

Great Potential of Nation Thrived During Sacred Defense: Leader



Report **T**

Azerbaijan, Armenian separatists accept Russian-brokered ceasefire

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- Armenian-backed separatist forces in Azerbaijan's breakaway flashpoint region of Nagorno-Karabakh agreed to a Russian-brokered ceasefire on Wednesday.

The truce comes 24 hours after Azerbaijani forces began a military operation to restore full control of its territory.

Azerbaijan sent a contingent of troops backed by artillery strikes into Karabakh on Tuesday in an attempt to bring the breakaway region back by force, raising the threat of a new war with its neighbor Armenia.

Baku acted after what it called a series of provocations and after some of its troops were killed in what Azerbaijan said were attacks launched by the separatists from the mountainous region, which Azerbaijan had blockaded for nine months.

Azerbaijan's military operation, which Armenia says left at least 32 people killed and more than 200 injured, was the latest flare-up in the region.

Russian peacekeepers, along with the separatist forces, evacuated thousands of civilians from the fighting.

Armenia says it had not dispatched any forces to Karabakh (despite Azerbaijani assertions) and has not intervened militarily since the Tuesday operations by Baku.

Under the Russian brokered agreement, both sides were to disband and disarm from 1 pm (0900 GMT) on Wednesday. **Page 5**

Iranian trade center starts activity in Jeddah

TEHRAN- The director of Commercial Attachés Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced that license was issued to establish a trade center in Saudi Arabia, and the center started its activity in Jeddah.

Mohammad Rajab-Nejad also announced: "We currently have 46 active trade centers in other countries, and licenses have been issued for the establishment of trade centers in Kirgizstan, Malaysia, and Indonesia."

During a meeting between Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandozai and Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan, in mid-May, the two sides discussed the ways to expand economic cooperation and remove the barriers in the way of trade between the two countries.

In the meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the board of executive directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) in Jeddah, the Saudi Arabian minister expressed satisfaction with the re-establishment of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and said: "We hope that quick steps will be taken in relations with Iran." **Page 4**

Raisi meets Japan, Iraq, Tajikistan and Pakistan leaders in New York

The Iranian president prescribes joint meetings to coordinate efforts in the fight against terrorism

TEHRAN- On the second day of his trip to New York, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi held talks with the leaders of Tajikistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Japan.

President Raisi and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon reviewed the latest status of bilateral cooperation and emphasized the need to develop commercial and economic ties and increase interactions in international organizations.

The presidents expressed concerns about the presence of terrorists in Afghanistan, emphasizing that it is necessary for foreign ministries of countries neighboring Afghanistan to hold meetings to increase coordination in the fight against terror-

ism and help establish stability in Afghanistan.

Raisi and Rahmon also emphasized the non-interference of third parties in the region.

The presidents of Iran and Tajikistan also emphasized the capacity of the Joint Economic Commission to increase the level of commercial and economic ties.

On the continuation of his second day in New York, President Raisi met Pakistan's Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar.

Regarding the good relations between Iran and Pakistan, Raisi called the joint borders as an opportunity to expand exchanges between the two neighbors.

The meeting with Pakistan's prime minister was held at the hotel where the Iranian delegation is staying.

The two parties highlighted the existing capacities and emphasized the necessity of tackling problems through innovative methods to expand bilateral ties.

The Prime Minister of Paki-

stan expressed his country's determination to bolster cooperation with Iran through the expansion of trade and the creation of transportation routes.

"Iranian people should feel safe and comfortable in their neighborhood with Pakistan," added Anwar ul Haq Kakar.

Cooperation on energy transfer was also discussed in the meeting.

On the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York, Raisi also met Iraq's Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani and the Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida.

Op-ed **T**

Western world the biggest oppressor of women

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN - Violence against women and domestic violence is pervasive throughout the EU. According to Eurostat, women and girls make up over 90% of rape victims and over 80% of sexual assault victims.

Rape is a distressingly prevalent manifestation of violence against women. 1 in 3 women have been victims of gender-based violence in the European Union. 1 in 10 women have been victims of sexual violence, and 1 in 20 has been raped. This is just some of the data showing the dramatic situation of violence against women in Europe.

In 2015, nine out of ten rape victims and eight out of ten sexual-assault victims in the union were women; 99 percent of those imprisoned for such crimes were men. **Page 7**

Iran, Russia working on long-term cooperation agreement: general

TEHRAN - Major General Mohammad Bagheri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, has said that Tehran and Moscow are working on a long-term cooperation document.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Sergei Shoigu, the Russian Defense Minister, who arrived in Tehran on Tuesday afternoon, according to state news agency IRNA.

In the meeting, General Bagheri underlined the importance of boosting Iran-Russia relations.

"According to the decision of the leaders of the two countries, the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Federal Republic of Russia are on the path of growth and development, and fortunately, this relationship has gained new dimensions over time," the top Iranian general said, according to IRNA. **Page 3**



Russian Defense Minister Shoigu (L) and his Iranian counterpart Ashtiyani hold talks

Cristiano Ronaldo wins more hearts in Iran

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN - Regardless of his fame and his footballing skills, what has made Cristiano Ronaldo different, is his humility.

So many Iranian football fans maybe caused harm during his visit to Tehran but the Portuguese striker expressed his gratitude to them in his Instagram account.

"A very special thank you to the fans and to all the Iranian people who have made this visit so special for us. Such an incredibly warm welcome!" Ronaldo wrote.

The Al Nassr forward traveled to Tehran to play Persepolis in Group H of the 2023/24 AFC Champions League, where the Saudi Arabian giants earned an away 2-0 win at the Azadi Stadium.

But Ronaldo did beyond his duties and made an Iranian diehard boy and a painter girl with disability happy. **Page 3**

TEHRAN PAPERS

Diplomacy in New York

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

In a commentary, Shargh discussed Raisi's participation in the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York. It wrote: American media editors asked questions about the release of Iran's blocked assets, the exchange of prisoners between Tehran and Washington, the possibility of other agreements between Iran and the United States, the future of Iran's relations with neighboring and regional countries including Egypt, Bahrain, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Regarding the release of blocked assets and the exchange of prisoners, Raisi stated that these assets belong to our people and will be used to meet their needs. He also described the exchange of prisoners between Iran and the United States as a humanitarian measure and said definitely every step taken in line with the commitments would create confidence among us. Regarding the JCPOA negotiations, the president said the repeated violation of commitments by the Americans has caused an atmosphere of mistrust. Raisi also addressed the repeated accusations that Iran is delivering arms to Russia in its war on Ukraine war, saying though Iran has declared its readiness to accept convincing documents in this regard, no documents have been submitted by the Ukrainians.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Tehran-Baghdad joint step

In a note, Siasat-e-Rooz addressed the joint security agreement between Iran and Iraq on March 28, 2023, in which Iraq committed to disarm and expel the separatist Kurdish militants from the northwestern borders. The paper said: Iran has repeatedly and strongly protested the presence of terrorist separatist groups in Iraqi Kurdistan near the borders with Iran. The authorities in Iran have declared to both the central Iraqi government and the authorities in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) that Iran does not tolerate the activity of these groups and their armed and separatist actions from the Kurdistan region. Shahrvivar 28 (Sept. 19) was the deadline for implementing the security agreement and clearing border areas in northwest Iran from the terrorist separatist groups. With the joint efforts of the federal government, the Kurdistan Regional Government, and the joint high committee of the two countries, these groups were transferred to a place far from the borders and disarmed. Therefore, according to the criteria of the UN refugee committee, they are considered refugees.

Last minute note for the captain of the White House

By Mohammad Ali Senobari

TEHRAN- Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi visited New York on September 18 to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA78).

It is the second time that Raisi is participating in the annual UN meeting during the second year of his presidency.

The presence of the American and Iranian presidents in the UN General Assembly has always been among the hot topics due to the two countries' tense relations. American presidents have tried to meet and negotiate with Iranian presidents at every UN meeting.

However, through creating a prejudiced environment, groups such as the terrorist MKO organization group and Israeli-affiliated pressure groups are trying to widen the gap and escalate the tensions between the two countries.

Parallel to the first attendance of President Raisi in New York, he was welcomed at the United Nations in a way that he decided to attend the assembly in 2023 despite a high wall of mistrust between Iran and the U.S.

The Iranian people as well as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Iranian president have consistently spoken out against the actions of the American government toward the Islamic Republic both before and after the

Iran: In dealing with America the language of power is important, not the language of negotiation

The Iran newspaper discussed the recent prisoner swap agreement between Tehran and Washington and the release of oil money frozen in South Korean banks under illegal pressure from the United States. In both cases, Iran adopted the language of pressure in dealing with the U.S. It quoted Fouad Izadi, a senior expert in international relations, who said: Not only Iran, but all the countries that are involved in conflict with the United States are aware that American authorities only understand the "language of power". Americans do not understand the "language of commitment", or the "language of negotiation" without facing pressure. Iran arrested people whose crimes of espionage were confirmed in court and in dealing with these spies Iran did not pay attention to external pressure. And further, to resolve the issue of blocked assets, which was another illegal move by America, Iran demonstrated its power. The issue of power was also experienced in the JCPOA, which means that the sanctions after the JCPOA were more than the sanctions before the JCPOA because the feeling of the American side was that the policy of pressure has worked and that is why Iran has come to the negotiating table. America adopts this policy not only towards us but towards all countries. Iran also demonstrated the language of power and did not allow the West to carry out a velvet coup in our country.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Iran has entitled to seek the profit of money blocked in South Korea

Vatan-e-Emrooz in an analysis wrote: The South Korean news agency, referring to the statements of informed sources, claimed that Iran is studying the process of receiving interest on the money that was blocked in South Korean banks due to U.S. sanctions. An Iranian government official has said that South Korean financial institutions unfairly profited from these funds, and it is normal to return these profits to their true owners. Iran's request to release these interests has created a diplomatic challenge for Seoul, which is seeking to strengthen its alliance with Washington and its economic partnership with Tehran. Previously, a high-ranking Iranian official had declared that Tehran's complaint against South Korea due to the blocking of Iran's financial resources in three banks of this country still holds true, and Seoul may face damages of 700 to 800 million euros.

revolution. However, the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani by the Trump administration has caused immense sadness and grief among the Iranian people.

There have been negotiations between the two countries, the most important of which has been the humanitarian flexibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the August prisoner swap agreement between Tehran and Washington, as Iran agreed to release five Iranian-American prisoners.

Iran's humanitarian act, implemented with the agreement of President Raisi, shows that it is possible to take constructive measures to secure the interests of the two nations even in an atmosphere of mistrust between the two countries.

Coinciding with the presence of the Iranian delegation in New York, the pressure groups are using negative propaganda and psychological operations to prevent the American government from adopting de-escalation measures toward Iran.

There are pressure groups that have taken actions such as imposing sanctions on certain institutions and individuals in Iran, spreading non-constructive propaganda against Iran's representation in the UN and its high-ranking delegation, and announcing additional sanctions measures. These actions aim to widen the gap between Iran and the U.S.

Iranian Parliament votes for pilot implementation of Hijab bill

TEHRAN- The representatives in the Iranian Parliament on Wednesday overwhelmingly agreed to the pilot implementation of the Chastity and Hijab Bill for three years.

The report of the Judicial and Legal Committee on the urgent bill to support the culture of chastity and hijab (supporting social health according to Article 85 of the Constitution) was put to the vote, and from 201 representatives present in the parliament, 152 voted in favor, 34 voted against, and 7 abstained.

The head of the parliament's Judicial and Legal Committee Mousa Ghazanfarabadi said about the chastity and hijab bill that it comprises 35 articles in the field of cultural issues for the executive bodies to take measures

against the enemy's psychological war.

Ghazanfarabadi added that the bill contains 5 chapters, including the general and specific duties of the executive bodies, public duties and social responsibility, and crimes and violations.

The representatives opposed the pilot implementation of the bill for one, two, four, or five years.

"The Judiciary has supported the report of the Judicial and Legal Committee on the Hijab and Chastity Bill," Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said.

"The bill was prepared with the cooperation of the Legal and Judicial Committee," said the parliament speaker, appreciating all the committees, especially



ly the cultural committee.

Earlier, the hijab bill was sent to the joint committee, and lawyers agreed to review it based on Arti-

cle 85 of the Constitution. So, the responsibility of reviewing the bill was handed from parliament to the joint committee to implement it.

Iran FM, EU Borrell meet in New York



TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell held a meeting on the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York.

In a post on his X account on Wednesday, the EU foreign policy chief stated that he sent three key points to Iran's foreign minister.

Borrell has decried what he called "arbitrary

detentions of EU nationals" in Iran and demanded their release.

He also emphasized the importance of "finding a diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue through the JCPOA."

The top EU diplomat further said that he had urged Iran to "stop military cooperation with Russia" in the Ukraine conflict, something Tehran has frequently denied.

Iran, the remaining parties to the JCPOA - the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, and Russia - and the U.S. held several rounds of talks in Vienna to revitalize the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA. The talks started in April 2021 and lasted until September 2022. The U.S. participated in the talks indirectly as Iran had stated it will not talk directly to the U.S. until Washington returns to the nuclear deal that it unilaterally withdrew.

However, the talks came to a standstill as riots

began in Iran following the tragic death of Mahsa Amini. It was the Western sides that stopped negotiations by claiming crackdown on protestors.

Amir Abdollahian talks with Arminian, Omani counterparts

In a meeting with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan in New York on Tuesday, Amir Abdollahian also emphasized the need to uphold the ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan and urged the two friendly countries to address their differences through dialogue.

Referring to Iran's position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Amir Abdollahian stated on social media that Iran recognizes Nagorno-Karabakh as part of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In another meeting between Amir Abdollahian and his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi on the same day, they discussed a wide variety of bilateral, regional, and global issues.

Joint team from Iran, Iraq to visit Kurdistan region: ambassador

TEHRAN- Teran's ambassador to Baghdad, Mohammad Kazem Al-e Sadeq, has said that Iran and Iraq will send a joint team to the Iraqi Kurdistan region to investigate if a security deal between the two countries, which includes the removal of armed separatist groups from the northwestern borders with Iran, is being carried out.

In an interview with Al-Alam TV on Tuesday, Al-e Sadeq said both the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and the federal government in Baghdad are adamant about driving out terrorist separatist groups from areas close to the Iranian border and relocating them to refugee camps.

The diplomat emphasized that Iran will continue its measures to disarm terrorist groups located in the KRG in compliance with the March security agreement with Iraq.

Iran had set September 19 as the deadline for disarming separatists and expelling Kurdish groups by Iraq. The deadline came to an end amid uncertainties about the full disar-

mament of the agreement. In the lead-up to the date, several Iranian officials announced that the deadline wouldn't be extended, signaling that military action would follow if Iran's demands were not met.

Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiyani, the Iranian minister of defense, has echoed this warning. The KRG was given a deadline of September 19 to take action against separatist Iranian militants and this deadline would not be extended, he warned.

In an interview with the Iran newspaper, Ashtiyani pointed out that the Islamic Republic will take the required steps in accordance with the deal reached with the Iraqi government about disarming and deporting terrorists from the Kurdistan region.

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry, confirmed on Monday a partial implementation of the security agreement.

He said that the Iraqi government

has seriously followed up on the implementation of the agreement and "some headquarters of terrorist and armed groups have been evacuated and terrorists have been moved to other places far from Iran's borders and deep into Iraqi soil."

Kanaani added, "The Iraqi government has seriously announced that it is committed to the implementation of the agreement and will fulfill its obligations in this regard."

On Tuesday, Iraq announced that the headquarters of the separatist groups were fully evacuated, according to a report by the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

"Based on the commitment of the Republic of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran to the terms of the joint security agreement, and through the joint efforts of the federal government, the regional government, and the joint supreme committee between the two countries, the headquarters located near the border with Iran, which were occupied by Iranian

armed separatist groups, were permanently evacuated," Iraq said in a statement.

Additionally, Iraq's foreign minister said on Monday that Kurdish militant groups near the border with Iran have handed over their heavy equipment as the deadline for their disarming and redeployment under a security agreement between Tehran and Baghdad approaches.

Fuad Hussein said the armed groups and their families will be transferred to five camps in Iraq's Kurdistan region.

The senior Iraqi diplomat reaffirmed his country's commitment to the security pact with Iran, adding that the KRG had taken the required steps in accordance with Baghdad's agreement with Tehran.

Foreign Minister Hussein emphasized that Iraq seeks peaceful solutions based on discussion and respect for neighbors and that Baghdad condemns any act of violence against its national sovereignty.

U.S. slaps fresh sanctions against Iranian drones, military aircraft

TEHRAN- By placing Iranian, Russian, Chinese, and Turkish organizations on a blacklist due to allegations that they help Iran's legal program to build drones and military aircraft, the U.S. government has announced fresh penalties relating to Iran's military aviation programs.

The U.S. Department of Treasury announced a series of sanctions on Tuesday that were aimed at seven people and four entities in the four nations for what it claimed was their

alleged role in facilitating "shipments and financial transactions" to the Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA).

The Treasury reaffirmed in a statement the unverified accusations that Iran sells drones to Russia for use in the current conflict in Ukraine.

Iran has denied any involvement in the Ukrainian crisis, blaming the U.S. for attempting to obscure its own role in triggering the conflict.

The U.S. Treasury previously sanctioned five Chinese firms and one individual for their roles in the sale of aeronautical components, including those used in drones, to HESA.

The sanctions come only a day after the U.S. and Iran announced the completion of a prisoner swap agreement, which also resulted in the freeing of \$6 billion in Iranian funds that had been blocked in South Korea due to U.S. sanctions.

Countries in the region have said the prisoner deal could pave the way for more negotiations between Iran and the U.S. to possibly resurrect the JCPOA, a global agreement on Iran's nuclear program, more than five years after the U.S. withdrew from it.

Yet, Iranian officials have hinted that Washington's uncontrolled use of sanctions against Iran is an indication that it is unlikely to resurrect the JCPOA despite claims to the contrary.

Iran calls on Baku, Yerevan to adhere to ceasefire

TEHRAN- Concerned over an upsurge in hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has urged the warring parties to abide by the terms of a previously negotiated truce and seek a diplomatic solution.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for the foreign ministry, expressed worry over the deterioration of the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh territory and urged all parties to uphold the conditions of the agreement and negotiate a peaceful solution to any disputes.

Additionally, he emphasized Iran's sensible approach to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, stating that the Islamic Republic believes the region is part

of the Azerbaijani territory.

Tehran maintains that all regional concerns, particularly those involving the rights and security of citizens in Nagorno-Karabakh, must be handled within this framework and via dialogue, according to the website of the Foreign Ministry.

Kanaani emphasized the important role of regional countries in advancing a peaceful resolution to the conflict and once more reaffirmed Iran's willingness to host the 3+3 summit for this goal.

The statement came shortly after the Republic of Azerbaijan initiated a military operation in Karabakh earlier in the day, nearly three years after the two countries went to war over the disputed

mountainous region.

Also, Josep Borrell, the head of foreign policy for the European Union, condemned Azerbaijan's latest military campaign in Nagorno-Karabakh and urged Baku to cease its military operations in the Caucasus.

"There is an urgent need to return to dialogue between Baku and Karabakh Armenians. This military escalation should not be used as a pretext to force the exodus of the local population," Borrell said.

He added the EU is still actively working to facilitate communication between the two opposing sides.

Great potential of nation thrived during Sacred Defense: Leader

TEHRAN - In a meeting with a number of veterans of the Sacred Defense on Wednesday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei elaborated on some dimensions of the Sacred Defense.

The meeting took place on the eve of the Sacred Defense Week. Resistance against the invading Saddam Army in the 1980s is called Sacred Defense. Saddam Hussein's Army invaded Iran on September 22, 1980.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei outlined that preserving the territorial integrity, revealing the great ability and capacity of the Iranian nation, expanding the cognitive boundaries and growing and strengthening the concept and culture of Resistance in Iran and across the world is the result of the collective defense of Iranians against the world's bullies and the evil Saddam Hussein, according to khamenei.ir.

The Leader underlined that, "The flourishing of talents and the emergence of the power and initiative of the country's youth during the Sacred Defense showed that the youth are always capable of solving all of the country's problems."

To elucidate the magnificence of the Sacred Defense, Ayatollah Khamenei discussed four fundamental aspects of it. What was being defended during the war? Who was the defense confronting? Who were the defenders? And what were the results and the achievements gained from this defense?

The Leader noted that the suppression and destruction of the Islamic Republic and the separation of parts of the country were part of the enemies' main goals during the Imposed War.

"The Great Islamic Revolution was a unique phenomenon because until then no other revolution in the world had resulted in a religious and democratic government. Global aggressive powers wanted to destroy this new voice - that is, the Islamic Republic and religious democracy. They have pursued the same goal up until now," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei explained that the Imposed War was different to



normal wars where the goal is often to separate parts of a certain country.

"The purpose of launching the Imposed War was to destroy the existence of a country, the identity of a nation and the attainment of its sacrifices."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution considered it necessary to pay attention to the nature of those who invaded Iran in order to understand the greatness of the Sacred Defense.

"The world's well-known powers back then formed a united front and supported Saddam's attack on the Iranian nation," he said.

In describing the support that the Arrogant Powers and other countries provided to Saddam Hussein, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the reports that consider the Americans to be Saddam's main incentive in attacking Iran.

"The French gave Saddam the most advanced air equipment. The Germans equipped him to produce catastrophic chemical weapons. The Eastern Bloc led by the former Soviet Union provided Saddam with all the ground and air facilities that he requested. And the Arabs in the region gave him countless amounts of money," he said.

The Leader also recalled how the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation fought alone in the battle against "the Arrogant Front, Saddam Hussein, and the region's reactionary Arab countries."

"The nation stood on the platform of victory and demonstrated its greatness and glory during this battle of inequality," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei explained

that one of these differences was Imam Khomeini's command over the Sacred Defense complex, with the divine personality, knowledge, thought, maturity and spiritual purity that he possessed.

"The influence of the words arising from the Imam's spirituality had a tremendous impact on the fronts at different times, including the rescue of Paveh and the breaking of the siege of Abadan."

Elsewhere in his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei considered the preservation of territorial integrity and the fact that not even one part of Iran was separated, as some of the Sacred Defense's achievements.

"Revealing the great capabilities of the [Iranian] nation is one of the most important outcomes of the Sacred Defense. All the enemies conspired against it for eight years, but they failed to accomplish anything."

Safeguarding Iran was one of the other outcomes of the eight-year-long Imposed War, which the Leader of the Islamic Revolution pointed to.

"The country has been protected from possible attacks to a large extent due to the earnest defense of the people," he said.

In this regard, he noted: "We have seen them saying, on numerous occasions that the military option is on the table. However, it has not budged from the table because they learned to recognize what the Iranian nation was like during the [Imposed] War. They knew that they might be the initiator of a movement, but our nation will be the one who determines its end."

The expansion of Iran's non-

geographic borders, including its intellectual and cognitive borders, was another achievement that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution addressed.

"As a result of this very important achievement, the global concept of Resistance has been formed and established in Palestine, Syria, Iraq and other regions. The Iranian nation's activities have served as an example for other nations in various areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America," he added.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated that the emergence and consolidation of the idea of self-confidence is a miracle of the Sacred Defense.

"For various reasons, the world's aggressive powers have had an eye on our important region, and they still do. That is why the spiritual presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the rise of the practice of the Resistance, have angered the U.S. and some others. This is because the resistance of the nations has prevented their exploitation."

Ayatollah Khamenei described the growth and fortification of the idea of the Resistance inside Iran as one of the by-products of the Sacred Defense.

"In these 30-odd years after the war, we have experienced various kinds of attacks and seditions which all failed because the Iranian nation institutionalized the practice of resistance within itself."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei considered the Armed Forces as one of the definite honors of every society. "One of the enemy's goals is to damage the value, honor and dignity of the Armed Forces," he said.

Prior to the Leader's speech, a number of researchers and active partakers in different fields of the Sacred Defense expressed some points about the necessity of benefiting from the model of the Sacred Defense in solving the country's problems. General Bahman Kargar, the head of the Foundation for the Preservation of Sacred Defense Works and Values, also presented a report on the activities and programs of this foundation.

Iran, Russia working on long-term cooperation agreement: general

From Page 1 ▶ He added, "The developments that have occurred in the world today indicate that the period of the unipolar world has ended and the structure of the international system is moving towards a multipolar world. The results of the positions of Iran and Russia also indicate the same issue that the movement of global developments towards the multipolar system is accelerating."

Addressing the Russian defense minister, General Bagheri said, "Your Excellency's speech at the Moscow Security Conference also shows the movement of the global power structure and the balance of power towards the multipolar system."

He noted, "The opinion of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution is that the long-term cooperation between Iran and Russia is in the interest of both countries and for this reason, the long-term cooperation document between Iran and Russia is being drafted. This document has strong military and defense dimensions and can be a suitable platform for the development of long-term cooperation between the two countries."

Shoigu visited Tehran on Tuesday afternoon to strengthen military ties with Iran and make better coordination between the two countries in the fight against terrorism.

The Russian defense minister was warmly received by General Baqeri.

They discussed improving defense diplomacy, strengthening bilateral cooperation, and confronting common dangers, including international terrorism.

The chief of the staff of the armed forces emphasized the need for the efforts of the two countries to promote bilateral cooperation. "Despite the development that has been made in the relations between the two countries in recent years, we still believe that there are significant unused capacities in the relations between the two countries. The relations between the two countries should be brought to the desired level with more efforts," he added.

General Bagheri continued, "The military sectors of Iran and Russia are actually among the pioneers in promoting the relations between the two countries, and without a doubt, holding joint military and defense commissions between the two countries can accelerate the process of this growing path."

He stated, "So far, favorable cooperation has been carried out between the naval forces of the two countries, in this regard, joint naval exercises can be mentioned, and this process should be developed."

General Bagheri said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran called the holding of a joint exercise in February next year as an opportunity to improve the level of defense and military relations between the two countries."

He also announced Iran's readiness to settle regional disputes and resolve differences between the two neighboring countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The Russian defense minister, for his part, stated that the purpose of his trip is to develop defense cooperation in line with the interests of the two countries. Shoigu announced his country's readiness to resolve the disputes between the neighboring countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Shoigu also met with Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. In this meeting, bilateral, regional and international issues were discussed. The situation in the South Caucasus region was especially reviewed. The two sides also underlined the need for expanding Iran-Russia relations.

Shoigu also paid a visit to a drone and missile exhibition held by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Qatar hopes for 'better environment' following prisoner swap deal

TEHRAN - Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani has expressed hope that the recent prisoner swap deal facilitated by Doha between Iran and the U.S. would lead to a better environment between Iran and the U.S.

Speaking to CNN's Christiane Amanpour, Al-Thani took pride in the role Qatar played in securing the prisoner swap deal between Iran and the U.S.

Responding to a question on whether the deal could mark a rapprochement in U.S.-Iranian relations, the Qatari prime minister struck an optimistic note, saying, "I

cannot claim that this will lead to a nuclear deal, but it's going definitely to lead to a better environment."

"What happened yesterday actually was a great building block for rebuilding the confidence between the two countries," he said.

He added, "I hope both countries believe that this will lead to a better environment to go for an entire agreement on the nuclear issue, and any other outstanding issue."

On Monday, Iran and the United States swapped prisoners simultaneously. Also, Iranian funds frozen in South Korean banks were unblocked and

deposited in Qatari banks.

Oman and Qatar helped mediate the release of prisoners and funds. On Wednesday, the foreign ministry of Oman issued a statement welcoming the new deal between Tehran and Washington.

Oman expressed appreciation for "the great cooperation shown by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America with the efforts made by the Sultanate of Oman and the sisterly State of Qatar in this regard."

"The Sultanate hopes that positive steps will continue in a way that preserves the stability of the region

and consolidates the principles of international peace and security," the statement further said.

The South Korean government has also predicted that the release of Iran's frozen funds will lead to further improvement of relations between Tehran and Seoul.

"The Korean government anticipates that the transfer of the funds will help further develop the bilateral relationship between Korea and Iran in the future," the South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement.

The statement also confirmed the release of Iranian funds.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins more hearts in Iran

From Page 1 ▶ Ronaldo met with Fatemeh Hamami, famous painter with special needs, at the hotel just hours before the crucial match with Persepolis.

Fatemeh is drawing incredible portraits using only her feet. The second-born of twins was deprived of oxygen at birth, which caused a severe disability. Despite the obstacles, the artist learned to dream big and work hard to make them come true.

The five-time Ballon d'Or award winner has won the hearts of many not just with his footballing skills, but with his humanitarian activities.

FIBA Asia Cup 2025 Qualifiers: Iran learn fate

TEHRAN - Teams found out their respective paths to the FIBA Asia Cup 2025 following the Qualifiers Draw completion, Tuesday evening at the Ezdan Palace Hotel in the Qatari capital.

Iran have been pooled with Qatar, Kazakhstan and India in Group E of the Qualifiers.

Australia will face off against Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia in Group A.

Group B will see Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and New Zealand.

Leaders of Asia Japan will tip off against China, Guam, and Mongolia in Group C.

In Group D, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia will play against each other, while Bahrain, Syria, Lebanon, and the UAE will compete in Group F.

24 teams across Asia and Oceania were drawn into six groups of four teams each.

Within each group, each team will face the other twice - on a home and away basis.

Thereafter, the top two teams from each group qualify directly to the FIBA Asia Cup 2025. The six third-placed teams will have to play another Final Qualifying Tournament, following which the top four will proceed to the continental championship.

Iran volleyball beat Nepal: Hangzhou 2022

TEHRAN - Iran's men volleyball team defeated Nepal in 3-0 (25-9, 25-15, 25-13) in Pool B of the 2022 Asian Games on Wednesday.

Saber Kazemi collected 11 points for Iran, while Nepal's Man Bahadur Shrestha scored five points.

Iran, who were denied a third consecutive continental championship by Japan in late August, will take on Bahrain on Thursday.

The Asian Games in Hangzhou was due to take place in 2022 but postponed to 2023.

Castro pleased with Al Nassr's victory against Persepolis

Tehran - Luis Castro is satisfied with his Al Nassr side win over Persepolis in the opening AFC Champions League 2023-24 Group E tie on Tuesday.

With Iran's Persepolis having a rich history in the competition and playing at the Azadi Stadium, Al Nassr knew there were in for a tough 90 minutes but their patient approach and Milad Sarlak's sending off early in the second half turned the tide in the Saudi Arabian side's favor.

Abdulrahman Ghareeb slotted home the opener in the 62nd minute with left-back Mohammed Qassem confirming the win 10 minutes later.

"We won against a strong Persepolis team. We performed well defensively. After the goal,

we were able to control the game. We made the best use of the balls behind the Persepolis defense," the Portuguese coach said.

"We performed the better of the two teams and won. Of course, this is our first step. We will do our best to advance to the next stage as group winner," said Castro, whose side face Tajikistan's FC Istiklol next.

Sarlak's sending off worked against Persepolis: Golmohammadi

TEHRAN - Persepolis football team head coach Yahya Golmohammadi says that Milad Sarlak's sending off worked against his plan in the match with Al Nassr.

Al Nassr defeated Persepolis of Iran 2-0 Tuesday night in Group E of the 2023-24 AFC Champions League.

Abdulrahman Ghareeb scored the opener for the Saudi Arabian team in the 62nd minute and Mohammed Qassem made it 2-0 in the 72nd minute.

"The game was affected by very bad events for us, first Mehdi Torabi's injury, then the dismissal of Milad Sarlak. After that (the sending off), we conceded and couldn't find a way back," Golmohammadi said.

"We started the second half better, but Sarlek's dismissal worked against us. Congratulations to Al Nassr but for us, these big games help identify our weaknesses so that we can become stronger," he added.

Taremi nets as Porto defeat Shakhtar Donetsk

TEHRAN - Porto football team defeated Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 at the Volksparkstadion in its 2023-24 UEFA Champions League campaign opener on Tuesday.

Galeno netted a brace for the visiting team in the eighth and 15th minutes and Mehdi Taremi was on target for Porto in the 29th minute.

Kevin Kelsy scored Shakhtar's only goal in the 13th minute.

Porto will host Barcelona on October 4 in Group H.

Feyenoord's Jahanbakhsh scores against Celtic

TEHRAN - Feyenoord football team defeated Scotland's Celtic 2-0 in Group E of the 2023-24 UEFA Champions League on Tuesday.

The goals were from Calvin Stengs in the 45th and Alireza Jahanbakhsh in the 76th.

Scotland players Lagerbielk and Odin Thiago Holm were sent off in the 63rd and 68th minutes, respectively.

Feyenoord will travel to Madrid on October 4 to play Atlético Madrid.

Iranian rowers advance to final of Asian Games

TEHRAN - Iranian women rowers have reached the final of the 2022 Asian Games.

In the preliminary stage of rowing lightweight women's double sculls, the Iranian squad comprising Kimia Zarei and Nazanin Malaei reached the end line as the first boat after registering 1:59.11 time to advance to the final of the sporting event.

Thailand and Chinese Taipei stood in second and third places respectively.

There will be 40 sports and 61 disciplines taking place at the 54 competition venues in Hangzhou and the five co-host cities from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8.

Iranian trade center starts activity in Jeddah

From page 1 ▶ "In this regard, it is necessary to remove the economic and trade barriers against the two countries", he stressed.

The Iranian minister for his part welcomed the progress of economic relations between the two countries and stated that the development of relations is important not only for Iran and Saudi Arabia but also for all countries in the region.

Stating that it is the duty of governments to facilitate economic ties, Khandouzi said these bilateral relations are very important not only from an economic point of view but also in the political and security fields.

Explaining Iran's program in the field of economic relations with Saudi Arabia, Khandouzi said: "At the government level, Iran and Saudi Arabia have not finalized any basic agreement in the field of investment, customs, and trade. In this regard, it is necessary to draw up and sign MOUs between the parties."

The Saudi Arabian side, while agreeing to cooperate in the three fields of customs, trade, and investment, expressed hope that with the assistance of his country's ministries, cooperation in the mentioned fields will be followed up.

Motorcycle production up 45% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - Motorcycle production in Iran has grown 45 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) compared to the same period last year.

As IRNA reported, about 194,000

motorcycles were produced over the five months period of the current year.

Considering the current trend of production, the annual output of motorcycles in Iran is expected to reach over 600,000 units in the current calendar year which ends in late March.

Iran, world's 3rd country in number of CNG stations: official

TEHRAN - Having 2,500 compressed natural gas (CNG) fuel stations, Iran is the world's third country in terms of the number of such stations, according to the head of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC).

"With 2,500 CNG fuel stations in the country, 22 million cubic meters of CNG is distributed across the country which saves equivalent to 22 million liters of gasoline on a daily basis," Ali-Akbar Nejda-Ali said.

TEDPIX loses 7,300 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 7,300 points to 2.121 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over six billion securities worth 44.632 trillion rials (about \$91 million) were traded at the TSE.

Iran's GDP growth stands at 6.2% in Q1: CBI

TEHRAN- Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) including oil grew 6.2 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), compared to the first quarter of last year, according to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Based on the CBI data, the figure excluding oil increased by 5.2 percent, IRNA reported.

As announced previously by the central bank, Iran's GDP grew four percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

The CBI put the GDP growth at 3.5 percent excluding oil.

According to CBI data, the GDP growth was positive in all four quarters of the previous year so that from the first quarter to the end of the fourth quarter of the said year, the economic growth rate



oil sector in the past year.

In early June, the World Bank (WB) in its latest report dubbed "Global Economic Prospects" estimated a 2.2 percent growth for Iran's economy in 2023, a figure which is higher than the average growth forecast for the global economy and despite the fact that the country is still under sanctions imposed by the United States.

The bank has predicted that due to the contractionary monetary policy adopted by many countries this year, the average economic growth in the world is expected to decrease from 3.1 percent in 2022 to 2.1 percent in 2023.

Based on the WB report, Iran's GDP grew by 4.7 percent in the last quarter of the previous year, while the average GDP growth for most of the advanced countries like the U.S., China, and many European countries was less than the said figure.

of the country was 1.9 percent, 3.9 percent, 4.9 percent, and 5.3 percent, respectively.

As reported, based on the fixed prices in the Iranian year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017), the country's GDP stood at 15.15 quadrillion rials (about \$30.7 billion) including the oil sector, and at 13.8 quadrillion rials (about \$28.13 billion) excluding the

Reducing risks in stock trade can improve market trend: expert

TEHRAN - Ehsan Asgari, a stock market analyst, believes that the government's measures for reducing the risks of trade in the capital market can help improve the market's trend in the long term.

"Now, in the stock market, we are witnessing a reduction in the risks threatening stock market transactions, which can have an impact on the improvement of market trend," Asgari told IRNA

on Tuesday.

He pointed to the timely action of the government and the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) in amending the market's laws and regulations and said: "[considering these actions] the stock market can provide shareholders with higher returns than other markets."

The expert further pointed to some of the

effective factors in reducing the volatility in the stock market and noted: "In the past few days, the prices of commodities in the global markets did not have a significant downward trend, and the currency market is also stable, and due to such conditions, export-oriented companies in the stock market have not been exposed to a high risk, which has been influential in changing the market trend."

Development, infrastructure projects underway in Maku Free Zone

TEHRAN - The Head of the Maku Free Zone Organization Hossein Garousi has said development and infrastructure projects are currently underway in this zone based on priority, the zone's news portal reported.

"The Maku Free Zone requires a lot of infrastructure considering its large area, and fortunately, the zone's infrastructures are being improved," Garousi said.

According to the official, the priority for completing the projects in this zone is based on the demands of the people, and since the quality of the work is important the Maku Free Zone Organization has tried to complete the construction projects in the appropriate season.

Located in Iran's northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, Maku is one of the seven major free zones of Iran; it has 140 kilometers of shared

border with the Azerbaijan Republic and 130 kilometers of border with Turkey.

As Maku is among the most newly established and also the largest free zones of the country, there is a high need for the creation of infrastructure in this zone.

The establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to the Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the

fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of the country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.



Distribution of 45% of Banking network Arbaeen Currency through Bale Messenger

Bale messenger has accounted for half a million of the total sales of Arbaeen currency, equivalent to 45% of the total currency distributed in the banking network, from Mordad 28th until Shahrivar 14th of this year.

According to BMI public relations, by providing services such as "status announcement" to facilitate pilgrims' access to families and friends during the Arbaeen walk and the possibility of buying Arbaeen currency during these days, this messenger was able to experience a 15 million call increase and a 33 million status announcement increase in Arbaeen of this year.

Bale Messenger has experienced a 15 million video and voice calls increase compared to the normal days by providing the possibility

of video and voice calls for pilgrims who had interest access in Iraq which led to 80 percent satisfaction of this messenger users.

Considering the high cost of charging and internet for pilgrims on the journey and internet intermittent interruption in some areas of Iraq, Bale Messenger launched a "status announcement system" by which users could find out the location of their companions, families, or friends without needing an internet connection.

The "status announcement system" was active on USSD and since this protocol requires low bandwidth, it also announces the exact location to users during busy moments and has no delays or disruptions. This system is active on Hamrah Awal, Irancell, and Rightel SIMs, it is free and needs no internet connection.

Kargoshaee Bank's Loans resolve more than 112,000 people's difficulties during 5 months.

The number of free-interest and reward loans paid by Kargoshaee Bank is more than 112,000 people during the first 5 months of the current year.

According to BMI public relations, Kargoshaee Bank is one of BMI's subsidiaries that resolved 211,928 people's difficulties by paying free-interest and reward loans in value of 81,964 billion Rials to meet essential and urgent needs of society's deprived and in-need people, from Farvardin until the end of Mordad in the current year.

Kargoshaee Bank tries to support its customers in times of need by paying free-interest and reward loans in the shortest time for treatment allowances, education allowances, providing dowry, housing deposits, etc., in exchange for gold accessories.

Kargoshaee Bank also paid more than 24,784 free-interest loans in value of 1,269 billion Rials and 70,243 reward loans in value of 61,705 billion Rials during the first 5 months of this year.

It is to be noted that the statistics show Kargoshaee Bank's free-interest and reward loans in the current year have grown by 77% and 56%, respectively, compared to the same period last year.

As one of the BMI's subsidiaries, Kargoshaee Bank, with 31 branches and 24 active circles across the country, currently provides distinctive and unique services including paying free-interest loans, granting reward loans for essential needs, maintaining customers' gold and jewelry, allocating trust funds to customers, opening various bank accounts, electronic banking services, etc. to its valued customers.

Arbaeen Status



33 Million
Status Announcement
Increase

Call



15 Million
Video and Voice
Call Increase

Arbaeen Currency



488 Thousands
The Number of Arbaeen
Currency Buyers

Bale app Services in 1402 Arbaeen

(From Mordad 27th until Shahrivar 19th)



Unveiling of the 95th Anniversary Logo of Bank Mellī Iran

On the occasion of the 95th anniversary of the establishment of Bank Mellī Iran, the BMI's 95th anniversary logo was unveiled.

According to BMI public relations, today, Shahrivar 20, is the anniversary of the first BMI branch which started working on Ferdosi Avenue in 1307. It is to be said that BMI has unveiled its 95th-anniversary logo on this occasion.



Azerbaijan, Armenian separatists accept Russian-brokered ceasefire

From page 1 ▶ The agreement also stipulates that talks will start on Thursday to focus on the future of the region and the roughly 120,000 local ethnic Armenian community who reside there.

The Armenian-backed separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh have confirmed that they are committed to the terms of the ceasefire.

In a statement, they said that "with the mediation of the command of the Russian peacekeeping contingent stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh, an agreement was reached on the complete cessation of hostilities from 13:00 on September 20, 2023."

"The authorities of the Republic of Artsakh (using the name of the separatists-run region) accept the proposal from the command of the Russian peacekeeping contingent to cease fire," the statement added.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry confirmed it had reached an agreement on a truce deal and has concluded its military operation.

The ministry added that the Armenian separatist forces in Karabakh had agreed to "lay down their weapons, abandon combat positions and military posts and completely disarm", and that all weapons and heavy equipment were being transferred to the Azerbaijani army.



Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said it was "very important" that the ceasefire hold, adding that Yerevan "did not participate in drafting" the ceasefire deal.

The latest hostilities come three years after Azerbaijan recaptured large portions of territory in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in a brief war with Armenia.

The new development could pave the way for Azerbaijan to integrate the ethnic Armenians into its society and to take full control of the mountainous area.

Analysts say there may now be a large exodus from Karabakh to

Armenia, but this is still unclear and remains to be seen.

Analysts have praised Russia for its years-long attempts to restore peace to a region that has seen two wars between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the past three decades.

Regional countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, have repeatedly pushed for a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two sides and respect each other's territorial integrity.

Despite the desire by the United States to create as much trouble for Russia as possible, Moscow appears to have ended

another spiral of violence in a highly volatile region. Without Moscow's peacekeeping, the ramifications could have led to another deadly conflict.

A previous ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia not so long ago was largely holding with the exception of occasional flare-ups.

Some analysts have accused the West of interfering in the region, but by the same token, they have praised the stance of Russia, Azerbaijan and Armenia to swiftly end the fighting. Azerbaijan was capable of fully taking over the entire Nagorno-Karabakh with military force.

Inside the Occupied Palestine

Smile! This Is a Hidden Camera

As the Israeli society scumbles deeper into socio-cultural misdemeanor and chaos, more news breaks out on a daily basis reminding all settlers that going back to where they originally came from is a much better and preferable option. In the latest instance, an Israeli media reported today about a landlord in Jerusalem who shocked his tenant by coming up with a weird deviant idea. After entering the house with the consent of the tenant and under the cover of "fixations", the landlord installed a hidden camera inside the bedroom of the house which was recording everything 24/7 up until it was discovered by the residents. The furious tenant has vowed to sue the pervert landlord in the court but given the social status of the settlers in Occupied Palestine, there is a significant possibility for uncovering numerous similar cases in the coming weeks.



authorities long ago but was kept in the closet to avoid panic or protest.

The Turkish Connection

Israel Admits Long-Discovered GPS Turbulence in Its Airports, Accuses Russia

The Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Turkish president Rejep Erdogan met on the sidelines of UN's General Assembly, an Israeli media reported today. "They discussed approaches to promote cooperations in fields of trade, economy, and energy as well as regional and international issues including the normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia", the report says. According to the media, "Netanyahu conveyed his gratitude to Erdogan over the fruitful cooperation of Turkey with the Israeli security agencies".

The aviation organization of Israel surprised all the passengers who have been using arial transport lately by publishing a horrifying report about the disorders in Israeli airports which have been discovered since months ago but kept from the public. Today, The Civil Aviation Authority of Israel (CAAI) admitted multiple sever "frequency attacks" during the past months that has led to the disturbance of the landing system of nearly all airplanes which have tried to land in an Israeli airport. According to CAAI's report, "unknown factors have inflicted disturbance in the GPS systems of the airplanes during the landing procedure. This has forced the planes, in many cases, to change their landing routes and even land in different airports other than what had originally been assigned. The Israeli authorities are running inquiries to find out if these disturbances, as they suspect, are caused by the Russian electronic warfare stationed in Syria and east Mediterranean. The confession comes after many regional authorities of Israel filled complaints about unprecedented loud noises of the airplanes which fly over their regions in low altitude, while the skies over those regions have not been registered as a civil or military arial route. It is now known that the issue was discovered by CAAI and possibly other Israeli

There Will Be Blood

Ehud Barak, the former prime minister of Israel warned the world about the consequences of ongoing judicial reforms bill in an interview with the American channel CBS today. "The protests against the judicial revolution in Israel will cost the lives of the Israelis", he said. Barak called the current situation in Israel "a non-violent civil uprising" that will have its own "highs and lows". "It may take some time; some people will lose their lives along the way. We should scrimp with trouble, sweat, and tears. There might be violence, but we will end this, no matter what", Barak continued. He also said that Netanyahu does not have the manpower and the ability to stand against the will of those who oppose the bill.

Another phase of Saudi-UAE rivalry in Yemen

By Javad Mirgaloubyat

On September 11, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, arrived in Oman on a long trip, which was described as a private trip.

Mohammad bin Salman's five-day stay in Oman is considered as one of the longest trips since he was selected as the heir to the throne.

Before the trip, news outlets reported that Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman will meet Mohammed bin Salman in the southwestern Omani city of Salalah, near the border with Yemen.

Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman Al Saud, along with a high-ranking military delegation, accompanied the crown prince and attended a public meeting with Sultan Haitham.

According to unverified news reports, meetings have been held between representatives of the government of Sana'a, where Muscat is the capital of their second government, with representatives of Saudi Arabia led by Khaled bin Salman, discussing the latest developments in Yemen.

While Muhammad bin Salman was in Muscat, a delegation of Ansarullah led by Muhammad Abdul Salam made a joint trip with an Omani delegation to Riyadh.

This is despite the fact that no representatives of the allied states linked to the coalition against Yemen were present in the Riyadh meeting.

Though the absence of parties active under the umbrella of the coalition in the Riyadh gathering was met with the silence of their leaders, sources close to these parties strongly criticized that they were not involved in the talks.

On the other hand, the Southern Transitional Council representing the separatist forces in Southern Yemen also participated in the meetings.

This could be the key to better understand Mohammed bin Salman's visit to Oman amid the emerging competition with the United Arab Emirates in Yemen.

This was evident during the Yemen war when armed clashes took place in Southern Yemen, most notably in 2019 and 2020 when separatist forces, especially in the city of Aden, backed by the UAE on one hand and troops backed by Saudi Arabia on the other, exchanged heavy fire, killing scores of soldiers. The clashes, at the time, made headlines of a rift emerging between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

The Southern Transitional Council, which is backed by the UAE, threatened to reject and thwart the Yemen peace efforts in Riyadh and demanded a guarantee for the secession of southern Yemen.

In a statement, the council said that it "underlines its desire to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable political process that results in an unconditional outcome. These talks should



Not long ago, Sultan Haitham published a symbolic picture of himself with a guerilla warfare outfit, a military belt and a gun on his waist during a trip to Dhofar.

be to ensure that all issues are addressed and, above all, acknowledge the aspirations of the people of the south."

But Riyadh responded negatively to these demands and rejected a proposal by General Aidarous Abdulaziz al-Zubaidi, the head of the Southern Transitional Council, as well as the presence of a deputy of the Southern Transitional Council in the negotiations.

There is no doubt that Oman has always been a peace-loving and mediating country, and this is the main goal of the Sultanate's foreign policy doctrine.

However, in the case of Yemen, Oman has not only played the role of a mediator but has also been seeking to secure the benefits of Yemen and creating conditions so that no further harm comes to the war-torn country.

All regional states have gained a lot of experience from the eight-year war in Yemen along with their own security challenges, and Oman is no exception.

The last major war in Oman was the more than ten-year crisis between the Dhofar separatists and two anti-monarchy communist movements in the south of the country on the border with Yemen.

The fighting, which ended in 1976, and spilled over into Yemen, played an effective role in the division of southern Yemen and the establishment of a communist government in the South.

With the independence of South Yemen, the separatist elements gained an important strategic depth and were able to advance towards the north of Oman.

Dhofar, which is different from other parts of Oman in terms of population, history, religion, language, race, and even economy despite the positive and constructive policies of the Omani

government towards these areas, has always remained susceptible to challenges for the central government of Oman.

Considering this situation and taking lessons from the war on its border with Yemen, the government of Oman has defined a red line toward the Yemen crisis for itself, which is the division of Yemen.

Amidst this geopolitics, the Omani government's policy found allies in the nearby Yemeni provinces of al-Mahra and Hadhramaut and made attempts to ensure that the balance of the war does not end in favor of the separatists in the south with support from the UAE.

This policy is in line with the same goals of the Sana'a government in order to unify the entire Yemen.

Likewise, Saudi Arabia is supportive of the position taken by Muscat and Sana'a amid its differences with the UAE on Yemen and the possibility of Abu Dhabi strengthening its influence again in the country's south.

The government of Oman does not support any side that pushes for the division of Yemen but considers any secession there as a danger to its own territorial integrity.

Not long ago, Sultan Haitham published a symbolic picture of himself with a guerilla warfare outfit, a military belt and a gun on his waist during a trip to Dhofar. The publication of this meaningful image in Dhofar on the border with Yemen has led experts to interpret it as a kind of message that Oman is ready to intervene in maintaining the integrity of Yemen.

It should be noted that Sultan Haitham's trip to Dhofar and five days ago to Salalah in the Dhofar Governorate was made at a time when the Kharif season had ended in the region and Sultan Haitham did not go there to rest, as he recently took a one-month vacation in Oman to rest.

Meanwhile, the visit of Major General Matar bin Salim al Balushi, the Commander of the Royal Army of Oman, to Iran on Monday has evoked interesting talking points and political views.

The trip, which coincided with the negotiations in Riyadh and after Bin Salman's trip to Oman, can be linked to the different trips mentioned above and peace talks in regard to Yemen.

Although it has been said that the Riyadh negotiations include a ceasefire agreement and the signing of a number of memorandums of understanding, they include the payment of salaries for Yemeni civil workers, the reopening of roads, expansion of commercial flights from Sana'a airport to five other destinations as well as solving the complex problem regarding prisoners and detainees.

What appears to be the case is that beyond these reported issues are other matters that have been discussed, which only time will tell what they transpire to.

THE DEADLIEST WILDFIRE

IN EARLY AUGUST 2023, A SERIES OF WILDFIRES BROKE OUT IN THE U.S. STATE OF HAWAII, PREDOMINANTLY ON THE ISLAND OF MAUI. THE WIND-DRIVEN FIRES PROMPTED EVACUATIONS, CAUSED WIDESPREAD DAMAGE, AND KILLED AT LEAST 114 PEOPLE IN THE TOWN OF LAHAINA. APPROXIMATELY 1,300 PEOPLE REMAIN MISSING.

AT LEAST 114 PEOPLE DIED

APPROXIMATELY 1,300 PEOPLE MISSING

OVER 2,200 BUILDINGS DESTROYED

UNESCO-listed needlework prosperous in northern Iran



TEHRAN—The skill of Turkmen-style needlework, which has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries, is still practiced by hundreds of craftspeople in Golestan province, northern Iran.

Based on data provided by Golestan's tourism directorate, some 3,500 crafters are practicing the art only in the city of Gonbad-e Kavus and its neighboring villages, CHTN quoted a local tourism official as saying on Tuesday.

A cradle for that style of needlecraft, Golestan regularly holds workshops aimed to help promote and preserve the ancient arts. For instance, Gonbad-e Kavus held a special workshop for Turkmen-style needlework on Sep. 19 and 20, Maryam Hajiebrahimi said.

Talking about handicraft exports from the province, Hajiebrahimi noted some \$11,000 worth of needlework was exported to foreign countries via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer).

Inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity jointly for Iran and Turkmenistan, the decorative art is

applied to decorate textiles. It is a very common occupation among females to create delicate stitches using a needle and colorful yarns.

In both countries, 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.

According to UNESCO, this unique technology gives the thread a shine. For the most common needlework style, a series of loops is created by piercing the fabric with a thin needle and holding the previous loop with the thumb of the other hand. Other needlework styles vary according to the region.

There is no age limit, and young girls traditionally learn needlework from their mothers and grandmothers. In rural areas, the patterns used reveal the territorial identity of the needlewomen. They are also used to symbolize love, friendship, nature, and strength. The needlework is used on wedding clothes, in clothing for funerals and cultural events, and as decorative parts of ordinary clothing, such as scarves, coats, pants, shawls, and accessories.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley

The cultural landscape of Madriu-Perafita-Claror Valley offers a microcosmic perspective of the way people have harvested the resources of the high Pyrenees over millennia.

According to UNESCO, the property is an exceptional geographical unit located in the southeastern part of the Principality of Andorra, in the heart of the Pyrenees. It covers an area of 4,247 ha or a little more than 9% of the national territory. A protective buffer zone of 4,092 ha surrounds this area.

The upper part of the valley is an exposed glacial landscape, with spectacular steep cliffs, rock, and lake glaciers. Lower down, the valley narrows and becomes more wooded, while in its lowest section, the river flows into a short gorge. A secondary valley, the Perafita-Claror Valley, merges with the Madriu Valley from the South-West.

The Madriu-Perfita-Claror Valley is a microcosm that illustrates the way in which man has harvested mountain resources over the past millennia. It also reflects the persistence of an ancient communal

system of land management – four communities own land within the property. Its spectacular glacial landscapes with vast pastures and wooded valleys reflect climate change, the economy and social systems, as well as the persistence of pastoralism and a strong mountain culture. The property, the last place in the country not to have roads, comprises amongst others diverse agro-pastoral complexes in the high mountain, agricultural centers in mid-mountain areas, a communication system based on a network of partially paved trails, and the vestiges of a specific steelmaking activity: the Catalan Forge.

More precisely, the inscribed site contains many traces of human occupation that express singularly the perfect symbiosis and the precious balance between the land and humankind, between their resources and their needs; among these, bornes or small huts with vaulted stone roofs, some of which are still used by shepherds; orris in ruin, stables and cheese dairies, houses with side barns where grain and hay were stored; traces of terraced fields and foundries; low stone walls and paved tracks, etc.

'Outstanding' 2,200-year-old child's shoe discovered deep underground in Austrian mine

A second century BC leather shoe found in an Austrian mine offers 'extremely rare insight into the life of Iron Age miners.'

Deep underground in a rock-salt mine in Austria, archaeologists have made an "outstanding" discovery: the 2,200-year-old shoe of a child.

The mine's rock salt, which people have been mining since the Iron Age (800 BC to 1 BC) in the village of Dürrnberg near present-day Salzburg, preserved the well-crafted shoe, according to a translated statement from the German Mining Museum (DBM) in Bochum. The lone footwear is about a US children's size 12 (European children's size 30).

"The condition of the shoe found is outstanding," Thomas Stöllner, the museum's research department head, said in the statement. "Organic materials generally decompose over time. Finds like this child's shoe ... offer an extremely rare insight into the life of Iron Age miners."

Archaeologists noticed that the leather shoe has a preserved remnant of lacing made from flax or linen, which hints at how the shoe was laced. The shoe's design indicates that the footwear was crafted in the second century BC, according to the statement.

While only one shoe was found, its discovery suggests that children were underground in the mines more than two millennia ago.

The museum has been carrying out archaeological work in the mine since 2001. Near the shoe, archaeologists found the fragment of a wooden shovel and the remnants of a fur with lacing, which may have belonged to a fur hood.

At the German Mining Museum, the public can go on tours to learn about hard coal, mining and mineral resources aboveground, as well as on a 0.7-mile-long (1.2 kilometers) underground route.

(Source: Live Science)

From hospitality to heritage: a guide to Persian Caravanserais

TEHRAN—On September 17, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization added 54 Iranian roadside inns to its World Cultural Heritage list under the name: Persian Caravanserai.

With this recognition, the world now acknowledges the significant role that a typical Persian Caravanserai has played throughout history.

Caravanserais were not only places to rest on long journeys but also dynamic hubs for commercial, financial, social, and cultural affairs. They played an important role not only in promoting international trade but also in cultural exchange.

The term caravanserai (aka caravansera) comes from two words "caravan" which means travelers who travel in a group and "sera" which means house or place of residence.

A brief history

In the past, traveling was not as popular as it is today. Due to tough roads, travel was mostly limited to business trips and the most important thing for businessmen was accommodation on the road. Iranian caravans are also built for the same purpose.

Thanks to its favorable geographical location, the Iranian Plateau has long been a crossroads for major communication routes.

One of these important routes is the Silk Road, which includes a series of routes connecting East, West, and South Asia as well as North Africa and Eastern Europe. The Silk Road is considered the largest and most important trade route in the world.

Following the Industrial Revolution and the appearance of motorized transport, Persian caravanserais also lost their initial prosperity.

Many of them were abandoned and gradually turned into ruins. Nowadays, the use of some Iranian caravanserais has also changed and today they are converted into restaurants, traditional hotels, and accommodation facilities for tourists.

The history of Iranian caravanserais goes back to the pre-Islam era, especially the Achaemenid era (more than 2500 years ago). At that time, caravanserais were located at a distance of one day's journey from each other.

The dispersion of towns and



A view of Izadkhast caravanserai (early 17th century), Fars province, southern Iran.

villages, distance from main roads, desert, and drought in the central regions of Iran are other reasons for the construction of caravanserais. In fact, travel between different remote regions of the country seemed impossible without these stations.

The earliest caravanserais in Iran (widely referred to as Chaparkhanehs) belong to the Achaemenid and Parthian periods. Herodotus, the Greek historian, in his writings, mentions buildings similar to caravanserais that were built in the area between the Achaemenid capital and Sard.

During the Sassanid era, due to the economic prosperity in Iran, extreme importance was given to the re-construction of roads and also the residences between the roads; For this reason, many caravanserais were built in Iran during the Sassanid period. Among the caravanserais of that era, we can mention "Darvazeh Gach Caravanserai", "Kananar Siah", "Dir Gachin" and "Robat Anoushirvani" along the Silk Road.

At the time when the Arabs came to power in Persia, the country no longer had the prosperity of commerce before Islam; For this reason, road construction and buildings along the way were forgotten, and caravanserais lost their former prestige.

During the post-Islamic period, caravanserai architecture reached its peak and suburban caravanserais were built on the way to towns, villages, mountain passes, and desert areas.

In Ghaznavid era, tens of caravanserais were built in Iran, especially in the eastern areas of the Silk Road. "Robat Mahi" 66 km east of Mashhad, "Robat Shara"

a palace-like mansion on the road from Mashhad to Sarkhas, and "Robat Karim" on Shahryar road

While in a cozy caravanserai, it is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

are among the most beautiful caravanserais of the Ghaznavid period.

Golden age for Persian Caravanserais

The Safavid era is considered the golden age of caravanserai construction; Because during this period, maritime and overland trade was very prosperous and Shah Abbas I decided to rebuild and revive the Silk Road. The mighty monarch believed that the prosperity of the Silk Road required the revival of caravans.

A sweeping renovation and construction of caravanserais during the Safavid era especially under the decree of Shah Abbas is one of the reasons why most caravanserais are known as Shah Abbasi caravanserais, although some renovated caravanserais were built before the Safavid era. Shah Abbasi Caravanserai in Karaj is one of the examples of Persian caravanserai built during the Safavid era.

Architectural elements

Iranian caravanserais were usually constructed in a square or rectangular outline, although there are very few circular caravanserais in the country. The entrance of a caravanserai is very big and high so that it can be seen from far away by the passengers.

Around the courtyard, there are arches on a platform, which are actually small rooms where travelers used to rest. In some cases, there were small rooms under the passenger room where passengers' belongings were kept.

A few Iranian caravanserais are built in a circular shape, which is of high importance in terms of architecture. Zainuddin, Zizeh and Tajabad caravanserais are among the top examples.

Iranian architects have designed most of the polygonal caravanserais in an octagonal shape. Examples of polygonal caravanserais include Amin Abad, Khan Khore, Chahar Abadeh, and De Beed caravanserais on the Isfahan-Shiraz road, and on the Jahrom-Lar road. Most of these structures were built in the Safavid period and are derived from the style of Isfahani architecture.

In addition, some have been built with the idea of schools and mosques in the form of two porches and with a square or rectangular plan. The location of the porches is one at the entrance and the other facing it. Examples of these structures are Khoshab Caravanserai, Do Kohak Caravanserai, and Maranjab Caravanserai.

Four-portico caravanserais appeared from the Seljuk period onwards. An example of this building can be seen in Deir Getchin Caravanserai near the city of Qom.

Some caravanserais do not have specific plans and their designs vary. Sabzevar Caravanserai and Shah Abbasi Jolfa Caravanserai belong to this category.

Stone, brick, clay, and traditional mortars are the main materials used to build caravanserais being decorated with tiling and brickwork.

For modern visitors, cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. While in a cozy caravanserai, it is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

Tehran war museum to offer free admission during Sacred Defense Week

TEHRAN—Tehran's Sacred Defense Museum, which is dedicated to the Iran-Iraq War on a landscaped site of 21 hectares, will be offering free admission to its visitors during Sacred Defense Week.

Entry to Tehran's Sacred Defense Museum will be free of charge during the Sacred Defense Week, which runs from September 22 to 29, ILNA quoted a museum official as saying on Tuesday.

The 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq, known as 'Sacred Defense' in the Islamic Republic, was launched by the order of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein nearly 19 months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Amongst many border cities directly involved in the 1980-1988 war, Khorramshahr is highly honored as a symbol of resistance during the war against Iraqi invaders. The port city is high on the 'will go' index of adventure travelers interested in such niche tourism.

Re-creation of the liberation of the city of Khorramshahr through virtual exhibits and video

projections is among the main features of the Sacred Defense Museum, which houses a replica of the Khorramshahr mosque adorned with creamy and turquoise patterned tiles.

The museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system, including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. A total of seven halls lead through the history of the sacred defense in forensic detail. The Hall of Butterflies greets visitors on arrival, the place is dedicated to martyrs and victims of the war and filled with personal belongings found on the various battlefields.

Outside, a patchwork of domestically manufactured armaments such as rockets, tanks, and artillery pieces is on show. The complex has vast garden areas, water features, and children's play areas as well.

Formerly, war tourism destinations were mainly the object of interest of photojournalists appearing



solely on pages of crime, but now they can be traced within certain travel books and websites.

According to experts, visitors to war museums are sometimes triggered to make guesses about the stories of people who lost their lives, displaced, wounded, captured, or lost their loved ones in those bitter moments of mankind.

Namibia launches initiative to incentivize, boost tourism

Namibia on Tuesday launched an initiative aimed at rewarding, recognizing and supporting individuals and entities that play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety, hospitality, kindness, care and preservation of the country's tourism.

The campaign, dubbed "Tourism Heroes," was launched by the Gondwana Collection, a hub for travel and safaris in Namibia, in response to a

concerning surge in criminal activities targeting international tourists.

Speaking at the launch, Namibian Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism Pohamba Shifeta said this reward system will assist and support the government efforts in ensuring that culprits and criminals that target tourists and tourist establishments are quickly identified,

apprehended, and brought to book to face the full wrath of the law.

Gondwana Collection Namibia showed its commitment to this cause by contributing 1 million Namibian dollars (about 67,000 U.S. dollars) through the Gondwana Care Trust.

(Source: Xinhua)

Tehran, Abu Dhabi ready to expand health cooperation

TEHRAN- The Iranian health minister, Bahram Einollahi, in a meeting with the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Tehran, Saif Mohamed Obaid Jasem Al Zaabi, announced readiness to boost and develop bilateral cooperation in the field of health.

Collaboration between the health systems of the two countries should be enhanced and broadened in different fields, ISNA quoted Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, the deputy health minister for international affairs, as saying.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of the meeting in Tehran on September 18.

Thanks to a famous and equipped Iranian hospital in the UAE that offers high-level medical services, there is a good history of cooperation between the two countries in the field of health, he pointed out.

The development of academic cooperation was discussed concerning the fact that a large number of Emirati patients travel to Iran as medical tourists, and a number of Iranian students are studying medicine in the UAE.

He went on to say, "More coordination meetings are to be held to move towards a structured cooperation in joint production of medicines, medical equipment, research and inter-university collaboration."



"To take effective steps to boost the cooperation between the two countries, both sides are supposed to form a working group to pave the way for drafting a memorandum of understanding."

The Emirati health minister will visit Iran at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart to discuss ways to expand cooperation and sign a memorandum of understanding in the field of health.

Medical co-op

On November 9, 2022, Pir-Hossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in a meeting with Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Owais, the Minister of Health in the United Arab Emirates, discussed the development of bilateral health cooperation.

"Iran has achieved great successes in the field of pharmaceuticals and nano-medicine," Kolivand said in the meeting.

"The production of anti-cancer medicine is one of the achievements of Iran's health system, which has been used in an Iranian Hospital in Dubai and has been effective in treating patients," he added.

He went on to note that the IRCS can also be a supplier of medicine at a reasonable price in the UAE due to its capabilities in the field of pharmaceutical production, expressing readiness to cooperate with the UAE Ministry of Health and develop joint relations.

Al Owais for his part also said that the actions of the Red Crescent are examples of prophetic duties, Iran is

our friend and brother, and based on this, bilateral cooperation is developing, welcoming the bilateral cooperation, and creating new mechanisms.

Today, it is not possible to achieve success alone in various matters, and accordingly, synergy should be put on the agenda, he further highlighted.

Health diplomacy to deepen regional ties

On July 1, Einollahi said health diplomacy is one of the areas that are able to deepen relations between countries in the region.

There are many common issues for cooperation in the field of health between countries, he said, adding that the government's strategy is to strengthen foreign policy, especially with neighboring countries, IRNA reported.

Achieving, maintaining, and promoting health is never possible in a regional way and does not happen in an isolated region, but requires the cooperation of countries, especially neighboring countries, he stressed.

In October 2021, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain, said that Iran's health system can be a model for other countries in the region, especially in the field of health and the use of valuable forces such as healthcare providers.

Iran's leadership in combating SDSs is promising: ESCAP



TEHRAN- Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, head of the United Nations Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), has said that Iran's guidance and leadership in dealing with the global phenomenon of sand and dust storms (SDSs) is promising.

"The issue of environment and sand and dust storms is not related to just a specific country; it requires multilateral and international cooperation. We are very pleased that Iran organized an international conference to combat sand and dust storms," Alisjahbana said, ILNA reported.

She emphasized that protecting the environment is not a political issue; it is related to the life of the earth, nature, and humans.

The UN official concluded that ESCAP is an international group that has adopted good measures to deal with this phenomenon.

UN supports Iran

The United Nations Office in Iran coordinated efforts with 12 UN entities worldwide to provide in-

tegrated support to the International Conference on Combatting Sand and Dust Storms, organized by the Iranian Government and held in Tehran on 9-10 September 2023, the UN website said in a press release on September 11.

The purpose of this inter-governmental forum was to mobilize stronger commitment for coordinated actions at the sub-regional, regional, and global levels, to reduce risks and strengthen resilience to the negative transboundary impact of sand and dust storms.

This conference was hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/77/171 in December 2022, on curtailing the global issue of sand and dust storms.

Sand and dust storms affect many aspects of societies in various regions of the world, including health, livelihoods, transportation and aviation, and food security – among others. Over 330 million people are already affected globally.

More frequent and more severe sand and dust storms are caused in part by human-induced drivers, including climate change, unsustainable land management, and water use, and in turn sand and dust storms contribute to climate change and air pollution, the report added.

In a special video message for the conference participants, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed the need for elevated international cooperation to combat sand and dust storms, putting forward a call to action to protect people and the planet.

"I urge you to use your time in Tehran to build partnerships, increase cooperation, and commit to practical action," said Guterres.

The UN Secretary-General also called for increased investments in early-warning systems, the restoration of ecosystems and landscapes, improved water management, and enhanced efforts to combat global temperature rise by reducing emissions. The Secretary-General proposed a clear call to action for both developed and developing countries with respect to their efforts on curbing climate change.

Guterres also called for increased investments in early-warning systems, the restoration of ecosystems and landscapes, improved water management and enhanced efforts to combat global temperature rise through reducing emissions. The Secretary-General proposed a clear call to action for both developed and developing countries with respect to their efforts on curbing climate change.

Also, on September 12, Stefan Priesner, the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Iran, said creating a fund is a necessity to address the issue of sand and dust storms.

"Phenomena like sand and dust storms require us to make efforts to identify our points of strength and reinforce our cooperation," he pointed out.

Half of the natural phenomena are caused by human interventions, which is why all participants have asked for taking decisive measures concerning water and soil, adopting policies to prevent soil degradation, and creating a fund to solve the problems, he highlighted.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iranian zoos to be monitored online

The Department of Environment (DOE) will launch an online monitoring system in zoos across the country, the Department of Environment's director general for hunting and fishing has said.

"Putting in place the necessary infrastructure for this plan is underway; newly constructed zoos are supposed to have an online monitoring system, and the old ones must launch the system as soon as possible," IRNA quoted Ali Teymouri as saying on Saturday.

Teymouri stated that all provincial departments of environment must supervise the zoo online systems to register all animal species entering or leaving the zoo, casualties and causes.

باغ وحش های کشور آنلاین پایش می شوند

مدیرکل حفاظت و مدیریت شکار و صید سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: پایش آنلاین باغ وحش های کشور جزو برنامه های سازمان است و در حال تهیه زیر ساخت برای اجرای آن هستیم. علی تيموري روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا افزود: باغ وحش هایی که جدید احداث می شوند باید حتما سیستم پایش آنلاین داشته باشند، مجموعه های قدیمی نیز باید هر چه سریعتر این سیستم را راه اندازی کنند.

وی اظهار داشت: باید تمام ادارات کل استان ها آدرس سیستم آنلاین باغ وحش ها را دریافت کنند تا ورود و خروج گونه ها از باغ وحش، ورود گونه های جدید، تلفات و دلایل آن را ثبت و به صورت آنلاین در جریان قرار گیرند.

Women from the Leader's point of view-34

Western world the biggest oppressor of women

From page 1 ▶ Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in one of his speeches said, "In the Western outlook, women are a means for satisfying lust. This is undeniable. If someone makes this claim, some people may create uproar. They may say, "No, this is not the case". However, when one takes a look at their lives, one sees that this is the dominant outlook. In social environments, the more women appear in an immodest way, the more appropriate it will be. They do not have the same opinion about men. In official meetings, men should dress up. They should wear ties and suits. They should dress formally on such occasions. But in these formal meetings, women should appear in a different way. This has no other philosophy or reason except that women should entertain men's lustful eyes. Today, the Western world is like this. It is practically the greatest oppression which the Western world shows towards women." (April 19, 2014)

The four Nordic countries Sweden, Iceland, Norway, and Denmark had the highest rate of reported sexual violence in Europe in 2020. More than 200 cases per 100,000 inhabitants were reported in Sweden. (Published by Statista Research Department, Aug 31, 2023)

Sweden's seemingly oversized rape rate is perhaps the best-known example of this scenario. During the years 2013-2017, Sweden averaged 64 reported rapes per 100,000 inhabitants—a rate that tied for the highest in Europe.

The number of rapes involving more than one perpetrator—sometimes referred to as "gang rapes"—also rose dramatically across North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, in 2022, climbing from 172 in 2021 to 246 in 2022, a year-over-year increase of 43%, the news outlet RTL Deutschland reports.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, women living in cities were most at risk of becoming victims of serious sexual assault. Nearly one in three (30%) rapes were reported in the state's five largest cities, with Cologne police recording 309 (nearly one per day); the Düsseldorf police 175; Dortmund 135; Recklinghausen 133; and Wuppertal 117.

Instances of sexual assault have risen dramatically in France as well. According to figures from the country's interior ministry, the number of victims reporting rape or attempted rape increased by a staggering 32% between 2020 and 2021, while sexual harassment cases increased by 33% in the same period. Between 2021 and 2022, reports of sexual violence, including rape, attempted rape, and other sexual assaults, jumped by another 11%, figures from the French interior ministry revealed.

In 2021, French authorities recorded more than 67,500 incidents of sexual violence against women. Almost half of these incidents were sexual assaults, more than 45 percent were rapes, and five percent were sexual harassment. In the case of sexual assaults, almost 47 percent of the victims were under 15



years of age at the time of the incident. (Published by Statista Research Department, Dec 16, 2022)

Between 2016 and 2021, the police recorded every year more complaints of rape against women in France. In 2021, more than 30,700 cases were recorded, of which nearly half were against minor women.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that 1.1 million adults aged 16 years and over experienced sexual assault in the year ending March 2022 (798,000 women and 275,000 men). This equates to a prevalence rate of approximately 2.3% of adults (3.3% women and 1.2% men).

A total of 193,566 sexual offenses were recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2022 (the highest level recorded). This was an increase of 30,322 compared with the year ending March 2020 and an increase of 45,731 from the previous year.

Of all sexual offenses recorded by the police in the year ending June 2022, 36% (70,600) were rape offenses. This was a 20% increase from 59,046 in the year ending March 2020. Other sexual offences increased to 126,289 offences; a 21% rise compared with the year ending March 2020.

"If women are regarded as respectable in the family environment, an important part of problems in our society will be solved. Oppressive behavior exists in the West but it should not be even imagined in an Islamic country /w Imagine that in a family and in a home, the man hurls all kinds of insults at his own wife, including behavioral and verbal insults and physical abuse. This issue should not occur. Of course, this occurs many times in Western countries. And this is not unexpected. Westerners, particularly European races, are wild. They have a neat appearance, they wear ties and they use perfume and other such things, but they still have the same wild nature and they still behave in the same wild way that they have always behaved throughout history. They easily kill people and they coldheartedly commit crimes. Therefore, it is not surprising that women are beaten in the home by the Europeans and by the Americans. But such a thing should not be even imagined in an Islamic environment. Therefore, these are two fundamental issues. In my opinion, there is room for detailed planning in this regard," Ayatollah Khamenei said. (May 11, 2013)



Stationery markets booming ahead of school year

Students accompanied by their parents are busy buying stationery and other items as the new school year will officially start on Saturday, September 23. Some 16 million students are forecast to attend schools this year.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:57 Evening: 18:21 Dawn: 4:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow)

Iranian short film “The Quarantine Redemption” at Breck Film Fest

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film “The Quarantine Redemption” by Bahar Dorabadi will be screened at the Breck Film Fest (formerly known as Breckenridge Film Festival), from September 21 to 24, in the U.S.

In its second international presence, the film will have its Western US premiere at the 42nd edition of the festival. It will have a showing on Friday, September 22 at the Breckenridge Theater in Breckenridge, Colorado, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Written, directed, and produced by Dorabadi, the 13-minute flick is a musical comedy without dialogue, made in 2023.

The story happens during the pandemic quarantine, and shows a misophonia sufferer

who is stuck in his small apartment with his noisy wife. As he struggles to maintain his sanity and make it through, the power of music becomes his saving grace. Through a strange synchronization, he discovers a path to redemption.

Misophonia is a disorder in which certain sounds trigger emotional or physiological responses that some might perceive as unreasonable given the circumstance. Those who have misophonia might describe it as when a sound “drives you crazy.” Their reactions can range from anger and annoyance to panic and the need to flee.

Farid Yousefi and Mina Abdi play in “The Quarantine Redemption,” which had its world premiere at the 32nd Woods Hole Film Festival in the U.S. earlier this year.

Italian festival to screen “The Situation of Mehdi”



A scene from “The Situation of Mehdi” by Hadi Hejazifar

TEHRAN –Iranian war drama “The Situation of Mehdi” by Hadi Hejazifar will go on screen at the 27th edition of the International Police Award Arts Festival, which will be held in the Italian town of Monte San Savino from October 23 to 29.

The film, which is actor Hadi Hejazifar’s directorial debut, depicts part of the life story of Mehdi Bakeri, the chief of IRGC 31st Shura Division that carried out several major operations during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, and his brother Hamid.

“The Situation of Mehdi” premiered at the 40th Fajr Film Festival last year and won the Crystal Simorgh of Iran’s most important film event.

Last year, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei praised the acclaimed Iranian drama for its “accurate details and true narrative.”

IRGC deputy chief Brigadier General Ali Fadavi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf and several other officials also praised the movie.

The film, which garnered several other

awards, including the Fajr award for best directorial debut for Hejazifar, also won prizes at the National Will Manifestation Awards, a gala event that is a supplement to the Fajr Film Festival.

The awards are presented to those films that promote issues being pursued by public organizations and institutes. Juries from the organizations select winners from the films screened at the Fajr Film Festival every year.

“The Situation of Mehdi” was selected as best film by the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs, Municipality of Tehran, Municipality of Mashhad, Mostazafan Foundation, Public Culture Council and several other organizations and institutes.

The best film prize of the 11th edition of the Qoqns Screen Awards was given to “The Situation of Mehdi”.

The awards are presented by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization to revolutionary films and cineastes every year.

Mirkarimi’s “The Night Guardian” to represent Iran at Oscars

From Page 1 ▶ Co-written by Mirkarimi and Mohammad Davoud, “The Night Guardian” follows the story of an innocent village boy whose carefree life is disrupted by his trust in a construction engineer.

After leaving his village due to drought, Rasoul is relieved to find employment as a night guardian at a construction site. However, he soon discovers that something sinister is happening at the seemingly deserted location. As he becomes ensnared in the peculiar circumstances surrounding him, Rasoul finds himself trapped and in danger.

Since 1994, Iran has been a regular participant in the Oscars film category, with two wins under its belt for “A Separation” and “The Salesman,” both directed by Asghar Farhadi. Two of Mirkarimi’s films have previously been selected to represent the country: “So Close,



A scene from Iranian movie “The Night Guardian” by Reza Mirkarimi.

So Far” in 2005 and “Today” in 2014.

On December 21, a shortlist

of 15 films will be disclosed. The final nominations will then be announced on January 23, 2024,

leading up to the 96th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, California, on March 10, 2024.

Actor Arash Mirahmadi dies at 52

TEHRAN – Arash Mirahmadi, a comedian and television actor, passed away in a Tehran hospital on Tuesday after months of battling with cancer. He was 52.

Mirahmadi had been struggling with pancreatic cancer and was admitted to the hospital due to a liver problem. He was receiving specialized care and undergoing chemotherapy sessions to treat his illness, but his jaundice levels remained alarmingly high, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Although he was discharged earlier this week after showing signs of improvement, he was readmitted to the hospital shortly



afterward. Later, Mirahmadi slipped into a coma and passed away.

Mirahmadi began his career in television industry with the program “Noruz 72” alongside Ali Omrani and Mehran Modiri. He was born in 1971, in Farashband, Fars Province, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in theater arts from the School of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran.

In addition to acting, he was also a writer and director. He had appeared in several comedy series such as “Khandedar Bazar” and “Gol-o-Bolbol Neighborhood”.

“The Last Birthday” to go on screen at Tasveer Oscar-qualifying festival

TEHRAN –Iranian movie “The Last Birthday” by Tehran-based Afghan director Navid Mahmudi is scheduled to go on screen at the 18th edition of Tasveer South Asian Film Festival (TSAFF).

The Academy Award-qualifying event will take place in the U.S. city of Seattle from October 11 to 22.

“The Last Birthday” tells the story of Soraya, a female journalist, who has been trying

to spread news of the difficult situation of Afghan women to the world for years. This issue exposes her career. Taliban forces surprise Soraya and her friends once they arrest her at home on her birthday.

Tasveer South Asian Film Festival offers a platform for South Asian storytellers from all over the world to showcase their talent through various mediums such as films, workshops, and panel discussions.

Strindberg’s “Stronger” on stage at Da Theater Hall

TEHRAN-The play “Stronger” written by Johan August Strindberg and directed by Mahsa Ganji has been staged at Da Theater Hall in Tehran.

“The Stronger” is an 1889 Swedish play consisting of only one scene. The main characters are two women: a “Mrs. X”, who speaks, and a “Miss. Y”, who is silent, an example of a dramatic monologue, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

It explores the power struggle evident in human psychology, confronting the audience with timeless themes of betrayal, infidelity and hierarchy working within a masculine hegemonic society.

The women present on stage are representative of fragments of one character’s mind. While some parts are incapable of action and controlled by their persona’s ‘agents’, others are capable of speech and autonomy facing the climactic confrontation of a destabilized relationship.

“The Stronger” has a dramatic intensity that

few plays possess. Though but one character speaks, the souls of three are skillfully laid bare.

Ganji is also among the actors in the play including Hengameh Arjmand, Nazanin Hallajfar, Niloufar Sahi, Taban Asgari, and Niloufar Moayed.

August Strindberg (1849-1912) is Sweden’s foremost dramatist. He was also a schoolmaster, journalist, writer of scientific and political treatises, writer of short stories, poet, essayist and painter.

As a dramatist Strindberg’s chief strength lies not so much in dramatic technique as it does in his trenchant and searching power of analysis of the human mind. His chief plays are very exact and narrow views of the feminine soul. Some of his own domestic bitterness finds expression in the feminine studies in his plays. He is very fond of showing the power of one character over another.

A prolific writer who often drew directly on his personal experience, Strindberg wrote more

than sixty plays and more than thirty works of fiction, autobiography, history, cultural analysis, and politics during his career, which spanned four decades.

A bold experimenter and iconoclast throughout, he explored a wide range of dramatic methods and purposes, from naturalistic tragedy, monodrama, and history plays, to his anticipations of expressionist and surrealist dramatic techniques.

From his earliest work, Strindberg developed innovative forms of dramatic action, language, and visual composition. He is considered the “father” of modern Swedish literature.

In addition to “The Stronger,” Strindberg’s important one-act plays include “The Outlaw,” “Countess Julie,” “Creditors,” “Pariah,” and “Facing Death”.

“The Stronger,” which had its first performance on Monday will remain on stage till September 29. Da Theater Hall is located at No. 5, the first dead-end, Khark Street, Enqelab Street.

“Bonnie and Clyde” to be shown at IAF cinematheque

TEHRAN-The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen Arthur Penn’s “Bonnie and Clyde” on September 22.

It will be the fourth program in the series of Cinema Memories, which is dedicated to the screening of memorable movies during the cinema history of the world, Mehr reported.

A 1967 American biographical neo-noir crime film, it stars Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as the title characters Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker.

The story revolves around bored



waitress Bonnie Parker who falls in love with an ex-con named Clyde Barrow and together they start a

violent crime spree through the country, stealing cars and robbing banks.

“Bonnie and Clyde” is considered one of the first films of the New Hollywood era and a landmark picture. It received Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actress (Estelle Parsons) and Best Cinematography (Burnett Guffey).

It was ranked 27th on the American Film Institute’s 1998 list of the 100 greatest American films of all time and 42nd on its 2007 list.

The Persian-dubbed version of the 111-minute film is scheduled to be shown 5 p.m. on Friday at the Nasser Hall of the IAF, situated at Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.