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Report **Palestinian resistance expands to Israeli jails**

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN- The Palestinian Prisoners Movement has announced the suspension of a combined hunger strike by more than 1,000 inmates languishing in Israeli prisons.

The inmates started the collective strike earlier this week. They have cited the recent deteriorating treatment of prison guards, including raiding their cells and forcibly transferring them to other units without any notice in the Negev prison.

The leaders of the prisoners (who are prisoners themselves) also cited the threats made by extremist Israeli cabinet minister Itamar Ben-Gvir during a visit to the Ofer Prison on Wednesday for their mass protest.

At the Ofer Prison, Ben-Gvir ordered an expansion of punitive measures against the Palestinian prisoners. The measures included arbitrary and forced transfer of the Palestinians from one prison to another, deprivation of bathroom use, and more raids into the cells of the prisoners, which reportedly took place immediately.

On Wednesday, Ben-Gvir posted a photo of himself alongside Israeli prison ▶ Page 5

100,000 residential units to be delivered to applicants in Government Week

TEHRAN- Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash announced that 100,000 residential units will be handed over to the applicants in the cities and villages throughout the country during Government Week (starting on August 24).

Last week, the minister announced that 1.55 million units of the National Housing Movement plan are under construction across the country.

He said that the government is facilitating the provision of land to mass builders that are participating in this plan.

"In the house building sector, in order to accelerate and facilitate the construction of housing units, we need more participation of the private sector and mass builders," he said.

Earlier in June, Bazrpash said that 3,000 hectares of land have been allocated to the National Housing Movement so far.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions. ▶ Page 4

Greco-Roman win U20 Worlds team title

TEHRAN - Iran's Greco-Roman team claimed the title of the U20 World Championships 2023 in Amman, Jordan Sunday night.

The Persians finished first with 162 points, followed by Georgia (89) and Armenia (88).

Iranian wrestlers claimed three gold medals, two silvers and one bronze in the competition held in Amman, Jordan.

Ahmadreza Mohsennejhad at 63kg, Alireza Abdevali at 77kg and Fardin Hedayati at 130kg claimed three gold medals.

Yasin Yazdi at 82kg and Ali Choubani at 87kg won two silver medals and Amirreza Dehbozorgi at 60kg seized a bronze.

Iran's freestyle team had won a team title last week.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei praised Iranian U20 and U17 Greco-Roman and Freestyle wrestling teams on the occasion of their championship in Jordan. ▶ Page 3

Exclusive: Meet the 'expert' who prepared a list of 14 persons to replace Iranian diplomats 14 Puppets Plus 1

▶ Page 3



Iran's transformation: From defenselessness to arms exporter

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Amidst Iraq's war against Iran in 1984, when a high-ranking Iranian delegation began a quest for missiles and scheduled trips to Syria and Libya hoping to get its hands on the weapons, very few people could imagine that the almost defenseless country would turn into an arms exporter in 2023.

Iran found its military to be extremely vulnerable shortly after the Islamic Revolution, when Iraq, backed by the West, waged a full-scale war against the Islamic Republic. For the first few days before the military could organize its troops, civilians had to stand against invaders with empty hands. Once the military did take over, the situation remained almost the same. Iranians lacked equipment as basic as barbed wires while the enemy used the latest high-technology armaments to attack the newly established Islamic Republic. Iranian bullets and shells hardly stood a chance against the fighter jets, bombers and tanks that the West was supplying to Baghdad.

Iran managed to get Scud-B and Frog-7 ballistic missiles, developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War, from Libya and receive the training it needed from Syria. A year later in 1985, Tehran sent another delegation to North Korea and China in a bid to receive more missiles. ▶ Page 3



Iran issues warning on US provocative presence in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN- Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday issued a warning against the "provocative" escalation of American military presence in the Persian Gulf, saying that it is taking place just when regional nations are mending fences.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, stated that instability in the Persian Gulf region serves the interests of littoral states.

Talking to reporters at a weekly press conference, Kanaani stressed that "the security of the region, especially that of the Persian Gulf waterway, must be ensured within the region itself by the Persian Gulf states. It is a general principle."

The United States has sent new fighter jets and destroyers to the Persian Gulf, especially at a time that Iran and Arab countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf are taking steps to open a new chapter in ties.

"Coinciding with growing convergence among regional countries, we hear claims made by the U.S. government and witness an increase of its military forces, a measure that is provocative. However, we are optimistic that cooperation between the countries of the region will advance faster," Kanaani added.

He also reiterated how very important the Persian Gulf region and the Strait of Hormuz are to Iran's security, stressing that the Iranian Navy will respond to any illegal activity in the area "professionally and legally". ▶ Page 2

China, Iran applaud good progress in ties

TEHRAN- The foreign ministers of Iran and China have emphasized the need to improve relations in accordance with their strategic 25-year collaboration agreement.

In a phone conversation on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi described the two countries' relationship as "positive and progressing" while discussing world events.

The historic 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership, according to Iran's top diplomat, is moving in the "right direction."

The Chinese foreign minister also gave an encouraging assessment of the relations between the two nations. Wang also provided comments from China over the upcoming BRICS summit in South Africa.

Iran is among many nations which have made an official application to join BRICS. Iran's application has been welcomed by China.

Additionally, the senior Chinese diplomat said that Iran is seen as a key participant in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In spite of the United States' unilateral sanctions against the two nations, Iran and China inked the 25-year deal in March 2021.

The agreement formalizes the Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which was launched in 2016 during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran. ▶ Page 2

Iran among 20 countries rich in biodiversity and genetics

TEHRAN - There are 11 types of ecosystems in the world, 9 of which are identified in Iran. Moreover, out of 42 types of wetlands, 41 types exist in the country. Therefore, Iran is one of the 20 countries rich in biodiversity and genetics.

Biological and genetic diversity in the country has caused many plants and animals to be native to Iran, currently, there are 2,100 endemic plant species in Iran.

Five ecoregions, rich biodiversity

Each region is defined by its characteristics that play a significant role in a land's biodiversity and richness, based on which, Iran shares five ecological zones with specific flora from the lowest to the highest parts, namely, Caspian, Iran-Turani, Arasbaran, Zagros, and Persian Gulf-Omani ecological zones. ▶ Page 7

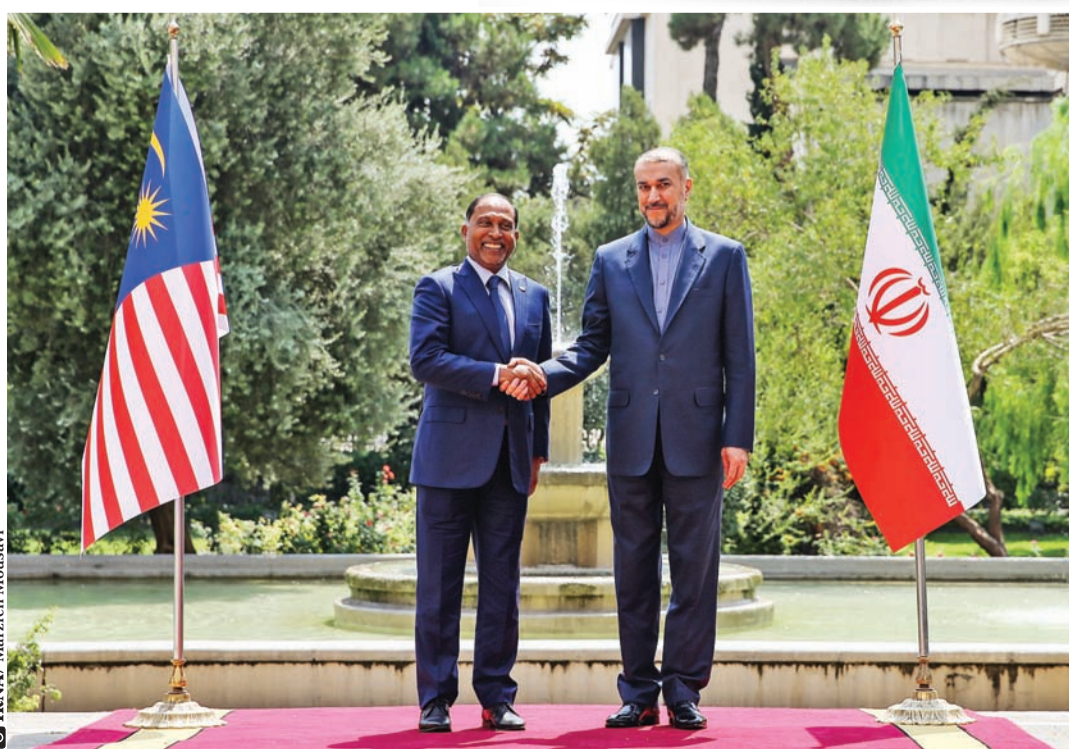
Iran, Malaysia agree on prisoner swap

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Monday hosted his Malaysian counterpart Zambry bin Abdul Kadir in Tehran.

The trip is Zambry's first visit to Iran since taking office in December of 2022. He is accompanied by an entourage of businessmen and economists.

This is the second time the two diplomats have met as they had a word on the sidelines of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement states in Baku in early July.

During Monday's meeting, the two sides emphasized the expansion of ties in different fields as well as the implementation ▶ Page 2



TEHRAN PAPERS

Weakening US influence through good relations with Persian Gulf Arab nations

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

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper wrote: Along with the relations between Iran and the Arab countries, it is important to create a space for cooperation to achieve political, security, and economic goals; something that can realize the national interests of each country. The policy of the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council is "localization" of security in the Persian Gulf. Over the past years, they have paid heavy costs due to the illegal presence of the American military in the region and the illegitimate interference of the country's navy in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, in the current situation, they are looking to reduce political, military and financial costs through the localization of security and honest cooperation with Iran and move towards localization of security in the strategic waterway. Although the Americans are still seeking to intensify their military presence in the region, the conditions in the region are moving in a way that the Americans will gradually lose their influence in the region. Naturally, Iran is one of the key countries providing security in the Persian Gulf. If cooperation is established between the Arab countries and Iran in maritime security, many problems in the region will be solved.

Hamshahri: A message to America

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed the American movements in the Persian Gulf and said: The publication of pictures of the monitoring of the American helicopter carrier in the Strait of Hormuz by the IRGC naval force led to widespread reactions; the images that tell about Iran's security and intelligence domination over America's provocative military activities in the Persian Gulf. Hassan Hanizadeh, an expert on regional issues, said: "These images proved to the Americans that the Islamic Republic has high capabilities in the field of naval warfare. It seems that the Americans are trying to prevent the convergence established in the region by developing their influence and role in the region. But Washington is facing many crises, including the Ukraine war, which have complicated the conditions for their new adventure in the region. They are trying to show that they still have the initiative in the waters of the region, but the reality is that the Persian Gulf is moving towards new harmony and convergence centered on the Islamic Republic."

Iranian delegation visits Moscow to discuss ground forces cooperation



TEHRAN - An Iranian military delegation visited Moscow on Sunday to discuss cooperation between Iranian and Russian ground forces.

Kiomars Heidari, the commander of the Iranian Ground Forces, visited the country for consultation with Russian army officials.

Sobh-e-No: An important member of the belt initiative

In its editorial, Sobh-e-No discussed China's new Silk Road project or the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It wrote: In regard to the Belt and Road Initiative, Iran plays an important role in the China-Central Asia-West Asia economic corridor, which can benefit from countless transit, commercial, economic and communication facilities. This corridor connects the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea through Iran and then connects to Northern Europe through Central Asia and Russia. Iran's position in the North-South corridor is strategic due to its geographical location that connects the Persian Gulf to Eurasia. Therefore, Iran's position in the Silk Road corridor known as "One Belt, One Road" is undeniable. Therefore, considering Iran's special geographical location, it is very necessary to use the country's transit capacities as one of the sources to monetize. This mega-project will be a milestone in terms of geopolitics and economic power with the centrality of China. Therefore, it is a good opportunity for our country to play a role in this new order.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran-Saudi relations yes, or no?!

In an analysis, Siasat-e-Rooz wrote about the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The paper said: Islamic Iran has always tried to have friendly relations with Muslim countries in the region. In the world of politics, everything depends on the national interests of countries, especially if two important countries in the Islamic world - Iran and Saudi Arabia - play a role. Iran is not a country that Saudi Arabia can ignore relations with, and neither can Iran. Saudi Arabia has well understood the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields, especially military and defense, and knows that the continuation of hostilities can have more serious consequences for Riyadh. Iran's Foreign Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia was an important political event that shows how much Riyadh cares about relations with Tehran. Israelis are angry about the resumption of the relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia and consider it to their detriment. The Zionists were seeking to establish a relationship with Saudi Arabia, but this has not happened so far and it seems unlikely that it will happen.

Brigadier General Heidari traveled to Moscow at the invitation of his Russian counterpart General Oleg Salyukov.

Heidari said he was traveling to Russia in line with the good relations between the two parties.

The commander of the Iranian Army Ground Forces visited Moscow to participate in the International Military and Technical Forum, also known as ARMY 2023. Additionally, the commander was set to have a meeting with the Russian Army Ground Forces commander and visit training centers in Russia.

China, Iran applaud good progress in ties

From page 1 ► For the next 25 years, it establishes the general framework for cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, politics, culture, security, and defense.

Back in July, Mohammad Bagher Zolqadr, the secretary of Iran's Expediency Council, received a Chinese delegation led by Chen Gang, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

In this meeting, Zolqadr praised the 25-year strategic partnership, saying that Iran and China are in the best state of interaction with each other.

They discussed a variety of issues related to Iran-China relations. The Iranian official said that based on historical documents, the history of relations between the two civilizations of Iran and China is more than 2200 years.

Referring to the exchange of visits between the Expediency Council and the Chinese ruling party, Zolqadr said, "These interactions can strengthen the relations between the two countries."

Referring to the tenth anniversary of the establishment of relations between the Expediency Council and the Chinese ruling party, Zolqadr said, "The recent visit of the high-ranking delegation of the Council to China indicates the promotion and development of cooperation between the two countries. The presence of this delegation and the visit of the International Minister of the Communist Party of China to Iran in the near future can also be effective in the development of relations between the two countries."

Iran to unveil indigenous unmanned plane in near future

TEHRAN - In the next months the Defense Ministry intends to unveil the unmanned Qaheer-313 (Conqueror-313) stealth fighter aircraft, an official from the Iranian Defense Ministry announced on Monday.

Afshin Khajehfard, chief of the Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO), said that the unmanned fighter plane would be produced in two configurations and displayed in the next months.

"Iranian military experts have managed to acquire the cutting-edge know-know and developed new domestic technologies because multinational arms corporations do not share required technology with Iran," Khajehfard stated.

In February 2013, the Iranian Qaheer-313 fighter plane made its public debut. Short runways allow the single-seat stealth fighter jet to take off and land.

Despite sanctions and other coercive measures, he said, Iranian military experts and technicians have been able to maintain and refit every aircraft used by the country's armed forces during the last four



decades.

Additionally, he stated that there are currently 15 distinct models of helicopters in use by various Armed Forces of the nation.

Khajehfard added that Iran now manufactures Simorgh light transport aircraft, which weighs between 4 and 6 tons.

In the coming weeks a test flight for the homegrown Yasin training aircraft will also take place, he said.

Iranian specialists have created a unique radar for the Kowsar fighter plane and are now updating

the bombs and missiles that would be installed on them, the IAIO chief pointed out.

Back in May, the Iranian defense minister said a transit aircraft built locally has successfully completed a flight test.

Brigadier General Mohammadreza Ashtiani made the announcement while speaking to a group of Defense Ministry officials that included Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri at an airbase in the central city of Isfahan.

Raisi to depart for South Africa to attend BRICS summit

TEHRAN - Ebrahim Raisi, the President of Iran, will depart Tehran for Johannesburg on Wednesday to attend the BRICS summit.

Raisi has been invited to attend the 15th summit of BRICS at the invitation of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

BRICS includes the economically-emerging countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

The Iranian president will meet with a number of the leaders present in addition to speaking at the conference.

The BRICS summit will take place in Johannesburg from August 22 to August 24. The ceremony is being attended by the heads of 70 nations.

According to South Africa, around 40 countries, including Saudi Arabia, Argentina, and Egypt have formally or informally reportedly shown interest in joining the economic bloc.

The conference is likely to explore the group's possible development into a geopolitical bloc to challenge Western dominance, dubbed

BRICS Plus.

BRICS+ seeks to expand its membership in order to form a powerful transcontinental multilateral alliance. The strategy has given other nations the opportunity to strengthen ties with the bloc of significant developing economies in order to further their interests.

The BRICS and Africa meeting will also focus on how the group might strengthen ties with a continent that is increasingly becoming a scene for competition between world powers.

The fast-growing economies of BRICS members are frequently viewed as alternatives to the political and economic hegemony of the West.

According to the South African-based Institute for Security Studies, the five-nation group represents 26% of the world's GDP and 42% of the world's population.

The New Development Bank (NDB) launched by BRICS also aims to de-dollarize finance and increase local currency fundraising and lending, amid Western sanctions against founding



shareholder Russia.

Iran has submitted a formal application to join the body. Russia and China have welcomed Iran's application.

Back in July, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian stated that Iran's potential membership in BRICS will advance multilateralism and challenge unilateral measures, such as sanctions.

He continued by saying that Iran's future participation in the bloc will provide Tehran with the chance to utilize the huge capacities of nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other regions.

Iran, Malaysia agree on prisoner swap

Amir Abdollahian says Islamic nations looking into possible boycott of Danish and Swedish products

From page 1 ► of the previously signed agreements. They also exchanged thoughts on the war in Ukraine, developments in Afghanistan, the situation in Syria and the Palestine issue.

In a joint press conference, Amir Abdollahian said Iran and Malaysia have made new agreements on the exchange of prisoners.

He also warned Sweden and Denmark to stop their anti-Islamic moves in order to prevent terrorism and extremism from spreading. He underlined that Islamic countries are currently looking into the possible boycott of Danish and Swedish

products.

The Iranian diplomat concluded his talk by inviting Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar bin Ibrahim to visit Iran. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi received a similar invitation in return.

In their meeting last month, the two foreign ministers discussed bilateral ties as well as regional and Muslim world issues. They both expressed their countries' emphasis on Iran-Malaysia relations and expressed hope that the two nations can start to make use of each other's potential in various areas.

Amir Abdollahian also lauded Kuala Lumpur for its support of the Palestinians and lauded the position of the country toward the recent desecration of the Holy Quran in the West.

On Monday, the Malaysian minister of foreign affairs also met with Issa Zarepour, Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology.

The chief diplomat from Malaysia also met with the head of the Iran-Malaysia Joint Economic Cooperation Commission. The two officials coordinated the ninth meeting of the Joint Commission which is set

to soon be held in Tehran. They also discussed economic cooperation and upcoming collaborations. The commission's last meeting was held in 2017.

The Malaysian foreign ministry has called the trip "a sign of Malaysia's commitment to strengthening ties with all countries including Iran".

Iran is Malaysia's eighth biggest economic partner with the two countries' trade volume having reached 0.83 billion dollars last year, a 40% increase from the previous year.

Tehran issues warning on US provocative presence in Persian Gulf

From page 1 ► "Iran will never tolerate infringement on its rights"

The spokesperson also addressed allegations that a container of Iranian crude oil that the U.S. had confiscated was unloading off the Texas coast.

"I read the story in the media and I have no confirmed information. There is a general principle that says the era of hit-and-run is over. Iran will not stand idly by in relation to any violation of the nation's rights and will cut the hands of the aggressors," he remarked.

Kanaani also said that "acts of trespassing on tankers carrying Iranian oil are a clear example of piracy."

"U.S. forced to recognize Iran's rights"

In response to a recent move according to which the U.S. agreed to release Iranian funds blocked in South Korea, Kanaani also stated that Washington was forced to acknowledge Iran's rights.

"The release of Iran's assets comes at a time when the U.S. tries to block them by imposing unilateral sanctions. However, we forced the United States to pay attention to Iran's rights through our good diplomatic and legal efforts," he added.

After former U.S. President Donald Trump

withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal in 2018 and reinstated economic sanctions on Tehran, South Korea blocked \$6 billion of Iranian oil revenues. They resisted releasing them under pressure from the U.S.

He averred that a maximum framework of two months has been specified for the process, stating that Iran is working hard to get its assets released from Iraq.

Part of the process has been completed, he added.

"Iran, U.S. presidents will not meet in NY"

Also, he ruled out the possibility of any meeting between the Iranian and U.S. presidents on the sidelines of the upcoming UN General Assembly meeting in New York, saying, "Such a plan is not on the agenda."

He emphasized that "indirect negotiations" between Iran and the U.S. are taking place in relation to a number of specific matters, such as the exchange of prisoners and the release of Iran's foreign assets.

"Sweden, Denmark putting themselves against Muslim nations"

Given that the Swedish and Danish charges d'af-

fares were summoned to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs due to repeated insults to the holy Quran in their respective countries, Kanaani said that Iran has announced that it will not accept a new ambassador from Sweden in protest to the desecration and the Swedish government's lack of serious action.

The spokesman said that these nations cannot claim to be peace-seekers while opposing the peace-seeking stance of religions.

Although they have informed the Iranian authorities that they are investigating the matter, Iran will not take their words as a firm until it is certain that the governments have taken deterrent measures, Kanaani added.

The Quran is the deepest and most beautiful expression, thus desecrating it under the guise of freedom of speech is by no means appropriate, the spokesperson said.

"Burning the Quran under the banner of free speech is also not justified in the slightest," Kanaani added.

"Iran is of the opinion that, with enough will, such insults can be stopped, even within the confines of the law, and that these nations are pitting themselves against Muslim nations," he said.

14 Puppets Plus One

Exclusive: Meet the 'expert' who prepared a list of 14 persons to replace Iranian diplomats

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – During the 2022 wave of unrest, the U.S. State Department worked closely with “experts” of Iranian descent to prepare a roadmap for toppling the Iranian government, the Tehran Times can reveal.

In its Monday edition, the Tehran Times revealed a not-previously-reported American plot to up the ante against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the Mahsa Amini commotion. The plot, formally called “Stop Talking to Them,” outlines the steps the U.S. was expected to do during the unrest. It included five steps that were intended to topple the Iranian government in the way the U.S. did against President Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela: Touting a group of Western-based “Iranians” as a potential alternative for the Iranian diplomats abroad.

And the apparatchik who was tasked with offering the names of these persons was Ali Vaez, Crisis Group's Iran Project Director, according to sources close to Vaez and the U.S. State Department.

In the midst of the 2022 unrest, Vaez prepared a list of 14 persons, including eight women. The Vaez list included the following names:

1- Hamed Esmailion, the head of the heavily politicized association of the families who lost their loved ones in the Ukrainian airline Flight PS752 crash in Iran.

2- Shahin Milani, the



Executive Director of the so-called Iran Human Rights Documentation Center (IHRDC).

3- Omid Memarian, journalist and Communications Director at Dawn MENA.

4- Iman Rahmatizadeh, engineering manager at Google.

5- Mohammad Mossaed, a journalist who recently left Iran.

6- Sherry Hakimi, a lobbyist close to the NIAC folks.

7- Yeganeh Rezaian, the wife of Jason Rezaian.

8- Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali, an expert in the Persian language.

9- Bita Daryabari, a computer scientist.

10- Fatemeh Shams, contemporary Persian poet.

11- Narges Bajoghli, a

professor of Middle East Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

12- Sussan Tahmasebi, a self-proclaimed feminist.

13- Nahid Siamdoust, an ex-journalist, and lecturer at the University of Texas at Austin.

14- Hossein Ghazian, a sociologist.

The majority of those on the list are not known to the public. Aside from their marginal impact on the course of events, the names on the list are also remarkable in terms of the fissures in the Iranian opposition groups.

The list does not include big opposition names who worked their butts off to prove their functionality to Western governments. Instead, it

included cherry-picked names who are close to the NIAC and its complex web of lobbyists. The list totally ignored the proponents of the Pahlavi regime and separatists, who are closer to another “expert” on Iran – Karim Sadjadpour – than Vaez.

Aside from the internecine battles among Iranian opposition and expert factions, the list is another indication of the destructive role of some biased experts of Iranian origin.

In October 2022, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, pointed to the treacherous Iranian elements abroad who helped stage the unrest. He the riots and insecurity of 2022 were staged by Israel and the U.S. and some treacherous Iranians living abroad.

Iran's transformation: From defenseless to exporter of arms

From Page 1 ▶ Once the Iran-Iraq war was over and Iranians were in the clear, they experienced a profound shift in their mindset. They came to realize that amidst adversity, their circle of allies dwindled, leaving them with the stark realization that self-reliance was their only dependable option. They understood they needed a robust military force, as it could serve as a crucial deterrent and ensure a safe future.

For the next three decades, Iran put huge effort into developing advanced weapons. It inaugurated its first production line for the Shahab-1 missiles in 1993 and picked up a missiles program from there. The country began the 21st century by establishing three production lines which helped it become self-sufficient in making HTPB resin, aluminum powder, and potassium chlorite—all of which are useful in the production of solid rocket propellant. Gradually but firmly, Iran began to make different missiles with different ranges.

Analysts believe the West Asian country managed to enter a new chapter in missile production in the 2010s. Iranian officials themselves have credited Western sanctions for

their military growth, saying the sanctions have acted as a double-edged sword, helping Iran become more ambitious and take bigger strides. The country has now obtained hypersonic and supersonic missiles, and successfully put an 80-kilogram satellite into a 500-kilometer orbit.

Iran however did not have the same luck when it came to making fighter jets. But instead of focusing on what it could not have, its officials especially the Leader, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, began to look into effective alternatives. Perhaps that's when Iran got the brilliant idea to manufacture the weapons that have been the talk of the town for some time now: drones.

Iranian drones have analysts talking about them left and right. According to Iranian officials, at least 30 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and South America are seeking to buy unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from the Islamic Republic. Different Western media outlets have also been warning that Iranian drones have reached the Western hemisphere of the world, posing a threat to the U.S. and its allies.

Despite years of sanctions on Iran's military sector, the country has preserved and reached unprecedented heights. It even got to step foot on the sea and have a naval fleet wrap up a round-the-world 236-day trip in May. It is undeniable that Iran has successfully fulfilled its long-lasting aspiration, which emerged after Iraq's war against Iran, to establish a powerful military and secure a prosperous future through deterrence.

It has also entered a market that has for decades been reserved for Western countries. The country made headlines earlier this month when the Iranian Defense Ministry put a number of homegrown military systems and weapons on display at the International Military Forum ARMY-2023 in Russia.

Today on August 22, as Iran marks the day of commemoration of the defense industry, it has much to celebrate for. In a statement, Iran's defense ministry has addressed the country's tremendous advancements in various military fields, lauding the nation for being able to portray an outstanding model of efficacy through undying determination and tireless work.

We are aligned with Iran in many positions: Algerian parliament speaker

TEHRAN – Algerian parliament speaker said on Monday that Algiers and Tehran share parallel views on many regional and international issues.

“At the international level, fortunately, we are aligned with the Islamic Republic of Iran in many positions, and we hope that relations will be strengthened more and more in the near future,” Boughali told reporters in a joint press conference with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf.

Algeria's top legislator, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday at the head of a delegation, also called for better cooperation at the level of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, especially in the case of desecrations committed against Islamic sanctities.

“All religions are respected, and so is Islam,” said Boughali, calling for respect for all religions.

Boughali also said the Algerian delegation was in Iran in response to an invitation from the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, calling the ongoing visit “the mutual respect between the people of the

two countries.”

Boughali also emphasized the shared path between the two countries, stressing Algeria's respect for developing relations with other countries, especially Iran.

He further stated that the Algerian delegation aims to integrate international and regional cooperation, expressing hope for the establishment of a friendship committee and tightening the relations.

The Algerian Parliament speaker also called for strengthening economic relations between the two countries, which can also lead to an increase in political ties.

“Algeria has passed new investment bills that provide incentives for investors,” said Boughali, expressing hope that Iran will take advantage of the investment opportunity and develop its achievements with the lifting of sanctions.

Iran, Algeria agree to activate economic commission, establish scientific cooperation

Qalibaf also told reporters that it is necessary to develop relations between Iran and Algeria at regional



and international levels.

As it was emphasized during the recent visit of the Algerian Foreign Minister to Tehran, the joint economic commission will be activated soon to develop economic relations, Qalibaf stated.

Cooperation in knowledge-based fields and expansion of shipping lines were also emphasized in the meeting between the two sides, the Iranian Parliament speaker said while expressing happiness for hosting the Algerian Parliament speaker.

In line with the commercial exchanges and the establishment of knowledge-based exhibitions in Algeria, the Algerian delegation

will also visit the knowledge-based products exhibition in Iran, as per Qalibaf.

Iran's Qalibaf suggested that parliamentary cooperation and friendship groups could enhance political and economic relations between Tehran and Algiers.

He also announced a meeting would be held to discuss the repeated desecration against the Quran in Europe.

The purpose of such a meeting is aimed at adopting a united stance in the face of such blasphemous acts in Europe, Qalibaf said, adding the meeting will be attended by MPs from Islamic countries' parliaments.

Iran beat Iraq at 2023 Asian Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran came from a set down to beat Iraq 3-1 (19-25, 25-12, 25-15, 25-14) in the 22nd Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship on Monday.

Team Melli had defeated Hong Kong in Pool A on Sunday.

The 22nd edition of the Asian Men's Volleyball Championship is being held in Urmia, Iran from Aug. 19 to 26.

Japan, who are the favorites to win the 2023 edition, are the most decorated team with nine titles. South Korea and Iran have won the trophy four times each.

Japan are the best Asian team in the FIVB ranking sitting in the fifth place, while Iran are in the 10th place.

Blind football to face Colombia at IBSA World Games QFs

TEHRAN – Iran blind football team defeated Morocco 1-0 in Group D of the 2023 IBSA World Games Sunday night.

Morteza Karimi scored the only goal of the match.

Brazil advanced to the quarterfinals with seven points and Iran qualified for the next stage with four points.

The Games are being held in Birmingham, England from August 18 to 27.

Iran lose to Uzbekistan at 2023 CAFA U17

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Uzbekistan 3-1 at the 2023 CAFA U17 Championship opener.

Ali Doosti Mehr's boys will also play Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, respectively.

The tournament is being held in Hisor, Tajikistan from Aug. 18 to 28.

The Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) is one of five regional bodies of governance in association football in Asia. It governs association football, futsal, and beach football in Central Asia. CAFA consists of six national association members.

Tractor to face Sharjah at 2023/24 ACL playoff

TEHRAN – Tractor of Iran will host Sharjah FC of the United Arab Emirates in a winner-takes-all AFC Champions League 2023-24

playoff at the Yadegar Imam Stadium in Tabriz on Tuesday.

Tractor, who qualified after finishing fourth in the 2022-23 Iran Professional League, will need to bounce back after defeat to Persepolis FC in a league match last week while Sharjah will be confident of their chances after two big wins this past week.

The last appearance for Tractor in the AFC Champions League came in 2021 when they reached the Round of 16 for the second time in their history, after 2016.

Their second-place finish in the group came courtesy of four points collected from the two clashes against its upcoming opponent, Sharjah.

The side from Tabriz need another positive result against the Emiratis to return to the group stage for the seventh time.

Sharjah, who qualified as the 2022-23 UAE President's Cup winners, advanced to the playoffs after brushing aside Bashundhara Kings of Bangladesh in the preliminary round last week with Luan Pereira scoring both goals.

That was followed by a thrilling 4-3 win over Al Ittihad in their 2023/24 UAE Pro League season opener, indicating head coach Cosmin Olariu still has many other tricks up his sleeves.

That includes the likes of AFC Champions League veteran Caio Lucas as well as Miralem Pjanic, Paco Alcacer and Ousmane Camara.

The Romanian led his team to the Round of 16 in 2021 as well as winning four domestic trophies last term.

A win against Tractor will seal AFC Champions League football for the fourth straight season.

Kapogianni happy with Iranian women

TEHRAN – Eleni Kapogianni praised her team for winning the silver medal at the 2023 FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B.

Team Melli narrowly lost to Indonesia 55-54 and failed to advance to the Division A but stole the show in the competition held in Bangkok, Thailand.

“I'm happy to be back to Iran with my team. I should say about this tournament that it's first time in Iranian women basketball history that we participated in such a tournament. We earned so many wins and made it to the final,” Kapogianni said.

“Of course, we were not the favorites team, the Americans usually make difference (in such competitions).

“However, we were very close to the miracle. But still to me, my girls are winners and they made history. I hope this is start of a bigger progress for the Iranian women's basketball,” the Greek added.

“The national team have improved and everybody confirmed that. The women showed that how strong they are.

“During the competitions, everybody including opponent coaches, fans, spectators, people from FIBA, they said how much the Iranian girls have changed their games,” Kapogianni stated.

“So, it's obvious that they changed their game and they have had huge progress. Hopefully, they will have bigger and bigger progress in the future.

Greco-Roman win U20 Worlds team title

From Page 1 ▶ “In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The dear youth of the national Greco-Roman wrestling team have cheered the Iranian nation with their victory. My dear (wrestlers)! I would like to thank you, the U17 and U20 freestyle and Greco-Roman national teams, for your victories in the past two weeks,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.



100,000 residential units to be delivered to applicants in Government Week



From page 1 ► After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of the National Housing Movement began in February 2022.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned

operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by former Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi.

Also, in July 2022, the minister inaugurated a project for the construction of the first group of affordable housing units for laborers under the framework of the National Housing Movement.

Annual investment in textile industry rises 30%

TEHRAN – The director general of Clothing and Textile Office of the Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade has said that investment in the country's textile industry increased by 30 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) in comparison to the preceding year.

Mohsen Gorji made the remarks in a press conference held for promoting the country's first International Exhibition of Fabric and Related Industries (Fabric Fair 2023), IRIB reported.

Fabric Fair 2023 is due to be held during September 9-12 at Shah-e-Aftab International Exhibition Center near Tehran.

Speaking at the conference, Gorji said more than \$450 million worth of textile machinery and equipment were imported into the country in the previous year.

"We are trying to achieve eight percent growth, on average, in the production sector," the official said.

According to the official, the country's

textile and clothing industry registered a 17.3 percent growth in the previous Iranian year and had the highest growth rate among other industrial sectors.

He further stated that there are some concerns regarding the supply of raw materials for the textile industry that should be taken into account by the government.

Most of the problems in the mentioned area are due to the lack of foreign currency allocation for the importers of such materials, he noted.

Gorji stated that 80 percent of the fabric needed in the country is produced domestically, saying: "The country's textile industry has grown significantly in terms of quality and design, but sometimes our fabrics are sold in the market under the name of Turkish fabrics."

Fabric Fair 2023 will be held in a space of 10,000 square meters with the presence of more than 90 domestic and foreign manufacturers and suppliers of fabrics active in various fields.

Several foreign trade delegations are also expected to visit the four-day event.

Iran-EU trade reaches €2.3b in H1 2023

TEHRAN – The value of trade between Iran and the European Union (EU)'s member states reached €2.313 billion in the first six months of 2023, according to the data released by the European Union's statistics office Eurostat.

Based on the Eurostat data, the trade between the two sides fell 10 percent in the said six months in comparison to the previous year's same period when the figure stood at €2.584 billion.

According to Eurostat, Germany accounted for one-third of the Iran-EU total trade in the first half of 2023. The total trade between Iran and Germany reached €695 million in this period, indicating a decrease of 25 percent compared to the same period last year.

As reported, the EU's exports to Iran from January to June 2023 stood at €1.894 billion, registering a decrease of six percent compared to the same period of the previous year when the EU exports to Iran were reported to be €2.031 billion.

Among the members of the European Union, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands had the most exports to Iran in the first half of 2023.

The European Union's imports from Iran also reached €419 million in the first six months of 2023 with a 24 percent decrease compared to the same period last year. EU imported €553

million of goods from Iran in January-June 2022.

As previously announced by Eurostat, the value of Iran's export to the European Union's member states rose 15 percent in 2022, as compared to the previous year.

The Eurostat's data show that Iran exported commodities worth €1.055 billion to the union in 2022, while the figure was €922 million in 2021.

The EU's export to Iran also rose seven percent to €4.183 billion from €3.931 billion.

According to the Eurostat, the total value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €5.238 billion in January-December 2022, while the figure was €3.931 billion in 2021.

Among European countries, Germany was Iran's top trading partner in 2022, accounting for about 35 percent of Iran's trade with the European Union. Germany exported €1.582 billion worth of goods to Iran while importing €278 million worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic. The country's total trade with Iran was 1.860 billion euros.

Italy was Iran's second trading partner with the total trade between the two countries standing at €712 million. Italy exported €551 million worth of goods to Iran while the imports stood at €161 million.

TEDPIX gains 2,400 points on Monday

TEHRAN – TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 2,411 points to 1.956 million on Monday.

As reported, over 4.786 billion securities worth 33.259 trillion rials (about \$67.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Iran, Kurdistan region to expand co-op between free zones

TEHRAN – Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, the secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council, and Kamal Muslim Saeed, Minister of Trade and Industry of Kurdistan Regional Government met on Sunday in Erbil and discussed ways of expanding cooperation between the two sides' free zones.

Speaking at the meeting, Abdolmaleki underlined some of the capacities and suitable areas for strengthening economic relations between Iran and the Kurdistan region and said: "The approach of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to increase trade relations between the countries of the region."

Stating that one-third of Iran's non-oil exports are made through free zones, he added: "70 percent of border transit is also done through these free zones."

Emphasizing that many of Iran's free zones such as Baneh, Marivan, Qasr-e-Shirin, and Mehran are close to the Kurdistan Region, Abdolmaleki stated: "We are ready to cooperate and create joint free zones at the border with the Kurdistan Region of Iraq."

Further in the meeting, Muslim Saeed also pointed out the importance of developing economic relations with Iran and said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran has been with the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in difficult times and we believe that Iran is an



Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Hojatollah Abdolmaleki (C) and Minister of Trade and Industry of Kurdistan Regional Government Kamal Muslim Saeed (R)

advanced country that is on the path of development."

He expressed the region's readiness to develop any joint cooperation in the economic field with Iran and said: "We can use the capabilities of the Islamic Republic for the benefit of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq."

Abdolmaleki paid a three-day visit to the Kurdistan region to attend the Sulaymaniyah International Tourism Exhibition which was wrapped up on Sunday.

During his trip, the official also met the governor of Sulaymaniyah, who announced the interest of the Iraqi Kurdistan region in commercial-economic

partnership and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the country's free zones.

In this meeting, Abdolmaleki explained the current Iranian government's approach to regional interactions and the capacities of Iran's free trade and special economic zones, and explained the purpose of participation of Iran's Free Zones High Council at the International Exhibition of Tourism and Handicrafts of Sulaymaniyah.

In late July, Abdolmaleki announced the desire of Iraq to establish a joint free zone with Iran and said the first joint free zone of the two countries will be set up by the end of the current

Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2024).

The prime minister of Iraq has considered an area in Iraq's Wasit province near the Mehran border for the creation of a joint Iran-Iraq free zone, the studies of which are underway, the official announced.

Restating that the first joint free trade zone between Iran and Iraq will enter the operational stage by the end of the year, he added: "Iraqi investors are interested in exporting their goods to other places in order to meet their needs and develop trade by passing through Iran and accessing the Indian Ocean and open waters from Iran's free and special economic zones

Iran exports non-oil goods worth \$2b to Turkey in 4 months



TEHRAN – Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$2 billion to Turkey during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

As reported, Turkey was the third top export destination of Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned four-month period.

Exporting non-oil commodities worth \$2.09 billion to the Islamic Republic, Turkey was also the third top source of Iran's import in the first four months of the present year.

Based on the data previously released by the Turkish Statistical Institute, the value of Iran's exports to Turkey increased by 19 percent to reach \$3.35 billion in 2022.

Turkey had imported over \$2.82 billion worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic in 2021.

Based on the mentioned data, Iran's imports from the country also marked an 11-percent rise to hit \$3.07 billion in the past year, in comparison with 2021, when the figure was

\$2.77 billion.

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the trade between the two countries has registered a 15-percent rise in 2022 compared to 2021.

The value of trade between the two neighbors reached \$6.42 billion in 2022, while the figure stood at \$5.59 billion in the preceding year.

Iran's trade balance with Turkey has been \$280 million positive in favor of Iran in the past year.

Last July, Iran, and Turkey discussed ways of expanding economic relations along with political ties at the Turkish-Iranian High-Level Cooperation Council in Tehran.

During the meeting, which was co-chaired by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the two sides negotiated the extension of the gas export contract between the two sides for the next

25 years.

In the meeting, President Raisi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to expand economic relations with neighboring countries.

The president also evaluated Tehran-Ankara ties as positive and progressive, saying that the two countries should pursue appropriate policies to move towards increasing their annual trade exchanges to \$30 billion.

On the sidelines of the mentioned meeting, Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian also held talks with Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Donmez in which the two sides exchanged views on cooperation in energy fields.

Later, Head of Turkey's Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) Hasan Basri Kurt met with the former Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Ali Rasoulzadeh to discuss ways of expanding cooperation between the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the two countries.

In this meeting Rasoulzadeh referred to the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two countries on cooperation between SMEs, saying: "President Raisi has emphasized setting up joint industrial parks in the country's special economic zones, considering the good infrastructure for setting up such parks in the free and special economic zones and the active presence of economic enterprises in these areas."

Iran's exports to Turkey increase by 19% in 2022

Heads of provincial chambers of commerce call for promoting economic diplomacy

TEHRAN – Heads of Iran's chambers of commerce have called on the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) to draft a comprehensive plan for strengthening the country's economic diplomacy.

During a meeting of the council of Iran's provincial chambers of commerce on Monday, the attendees suggested that the ICCIMA should propose a detailed and efficient plan in order to strengthen the country's economic diplomacy in the region and in relation to other countries, the ICCIMA portal reported.

They also demanded the ICCIMA to address

the challenges related to the process of issuing Business ID cards.

At the beginning of the meeting, ICCIMA Head Hossein Selahvarzi mentioned some of the measures taken by the chamber since the beginning of his tenure, including the formation of the chamber's specialized committees, and considered it a step in the direction of fulfilling the duties of the chamber.

According to the official, establishing relations between the ICCIMA committees and the corresponding committees in the parliament will also be established soon.

The ICCIMA head also mentioned holding meetings with the ambassadors of some countries in Tehran and at the same time with Iranian ambassadors in other countries with the aim of developing the level of mutual relations.

Selahvarzi also talked about the correspondence with President Ebrahim Raisi about the ICCIMA's seven strategic plans for improving the country's economy.

According to the official the plans, especially those regarding the development of regional ties, have been welcomed by the president.

Palestinian resistance expands to Israeli jails

Prisoners' "victory" against Israel praised

From page 1 ▶ guards inside the Ofer Prison on social media saying "Today, I carried out a tour around the Ofer Prison where Prisoners from Hamas, Fatah, the Popular Front and Islamic Jihad are being jailed."

The extremist far-right minister added, "I listened closely to the IPS (Israeli Prison Service) to find out if my policy is being implemented on the ground and to see the 'summer camp' where the [freedom fighters] spend their time".

He made no mention of the Palestinian women and children also being held in Israeli prisons for an indefinite period without charge or trial.

This prompted the mass hunger strike.

Soon after taking office in earlier January this year, Ben-Gvir, not happy with killing Palestinians on their land, began targeting Palestinian prisoners with many repressive and cruel measures, including denying them bread.

A few days later, the leaders of the Palestinian inmates announced the suspension of their protest after talks with the prison authorities resulted in a positive outcome.

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas hailed the move as a victory for the resistance. Other Palestinian leaders said the resistance against Israel is expanding to different arenas; on the battlefield and inside Israeli dungeons.

Palestinian prisoners have fought victoriously against the regime over the time.

If Israeli forces use horrendous force across the occupied West Bank, it has doubled that horrendous force against the Palestinian inmates languishing in Israeli jails.

The new Israeli cabinet has a different attitude from the previous cabinet. The former cabinet kept a careful eye on public relations and was quite afraid of the prisoners taking collective action such as going on hunger strike.

The prisoners, with tremendous heroism and struggle, were able to gain some victories against the Israeli Prison Service. But even those victories lost color because Israel later went on to break the agreements.

The new cabinet has strongly set out a policy to crush the prisoners and inflict maximum pain against them.



Last May, the heroic Palestinian prisoner Khader Adnan died after going on a hunger strike for nearly 90 days in protest at the cruel treatment in his Israeli cell. In a clear sign of Israeli brutality, the regime watched on as Adnan's health condition worsened, denying him any medical care.

The father of nine children was found unconscious in his cell after almost three months on hunger strike.

But Adnan was also protesting against something more important, not just for himself, but for many prisoners.

Like thousands of Palestinians, he was arrested, not the first time, without charge. He was arrested under what Israel calls administrative detention, which means that the regime can imprison anybody without saying why, without any charges, without even any evidence and without a trial.

Several months ago, an extremist Israeli cabinet minister said the Palestinians are using too much drinking water and called for the amount of water that they drank to be reduced.

Among other punitive measures, Palestinian prisoners are now allowed only four minutes to shower in another form of punishment and humiliation.

Hence, the results and suspension of the hunger strike are widely viewed as victories that are quite remarkable. To have more than 1,000 prisoners going on hunger strike shows immense organization. An organization across different political factions whose members are behind bars.

The victory is being celebrated by pro-Palestinian activists and organizations, but with the understanding that the sadistic intent of the Israeli prison authorities is still there.

Analysts say this resistance is so impressive because it has always been a principle of Zionism – stretching right back to the establishment of the entity – that it not only had to defeat Palestinian resistance, but it had to crush the resistance so that Palestinians give up hope. In essence that was the only way the settler colonial project could be successful.

Several months ago, an extremist Israeli cabinet minister said the Palestinians are using too much drinking water and called for the amount of water that they drank to be reduced.

The Palestinians have not given up hope. They continue to resist. And they continue to fight for their minimal rights inside the regime's prison system.

Essentially, the hope is that this can inspire wider resistance in the occupied territories, and beyond that only through resistance can Zionism be defeated and the rights

of Palestinians restored.

This resistance is the rock that the apartheid regime will eventually collapse on.

Israel may have recently signed deals with a few governments in the region, but it is the Palestinians who can destroy those deals through their heroism. Israel is a pariah regime in West Asia. Despite the so-called Abraham Accords, the entity continues to be the biggest source of insecurity as well as the biggest violator of the most basic human rights in West Asia.

When people across West Asia switch on their TVs, they can see that Palestinians are being killed, tortured in prisons or brutalized on their occupied land in so many ways simply because they are Arabs and not Jews. This can inspire resistance against Israel across the entire region.

All Palestinian prisoners have been deprived of their most basic human rights by Israel in defiance of international law.

Their only way of protest is to go on hunger strike, even if it means their actions will result in their death.

There are currently nine Palestinian inmates who are on hunger strike, according to the Palestinian Prisoners' Society.

As Israel steps up its crackdown against Palestinian prisoners, the inmates are increasing their resistance measures in response and they are becoming part of the wider Palestinian resistance against Israeli atrocities.

Atrocities that are not seen anywhere else in the world, but are met with suspicious international silence.

Inside the Occupied Palestine Ukraine Fights Back, with Israel Though



Ever since the war broke out in Ukraine, a significant pressure in international level has put Israel on the corner to provide Ukraine with weaponries more strategic than medical kits to treat the wounded.

At the top of the list of Ukraine's expected equipment from Israel, one name has been shining forever: the Iron Dome. But Israel has refrained from transferring its air defense systems to the Ukraine, arguing that the chance of Iran obtaining access to these batteries are way too high and Israeli authorities are unwilling to handover to Iran the very mechanism which they deem their instrument to hold an upper position in a possible future war, at least in terms of defending the lands they have occupied.

On the other side, the advocates of Ukraine have never ceased to push Israel to change its mind. To do so, part of the pressure has been of diplomatic nature.

In the most recent instance, the ambassador of Ukraine to Israel has started a conflict with the Israeli minister of internal affairs in social media.

The ambassador claimed today that the Minister refrains from visiting him. "I have been trying for six months, but no luck", the ambassador said on Monday. The claim triggered the reaction of the minister's office. Responding to Ukraine's ambassador's tweet, the minister's office sarcastically announced that "the minister does not arrange his visits

through the media. The cooperation between the countries is solid and will remain so". In response to the announcement, Ukraine's ambassador accused the Israeli minister of "looking at Ukrainian refugees as illegal workers"! The ambassador criticized Israel's behavior in terms of treating Ukrainian refugees, said "Ukrainians come to Israel seeking refuge. Israel deports them, takes their passports and they have to sleep on the ground. There are women and children among them. This is unacceptable".

Land Mine Explodes on the Border with Jordan

As the result of the activities of the engineering unit of the Israeli army on the border with Jordan, an Israeli Occupation Force soldier was injured, taken to the hospital. No further information was provided by the army.

Toughest Year Ever

"The year 2023 has turned into the toughest year since the second Intifada so far", an Israeli military commentator said today. So far, 34 occupiers have been killed, while the total number for the entire 2022 did not exceed 32. The analyst referred to the statistics to support his claim, mentioned the staggering number of 200 red alarms per day during the past eight months. "This is while Israel's army has dedicated most of its power to the West Bank since 2005 and started the Jenin's operation", he continued. There are increasing wake up calls by many Israeli and non-Israeli analysts, warning about the closing window of opportunity to avoid a third Intifada, all of which are being ignored by the regime.

WORLD HEADLINES

WHO chief warns against impacts of climate change

The World Health Organization (WHO) chief has warned against the impacts of climate change.

"Devastating fires, catastrophic floods, extreme heatwaves, and prolonged droughts. Climate change is not a distant threat—it's happening now, impacting lives and ecosystems," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Sunday on X, the social platform formerly known as Twitter.

"Let's come together, reduce emissions, promote resilience, and forge a sustainable path forward. Our planet and future generations depend on it," he added.

Recent months have seen increasing heat waves, cyclones, floods, droughts and wildfires, with July recorded as the world's hottest month ever on record.

One Israeli dead in shooting near Hebron

An Israeli woman has died and a man has been seriously wounded in a shooting attack on a car on Route 60 near the city of Hebron in the southern occupied West Bank.

Israeli first responders and soldiers administered CPR at the scene but failed to revive the 40-year-old woman who has not been identified yet, local media reported.

Reports also indicate that a young girl, the woman's daughter, was present at the scene but was unharmed.

The 39-year-old man, who was giving the woman and her daughter a ride, described as being in serious condition. He was transported to the trauma ward of Soroka Hospital in Bir Sheva.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly being briefed on the attack and manhunt for the suspect.

The Israeli army set up roadblocks in the area as it began to search for the suspect, and then proceeded to shut down Hebron entirely.

Pakistan president refuses to sign new national security laws

Pakistan's President Arif Alvi said on Sunday he had refused to sign into law two bills that would give authorities more power to prosecute people for acts against the state and military, a move the law ministry said was unconstitutional.

The bills have already been passed by both houses of Pakistan's parliament but Alvi is a member of former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, which opposes the coalition government that passed the two bills.

"As God is my witness, I did not sign Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 & Pakistan Army Amendment Bill 2023 as I disagreed with these laws," Alvi said on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

He said he had asked his staff to return the bills unsigned to the legislature within the stipulated time to make them ineffective.

"However, I have found out today that my staff undermined my will and command," he said.

Germany arrests two US soldiers after man stabbed to death

Two American soldiers have been arrested in Germany over the death of a young man at a funfair in the west of the country, according to German police.

"Following the murder of a 28-year-old man, two suspects were arrested ... They are American servicemen," police in the western city of Treves said in a statement on Sunday.

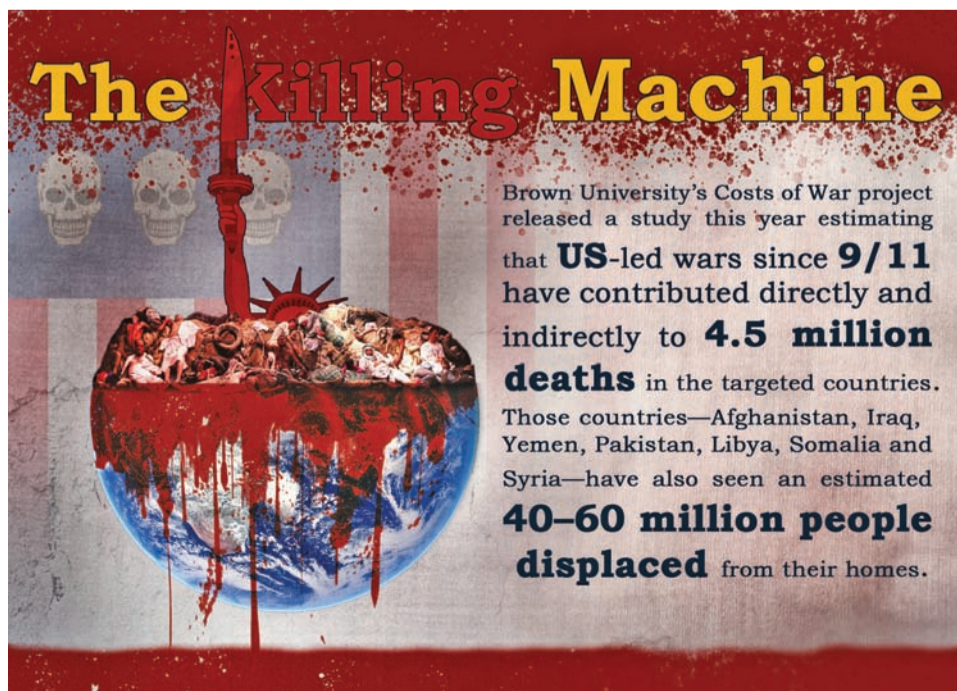
The death occurred when an altercation broke out between several people at a Saubrenner funfair in the small town of Wittlich, in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate between Treves and Koblenz, on Saturday night.

Military intervention in Niger to destabilize situation in Africa — Erdogan

A military intervention in Niger by the countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is unacceptable because it will destabilize the situation in many African countries, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday.

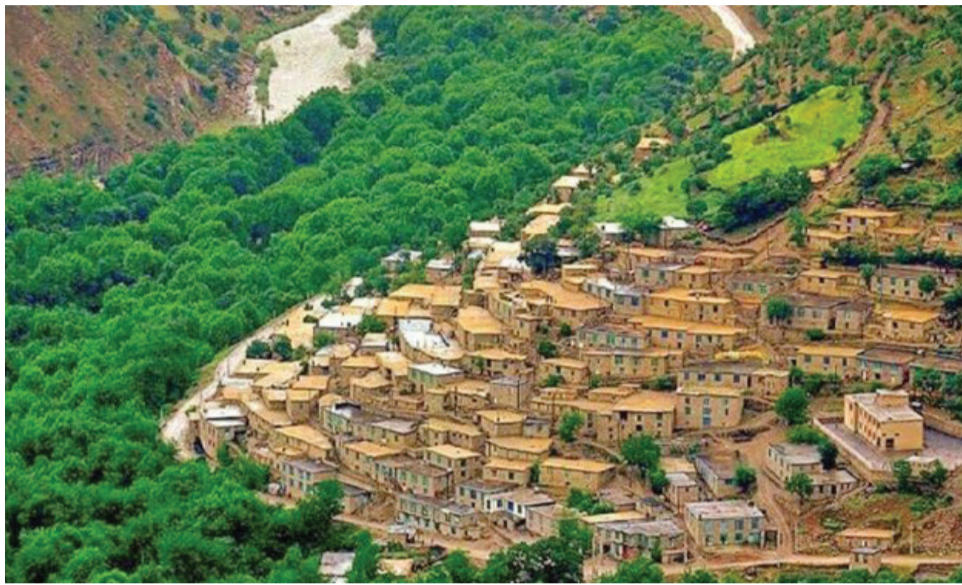
"The decision on a military intervention in Niger is unacceptable. It will lead to destabilization in many African countries. I hope that peace and stability in Niger will be reached as soon as possible," the TRT television channel quoted him as saying upon his return from a visit to Budapest.

According to the Turkish leader, Ankara may play an important role in settling the conflict in Niger and talks on this matter are being held by the foreign ministry. He also called for holding democratic elections in Niger in the near future.



Brown University's Costs of War project released a study this year estimating that **US-led wars since 9/11** have contributed directly and indirectly to **4.5 million deaths** in the targeted countries. Those countries—Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Libya, Somalia and Syria—have also seen an estimated **40-60 million people displaced** from their homes.

Lorestan to host conference on rural tourism



TEHRAN - Lorestan is set to host a conference on rural tourism, the provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

"We are preparing to hold a conference on rural tourism within [the month of] Shahrivar (which ends on September 22) to promote tourism in Lorestan province," Ata Hassanpur said.

"Rural tourism is one of the most popular types of the travel industry in the province."

Apart from its natural and rural attractions, Lorestan is a gem for those interested in cultural and historical destinations, the official explained.

The development of rural tourism can play an effective role in answering problems such as unemployment and low per capita income for local communities, Hassanpur said.

Over the past few years, more and more visitors are looking for something different, such as spending a day in the quiet countryside, picking fresh fruit, watching rice grow, fishing by the sea, eating traditional food or even staying with the locals.

The World Tourism Organization considers rural tourism to be a type of activity in which the visitor's experience is linked to a wide range of products typically associated with activities related to nature, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, fishing, and tourism. This type of tourism also has characteristics such as low population density, mainly agricultural and forestry landscape, social structure, and traditional way of life.

The UN agency aims to highlight the "uniqueness" of each village to make tourism a vehicle for further development in rural areas. "We wanted to recognize the uniqueness of each village and highlight the best initiatives to make tourism a vehicle for a better future in the countryside. As we restart tourism, we try not to leave anyone - and no village - left behind," said UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili.

Experts believe that the ultimate goal of the growth and development of the rural tourism industry is to enhance local economic activity, but in the long run, for this to happen, it is important to maintain a healthy environment and expand its capacity.

World Cup co-hosts have another goal in mind: wooing back tourists

Soccer isn't the national pastime in Australia or New Zealand, but those visiting during the Women's World Cup wouldn't be able to tell.

The tournament co-hosts have risen to the occasion, rolling out the red carpet in anticipation of an influx of soccer fans. Brightly colored banners emblazoned with the tournament's slogan wave in the chilly winter wind in major cities and signs plastered across airports show support for local teams.

Bringing the tournament Down Under was intended as an effort to grow the women's game, but the hosts are also hoping it's the boost they need to re-energize the tourism industry after years of Covid restrictions, when both countries essentially closed their borders.

James Johnson, CEO of Football Australia, said hosting the Women's World Cup "was really seen as a way to welcome the world back to Australia and also New Zealand, as well."

"There was a point throughout the process leading into the Women's World Cup where tourism became even more important because we wanted to show the world that although Australia was closed for the best part of two years, it was open for business," Johnson told reporters on a call earlier this month.

Football Australia estimated the tournament alone will contribute around \$329 million to the country's economy, of which at least \$174 million is anticipated to come from tourists.

"These sorts of events really allow us to get awareness up," René de Monchy, CEO of Tourism New Zealand, told CNN's Richard Quest. "So we're trying to capitalize on that opportunity."

New Zealand's Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment estimated between 20,500 and 25,500 international visitors would be coming to the country for the tournament, which ends Sunday.

Both countries were seen as good examples of how nations could successfully fend off the coronavirus when it first hit in 2020, ordering early lockdowns and strict border measures. As Covid case numbers and deaths soared globally, Australia and New Zealand mostly kept themselves Covid-free.

But their success came at a cost. They were closed off internationally and the restrictions

became increasingly unpopular as the rules dragged on, taking a toll on the economy. New Zealand scrapped the last of its Covid measures only a few days ago.

According to Tourism Australia, the country received about 9.5 million international arrivals in 2019, a record high. By the following year, during the height of Covid, tourism was down more than 80% and would keep falling.

In 2021, only 246,400 people visited the country. Most public health restrictions were lifted at the end of that year. Subsequently, Australia's visitor arrivals have risen, with about 3.7 million people visiting in 2022, but the tourism industry has far from fully recovered.

It's a similar picture in New Zealand. It received nearly four million international visitors in 2019, according to official data.

After the country imposed travel restrictions in March 2020, tourism fell dramatically below previous levels, with only around 200,000 international visitors arriving a year later. In 2022, there were only about 1.4 million visitors, according to data provided by the government, still considerably below pre-pandemic levels.

That's why events like the Women's World Cup are so important.

Cities like Wellington and Auckland have catered to World Cup tourists by making public transportation free on game days for anyone with a match ticket. Though there have been reports the local transit systems have been overwhelmed with the increase in demand, having free access makes it easier for visitors to explore the various cities, beyond just attending the games.

To accommodate the increased demand, Air New Zealand (ANZFF)'s Domestic General Manager, Iain Walker, said the airline added more than 6,000 additional seats, particularly focused around the cities where games were being held, namely Dunedin, Hamilton, Wellington and Auckland.

Restaurants and inns are also getting in the match spirit, in communities where rugby and cricket are by far more popular than soccer. Compared to the last Women's World Cup in France, more businesses seem excited to welcome tourists, said U.S. fan Carly Andler.

(Source: CNN)

15 qanats, enduring heritage of Iranians listed by UNESCO, under restoration

TEHRAN - Restoration work has commenced on 15 Persian qanats, ancient subterranean aqueduct systems for supplying water, which is listed as World Heritage by UNESCO since 2016.

15 qanats, which are situated in Fanuj county of Sistan-Baluchestan province, southeast Iran, have undergone restoration with the participation of local farmers aimed to increase irrigation, Young Journalists Club reported.

The Ministry of Agriculture, for its part, has allocated 40 billion rials (some \$80,000) to the restoration project.

Fanuj county is home to about 220 qanats, the report said.

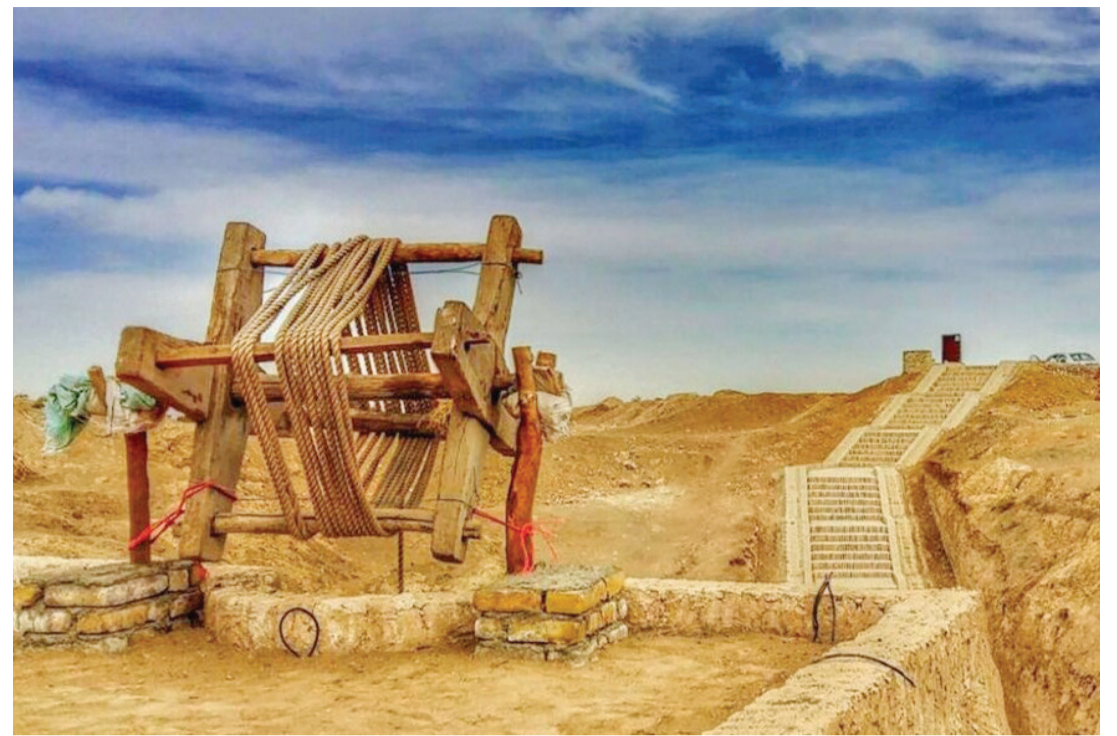
Such man-carved subterranean aqueducts are of very high importance for the nation, as they supported agricultural and permanent settlements for millennia in arid and semi-arid regions of the Iranian plateau.

That enduring heritage of Iranians is a magnificent example of a technological ensemble illustrating significant stages in the rich history of Iran.

According to all experts, qanat is a culture, a top way to irrigate and live in desert areas, which experience high temperatures in summer.

As mentioned by UNESCO, qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

Technically speaking, qanats rely on snow-fed streams, which flow down the foothills of surrounding mountains channeling through sloping aqueducts, often over far



distances to discharge into the city's underground reservoirs or abanbars. Such constructions are still in practice, many of which were made from the 13th century onwards.

It works based on complex calculations and exceptional architectural qualities as water is collected and transported by mere gravity over long distances and these transport systems were maintained over centuries and, at times, millennia. The qanat system enabled settlements and agriculture but also inspired the creation of a desert-specific style of architecture and landscape involving not only the qanats themselves, but their associated structures, such as water reservoirs, mills, irrigation systems, and gardens.

When it comes to architectural elements, each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the appropriate level of the aquifer. Well-shafts are sunk at regular intervals along the route of the tunnel to enable the removal of spoil and allow ventilation. These appear as craters from above, following the line of the qanat from the water source to the agricultural settlement. The water is transported along underground tunnels, so-called koshkan, using gravity due to the gentle slope of the tunnel to the exit (mazhar), from where it is distributed by channels to the agricultural land of the shareholders.

Furthermore, the levels, gradient, and length of the qanat are calculated

by traditional methods requiring the skills of experienced qanat workers and have been handed down over centuries. Many qanats have sub-branches and water access corridors for maintenance purposes, as well as dependent structures including rest areas for the qanat workers, public and private hammams, reservoirs, and watermills. The traditional communal management system still in place allows equitable and sustainable water sharing and distribution.

Qanats continue to provide the essential resource water sustaining Iranian settlements and gardens and remain maintained and managed through traditional communal management systems, the UN body says.

Needlework group exhibit opens at tourism ministry



Baluchestan, and Golestan, CHTN reported on Monday.

Needlework (Souzan-douzi in Persian) is a very common occupation among females in some regions of the country. It is the art of drawing images on plain fabrics by sewing delicate stitches using a needle and colorful yarns.

Last year, the Turkmen style of needlework was jointly inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity for Iran and Turkmenistan. In both countries, the Turkmen-style needlework begins with the preparation of thin silk threads that are intertwined in three layers and twisted into a single thread, then straightened with a large needle.

Currently, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered as "world cities" by

the UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council, which is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in 1964 to promote fellowship and foster economic development through income-generating craft-related activities.

Based on available data, the value of Iran's handicraft exports stood at \$400 million during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (Mar. 21, 2022 - Jan. 20, 2023). Compared with the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth.

Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the United States, and the coastal states of the Persian Gulf are among the countries that traditionally import ceramics, porcelain, hand-woven clothing, personal jewelry, and semi-precious stones from Iran.

Parthian, Sassanian, and Islamic coins recovered from smugglers

TEHRAN - Iranian authorities have recently recovered 10 historical silver coins from smugglers in Nahavand, a city in Hamadan province.

The coins date from the Parthian, Sassanian, and Islamic eras, a police commander in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Sunday.

The illegally kept objects were found when policemen inspected the place of two suspects in Shaterabad county of the province, CHTN reported.

The suspects have been surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation and trial, the commander added.

The Parthian Empire, also known as the Arsacid Empire, was a major Iranian political and cultural power in ancient

Iran. The Parthians largely adopted the art, architecture, religious beliefs, and royal insignia of their culturally heterogeneous empire, which encompassed Persian, Hellenistic, and regional cultures. At its height, the Parthian Empire stretched from the northern reaches of the Euphrates, in what is now central-eastern Turkey, to eastern Iran.

Parthian trade networks resulted in substantial patronage of the arts, in particular, relief sculpture, statuary (large and small scale), architectural sculpture, metalwork, jewelry, and ceramics; coins with images of Parthian rulers form another important category of objects.

In about 220 CE, the Sassanian

dynasty of Iran introduced the concept of thin flan coins, issues that were struck in relief on both sides. In order not to produce intolerable stresses in the dies, since the thinner the material the more force necessary to make it flow into the recesses of the die's design, the depth of relief on such coins was of necessity much shallower than with earlier currency. Such techniques spread by way of Byzantium to northern Europe, where the emperor Charlemagne struck thin flan deniers (small silver coins), or pennies, which became characteristic of both his own and neighboring kingdoms.

The Muslim conquest of Persia, also known as the Arab conquest of Iran, led to the fall of the Sassanian

Empire of Iran (Persia) in ca. 651 and the eventual decline of the Zoroastrian religion. The rise of Muslims coincided with an unprecedented political, social, economic, and military weakness in Persia. The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities. In the eastern provinces, the Arab governors issued silver dirhams that were copies of late Sassanian coins (mostly of those of Khosrow II); with the addition of short Arabic inscriptions on the margin and often the name of the Arab governor in Pahlavi; even the crude representation of the fire altar was retained.

New find throws light on life of slaves in Ancient Rome's Pompeii

Archaeologists have discovered a small bedroom in a Roman villa near Pompeii that was almost certainly used by slaves, throwing light on their lowly status in the ancient world, the culture ministry said on Sunday.

The room was found at the Civita Giuliana villa, some 600 meters (2,000 ft) north of the walls of Pompeii, which was wiped out by a volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago.

It contained two beds, only one of which had a mattress, two small cabinets and a series of urns

and ceramic containers, in which the remains of two mice and a rat were found.

"These details once again underline the conditions of precarity and poor hygiene in which the lower echelons of society lived during that time," the culture ministry said in its statement.

Materials such as furniture and fabric, covered by the devastating blast of rock fragments, gas, and ash from Vesuvius, decomposed over the years, leaving a void in the debris.

When filled with plaster, this void reveals the original shape and contours of the long gone material, including the outline of a crumpled blanket left on the bed netting.

"It looks like a photograph ... However, this is an image from almost 2000 years ago," the ministry said.

No traces were found of grates, locks, or chains to restrain the room's inhabitants.

(Source: Reuters)

Iran among 20 countries rich in biodiversity and genetics

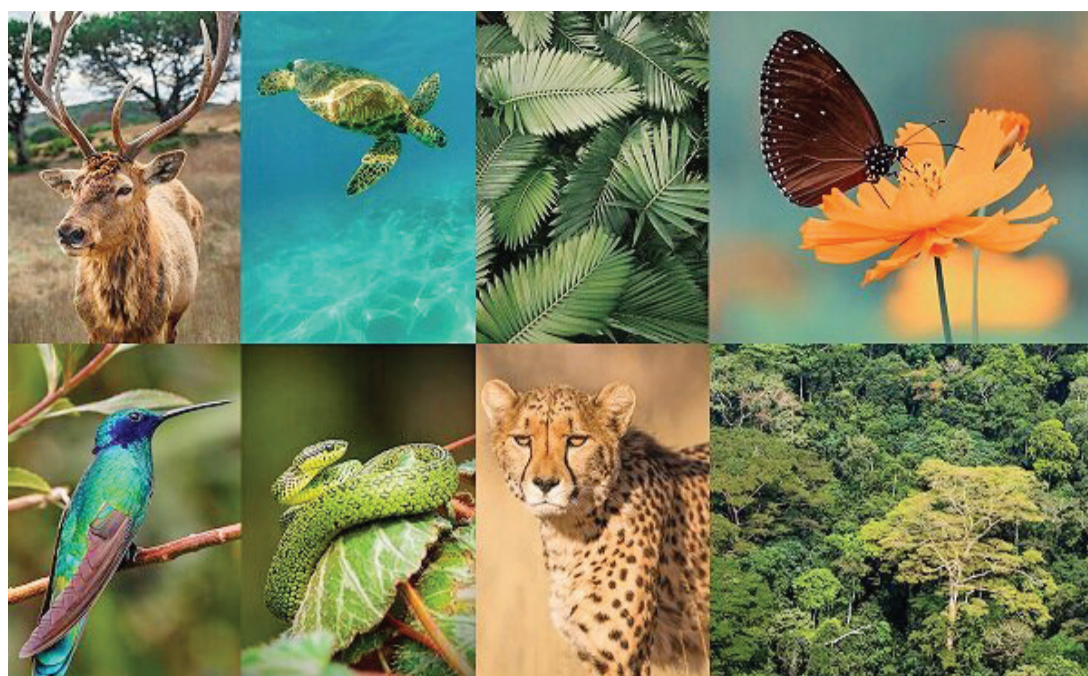
From page 1 ▶ The great difference between the two latitudes of the north and south of the country and the existence of different plains, altitudes, and climates have given a very diverse view of the vast land so that a variety of vegetation and plant species are grown across it.

The Hyrcanian ecological zone covers the green belt, the southern margin of the Caspian Sea, and the northern profile of the Alborz Mountain range. The forested areas of the region stretch to 2.4 million hectares covering Astara in Gilan province to Glidaghi in Golestan province.

The area of forests in the Iran-Turani ecological region, which covers most of the central plateau of Iran, is 4,666,941 hectares. Based on topographic and altitude conditions, this region is divided into two mountainous regions with a cold climate and a desert with a hot and dry climate.

Arasbaran forests, which are among the semi-humid forests of the country, are located in the province of East Azarbaijan and north-west of Ardebil province, which covers 174,838 hectares.

Some sources date the Zagros oak forests to 5,500 years. The creation and expansion of these forests are due to rainfall raised by the Mediterranean system and the Black Sea, which extends from the Sardasht area of West Azarbaijan to Firooz-



abad city of Fars province covering an area of 5,440,494 hectares.

The forests of the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological region include part of the southwest and all southern coasts, covering 2,039,963 hectares. Due to ecological differences, the main vegetation is divided into two territories of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Biodiversity in danger

Unfortunately, the protection of forests, pastures, and agricultural

lands in our country has not been appropriate in recent years. Improper exploitation, land-use change, and land degradation are the main causes of deforestation and consequently biodiversity.

According to the statistics, there are about 2 million hectares of forest land and 15.7 million hectares of forests in Iran.

Comparing this statistic with the data from 2005 shows that during the past 16 years, the level of forests in Iran has not changed much, but

the quality of forests has been damaged; So, about 1.6 million hectares of semi-dense forests in Iran (with a density of 25 to 50 percent) has been reduced and in contrast to 1.9 million hectares have been added to forest lands (with a density of 1 to 5 percent).

As a result, the quality of Iranian forests has dropped sharply, except for dense forests, which cover about 12 percent of the whole forests and are relatively inaccessible, the rest are severely damaged.

Campaign implemented to highlight breastfeeding

TEHRAN – A campaign aimed at raising awareness about the importance of breastfeeding has been implemented across the country.

The campaign called "Let's go around her like a butterfly", was carried out in 400 hospitals and 100 midwifery centers in 22 provinces of the country, IRNA reported on Monday.

World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated from 1 to 7 August every year. Breastfeeding acts as babies' first vaccine, protecting them against many common childhood illnesses.

While there has been some progress in breastfeeding rates in the last four decades – with a 50 percent increase in the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding globally – the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fragility of those gains.

Iran first in West Asia

Iran ranks first in West Asia for breastfeeding of immature newborn infants, as 11 breast milk banks have been established in the country, the head of the mother's milk bank of Al-Zahra Hospital in the northwestern city of Tabriz said in August 2020.

Breast milk donation is as important as blood donation due to saving the lives of so many premature babies in hospitals whose best nutrition is breast milk, Mohammad-Baqer Hosseini said.

In July 2016, the first breast milk bank was established in Al-Zahra Hospital of Tabriz Uni-

versity of Medical Sciences, with the financial support of the Ministry of Health.

Since then, 10 breast milk banks have been set up in the country, two of which are located in Tehran, and others in Mashhad, Zahedan, Ahvaz, Kermanshah, Shiraz, Kerman, Tabriz, and Yazd are active and one is being launched in Isfahan.

Recalling that breast milk banks are widely active all over the world, Hosseini said that milk banks have been active in European countries for nearly 100 years.

Worldwide, about 600 breast milk banks have been established, with the first established in Austria, he noted, adding that there are currently 210 breast milk banks in Europe and Brazil alone has 210 milk banks.

Human milk is pasteurized so that there is no risk of transmitting infectious diseases, even in the case of AIDS or any other diseases, he said.

UNICEF commends Iran

Robin Nandy, the representative of UNICEF in Iran, has said that granting 9 months of maternity leave to mothers in Iran is admirable, praising the country for promoting breastfeeding.

Nandy made the remarks at the ceremony of "World Breastfeeding Week" at Razi International Conference Hall held on Monday.

During the coronavirus pandemic, breastfeeding infants has ensured food security, improved nutrition in communities, and reduced



inequalities, he highlighted.

Pointing out that every dollar invested in breastfeeding has a return of \$35, he noted that in addition to preventing many diseases in children and mothers, breast milk is one of the smartest investments to improve human capital and accelerate economic growth in societies.

Stating that only 44 percent of babies in the world are exclusively breastfed in the first 6 months of life, he said that breastmilk acts like a child's first vaccine.

Breastfeeding rates in societies with deep gaps between income groups are lower, he further stated.

Appreciating Iran for promoting breast milk, he said that it is necessary to implement family-oriented policies in countries with at least 18 weeks of leave after childbirth to promote and strengthen breastfeeding.

Iran's decision for granting 9 months of maternity leave to mothers is admirable and UNICEF supports these policies, he highlighted.

Iran ranks first in West Asia for breastfeeding of immature newborn infants.

Over 3,000 prisoners of unintentional crimes freed

TEHRAN- In the first five months of the current Iranian year (which began on March 21), 3,274 prisoners of involuntary crimes were released from prison.

Of the total released prisoners 3,142 were male and 132 were female, IRIB reported.

The debt of the released prisoners was 42 trillion rials (about \$84 million).

Governmental contribution

In March, heads of the three branches of the government donated sums of money to help release prisoners of unintentional crimes.

President Ebrahim Raisi, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, and Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf allocated a total of 8.6 billion rials (about \$17,000) for the issue, IRNA reported.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 23 this year), according to the Blood Money Organization report

Previously, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, earmarked 15 billion rials (\$30,000) for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes

A total of 6,875 prisoners of unintentional crimes have been released over the past 12 months, Asadollah Joulai, the head of the Blood Money Organization, said on March 26, Mehr reported.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

The Blood Money Organization was established in 1990. Since then, more than 160,000 unintentional crime doers who had debts have been freed.

On March 6, Mohseni-Ejei said the Leader has pardoned a sizable number of prisoners.

He also said that over 80,000 prisoners have received pardons as a result of the order issued by Ayatollah Khamenei.

The top judge stressed that thousands who had been detained during recent disturbances in the country are given amnesty.

He added that the number of pardon cases could approach 90,000.

UNICEF helps improve healthcare services for vulnerable families

TEHRAN - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has procured a set of new diagnostic lab equipment to enhance healthcare services for vulnerable children and families in a number of provinces across Iran.

The advanced technological equipment and standard laboratory tools procured upon the request of the Ministry of Health will improve the precision and quality of diagnostic and treatment health services offered to children and their families, particularly for respiratory and gastrointestinal infections.

The equipment was provided to the Ministry of Health reference labs in six selected provinces with a high number of vulnerable populations, namely Sistan-Baluchestan, Kordestan, Yazd, South Khorasan, Hormozgan, and Tehran, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on August 14.

Respiratory and gastrointestinal infections pose significant threats to children resulting in elevated rates of mortality, a situation exacerbated among refugee children with compromised health conditions, the report added.

By facilitating swift disease diagnosis and timely intervention, this initiative aims to curtail these outcomes and simultaneously curb the inappropriate or excessive use of antibiotics.

Drawing from the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and the influx of Afghan refugees, UNICEF supports the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to fortify the diagnosis network, prioritizing areas at heightened risk, particularly those along the borders.

Supporting development projects

UNICEF has recently supported the implementation of development projects for less advantaged students in the country.

The construction of new classrooms and new water distribution networks in vulnerable areas were among the projects that were carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Energy.

To this end, the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) and Relief International, UNICEF supported the construction and equipment of ten classrooms across five schools with high numbers of refugee students in Khorasan Razavi and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces.

Moreover, in an effort to ensure access to safe water for children and their families in South Khorasan Province, UNICEF has supported the construction of a new water distribution network in four villages in the Kalate Shab region.

Collaborating with the Ministry of Energy and Water and Wastewater Company, this initiative will benefit 548 people living in these villages.

Similar endeavors have been supported by UNICEF in Iran in recent months, including the rehabilitation and construction of WASH facilities in the Torbateh Jam refugee settlement, water supply network rehabilitation in Moshkont village in Sistan-Baluchestan province, execution of the main water feeder line in Niatak refugee settlement, and the establishment of water distribution networks in Golestan province.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Only 15% of Tehran's construction waste recycled'

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran's department of environment (DOE) has said.

"A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face," Bazgir said.

He referred to a construction waste management unit opened in Abali in Damavand county last week, and stated that the unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رییس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دیو می شود.

محمد حسین بازگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله ها دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود.

ظرفیت این واحد بازیافت حدود ۳۰۰۰ تن است و می تواند این مقدار نخاله و آوار ساختمانی را بازیافت کند.



Firefighting drill held at Anzali Wetland

A firefighting drill was held on Sunday, August 20, with the aim of increasing preparedness in case of fire at Anzali Wetland.

Covering more than 19,000 hectares, the Wetland is located near the Caspian Sea.



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AUGUST 22, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When a husband and wife look at each other with love, Allah looks at both of them with mercy.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon: 12:07 Evening: 19:04 Dawn: 3:59 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:29 (tomorrow)

Iranian calligraphy (khattati, khoshnevisi)

Part 5 Thulth

The thulth script appears to have evolved through several channels from a style called khatt-e jalil "the majestic script," which was a derivative of Kufic.

As a calligraphic term jalil meant large or "fat" as opposed to khafi "hidden," which meant small or "thin"; it has now been replaced by jali "clear".

Ebn Moqla, in a work entitled Asnaf al-kottab, makes the following statements about the use of thulth in his time: "The style which was most often used and was clearer than the other styles was the thulthayn style.

Kings and high officials wrote their decrees and decisions in it, and they called it sejellat (scrolls). As a result of improvements made by Fazl ibn Sahl Zul-Riasatayn in the reign of the Abbasid caliph al-Mamun from then onward the dispatches of viziers to officials (ommal) were sent in thulth, and the replies of officials to viziers were written in the small (saghir) thulth script." This implies that a large thulth script was then also in use.

Opinions differ on the question why this script was called thulth (lit. "one-third"). The most widely accepted explanation is Ebn Moqla's statement that in "thulthayn two-thirds of the letters are straight and one-third round, and in thulth one-third are straight and two-thirds round."

Qalqashandi himself states that "thulth mostly tends to be round". In writing thulth some special touches are required. One is to make the ends of final flourishes sharp and hair-thin by using the edge of the nib (tash'ir).

Another is to put a tuft at the top of a detached alef, daal, and zal, a detached or initial jim, taa, kaf, laam, and initial ba, taa, and the like.

The loops or eyes of saad, taa, ayn, fa, qaf, mim, waw, haa, and laam-alef must be open, as blotching (tams) is not permitted. Qalqashandi mentions khaffif "light" and saqil "heavy" varieties of thulth and describes the letters in light thulth as thinner and more graceful. Gradually the term thulth came to designate all the varieties of the script.

The fundamental characteristic of thulth is the predominance of "round" components and the easy gentle movement of the pen, which is evident from the script.

In writing thulth the pen moves so sinuously that it has been said to "dance." Ends of letters have thin and delicate "tails" that slope downward, either with a final flourish (pichidegi) or left free (ersal).

The bows and bowls are sometimes deepened to facilitate tash'ir, the nib being held on a slant for this purpose. The letters and words in thulth are large but at the same time compact. The eyes and loops ought to be open but sometimes become closed, as in these examples:

The fact that a letter may have several different shapes gives scope for individual variation. Non-expert readers are bound to be confused when different letters are shaped in ways which make them look too alike, for example.

The lines in a piece of thulth are sometimes written well apart, sometimes less so, and sometimes so close as to be intertwined. All the harakat and other signs, often also ornamental

frills, are inserted, and the letters are sometimes placed in superscript or subscript positions.

Thulth is the most beautiful and admired of the Islamic scripts and has therefore been called the "mother script" (omm al-khotut). It is also one of the most difficult, however, and requires perfect skill.

In Persia, thulth was and still is used for headings of suras of the Quran, titles on spines of books, frontispieces, and chapter headings, and above all for inscriptions and tile work, where its beauty can best be seen and appreciated.

Probably because it cannot be read by everybody it is seldom, if ever, used for Korans (except in the frontispiece, sura headings, publication date, and colophon).

Tawqi

This script is a derivative of thulth and acquired its name (lit. "signature") because in medieval times it was used mainly for decrees, dispatches, and diplomas to be signed by caliphs or viziers, though sometimes also for more ordinary government documents.

It was also used in colophons of the Quran and other books, giving the name of the person for whom the manuscript had been written or was to be presented, the place and date of its completion, the name of the scribe, etc.

The rules of tawqi resemble those of thulth, but the letters are smaller, letter combinations more compact, and words more often joined together.

The letters are of uniform thickness (without tash'ir) and rounder and deeper than in thulth. The "eyes" of fa, qaf, mim, and waw and the loop of laam-alef should ideally be open (fath) but are allowed to be closed (taams) if necessary.

Some of the letter shapes used are not found in thulth. The relatively small size of the letters makes tawqi smoother and easier to write than thulth. In Persia, the easier reqa script gradually supplanted tawqi.

Reqa

This script was developed from tawqi as a simplified script to save time and space in writing short messages (roq'a).

The letters, whether detached or joined, generally have the same shapes as in thulth and tawqi but differ in some respects: the size is smaller, and the eyes are closed (as in fa, qaf, mim, waw, laam-alef), though the loops of detached and initial saad, zad, taa, zaa, ayn, and ghayn are always kept open.

The pen can be moved and turned more freely than in thulth or tawqi and with a continuity and speed not possible in thulth. The strokes are mostly round, the proportion of straight to round strokes being less than 1:6.

The letters, though small and short, are fully shaped and in that respect fat. Intertwining (tadakhhol) was not customary in reqa, except when unavoidable, and regular spacing and consistent shaping of letters and letter combinations were in general strictly maintained, but even so some of the words in old reqa manuscripts seem overly cramped.

Harakat and ornamental frills were not normally used with reqa, and when harakat were required they were kept to a minimum.

Source: *Encyclopedia Iranica*
To be continued

One million Iranian products to go on display at My Child Festival

TEHRAN – One million Iranian products, specifically designed for children and teenagers under the age of eighteen, across twelve categories, will go on display at the first Iranian My Child Festival, the secretary of the festival has announced.

"Our goal is to bring together all the different products and services available for children and teenagers, creating a unified and comprehensive ecosystem," Mehdi Yusefvandi said on Monday.

"In this edition of the festival, we have collected one million Iranian products with native content and have divided them into twelve categories, including software, toys, books, educational materials, children's rooms, food and health, sports, and hygiene," he added.

Six hundred producers are currently active in these twelve categories, he mentioned.

Most producers have partnered with the organizers, allowing families to purchase quality products at an affordable price as these products will be discounted between twenty and fifty percent during the festival, he stated.

Charitable institutions that provide services to children and



teens can now take advantage of this opportunity to provide for their target community in underprivileged areas, he said and added: "We have made agreements with charitable organizations to allow them to contribute in this regard. Currently, access to affordable and quality children's and teen's products has become limited due to inflation, but the social and cultural mandate of My Child is to help people."

The exhibition hall spans an area of around three thousand square meters, featuring around three thousand shelves that categorize the products by type, including approximately ten experts per category who are knowledgeable about the products and can assist family members in finding items of interest.

The festival is aimed at supporting Iranian goods and helping to

boost production and business, as well as promoting Iranian culture and encouraging people to use domestically produced goods.

The festival includes booths of stationery, books, cultural goods, domestically-produced toys, and educational products.

The festival will be held from August 22 to September 1 in Tehran's Mosalla.

Tehran session to explore role of mythology in Ghahve-Khaneh paintings



TEHRAN – The Museum of Contemporary Art in Tehran will be hosting a session on Thursday to review the role of imagination and mythology in the visual representation of Ghahve-Khaneh paintings (a folk-narrative style of Iranian painting mostly seen in coffee houses).

This session is part of the specialized sessions series of the exhibition "Still Ongoing," which reviews the reflection of the Ashura movement in contemporary visual arts.

Art scholars and researchers Ramtin Shahbazi, Mehdi Khanekeh, and Mohammadreza Vahidzadeh are scheduled to attend the session.

These weekly specialized sessions are open

to all interested artists and art enthusiasts and will continue until the end of the "Still Ongoing" exhibition, which is underway at the museum until September 22.

Ghahve-Khaneh paintings are a unique form of Iranian folk-narrative painting that emerged in the 19th century. The term "Ghahve-Khaneh" translates to "coffee house" in Persian, as these paintings were predominantly displayed in traditional Iranian coffee houses.

Ghahve-Khaneh paintings are characterized by their vibrant colors, intricate details, and narrative storytelling. They often depict scenes from Iranian folklore, epic tales, historical events, and everyday life. These paintings were primarily created by itinerant artists who traveled from one coffee house to another, displaying their artworks to entertain and engage the patrons.

One distinct feature of Ghahve-Khaneh paintings is their narrative structure. The artists used a sequential storytelling approach, presenting a series of interconnected scenes within a single painting. This technique allowed viewers to follow the story from one scene to another, creating a sense of visual storytelling akin to a comic strip or a storyboard.

The subject matter of Ghahve-Khaneh paintings is diverse and reflects the cultural, social, and historical contexts of Iran. It encompasses a wide range of themes, including love stories, mythological legends, religious narratives, historical events, and social commentaries. These

paintings often highlight traditional Iranian values, customs, and beliefs, serving as a visual representation of the collective memory and cultural identity of the Iranian people.

In terms of artistic style, Ghahve-Khaneh paintings combine elements of traditional Persian miniature painting, popular art, and storytelling traditions. The artists employed intricate detailing, rich color palettes, and stylized figures to create visually captivating compositions. The use of bold lines, exaggerated proportions, and expressive gestures adds a dynamic and lively quality to the paintings.

Ghahve-Khaneh paintings not only served as a form of entertainment but also provided a medium for social and political commentary. The artists often incorporated subtle satirical elements and allegorical symbolism to critique societal norms, political events, and the power dynamics of the time. These paintings acted as a means of communication, reflecting the aspirations, concerns, and aspirations of the Iranian people.

While Ghahve-Khaneh paintings were primarily displayed in coffee houses, they have gained recognition as an important part of Iranian cultural heritage. Today, they are appreciated as unique examples of folk art and serve as a visual window into the traditions, stories, and artistic expressions of the past. Efforts have been made to preserve and promote Ghahve-Khaneh paintings, ensuring their continued appreciation and understanding for future generations.

Tehran cinematheque to review "Gone with the Wind"

TEHRAN – The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will review 1939 American epic historical romance film "Gone with the Wind" on Friday.

A review session will be organized after a screening in the Nasser Hall of the forum at 5 pm.

Directed by American filmmaker Victor Fleming, the film was adapted from the 1936 novel by Margaret Mitchell.

"Gone with the Wind" is a classic American film set against the backdrop of the American Civil War and the Reconstruction era. The movie follows the story of Scarlett O'Hara, a strong-willed daughter of a plantation owner in Georgia, who passionately pursues Ashley Wilkes, a married man. Scarlett's quest for love takes place amidst the turmoil of war and societal upheaval, as she struggles to come to terms with her own identity and desires.

As the war unfolds, Scarlett's life is turned upside down as her family's estate is destroyed, and she is forced to flee to Atlanta, where she works as a nurse. In Atlanta, Scarlett meets the charming and charismatic Rhett Butler, and their tumultuous



relationship becomes the centerpiece of the film. Throughout the course of the film, Scarlett rises to become a powerful businesswoman, but she remains tormented by her unrequited love for Ashley. In the end, she realizes that the true love of her life was always Rhett, but it may be too late to win him back.

"Gone with the Wind" is a sweeping romantic epic, filled with drama and vivid, memorable characters. The film explores issues of power, gender, and societal norms, as well as the enduring human quest for love and

fulfillment amidst the chaos of life. With its incredible performances and iconic scenes, "Gone with the Wind" has cemented its place as one of the greatest cinematic achievements of all time.

At the 12th Academy Awards, "Gone with the Wind" made history by receiving ten Academy Awards, out of the thirteen nominations it received. The notable wins include Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Actress, and Best Supporting Actress. Hattie

McDaniel, who played the character of Mammy in the film, became the first African American to win an Academy Award. The film's record-breaking wins and nominations have not been matched by any other movie to date.

Upon its release, "Gone with the Wind" became an instant hit, captivating audiences worldwide. It was the highest-grossing film of its time and held this record for over 25 years. Even when adjusted for inflation, it remains the highest-grossing film in history. The film has been re-released periodically, gaining a timeless appeal. Though criticized for its historical inaccuracies, portrayal of slavery, and depiction of Confederate mythology, it is also acknowledged as having a profound impact on the representation of African Americans in films.

Gone with the Wind holds an enduring place in popular culture and is widely regarded as one of the greatest films ever made. In recognition of its cultural significance, the movie was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry in 1989, as one of the 25 inaugural films.