by UNWTO' as well as the villages participating in the Upgrade Program and it will benefit from the contributions of experts, public and private sector partners engaged in the promotion of tourism for rural development. The Network also contributes to the work of UNWTO in identifying good practices, developing guidelines and policy recommendations, as well as insights and knowledge.

The applications are evaluated by an independent International Advisory Board consisting of experts in different fields (cultural and natural resources preservation, sustainability, tourism product development, marketing, value chain, etc.) based on nine areas, including sustainability, infrastructure, connectivity, and tourism value chain integration.

Iran's tourism picks up 39 percent in 2022, WTTC report says

TEHRAN – Iran's tourism industry achieved 39 percent year-on-year growth in 2020 when the total expenditure by foreign tourists hit $6.2 billion, according to a recent report by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

Iran has witnessed the revival of the tourism industry in two consecutive years, IRNA reported.

While the country's tourism industry faced a 45% drop in its share of the GDP in 2020, the share of this industry in the economy experienced a 40% jump in 2021.

According to the latest statistics of the World Travel and Tourism Council, the share of the tourism industry in the total economy of Iran in 2022 also increased by 39.2 percent and reached 4.6 percent of the total economy of Iran.

With the boom in tourism, the job creation rate of this industry in Iran increased by 11.2% in 2022, and the number of people working in this industry increased to 1.44 million. In the same way, the share of the tourism industry in total employment in Iran reached 6.1% in 2022.

Statistics show that foreign tourists spent 6.2 billion dollars in Iran in 2022, which is a 73.5% increase compared to the year before.

Of the total number of foreign tourists who entered Iran

in 2022, 55% were Iraqis, and tourists from the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey each with 6%, Pakistan with 5%, and Kuwait with 2% were in the next ranks, respectively, IRNA reported.

Foreign tourist arrivals in Iran saw a rise of 50 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year from a year earlier (started on March 21), the tourism minister last week.

The Islamic Republic has recorded about 850,000 foreign tourist arrivals during the first two months of the year, which shows over 50 percent growth year on year, Ezzatollah Zarghami said.

According to the statistics bureau of the World Tourism Organization, Iran's foreign tourist arrivals in 2022 rose 315 percent from a year earlier. Data showed around 4.1 million tourists came to the country in 2022, while the Islamic Republic attracted 990,000 tourists in 2021.

The upsurge of foreign tourist arrivals in 2022 was three times the global average growth in this field. Nevertheless, Iran's share in attracting foreign tourists is still small, and only 0.4% of all foreign tourist trips in 2022 have been made to Iran, the report said.

As mentioned by the latest WTTC report, the tourism industry has been able to account for 7.6% of the world's total GDP in 2022.

In 2020, as a result of the coronavirus restrictions, the world tourism industry faced a 50.4% drop in its share of the global economy, and the value of this industry was reduced by 4,900 billion dollars.

However, in 2021 and with the reduction of virus restrictions, a growth of 21.7% was reached in 2022, and the value of the travel industry increased by 7.7 trillion dollars.

Last year, 22 million new jobs were created in the world's tourism industry, which has increased by 7.9% compared to the year earlier.

Moreover, the number of workers in this industry has reached 295 million people, which is equivalent to 9% of the total employment in the world, the report said.

Iran moves up in QS World University Rankings

TEHRAN - The 20th edition of the QS World University Rankings (2024) has placed seven Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with six universities in 2023.

The Rankings features 1,500 institutions across 104 locations and is the only ranking of its kind to emphasize employability and sustainability.

Sharif University of Technology, University of Tehran, Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, Shiraz University, Shahid Beheshti University (SBU), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad are the top Iranian universities.

This year, the largest-ever methodological enhancement has been implemented, introducing three new metrics: Sustainability, Employment Outcomes, and International Research Network.

The results draw on the analysis of 17.5m academic papers and the expert opinions of over 240,000 academic faculty and employers.

The number of top Iranian universities and research institutes in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database has increased from 112 last year (March 2022-March 2023) to 115 this year, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has reported.

The number of top Iranian universities and research institutes in this database has increased from 112 last year to 115 this year.

Iran's top universities and research institutes are present in 19 subject areas, and the largest number is in the engineering subject area with 59 universities and research institutes.

The number of institutions in the fields of clinical medicine was 57, chemistry 50, material sciences 25, agricultural sciences 23, pharmacology and toxicology 19, plant and animal sciences 16, environment/ecology 15, social sciences, biology and biochemistry, and computer sciences 13 each.

Meanwhile, the number of institutions in the fields of neuroscience and behavior was 7, geology 6, physics and immunology 5 each, molecular biology and genetics 4, mathematics and microbiology 2 each, and psychiatry/psychology 1.

Reviewing the status of universities worldwide shows that the number of Iranian universities has increased in nearly all subject rankings.

At the beginning of its formation, rating systems provided a comprehensive view of institutions and evaluated them from all aspects and as a whole. But in the past few years, many of these systems evaluate and rank institutions in various scientific fields.

This new ranking method has emerged to meet the needs of users who seek to know the position of an institution in a special field.

Some of these systems evaluate broad scientific fields such as humanities and social sciences, technical and engineering, and medicine, and others measure special fields such as chemistry, mathematics, artificial intelligence, anthropology, and nursing in institutions.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023 has placed 65 Iranian universities among the top Asian institutions.

The Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2023 use the same 13 performance indicators as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, but they are recalibrated to reflect the attributes of Asia's institutions.

The universities are judged across all their core missions – teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook – to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons available.

The Sharif University of Technology is ranked first in the country and 64th in Asia. The position of two Iranian institutions is also mentioned as a reporter.

In the 2023 edition of the Times Higher Education's Asian University Ranking System, the names of 928 institutions from 36 Asian countries are included in the final list. In the previous edition of this ranking system, 58 universities from Iran were among the top institutions in Asia, IRNA reported.

Iranian traditional medicine: know what you eat, how you eat

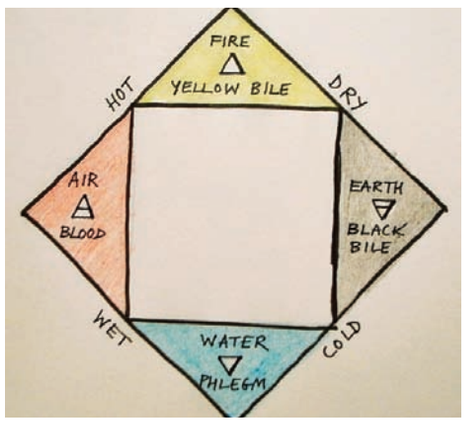
TEHRAN — The Iranian traditional medicine puts a strong emphasis on what one must eat and drink - in accordance with their temperament- and how to eat to have a healthier digestive system.

As per the Iranian traditional medicine healthy eating and a healthy digestive system account for a healthy lifestyle.

Quoted from Kitab al-Kafi - a hadith collection - Imam Musa Kazem (AS) - the seventh Shia Imam - has said that 'restraining' does not necessarily mean not eating at all, but eating small portions.

There other sayings about eating healthily and sensibly as well. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) has said that the stomach is the house of all illnesses and restraining is the key to treatment.

If a doctor prescribes what's good to eat or not and stops someone from consuming unhealthy food stuff and drinks one can restore their health by controlling the damage detrimental food and drinks could cause to someone's health, while it's highly unlikely that mere prescription of drugs would constitute to total recovery of a patient.



'Akhlat'

'Akhlat' are liquid humors formed in the liver and gastrointestinal system following digestion. In other words after eating and drinking, digestion, the process of breaking down food stuff into smaller units and converting them into a substance suitable for absorption, happens.

Afterwards the substances move towards the liver and will be processed again (called the second digestion in traditional medicine) which form the four liquid humors called: blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm.

The four aforesaid humors, or Akhlat, are supposed to supply the cells and the body organs with necessary nutrients.

Excessive amounts of blood, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm is rooted from the fact that someone has not stick to their healthy diet.

Therefore, it is two of utmost significance to keep the four humors in balance:

Eat and drink in accordance with one's temperament (Mizaj): eating good foods and drinks

Following health tips provided by Iranian traditional medicine on how to eat and drink healthier food items to have a healthier and stronger digestive system

Recognizing the properties of what we eat and drink and knowing our Mizaj would help the digestive system to generate healthy humors so that all organs including muscles, liver, bones, heart, etc., would receive adequate nutrients and work properly which constitute to optimum health.

The Mizaj of each humor, food stuff producing them in the body, symptoms of excessive humor in the body, etc. will be thoroughly explained over the next weeks.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone

Strict COVID-19 restrictions which took effect on October 26 have caused 87 out of 89 infected cities to get out of the high-risk "red" zone.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country.

All of the cities, except for two, are now out of the red condition and have turned orange or yellow so that the hospitalization rate has decreased, said Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, expressing hope that the death toll will also drop within two to three weeks.

اعمال محدودیت ها اکثر شهرها را از وضعیت قرمز خارج کرد

علیرضا رئیسی، سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: از ۸۹ شهری که از پنجم آبان محدودیت‌های کرونایی در آنها اعمال شده است، ۸۷ شهر از وضعیت قرمز خارج شده اند.
او با اشاره به محدودیت های کرونایی در ۸۹ شهری که (از ۵آبان در ۴۳ شهر و از ۱۴ آبان در ۴۶ شهر) اعمال شده است، گفت: از این تعداد به جز دو شهر همه شهرها از حالت قرمز خارج و به نارنجی یا زرد تبدیل شده اند. با توجه به ورودی بیمارستان ها و اینکه میزان بستری هم کاهش یافته است امیدواریم روند فوتی ها هم تا حدود دو تا سه هفته دیگر آثار خود را نشان دهد و روند کاهشی پیدا کند.

UNESCO Afghan Teacher Training Program in Iran has made significant progress

TEHRAN - Since launching in 2021, the UNESCO Afghan Teacher Training Program has made significant progress in fostering a brighter future for displaced Afghan teachers and students.

Supported by the Government of Japan and UNICEF Iran, and in collaboration with the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO and the Universities of Tehran, and Kharazmi, this initiative is equipping Afghan refugee teachers in the Islamic Republic of Iran with the necessary tools and skills to provide quality education amidst challenging circumstances.

Shaping a brighter future

With the completion of its first phase in 2022, and upcoming phases in 2023, the program has enabled approximately 500 Afghan women refugee teachers in Iran to receive recognized training and certification.

The goal is to support Afghan women with the skills and knowledge they need to deliver quality learning for the displaced Afghan children living in Iran and to ensure that their education continues until they can return to formal schooling.

The teachers are also trained to provide psychosocial support to these out-of-school and crisis-affected children, helping them to overcome the challenges of displacement and adapting to a new environment.

The underlying vision of the project is to share the latest teaching methods with these displaced or not displaced teachers, enabling them to teach effectively in their host countries.

Recognizing that teachers are not mere conveyors of knowledge but also role models, the program strives to also provide them with the required training to inspire and empower their students.

The quality education and support provided by these trained teachers will indirectly benefit approximately 9,000 primary school students in Iran.

Sharing skills and knowledge

One of the program's participants, Ms. Sokhan, a former chemistry teacher and school principal in Afghanistan, expressed her gratitude during a phone call to UNESCO Tehran.

"Thanks to the training, I regained a sense of purpose and I have the ability to cope with the challenges I face as an Afghan refugee," she said.

Ms. Sokhan emphasized that the most valuable aspect of the initiative was the opportunity for teachers to share their experiences and knowledge gained throughout their years of teaching.

She also really appreciated the teacher's active engagement with participants, sharing with them the practical lessons from their extensive experience in the field of education.

Reflecting on the impact of the program, Ms. Alami, who participated in the first phase last year, emphasized the importance of mental health education.

"The training program allowed me to grasp the importance of addressing psychological well-being in the classroom," she said. Armed with this new knowledge, Ms. Alami was able to establish deeper connections with her students and provide more effective support to those affected by displacement, both physically and mentally.

Vision for the future

A core aspect of the program is to empower teachers and gradually transform them into advocates for improved teaching methods. Follow-up courses are planned to focus on vital areas such as mental health, social-emotional learning, psychological support, and overall well-being.

Trained teachers will play a pivotal role in educating out-of-school children while also serving as local facilitators within the refugee community. With their close ties with the community and their advanced education, these teachers will become invaluable resources for addressing the diverse needs of their communities.

Refugees in Iran

For over four decades, Iran has been hosting one of the largest and most protracted refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees, mostly from Afghanistan.

The recent fast-paced turn of events in Afghanistan has the potential to create additional population movements; internally displacing families and potentially driving them to neighboring countries to seek refuge.

Iran is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children- including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

Despite the sanctions and economic pressures, Iran continues its comprehensive policy of providing services to refugees, and this is appreciable, UNHCR's Officer in Charge, Inna Gladkova, said in November 2022.

The best solution and the most stable support system for refugees is that have access to schools and education just like Iranian nationals, she stated, IRNA reported.

Iran has taken effective and continuous measures to include all refugees, and the UNHCR also declares its readiness to fulfill its obligations, she noted.

In the provision of educational services, there are different aspects, she said, adding, school construction, equipping schools, providing teachers and human resources, and providing quality educational services are the main and important work done by the Ministry of Education.

There are many needs in the field of education, but in the last 10 years, the High Commissioner for Refugees has built only 95 schools in Iran, but the need is definitely more than this, she also said.

In June 2022, Maha Kashour, head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Mashhad, said Iran's efforts and activities in the last 40 years have been commendable to refugees, and in the past year, after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, has reached its peak.

> The program has enabled 500 Afghan women refugee teachers to receive training and certification.

Iran has so far been able to provide decent services to refugees in the fields of health, livelihood, and vocational training in cooperation with UNHCR, she noted.

The Ministry of Interior has announced to the Ministry of Education a list of 200,000 Afghan children who have the conditions to study in Iranian schools.

In May, Robin Nandy, the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Iran, said the country's comprehensive program for the protection of refugee children is encouraging.

Making investments in programs and services to better care for and support children affected by migration and asylum will reduce costs in the future, he added.

Emphasizing the important role of non-governmental organizations in supporting refugee and immigrant children and teenagers, Nandy expressed hope that holding educational workshops will lead to the promotion of children's rights and justice for children.

Over 670,000 students of Afghan nationals are studying in Iran, and the cost of educating these students is more than $352 million, IRNA reported.

However, international organizations have paid less than 3.9 percent of the cost of education for Afghan students in Iran in the last two years.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a decree in May 2015 that allows all foreign nationals, even those who have no identification and are living in Iran illegally, to attend schools in the country.

Relying on moral and Islamic principles, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has created equal conditions in benefiting from educational opportunities for Afghan students.

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Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
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JULY 8, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Seek sustenance through alms-giving.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:09 Evening: 19:43 Dawn: 3:11 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:55 (tomorrow)

Iranian audience radiates astonishing level of positivity, Peruvian stage director says

Peruvian director Hugo Suárez performs "Body Rhapsody" at 19th edition of the Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival in Tehran.

TEHRAN – The level of positive energy emanating from the Iranian theater audience is truly remarkable, Peruvian director Hugo Suárez, who is currently in Tehran to take part in the 19th edition of the Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival, has said.

"We have been overwhelmed by the tremendous positivity emanating from the Iranian audience," Suárez, who staged "Body Rhapsody" at the festival, explained on Thursday.

"The support and enthusiasm from the Iranian audience fuel us with an immense positive energy."

"This is our troupe's first time visiting Iran and I must say, the festival was impeccably organized," he added.

The audience's energy was contagious, and their enthusiastic response during the show filled me with immense joy, he noted.

"It was truly heartwarming to see them express their emotions so openly."

"Body Rhapsody" presents a fresh and innovative concept by incorporating inflatable puppets as the main style of the show, he added.

The characters are uniquely crafted using an imaginative combination of various body parts such as hands, knees, stomach, and more, he mentioned.

"My wife, Ines Pasic, and I collaborate on directing and writing shows, continuously expanding our knowledge about the human body and creating theatrical productions inspired by its various parts," he stated.

"Recently, we designed a new doll that features a realistic human mouth, adding yet another unique element to our repertoire."

"First, we begin by developing the characters, closely examining their movements and the capabilities of their bodies," he said and added: "We then craft characters that reflect these traits, using them as a foundation to propel the story forward."

"Body Rhapsody" is a picturesque parade of funny characters who, in the brief moments of their existence on the stage, try to capture those little poetic moments that are hidden in daily life. These characters, with their dreams and frustrations, with their successes and failures, tell us about the eternal drama of the human tragicomedy.

Seven performances are staged by troupes from Turkey, Georgia, Mexico, Armenia, Peru and Brazil during Mobarak Puppet Theater Festival, which will come to an end on Saturday.

"Treasure Island" by Brazilian director Fábio Superbi is among the puppet shows.

It tells an adventure-filled story reminiscent of tales of heroes and their trials. Jim, an 11-year-old brave adventurer meets an old sea wolf, wins a treasure map, sails the seas on a huge ship, faces pirates, overcomes the dangers of a desert island, finds a ghost and finally discovers his treasure.

Renowned Georgian puppeteer Elene Matskhonashvili attends the festival with the biographical plays "Pirosmani" and "Niko Nikoladze".

"Pirosmani" portrays the tragic life story of the great Georgian artist, Niko Pirosmani, who died in a basement.

In her second puppet show, Matskhonashvili centers on Niko Nikoladze, a Georgian writer, pro-Western enlightener, and public figure primarily known for his contributions to the development of Georgian liberal journalism and his involvement in various economic and social projects of that time.

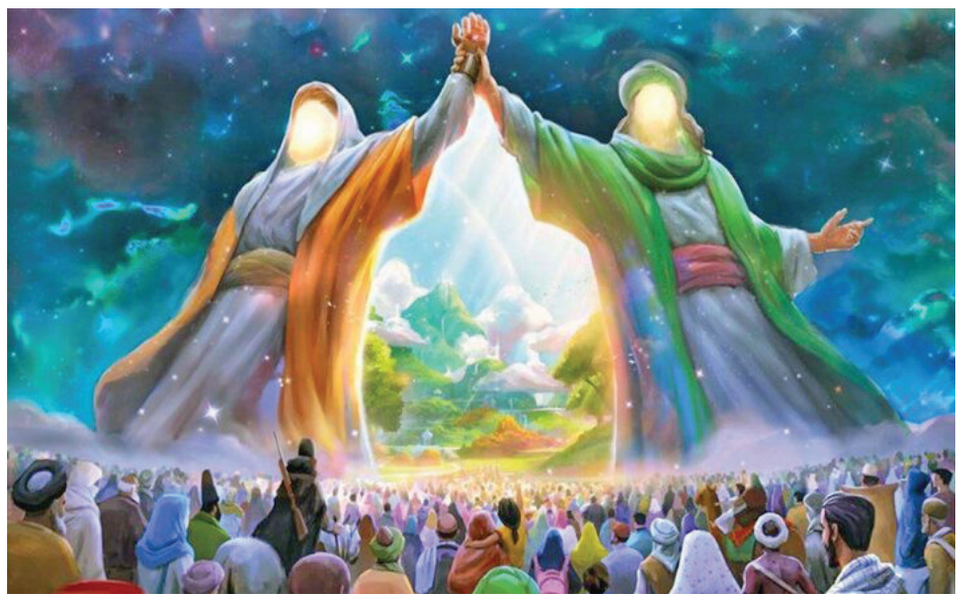
The lineup also includes "The Magic Lamp" by Cengiz Özek from Turkey.

It is a stage adaptation of "Thumbelina", a literary fairy tale by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen.

Hacivat finds a lamp and takes it to Karagoz to have it cleaned. Usually, a genie lives in old lamps. But this genie is not a bad genie. Karagoz is allowed to ask whatever he wants. He has only three wishes. However, Karagoz is so indecisive that he shrinks to the size of a thumb. Poor Karagoz comes across giants; a crow, a frog, a snake, a mole, a rat and a stork. He asks every one of them about his lamp, but not everybody has good intentions. And from the clouds to the earth, through water, under bad weather conditions his adventure waits for him. In the end the gold-hearted genie saves him from this situation. Karagoz returns to his normal height and uses his wishes for his friends' happiness and health.

"Birds Are Eternal" by Antonio Camacho Oropeza from Mexico and "Swan Lake" by Samson Movsesyan from Armenia are also included.

Important points Muslims and non-Muslims must know about Ghadir



Frome Page **1** ▶ qualifications in comparison with those specified in the Qur'an and reliable Islamic narrations. Then they will see who was more qualified to be the successor of the Prophet (pbuh). Knowledge is one of the criteria. Regarding his knowledge, both Shi'a and Sunni narrations confirm that the Holy Prophet said, "I am the city of knowledge, and Ali is the gate to it." This is the best testimony to Imam Ali's knowledge. Regarding his struggle on the path of God, the Exalted God said, "And among the people is he who sells his soul seeking the pleasure of Allah." [Qur'an, 2:207] This Quranic verse describes the selflessness of the Commander of the Faithful. There are no other such revelations about other people in the Qur'an. Regarding his charitable activities, there is the verse, "They give food, for the love of Him, to the needy, the orphan, and the prisoner." [Qur'an, 76:8] This verse is about the Commander of the Faithful and his family. "Your Guardian is only Allah, His Apostle, and the faithful who maintain the prayer and give the zakat while bowing down." [Qur'an, 5:55] Everyone agrees that this verse was revealed about Imam Ali (pbuh). He had each and every one of the qualifications specified in Islam, including knowledge, piety, charitable activities, selfless efforts, and struggle on the path of God. Who can deny the fact that Imam Ali (pbuh) had these qualifications? [Dec. 6, 2009]

Ghadir is an answer to those who claim religion is separate from politics

The issue of Ghadir is a very important issue in the history of Islam. First, consider the essence of this astonishing, important event and this holy statement, "For whomsoever, I am his master, Ali is also his master." This is not something that only the Shi'a have narrated. This event is one of the clear, absolute truths. Those who have wanted to find fault with this event were unable to cast doubt on the origin of this statement. Rather, they resorted to interpretation, justification, and explaining the meaning of this sentence.

The event of Ghadir is a clear historical, Islamic issue. The doubts and questions about the meaning of this sentence that have come to the minds of some intellectual and philosophical newcomers today are the same doubts and questions that have been raised since a thousand years ago. And these questions have been answered by great scholars. Therefore, there is no room for raising doubts about the essence of this issue, not about this event or about what the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said. On that day, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) asked the people, "Am I not closer to you than your own selves?" This sentence was a reference to a Quranic verse that says, "The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves." [Qur'an, 33:6]. Then, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) said, "For whomsoever, I am his master, Ali is also his master." So, there is no room for doubt about the essence of this issue.

What should be said about the content of this historical, noble, meaningful sentence - apart from the appointment of the Commander of the Faithful (pbuh) as the caliph and Imam after the Holy Prophet (pbuh), which is the common meaning of this sentence - is that there is another important issue that should not be ignored. This issue is the attention Islam pays to the issue of government and politics and the significance of this issue from the viewpoint of Islam.

Ghadir is an answer to those who have tried to exclude Islam from social and political issues, confine it to personal, individual affairs, and adopt a secular outlook toward Islam. This is an outlook the enemies and their propaganda efforts have been trying to promote among Muslims for many years. At the command of God, the Exalted, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) addressed an important, fundamental issue in that sensitive situation and during the last months of his life. This important issue was attending to the issue of government after the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

Here, the appointment of the Commander of the Faithful (pbuh) was not confined to spiritual matters. Rather, it can be said that spiritual matters are not things that someone can be appointed or elected for. Those issues for which someone can be appointed are government, politics, and the management of the country and the Islamic society. This is what the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was recommending to the people. This is an important point about the issue of Ghadir and it is a rejoinder to all those people who think and promote the idea that Islam should be kept away from political issues, issues related to the government, and the like.

Therefore, these two truths exist in the event of Ghadir. That is to say, the very important, the truth about the appointment of the Commander of the Faithful (pbuh) as the Imam after the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and the truth about attending to the issue of government, politics, Imamate, and managing the Islamic nation after the Holy Prophet (pbuh) exist. And they are among the teachings that have been guaranteed by Ghadir. They are a great lesson for all Muslims, both for the present and the future. [Oct. 13, 2014]

IAF cinematheque to screen "A Time to Kill"

TEHRAN – The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen American director Joel Schumacher's 1996 movie "A Time to Kill" on Monday.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian critic Javad Tusi.

Starring Matthew McConaughey, Samuel L. Jackson and Sandra Bullock, "A Time to Kill" tells the story of Carl Lee Hailey, a heartbroken black father, who avenges his daughter's brutal rape by shooting the bigoted men responsible for the crime as they are on their way to trial.

Carl turns to Jake Brigance, an untested lawyer, to defend him. Brigance struggles to believe that he can get Hailey acquitted in this small, segregated Southern town, given Hailey's race and the deliberate nature of his crimes, but Carl has unshakable faith in him.

The film, which is based on a novel by John Grisham, won NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Motion Picture. The film's actor Matthew McConaughey received MTV Movie Awards for Best Breakthrough Performance while Sandra Bullock won Blockbuster Entertainment Award for Favorite Actress.

A poster for a review session of American director Joel Schumacher's 1996 movie "A Time to Kill" at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran.

Goethe's "Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship" up for review at Book City

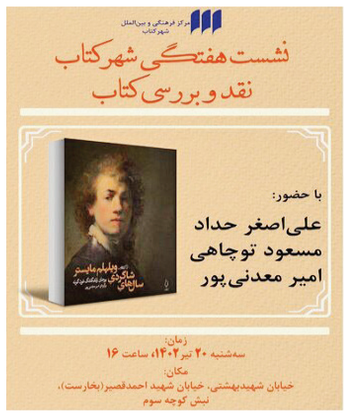
TEHRAN – Iranian literati will come together in a session on Tuesday at the Book City Institute in Tehran to attend a review of "Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship", a book by world-renowned German poet and novelist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

A Persian translation by Amir Madanipur has recently been published by Ketab-e Fanus in Tehran.

The review session will be attended by the book's translator and critics Ali-Asghar Hadad and Masoud Tochahi.

"Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship" was originally published in 1795.

The book consists of eight volumes. The hero of the story



A poster for a review of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's book "Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship".

embarks on a transformative journey of self-discovery. Wilhelm's endeavor in the story is to break free from the monotonous existence of a bourgeois entrepreneur. Wilhelm, disheartened by an unsuccessful romance in the theater, dedicates his life to the enigmatic Tower Society.

Goethe's work on the novel began in the 1770s. The first draft of the piece, which was not made public while Goethe was alive, was unearthed in the 20th century and eventually released as "Wilhelm Meister's Theatrical Mission" (Wilhelm Meisters theatralische Sendung). The culmination of the Apprenticeship in the mid-1790s was largely due to the support and feedback of Goethe's intimate companion and co-worker Friedrich Schiller.The sequel to the Apprenticeship, Wilhelm Meister's Wanderjahre ("Wilhelm Meister's Journeyman Years" or Wilhelm Meister's Travels), had already been conceived in the 1790s. However, it was only published in its first edition in 1821 and did not reach its ultimate form until 1829.

According to Andrew Crumey, "while Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship is billed as the classic coming-of-age tale, or Bildungsroman, it's really far more than that: a story of education and disillusionment, a novel of ideas ranging across literature, philosophy and politics, a masterpiece that resists all pigeonholing."

The novel could also be described as an example of what Graham Wolfe has called "theatre-fiction".

The novel has had a significant impact on European literature and philosophy.

Sadi: works and life

Part 1

Sadi, Abu Mohammad Mosharref ad-Din Mosleh ibn Abdullah ibn Mosharref Shirazi, Persian poet and prose writer (b. Shiraz, ca. 1210; d. Shiraz, d. 1291 or 1292), widely recognized as one of the greatest masters of the classical literary tradition.

The present article examines the sources for his biography, including his major works.

Little about Sadi's life is known with absolute certainty. Even the earliest references to him in external sources differ in important details, and although Sadi's own writings, especially the Bustan and Golestan, contain many purportedly autobiographical reminiscences, a good number of these are historically implausible and are probably fictionalized or cast in the first-person for rhetorical effect.

Uncertainty begins with the proper form of his name. In reporting his full name—comprising given name, honorific (laqab), agnomen (konya), and patronymic—the historical sources seem to present every possible permutation of several basic elements.

The earliest available record is the Talkhis al-majma al-adab fi mojam al-alqab (Summary of the gathering of refinements concerning the lexicon of honorifics) by Ibn al-Fowati (d. 1323).

He wrote to Sadi in 1262 to request samples of the poet's Arabic verses and gives the full form of his name as: Mosleh ad-Din Abu Mohammad Abdullah ibn Mosharref ibn Mosleh ibn Mosharref.

S. Nafisi considers this source definitive. But most other scholars have turned to the evidence of early manuscripts of Sadi's works. E. G. Browne, for example, appeals to an early manuscript to give the poet's name as Mosharref ad-Din ibn Mosleh ad-Din Abdullah.

Most later Western scholars, such as A. J. Arberry, J. Rypka, and R. Davis, make Abdullah part of Sadi's patronymic: Abu Abdullah Mosharref ad-Din ibn Mosleh.

Finally, based on the introduction to one of the earliest surviving compilations of Sadi's collected works written by his fellow townsman Ali ibn Ahmad ibn Abu Bakr Bisotun in 1326, Safa concludes that Mosleh was the poet's given name and presents his full name as Abu Mohammad Mosharref ad-Din (or Sharaf ad-Din) Mosleh ibn Abdullah ibn Mosharref.

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To be continued