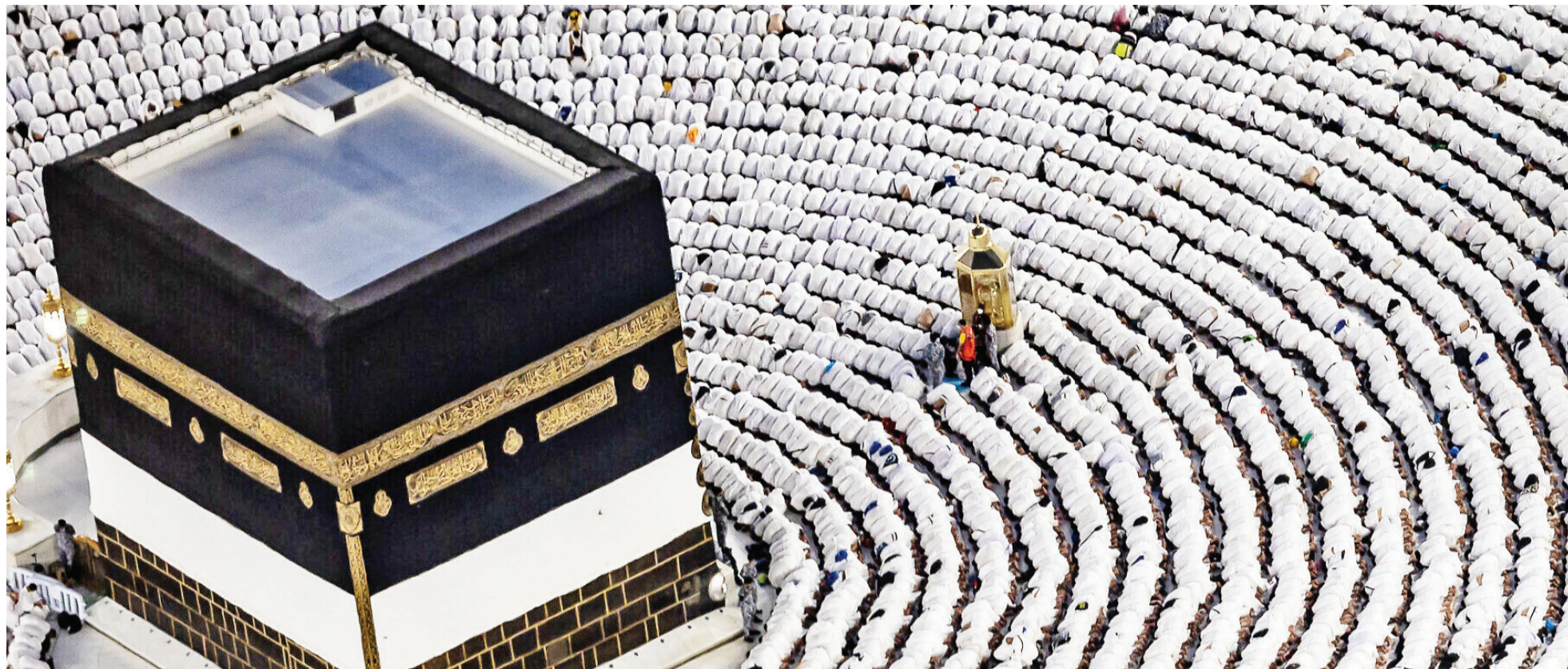


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Ayatollah Khamenei in a message to Hajj pilgrims:

Renunciation of Zionist Regime and U.S. Must Continue Beyond Hajj

Muslim worshippers pray around the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine, at the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca on June 13, 2024, ahead of the annual Hajj pilgrimage

© AFP/ Fadel Senna



Iranian national Hamid Nouri released from Sweden prison

TEHRAN – Iran's top human rights official has confirmed the release of Hamid Nouri, a former Iranian judiciary official who had been detained in Sweden since 2019.

Kazem Gharibabadi, head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, announced Nouri's release via a post on his X account on Saturday.

"I am delighted to inform the esteemed nation of Iran that Hamid Nouri, who has been under detention in Sweden since 2019, has been released and will be returning to our country within a few hours," Gharibabadi stated.

Gharibabadi credited Nouri's release to the persistent efforts of colleagues in the Judiciary, the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Nouri was arrested upon his arrival at Stockholm Airport in November 2019 and subsequently imprisoned. ▶ Page 2

Nation showcased unity, strength following tragic copter crash: acting FM

TEHRAN – The acting Foreign Minister of Iran says the nation showcased its unity and strength in the aftermath of the tragic helicopter crash on May 19 that claimed the lives of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and six other officials.

"Our nation, in all its grandeur, demonstrated the power, authority, and strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the world while bidding farewell to the martyred officials, firmly standing behind the Leader of Islamic Revolution," Ali Baqeri Kani stated during a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs honoring the victims of the helicopter crash.

He continued, "Today, despite mourning this great loss, we stand with dignity and pride as the inheritors of the legacy of these beloved individuals."

The helicopter carrying Raisi and his entourage crashed in a mountainous area in the northwestern Iranian province of East Azerbaijan, resulting in the death of all those on board.

Rescuers found the wreckage of the helicopter after hours of extensive search which involved more than 70 teams.

The helicopter carrying Raisi and his entourage was on its way to Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan, from a location on the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan where the Iranian president had opened a major dam project. ▶ Page 3

Washington fears repercussions of war on Lebanon

By Sondos Al-Asaad

The military tension is escalating on the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine, especially after the assassination of Commander Talib Sami Abdullah (Hajj Abu Talib), and the subsequent violent deterrent response by Hezbollah.

The aim is to thwart the enemy's attempt to perpetuate the "strategy of assassinations" after it has failed to separate the southern Lebanon front from the Gaza front.

In this context, international contacts are continuing to prevent the situation from spiraling into a comprehensive war, as US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken indicated that the best way to reach a diplomatic solution on the Lebanon front is to resolve the conflict in Gaza and reach an immediate ceasefire.

Besides, French President Emmanuel Macron has also announced a tripartite "French-American-Israeli" summit to discuss a roadmap to defuse tensions between Hezbollah and "Israel" after stressing at the Normandy Summit the need to prevent escalation and implement UN Resolution 1701. ▶ Page 5

Hamas fires rocket barrage at Israeli base

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam brigades, has announced it has targeted the Kissufim military site, home to Israeli soldiers and military vehicles with a rocket barrage.

Israeli media reported that a fire broke out at the site following the attack.

Earlier, al-Qassam fighters had successfully detonated an explosive device in a previously booby-trapped tunnel targeting an Israeli infantry unit, resulting in casualties among them, east of the Zeitoun neighborhood in Gaza City.

Later on, Israeli media acknowledged the tunnel explosion operation, reporting about casualties among soldiers evacuated to hospitals.

According to the al-Qassam Brigades, its fighters also oversaw the landing of a Black Hawk helicopter to evacuate the dead and wounded Israeli soldiers east of the Zeitoun neighborhood.

Additionally, the al-Qassam brigades shelled a gathering of invading Israeli forces east of the Zeitoun neighborhood in Gaza City with multiple 120mm mortar rounds. ▶ Page 5

Saudi Arabia demonizing pro-Palestine Hajj pilgrims

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Saudi Arabia has tried to demonize pilgrims who seek to express solidarity with Palestinian people during the Hajj rituals amid growing international outcry over Israel's brutal war on the Gaza Strip.

Saudi officials have resorted to warnings and threats in an attempt to stave off potential protests or chants about Israel's genocidal war during the five-day Hajj which officially began on Friday.

"The kingdom resolutely confirms that it will not allow any attempt to turn the sacred sites [in Mecca] into an arena for mob chanting," a spokesperson for the Saudi Interior Ministry said on Friday.

Colonel Talal Al-Shalhoub, added, "The security and safety of the guests of Rahman is a red line."

Al-Shalhoub has tried to smear pro-Palestine pilgrims who want an end to the Israeli appalling atrocities in Gaza by comparing them with mobs.

When Al-Shalhoub also points to "red line," he means that Israel should be treated with kid gloves! ▶ Page 5

Tehran, Moscow stress consolidating economic, energy ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has said that the two countries will continue expanding bilateral relations in various fields especially in economy and energy.

Oji who is the head of the Iran-Russia Joint Economic Commission made the remarks after a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexandre Novak in Moscow on Friday, IRNA reported.

As reported, Novak will retire from the joint commission as the head of the Russian side and the country's energy minister will replace him.

During the meeting which was held at the Russian Prime Minister's Office in Moscow in the presence of Igor Levitin Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation and Sergei Tsivilev Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation; ▶ Page 4

Leader: high voter turnout an election priority

TEHRAN – In a meeting with a number of young medalists in national and international student and university Olympiads, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, described high voter turnout in the upcoming presidential election as a "priority."

He described the country's political independence as a tangible reality and stated, "The Islamic Republic has a well-defined opinion, logic, and has things that are being heard, about important world issues that even people who do not agree with them, count on."

"This political independence should not be undermined and every government that comes to office must maintain it," he stressed.

The Leader highlighted the need for increasing voter turnout in the upcoming elections. "In the upcoming very important elections, it is important to increase participation first. ▶ Page 2



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Tehran mayor running for president lambasts JCPOA

TEHRAN – On Saturday, contenders for the 2024 presidential elections in Iran appeared on national television once again to appeal for the support of over 60 million eligible Iranian voters.

During a televised discussion on political matters, the "revolutionary tank," Alireza Zakani, reiterated his strong criticism of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Zakani criticized the former foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, claiming that he lacked self-belief and agreed to a deal without fully reading or understanding its text and articles.

"The JCPOA reflects a mindset that lacks confidence in Iran's internal capabilities and seeks to conform. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Quick response to the anti-Iranian resolution

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

The Iran newspaper wrote in a note: The latest report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was published by the Reuters news agency, declared the installation of two uranium enrichment centrifuge cascades in the Fordow power plant. This news, which the Iranian authorities have not yet reacted to, was published a few days after the IAEA's Board of Governors voted in favor of the European troika's resolution on Iran's nuclear case. This was although Iran hosted Rafael Grossi, the Director General of the Agency, whose presence led to new understandings for the revival of the joint statement. The attempt to approve the resolution by the Western member countries of the Agency was while these countries saw the martyrdom of the late president of Iran as a good opportunity to create a situation to approve the anti-Iranian resolution. It was expected that as Iran has proven in the past, none of the anti-Iranian actions of the Western countries will leave the agency unanswered.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: No one takes risks to take big steps

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with diminishing the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and said: More than a year after the agreement, it seems that efforts to restore relations have lost their acceleration, and many cases of disagreement, including disputes over maritime borders have not been resolved. One of these disputes is the exploitation and sale of gas from the Arash field located on the eastern sea border of Kuwait. Also, the deadlock over Iran's nuclear program has affected the progress of Iran-Saudi relations, and due to disagreements between Tehran and Washington regarding the sustainability of the lifting of sanctions, the agreement has reached a deadlock. On the other hand, Saudi officials have warned that Riyadh may pursue its nuclear program, which could start a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Now, if the two countries do not move forward based on the 2023 agreement, they can return to the tense period. Despite the differences, Tehran and Riyadh should start trust-building by cooperating in various fields. Better relations can facilitate increased economic interaction.

Hamshahri: America is looking for Iran's ghost fleet!

In a commentary, Hamshahri addressed the concern of the United States due to the

unprecedented increase in Iran's oil sales and said: During the verbal dispute between the U.S. Secretary of State and the Senate senator in the Congress, the keyword "ghost fleet" was pointed out, which has been declared the cause of the increase in Iran's oil sales. One of the achievements of Raisi's government was declared unintentionally in Washington by the anti-Iranian senator Ted Cruz. In the meeting of the U.S. Congress, it was revealed that Iran's oil sales increased from 300,000 barrels per month to two million barrels. America claims that Iran has a large fleet of oil tankers that are transporting Iranian oil in waters around the world. Its name is Ghost Fleet. An organization called United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) has been formed in America, which is almost the largest active lobby against Iran. The mission of this organization is to put maximum pressure on Iran and make the Islamic Republic surrender. This organization has claimed that in November 2020, it identified 70 ships suspected of transporting Iranian crude oil/petroleum products, but now this list has increased to 416 ships, and this organization is desperate to identify these ships.

Jam-e-Jam: Endless displacement of the traitors

In an article, Jam-e-Jam discussed France's raid on the terrorist MKO group after Albania and wrote: The French government realized the existential danger of this terrorist group by the raid on MKO headquarters, and in this way. After Albania and Iraq, this country has become the hell of this evil group. This series of actions shows a change in the countries' approach to interacting with MKO, and after Iran's empowerment in various fields, Western governments want to reduce tension with Iran so as not to cause problems in their regional relations. This incident indicates the humiliation of the anti-Iranian opposition to the extent that the authorities of European countries have realized that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not be defeated with the mobilization of several saboteurs and their coalition. Another important point is that even the opposition is not willing to cooperate with this terrorist group, that's why the European countries, knowing this barbaric organization, have refused to host them and in line with their national interests, they have launched campaigns to expel them, and now only a name is left of these American-Zionist mercenaries.

Iranian border police thwart terrorist plot ahead of presidential election

TEHRAN – The commander of Iran's border police has revealed that his forces successfully thwarted a terrorist plot aimed at disrupting the upcoming snap presidential election on June 28.

The operation resulted in the terrorists fleeing the country and the seizure of a significant cache of ammunition.

In a statement made on Saturday, Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi detailed the counter-terrorism operation conducted in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, close to the Pakistan border.

The operation underscored the heightened security measures in place as the nation prepares for the critical election.

General Goudarzi explained that the terrorist group attempted to infiltrate Iran through Saravan County, a region known for its challenging terrain and porous borders.

However, thanks to the vigilance and surveillance capabilities of the Iranian border guards, the militants were quickly identified and intercepted.

The exchange of heavy fire left several militants injured, ultimately forcing them to abandon their mission and retreat across the border. The general commended the border guards for their bravery and quick response, which was crucial in neutralizing the threat.

The operation also led to the confiscation of a large stockpile of weaponry and explosives. Among the items seized were C-4 high-velocity explosives, improvised



explosive devices (IEDs), electronic fuses, AK-47 rifle ammunition, American-made grenades, and a sophisticated radio communication system.

This arsenal highlights the severity of the threat and the preparedness of the terrorist group to carry out significant acts of violence.

Brigadier General Goudarzi emphasized that Iranian border guards remain steadfast in their resolve to protect the nation from terrorist activities.

He assured that any group attempting to breach Iran's borders to conduct sabotage or terrorism would be met with decisive and forceful resistance.

The successful operation serves as a testament to the capabilities and readiness of Iran's border security forces as the country approaches a pivotal moment in its political landscape.

Iran is set to hold a presidential election on June 28. It will be the 14th round of presidential elections since the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Leader: high voter turnout an election priority

From page 1 ► therefore, it is necessary to try everything possible in this regard in student and family work environments."

Delving into the criteria for a good vote, he said, "For a good choice, see who is closer to the criteria of the Revolution and has the ability to work towards these criteria."

He also praised the elite youth as a significant source of "profound and genuine hope."

During the meeting, held in the Leader's office on June 15, 2024, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized, "I have great faith in the youth and their motivation. I consider you as a great asset, worth far more than your medals which are a source of pride."

Emphasizing the remarkable potential of young elites,



Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted their capacity to bring about transformative change, not only within the country but also throughout history, and to establish an entirely favorable environment. "Throughout history, it has been the human

factor, not in the sense of politicians and rulers, but rather in the form of intellectual-moral, and spiritual elements, that has propelled Iran to its exemplary glory and grandeur," he added.

Referring to the approximately 200-year period of British

and then American political domination over Iran, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said, "During that period, our culture and scientific progress were decimated, and politically, Iran was kept in a backward state. However, the Revolution, relying on its predominantly young human force, brought that to an end and created leaps forward in various fields."

While noting that there was a productive scientific movement in the 2000s, Ayatollah Khamenei remarked, "In the current circumstances, a scientific leap is necessary to propel us to the forefront of global science."

This feat can be achieved through the efforts of young intellectuals and the preparation of the public environment."

Tehran mayor running for president lambasts JCPOA



From page 1 ► to the existing global order," stated the presidential candidate. "Another issue with the JCPOA was the lack of thorough analysis and expertise. It was revealed in the JCPOA Commission that no expert analysis had been conducted, and the foreign minister at the time admitted to not having read the JCPOA," he added.

He emphasized that he would not sign a deal like the JCPOA even if the other party were "his brother," let alone a long-time adversary like the United States.

The candidate's remarks were challenged by an expert on the program, who stated that the JCPOA was not merely the result of a single

person's endeavors. "Authorities and the elite in the country unanimously agreed back then that such an agreement should be made with the West," the expert said.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was a deal on Iran's nuclear program signed by Iran, Russia, China, the United States, Britain, France, and Germany in 2015. The pact limited Tehran's nuclear activities in return for the termination of anti-Iran sanctions.

The JCPOA is currently in shambles after Washington unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions against Iran. European signatories to the pact have also ceased all trade with the West Asian country without official withdrawals.

The JCPOA is under heavy scrutiny and criticism from various analysts and politicians, who say that at the end of the day, the deal was only used to exert pressure on Iran. It is difficult to disagree with such remarks, considering that Tehran is repeatedly subject to censure for "non-compliance" with the deal despite the West's full shunning of the JCPOA.

Reformist candidate says he is "principalist" by nature

The reformists' only hope for regaining relevance and significance, Masoud Pezeshkian, travelled to Qom on Saturday to meet with influential figures of the religious city. Pezeshkian has held several meetings with prominent individuals and groups in the past days in a bid to rally support.

The former Health Minister, however, has not yet managed to make an impactful appearance on TV. His latest televised address once again lacked depth and detail, as he attempted to appeal to traditionally conservative voters by labeling himself a "principalist" that believes in justice.

The rest of his remarks revolved around his personal life and upbringing, which in his words were extremely humble and difficult. The presidential hopeful also spoke a great deal on "freedom" and "the right to protest."

Pezeshkian's critics argue that his comments and addresses so far, are similar to those of every other reformist candidate who has run for president in the past two decades. They accuse him of relying on slogans to gain votes, rather than outlined plans and policies.

Iranian national Hamid Nouri released from Sweden prison

From page 1 ► For over three and a half years, he was held in solitary confinement. His arrest was based on allegations from the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), a group known for its past terrorist activities against Iranian officials and civilians.

In 2022, a Swedish court sentenced Nouri to life imprisonment on charges of "war crimes and crimes against humanity," which Iran denounced as illegitimate. These charges were primarily based on testimonies from MKO members living in exile. The conviction was upheld by Sweden's Appeal Court in December 2023.

Iranian authorities had repeatedly stated that Nouri's imprisonment and trial in Sweden was politically-motivated, noting that the case was influenced by pressure and propaganda of anti-Iran groups and individuals living in the West.

Nouri consistently denied the accusations, saying they were fabricated. His family reported that he faced harassment from the MKO during court sessions and suffered

from health issues, including acute vision problems and lack of medical care. Additionally, they claimed he had been physically assaulted by Swedish authorities on several occasions.

Swedish attorney Thomas Bodstrom, representing Nouri, highlighted the extreme conditions of his client's detention, noting that Nouri had broken the record for the longest solitary confinement in Swedish history, making him "the most isolated prisoner" the country has seen.

Bodstrom also argued that by Nouri's trial, Sweden deprived itself of hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of Iranian visitors who have worked in the Iranian government and do not want to risk life imprisonment by visiting Sweden.

The release of Nouri from Swedish prison was part of a prisoner swap that involved the release of the former Iranian official in exchange for a European Union diplomat and another Swedish-Iranian citizen.

The prisoner swap was mediated by Oman, the country's foreign

ministry said in a statement. "Omani efforts resulted in the two sides agreeing on a mutual release, as those released were transferred from Tehran and Stockholm," it said.

The Oman News Agency confirmed on Saturday that prisoners were transferred from Tehran and Stockholm to Muscat before being returned to their countries.

On Saturday, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson confirmed that Swedish national Johan Floderus and Iranian-Swedish Saeed Azizi were released by Tehran and are on their way back to the country.

Kristersson confirmed in a video released by the government that Nouri was now being transported back to Iran.

Additionally, the spokesman for Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted that Nouri's release, orchestrated through the schemes of the Zionist regime and the actions of the terrorist MKO organization, exemplifies the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong diplomacy in protecting national

interests and supporting Iranian citizens' rights.

Nasser Kanaani noted that Nouri's release from an illegitimate Swedish court ruling was achieved through persistent political, legal, and consular efforts by Iran's diplomatic apparatus, judiciary, and other relevant authorities.

He also emphasized the importance of acknowledging the special attention given by late President Ebrahim Raisi and the continuous efforts of the late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in securing Nouri's release.

The spokesman stressed that after enduring 1,680 days of unjust captivity, which violated fundamental human rights, Hamid Nouri has finally returned to his homeland and reunited with his patient family and loved ones.

Kanaani expressed gratitude to Oman for its role in facilitating this process and reiterated that the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue its dedicated efforts to secure the freedom of other Iranian citizens detained abroad.

Army commander stresses enhanced electoral engagement for national progress

TEHRAN – The chief commander of the Iranian Army has underscored the pivotal role of increased participation in elections in bolstering the nation's strength, power, authority, and overall progress.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi made the remarks during a Saturday ceremony attended by high-ranking military officials and commanders, marking the fourth anniversary of the Leader's awarding of the flag and badge of selflessness to the Army and commemorating 1184 martyred graduates of Imam Ali Officers' University in Tehran.

"The Leader's decision to award the flag and badge of selflessness to this university resonates deeply. Selflessness transcends mere sacrifice of life; it encompasses valorous acts for cherished values, enduring hardships under oppressive regimes, and earning the esteemed title of veterans," he asserted.

Further elaborating, Mousavi acknowledged the contributions of commanders and individuals who, through their knowledge, experience, and unwavering dedication, uphold the principles of victory and sacrifice. "They bear the proud badge of selflessness,"

he remarked, affirming their pivotal role in the nation's defense and prosperity.

The ceremony was attended by esteemed military figures, including Major General Kioumars Ahmadi, Commander of the Ground Forces, Major General Mohammad Mahmoudi, Executive Deputy of the Army, alongside commanders representing the Air and Navy Forces of the Army.

Iran is set to hold a presidential election on June 28. It will be the 14th round of presidential elections since the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Renunciation of Zionist regime and U.S. must continue beyond Hajj

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has delivered a message to Muslims visiting Saudi Arabia for this year's annual Hajj pilgrimage.

The message was read out to pilgrims on Saturday in the Arafat desert during the course of the "Renunciation of Polytheists" ceremony. In his address, he emphasized unity and resistance in the shadow of the ongoing Israeli war in Gaza.

The full text of the message is as written below.

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, and peace and blessings be upon the best of creation, our Master Muhammad al-Mustafa, and upon his Pure Progeny, upon his chosen Companions and upon those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

The appealing Abrahamic call, which by God's command summons all human beings in all eras to the Kaaba during the time of Hajj, has once again this year, attracted the hearts of a number of Muslims from around the world to this center of tawhid and unity.

It has created this magnificent, diverse gathering of a multitude of people, revealing the human spectrum and spiritual power of Islam both to itself and to others.

When one contemplates this magnificent gathering and the complex Hajj rituals, they are a



source of reassurance and increase the confidence for the Muslims, while being intimidating and a cause of trepidation for enemies and for ill-wishers.

It should not come as a surprise if the enemies and ill-wishers of the Islamic Ummah attempt to ruin and sow doubts about both of these aspects of the Hajj – whether it is by accentuating denominational and political differences, or by trying to diminish the importance of its sacred and spiritual aspects.

The Quran introduces Hajj as a manifestation of worship, dhikr [remembering God], humbleness and the equal dignity of all human beings.

[It introduces Hajj as] a manifestation of a human being's organized material and spiritual life, a manifestation of blessings and guidance, and a manifestation of moral peace and harmony between [religious] brothers in practice. And [the Quran introduces Hajj as] a

manifestation of repugnance and the establishment of a powerful front against the enemies.

Reflection on the verses related to Hajj and contemplation on the acts and rituals of this unparalleled obligation, reveal these matters and similar secrets and mysteries as these that exist within the intricate arrangement that constitutes Hajj.

Brothers and sisters, as pilgrims undertaking Hajj, you are currently in a place where you can practice these truths and luminous teachings.

Bring your thoughts and actions closer and closer to these, and bring back to your homes a reformed identity infused with these lofty concepts. This is the valuable, real souvenir of your Hajj journey.

This year, the issue of bara'at [renunciation of the polytheists] is more significant than ever before.

The tragedies in Gaza, which are unparalleled in our contemporary history, along with the audacity of

the ruthless Zionist regime, which is the embodiment of cruelty and villainy, and of course the declining state of Zionism, leave no room for any consideration or tolerance by any individual, party, government or Muslim denomination.

This year's renunciation of the polytheists must continue beyond the time and place of Hajj to all Muslim countries and cities worldwide.

It must continue beyond just the Hajj pilgrims and be extended to the general populace.

This renunciation of the Zionist regime and its supporters, in particular the government of the United States of America, must be demonstrated in the words and actions of nations and governments, and it must impede the actions of the murderers.

The ironclad resistance of Palestine and the patient, oppressed people of Gaza – whose remarkable patience and resistance have earned them admiration and respect globally – must be fully supported in every way.

I implore God for their complete and swift victory. And for you dear pilgrims, I pray that your Hajj will be accepted.

May the prayers of the Remnant of God on earth [Imam Mahdi (may our souls be sacrificed for him)] be with you.

May Allah's greetings and mercy be upon you.

Nation showcased unity, strength following tragic copter crash: acting FM



From Page 1 ▶ First Vice President Mokhber was appointed as the acting president until a snap presidential election is held on June 28.

IRGC commander honors late FM Amir Abdollahian's legacy

Major General Hossein Salami, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), paid tribute to the late Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian during the solemn ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

General Salami began by highlighting Amir Abdollahian's moral and political bravery.

He emphasized that Amir Abdollahian and his colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs left an indelible mark on Iran's foreign policy.

"He excelled in both Resistance diplomacy and conventional diplomacy," Salami noted.

Reflecting on Amir Abdollahian's tenure, Salami addressed the initial concerns surrounding his leadership.

"When Amir Abdollahian and his team, committed to Islamic values and revolutionary principles, took office, there was a perception that Iran would face political isolation. Our

adversaries aimed to sever Iran's regional influence.

However, thanks to the wise policies of the Leader of Islamic Revolution and the strong political resolve of our officials, these strategies failed, leading to significant positive developments in our foreign policy," he said.

Salami pointed out that political courage often surpasses military bravery.

"As a military man, I can attest that political courage, which involves making significant decisions with vast responsibilities, is even more significant. The late Amir Abdollahian demonstrated both political and moral courage, leaving behind a distinguished legacy," he stated.

He also discussed the Foreign Ministry's efforts in de-escalation, maintaining just relations with neighbors, and striving for membership in regional and international organizations during late Amir Abdollahian's leadership.

"He expanded foreign policy beyond state relations, promoting Resistance diplomacy and actively supporting resistance leaders," Salami said.

Salami praised Amir Abdollahian's ability to transform defense actions into political discourse. "He balanced Resistance diplomacy with conventional diplomacy, never allowing formalities to hinder his revolutionary spirit. His honesty earned respect even from adversaries," he added.

Recalling the events of 2022, Salami noted

that enemies sought to isolate Iran and increase pressure.

"The late Amir Abdollahian and the Foreign Ministry worked tirelessly to repair the country's image and counter these pressures. Their efforts rendered sanctions ineffective, preventing Iran from being seen as a globally sanctioned state," he explained.

Salami also remembered their cooperation during the True Promise Operation.

"This major operation required significant political courage. Amir Abdollahian was very active, calmly responding to threats and maintaining clarity, which brought legitimacy to our foreign policy," he stated.

Salami also asserted, "Today, Iran stands in its strongest position in decades, with a global influence that cannot be ignored in any major political or security equation."

In a symbolic act of recognition, Salami presented a commendation to acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani, fulfilling a long-overdue acknowledgment of Amir Abdollahian's contributions.

"When the True Promise Operation was completed, I had prepared a commendation for Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian and his colleagues, but due to various engagements, the presentation was delayed. Today, I fulfill this act of appreciation," he concluded.

Also, during the funeral ceremony, a book titled "Throughout the holy Front," which was penned by the late Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, was launched.

Tehran rejects involvement in Yemen maritime operations against Israel

TEHRAN – In a strong rebuke, Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York has dismissed allegations by Western powers that the Islamic Republic has provided aid to Yemeni armed forces engaged in anti-Israel operations in the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Indian Ocean.

The statement issued on Friday followed a report by The Associated Press, which cited unnamed American officials claiming that Iran provides financial support, intelligence, and training to Ansarullah resistance movement. The report further alleged that Iran continues to supply arms to

Yemen, accusing it of violating existing UN sanctions.

The Iranian mission directly challenged the U.S. assertion, stating that the U.S. aims to isolate and defeat the Yemeni resistance through military power and political influence within the UN Security Council.

This, the statement argued, is an attempt to force Iran to sever ties with Ansarullah or risk being deemed non-compliant with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Iran knows how to thwart the U.S. strategy in a way that not only strengthens Ansarullah but also ensures compliance with the

pertinent resolutions", the mission said.

Yemen began targeting Israeli-owned or Israeli-bound vessels passing through the Red Sea when the regime commenced its latest round of onslaughts against the besieged Gaza Strip.

The Arab nation gradually extended its anti-Zionist operations to the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

The UNSC recently adopted a U.S.-Japan resolution imposing sanctions on Yemen's Ansarullah for its maritime operations, which the movement insists will continue until the Israeli regime ends its war on Gaza and lifts the

blockade on the territory.

The United States, following a series of joint airstrikes with the UK against Yemeni positions, further escalated tensions by labelling Ansarullah a terrorist organization.

Yemen has retaliated against the airstrikes by targeting U.S. and British ships. Sana'a vehemently rejects the U.S. and UK claims that their airstrikes are intended to protect international shipping.

Ansarullah also maintains that its maritime operations target solely Israeli vessels or those bound for the occupied territories.

Iran coach Ghalenoei hits out at critics

TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei has defended his side's performance in the second round of the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 qualifiers, despite facing criticism from experts.

Iran finished top of Group E, ahead of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Hong Kong, and will be seeded in Pot 1 for the third round of qualifiers. However, the team's 0-0 draw against Uzbekistan in their final group match drew criticism for their lackluster performance.

Ghalenoei talked about the team's long travel schedule and the fatigue and injuries of some players as reasons for being held against Uzbekistan.

"We finished first in the group and are in Pot 1. We played great in the second half against Uzbekistan, and even their coach said they were lucky for gaining a point.

"We still have weak points, but we played well considering the poor physical condition of the players," he said.

He also noted that four key players – Morteza Pouraliganji, Saïd Ezatollahi, Ali Gholizadeh, and Sadeq Moharrami – will be available for the third round, which could boost the team's strength.

The coach also addressed the issue of generational change in the national team.

"Age is not as important factor in modern football as it once was. Physical fitness is more important now. We have players like Ehsan Hajisafi, 34, who is playing well in the Greek Super League, as an example of experienced players who can still contribute to the team," Ghalenoei added.

Ghalenoei also called for more patience from fans, saying that it takes time to develop young players. He pointed to the example of Aria Yousefi, 22, who made a mistake that led to a goal for Hong Kong in Team Mell's 4-2 win against the hosts.

"Youth development should happen at the youth and club level, not at the national team. If Yousefi had more international experience, he would not have made the same mistake."

The coach believes in both winning games and developing young players for the future.

"We must be result-oriented and also focus on developing young players. Some of the criticism is unfair and seems to be more about me personally than about the national team," he added.

Iran will learn their opponents for the third round of qualifiers when the draw is held on June 27th. The team will be hoping to qualify for the FIFA World Cup for the fourth time in a row.

"We have to wait until the draw then we can plan for the next round. The situation in our league is also unclear, and we can't plan until we know the start date of the competition," Ghalenoei concluded.

Nasri joins Zawiercie Volleyball Club

TEHRAN – Iran international outside hitter Mobin Nasri has joined Warta Zawiercie.

Nasri was named the best receiver of the 2023 World Junior Championships. Nasri, 21, will play for a club outside Iran for the first time in his career. He joined the Polish volleyball club from Paykan.

"I am very happy I will be able to play in the Polish league, which is one of the best in the world. I really like Poland, and my dream since childhood was to play in PlusLiga," Nasri said.

Nasri started his career in 2018 in Shahdab Yazd club. After three years, he joined the Iran U-19 national team, with whom he won the bronze medal at the World Championships in the same year. A year later, he won the Iranian championship and the bronze medal of the Asian Club Championships.

Brazilian goalkeeper Polli pens Nassaji extension

TEHRAN – Iranian top-flight football club Nassaji extended the deal of its Brazilian goalkeeper Luan Polli Gomes.

The 30-year-old goalie joined Nassaji from Brazilian club Coritiba in January on a six-month deal.

Polli helped Nassaji escape relegation in Iran Professional League (IPL) and the Ghaemshahr-based club has extended his contract.

Nassaji finished in 12th place in the table last season.

Iran suffer second loss in 2024 Junior AHF Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's U-21 hockey team lost to Oman 2-1 in the Men's Junior AHF Cup 2024 on Saturday.

Iran had lost to Chinese Taipei 8-0 in their opening match in Pool B on Friday.

Iran are scheduled to play Hong Kong and China on Monday and Tuesday.

Bangladesh, reigning champion in men's Junior AHF Cup, has been placed in Pool A along with Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Singapore.

The four semifinalists will advance to the next edition of Junior Asia Cup.

Noshad Alamiyan secures Paris 2024 spot

TEHRAN – Iranian table tennis player Noshad Alamiyan secured his spot in the 2024 Olympic Games. His brother Nima had qualified for the Games a month ago by grabbing the gold medal at the Central Asia Regional Olympic Qualification held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

As the countdown to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games intensifies, ITTF announced significant progress in the qualification process for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

With the Games now under 50 days away, this week's world ranking update has seen eight athletes secure their participation based on the selection of Continental quotas allocated by World Ranking.

With only one more world ranking update scheduled before the final roster for Paris is confirmed, the qualification process reaches its penultimate stage. Next week's world rankings will be crucial, determining the final competitors for the highly anticipated Paris 2024 Games.

Shahrdari Gorgan come fourth in 2024 BCL Asia

TEHRAN – In their first-ever participation in the competition, the Japanese B.LEAGUE champions Hiroshima Dragonflies secured third place by winning an exciting clash against Shahrdari Gorgan, 81-76 on Saturday.

It was revenge for the Dragonflies who had lost to this same team earlier in the Group Phase, 94-81.

Ryo Yamazaki finished with 18 points on 6 three-pointers to lead the Dragonflies, while Kerry Blackshear (17 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists) and Dwayne Evans (16 points, 9 rebounds, and 7 assists).

Fourth-placed Shahrdari Gorgan wrapped up their season in FIBA club competitions with their starters all scoring in double-digits. Breakout star Sina Vahedi finished strong with 21 points.

Ghafour Karegari meets with WT President Choue

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) Ghafour Karegari met with president of the World Taekwondo (WT) Chungwon Choue at the World Taekwondo headquarters in Seoul, South Korea on Saturday.

Karegari asked Choue to award a Universality slot to taekwondo athlete Mahdi Pourrahnama and the South Korean president appreciated Iran's NPC for support of the sport in the country.

Universality places are usually awarded to athletes from smaller countries who struggle to secure slots in the Olympics or Paralympics through normal qualification.

Tehran-Doha trade up 41% in 2 months

TEHRAN - Iran's commercial envoy to Qatar said the trade and economic ties between the two countries in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year registered a 41 percent growth compared to last year.

Abbas Abdolkhani said the trade relations between the two countries stood at the trajectory of growth in the first two months of the current Iranian year.

Agricultural and food products, aquatics, dried nuts, carpets, and construction materials were among the main products exported from Iran to Qatar in this period, he stated.

Abdolkhani stressed the need for the expansion and development of trade and economic relations between the two countries, especially given the good political relations between the two countries.

He went on to say that high-ranking officials of the two countries are determined to expand the relations in the fields of trade and economy.

The commercial envoy pointed to the neighborly advantage and vicinity between the two countries and pointed out that the geographical proximity can reduce transport costs.

Iran possesses diverse natural resources and agricultural productions, and Qatar has a dynamic consumable market, he said, noting that it makes the two countries complementary in the development and expansion of trade and economic relations.

Back in May, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Abbas Aliabadi, and Assistant Undersecretary for Commerce Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Qatar Saleh bin Majed Al-Khulaifi met and stressed broadening economic and investment ties between the two countries.

Aliabadi held talks with Al-Khulaifi at the 6th Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also known as Iran Expo 2024, in Tehran.

Describing the presence of Qatar in Iran Expo 2024 as an opportunity to learn more about Iran's export capabilities, Aliabadi highlighted Iran's significant progress in

technical and engineering services, which could potentially aid Qatar with repairing turbines and complex machinery.

Additionally, Aliabadi expressed Iran's willingness to cooperate with Qatar in various industrial, agricultural, and industrial fields.

Meanwhile, Al-Khulaifi pointed to Iran and Qatar's joint Economic Committee meeting, noting that the relevant articles in the Iran-Qatar Committee will be reviewed and the result will then be announced to the Iranian side by Qatar's ambassador to Iran.

Iran and Qatar signed a comprehensive cooperation document at the end of the ninth Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran on December 11, 2023.

The document was signed by Iran's Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Qassim Al Abdullah Al Thani as the heads of the Joint Economic Committee.

In the mentioned document, cooperation in the fields of energy (water and wastewater, electricity, oil, gas, and environment), exchanging experiences and technical knowledge, holding events, including exhibitions, and specialized training courses in the fields of water and water technologies, and renewable energies were emphasized.

Exchanging private sector delegations active in the fields of consulting, contracting, and industries, production of equipment related to the electricity industry, and the readiness of the environmental organizations of the two countries to expand relations have also been covered in the document.

The document also covered cooperation in other fields including banking, insurance, customs, national development funds, technical and engineering services, trade, industries and mines, free zones, investment, and standards.

Cooperation in the fields of transportation, communication and information technology, agriculture, judicial, legal, labor, and border are also among the axes of this cooperation document.

Iran to launch 1800MW solar panel factory soon

TEHRAN - An 1800MW solar panel production line is going to be inaugurated in Iran in the near future, an energy expert told IRNA on Saturday.

According to Sima Ghafari, the operation of the mentioned factory will increase Iran's solar panel production capacity to 2,300 MW per year.

The official noted that using the mentioned capacity, it will be possible to establish solar farms on 23,000 hectares of land every year.

She put the value of the solar panels that will be produced in a year inside the country at \$1.3 billion.

"Iranian solar panels are produced with the highest quality and efficiency," she stressed.

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

Considering the fact that the country's



renewable power generation capacity stood at about 8,00 MW when the current government took office in August 2021, the mentioned increase in renewable energy capacity would mean a 13-fold rise.

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

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

TEDPIX falls nearly 14,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 14,239 points to 2,061,480 on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

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

In late January, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) stressed the need for diverse financing tools in the country,

noting that such tools are currently being provided by the stock market.

"To reduce the speculative and profit-seeking activities of dealers in the country, financing tools should be diversified," Mohammad Shirijian said.

"The capital market is an institution that directs capital to production in an efficient manner. Now, to accelerate the process of resource transfer and high productivity, the financing should be directed to the enterprises," the official explained.

Tehran, Moscow stress consolidating economic, energy ties

From page 1 ▶ Oji praised the Novak's efforts during his three years of presence at the joint commission, expressing Iranian side readiness for the continuation of bilateral cooperation with the Sergei Tsivilev who took over the post as head of Russian side of the joint commission.

In the meeting, which was also attended by Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, Oji said that during the 13th administration under the leadership of late President Ebrahim Raisi, he provided the basis for expanding bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries.

"That process will be consolidated by relying on those basics including implementation of the signed bilateral contracts," the minister said.

Oji also expressed his appreciation for the deep sympathy expressed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials on the death of the Iranian president, announcing that Raisi made relentless efforts to expand relations with the neighboring countries as well as other



independent countries like Russia which resulted in developing and consolidating bilateral relations.

In his turn, Alexander Novak announced that Moscow was determined to continue cooperation with Iran, stressing on sooner implementation of the already signed contracts.

Restating his condolences for Raisi's passing, he said: Russia is determined to continue the path Iranian and Russian presidents laid for reinforcing bilateral relations.

The two sides held talks about a variety of subjects concern-

ing bilateral relations including speeding up completion of North-South Corridor which includes Rasht-Astara Railroad whose construction MOU was signed in April 2023.

Russia to invest in Iran's new oil fields

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Oji also said that the Russian Federation will invest in Iran's oil fields.

The official noted that all the items on the agenda of the relations between the two countries during the last three years were reviewed in the meeting with the

Russian head of the Iran-Russian Joint Economic Commission, among which was Russia's investment in Iran's new oil fields.

The progress in the field of industry and oil and gas, power plants, nuclear power plant number two Bushehr, banking, North-South corridor, and Rasht-Astara railway were reviewed, he added.

The two sides discussed solving challenges in joint projects, he said, noting that new agreements and decisions were made, especially in the oil and gas and petrochemical industries.

Currently, seven oil fields are being developed in Iran with the investment of various Russian companies, he said.

Today, 220,000 barrels of Iran's oil production are from those fields in Iran in which the Russians have invested, Oji said.

Iranian experts are currently meeting the requirements of Russian companies in the upstream and downstream fields of the oil industry, and in turn, some of the requirements of the Iranian oil and gas industry are being met by Russian companies, he added.

Iran launches new project to boost production in Yadavaran oil field



TEHRAN - The Yadavaran shared oil field's development plan was launched on Wednesday to boost the field's output by 42,000 barrels per day.

According to a Shana report, implementation of the plan started on June 11 in the presence of the head of the National Iranian Oil Company's (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh Mehr, and a number of other Oil Ministry managers via videoconference.

The project consists of drilling a total of 24 wells including 12 developmental wells in each of Fahlan and Sarvak layers with a \$350 million investment.

Back in May, when Iran Oil Show 2024 was underway in Tehran, the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), on behalf of NIOC, signed separate contracts with

the National Drilling Oil Company (NIDC), the Qeshm Oil and Energy Industry Development Company (OEID) and Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarter (KAA) for drilling 24 oil wells in Yadavaran oil field.

PEDEC has already built access roads and provided cellars (places required for drilling wells) and other items for the installation of drilling rigs to speed up operations.

Yadavaran is one of the largest oil fields Iran shares with its neighboring countries. The oil field is located 70 kilometers southwest Ahwaz, the capital of southwest province of Khuzestan near the common border with Iraq.

South Pars gas field platform 13 ready for gas extraction

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji says the South Pars phase 13 Alpha platform is ready to start gas extraction, Shana reported.

Speaking on the sidelines of the weekly meeting of cabinet on Wednesday, June 11, Oji said gas extraction from the platform will start with five to six million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) and will rise to 21 or 22 mcm/d in the future.

The platform, which was damaged heavily due to hitting by a Bahraini commercial ship during the previous administration in office, has been repaired and

renovated, now ready for gas extraction, Oji said.

"This is the second platform starting operation in the South Pars gas field during the 13th administration", the minister said, adding "The issue of launching the platform was raised today in the cabinet meeting and we invited acting president Mohammad Mokher to take part in its opening ceremony."

Elsewhere in his remarks he said: up to now, we have managed to put an end to burning of 11.5 million cubic meters of associated gases per day while the installed facilities are ready to increase the

figure by another 4.5 million cubic meters per day.

According to him, the Changuleh oil field development plan is ready for signing the contract and implementation by domestic investors and contractors.

With regard to the development of the second phase of the Yadavaran shared oil field, we decided not to wait for foreign companies and will start executive operations for its development next week, the Minister of Petroleum concluded.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is estimated to contain a

significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

Russia says trade exchanges with Iran increased by 48% in Q1 2024

TEHRAN - Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexander Novak has said that the volume of trade between Russia and Iran increased by 48 percent in the first three months of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

According to the results of the first quarter of 2024, Russia's exports to Iran have increased by 77 percent and the country's imports from Iran have increased by 13 percent, Novak said in his meeting with Iranian Petroleum Minister Javad Oji.

He also referred to the launch of direct flights between Grozny and Tehran on June 10, 2024, which will be carried out by Iran's Mahan Air.

I am confident that it will increase the flow of tourists between Iran and the North Caucasus regions, he stressed.

The value of Iran's exports to Russia rose 26 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), as compared to the preceding year.

Some 2.185 million tons of products worth \$946 million were exported to Russia in the previous Iranian year, while a year earlier the

Islamic Republic had exported only 1.436 million tons of goods valued at \$751 million to the country.

According to official data, Iran's exports to Russia also increased by 56 percent in terms of weight during the previous year.

Agricultural products, petrochemicals, and oil-based products were the top exported products to Russia in the mentioned year.

The imports also grew by nine percent in terms of value and 27 percent in terms of weight.

In line with the two countries' determination to increase the level of trade exchanges, during a video conference meeting between the deputy transport ministers of Iran and Russia on November 28, 2023, the two sides discussed ways of increasing annual transit through Iran to 10 million tons.

In this virtual meeting, the two sides discussed transportation cooperation between the two countries in all areas including rail, road, and sea.

The two sides have been taking serious steps to boost their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, late President Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic exchanges between the two countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21, upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

As major players in the world and West Asia's political and economic scene, Iran and Russia have been expanding political and economic ties for many years, however, the relations between the two countries have entered a whole new level over the past few months.

The imposition of sanctions on both countries has been a major factor in bringing the two sides closer together, making them a strong alliance against U.S. pressures. Over the past few months, senior officials from the two sides have been meeting and visiting each other to consolidate bilateral cooperation in various fields, including energy, oil, gas, and transit, as well as diplomatic and political relations.

WORLD HEADLINES

Saudi Arabia demonizing pro-Palestine Hajj pilgrims

Hamas: Hajj redolent of Palestinian struggle against Israel

From page 1 ▶ Last week, Saudi Arabia's minister in charge of religious pilgrimages, also warned against any pro-Palestine activities during the Hajj.

"Hajj is for worship and not for any political slogans, and this is what the leadership of the kingdom want to ensure - that Hajj contains the highest manifestations of humility, tranquility and spirituality," Tawfiq al-Rabiah said.

Saudi Arabia has presented itself as a champion of the Palestinian cause. But such positions have often contradicted this claim and brought the Kingdom's hypocrisy to light.

Hamas Hajj message

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas attached significance to this year's Hajj rituals as Israel presses ahead with its war on Gaza which has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians since October 7. The war erupted after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

The spokesperson for the Izzadin al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas's armed wing, asked Hajj pilgrims to pray for



the Gaza Strip and the people of Palestine.

Abu Obeida defended Hamas' October 7 military operation, stressing that the Hajj is an opportunity that can shed light on Israeli plots against Palestinians.

"The Al-Aqsa Flood' started for the third holiest site in Islam, and the rituals of Hajj are an opportunity to remind the two-billion-strong Muslim nation of the reality of our struggle with our enemy, who is violating the site of the Messenger of God and perpetrates corruption and Judaization in it every day," he added.

Overt political action

Saudi Arabia however, has tried to silence those who want to be the voice of defenseless Palestinians in Gaza.

Saudi Arabia was considering establishing formal diplomatic ties with Israel before October 7. But it had to suspend its normalization efforts due to global outcry over Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

For now, the Kingdom has pulled the plug on pro-Palestine activities during Hajj to appease Israel.

According to US media, Saudi Ara-

bia was among five Arab countries whose senior military officials held talks with top Israeli and US military figures in Bahrain on Monday.

Such moves show that despite Israel's massacre of Palestinian civilians, Saudi Arabia still seeks to establish ties with the regime.

Saudi Arabia contradicting Prophet Muhammad

Irrespective of the politically-motivated restrictions that Saudi Arabia has imposed on pro-Palestine pilgrims, this act flatly contradicts the teachings of Prophet Muhammad.

The prophet of Islam delivered his final speech, known as the Farewell Sermon, at Mount Arafat. It is a sacred hill in Saudi Arabia where Muslims from around the world congregate on the second day of Hajj rituals for intense, daylong worship and reflection.

Prophet Muhammad called for equality and unity among Muslims in that sermon.

Presently, Saudi Arabia is not only complicit in the Israeli genocide in Gaza but has also turned a blind eye to the call made by Islam's prophet.

Madrid march: Protesters call for ending Gaza war



Protesters in Spain have taken to the streets to express solidarity with Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip as Israel continues its brutal onslaught on the besieged territory.

The demonstrators carried the Palestinian flag and called for an end to Israel's war on Gaza.

Some protesters lay on the ground to symbolize Palestinians who have been slaughtered at the hands of Israeli forces.

Lebanon's Hezbollah targets Israeli military positions

Hezbollah has carried out a fresh round of strikes against Israeli military positions in the north in response to the recent Israeli assassination of a top commander in southern Lebanon.

Sami Abdallah was assassinated along with three other people in the Israeli strikes that targeted a residential building in the southern Lebanese town of Jwaya on Tuesday, according to Press TV.

Hezbollah said in separate statements on Saturday that its forces had targeted "with guided missiles" Israel's spying equipment and radar systems on Mount Meron as well as a gathering of the occupying regime's soldiers in support of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip and in response to the killing of Abdallah.

Hezbollah said it also "targeted a position of Israeli enemy soldiers at the Hadab Yaroun site with a guided missile, achieving a direct hit and causing those among them to be killed and wounded."

Islamic Jihad: Captive deal can only happen after Israel's withdrawal

The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, al-Quds Brigades, said the only way to return the remaining captives held in Gaza is through Israel's withdrawal from the territory, according to Al Jazeera.

According to Israeli tallies, there are 116 captives left in Gaza out of 250 taken during the surprise military operation carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7. More

British far-right, pro-Israeli activists fighting Palestinian movement together

Hundreds of far-right British nationalists and Israel supporters gathered outside the entrance of a small arthouse cinema in North London on 23 May.

Brandishing Union Jacks and Israeli military flags, they swarmed around a group of some 80 pro-Palestine activists who were staging a vigil on the far side of the road, Middle East Eye reported.

The vigil was part of a campaign to protest against the cinema's hosting of a private screening of a documentary about the Hamas attacks on southern Israel on October

than 100 were released in exchange for about 240 Palestinians held in Israeli jails during a truce in November.

At least 40 of those still in Gaza have been declared dead in absentia by Israel. Many of them have lost their lives during Israeli strikes on Gaza.

UNICEF: 10,000 children denied access to aid

UNICEF spokesman James Elder has described how difficult it has been to not only get aid into Gaza, but also to distribute it across the besieged enclave.

"More aid workers have been killed in this war than any war since the advent of the UN," he told Al Jazeera.

Elder added that on Wednesday, UNICEF had a mission to drive a truck full of nutritional and medical supplies for 10,000 children. Their task was to deliver the aid, which was preapproved by Israeli authorities, from Deir el-Balah to Gaza City, a 40km (25 miles) round trip.

"It took 13 hours and we spent eight of those around checkpoints, arguing around paperwork - was it a truck or a van," he said. "The reality is, this truck was denied access. Those 10,000 children did not get that aid."

"Israel as the occupying power has the legal responsibility to facilitate that aid."

Kremlin criticizes Western reaction to Russia's peace plan

The Kremlin said the West has reacted unconstructively to Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposals for a new security architecture and peace talks with Ukraine.

"There is a lot of it, a huge amount of it - official reaction, official statements. Of an unconstructive nature," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Putin promised Friday to "immediately" order a ceasefire in Ukraine and begin negotiations if Kyiv started withdrawing troops from the four regions annexed by Moscow in 2022 and renounced plans to join NATO. Ukraine responded by calling Putin's proposal "manipulative" and "absurd."

Erdogan: Biden ceasefire plan test of sincerity

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that U.S. President Joe Biden is undergoing "a test of sincerity" in his handling of the Gaza war.

In an interview with reporters on his way back from the G7 Summit in Italy, Erdogan said Biden is expected to demonstrate that the Gaza ceasefire plan is not a calculated electoral tactic but a sincere effort to end the war.

The vigil organizers had braced themselves for a backlash. The week before, another demonstration outside the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead had drawn a much smaller crowd of counter-protesters.

But the numbers outside the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley had ballooned to close to 1,000, anti-fascist investigation group Red Flare estimated.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Hamas fires rocket barrage at Israeli base

Israeli media reports 8 soldiers killed in Gaza

From page 1 ▶ The Israeli military has been pounding Zeitoun by air and ground forces. It has invaded the area a number of times since the start of the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip more than eight months ago.

The al-Qassem resistance fighters also targeted an Israeli Merkava tank with a Yasin 105 shell in a neighborhood of Tel al-Sultan, west of Rafah city in southern Gaza.

Also in Rafah, the al-Qassem brigades targeted occupation forces stationed in the south and southwest of the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood with mortar shells.

Hebrew news media sources have reported that an anti-tank guided missile was fired at an Israeli Namer vehicle, a heavily protected armored personnel carrier, in southern Gaza.

According to Israeli reports, the attack triggered an immediate explosion and set the military vehicle ablaze, which resulted in the death of eight Israeli soldiers.

Israeli authorities have imposed strict media censorship on the war against Gaza and Israeli army casualties.

The Israeli military has admitted that 650 officers and soldiers have been killed since October 7 last year.

However, experts believe the true figure is much higher.

Last week, Israel's Channel 12, citing hospital data, revealed 20,000 troops have been injured in Gaza since October 7, and that 8,298 have been classified as disabled.

Israeli opposition leaders have exchanged

stinging accusations against each other over the war on Gaza with rising criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his closest cabinet ministers over the failure of the war now reaching its ninth month. Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid denounced Netanyahu for putting his political survival and attempts to avoid a prison sentence over a failed military operation in Gaza and Israeli captives held in the enclave.

As the genocidal war on Gaza drags on, the Israeli occupation has also incurred other huge losses including global isolation and damage to its economy.

On May 30, the head of the Israeli central bank, Amir Yaron, said the cost of the ongoing war in Gaza will amount to approximately \$67.5 billion of the Israeli budget for 2025, describing the costs as «a heavy burden».

missiles, which has exhausted the crew providing protection for the Zionist sites along the border, in addition to the command sites that have been widely exposed to the resistance movement's missiles and drones.

If the enemy carries out this limited operation, and given the blessed efforts of Martyr Qassem Soleimani in supplying Hezbollah with modern anti-armor systems that can turn Merkava tanks into pieces of scrap (as happened in July 2006), the noses of Israel's elites will be buried in the dirt.

An alternative option may be more costly and foolish, which is to launch a wide campaign similar to what is happening now in Gaza, targeting commercial, industrial and health facilities, infrastructure, and sovereign and governmental institutions, on all Lebanese territory in a bid to push some Lebanese forces (that receive their financial budgets and executive decisions from some Western and Arab embassies) against Hezbollah.

In this case, the Zionist colonial settlements will not be immune from Hezbollah's missiles and drones, and the aggression against Lebanon may turn into a regional war against the occupation regime from all sides, which is something that the American officials are warning of, saying that any large-scale military operation against Hezbollah would inflame the entire region; "Israel" would face an unprecedented amount of Hezbollah's drones. It will also push tens of thousands of illegitimate colonial settlers to leave the occupied Palestinian territories in search of safe havens in the West. In addition, capital and major companies, which are the mainstay of the Zionist economy, will leave. This will lead to the collapse of the occupation economy, despite all the support provided by the United States and its Western incubators.

A war like this could accelerate Hezbollah's implementation of its declared plans to take over the Galilee, which will cause the enemy army to lose one of its most important advanced areas that hosts a large number of Zionist military and spy bases.

Despite their many internal differences, the Lebanese as a whole remain loyal to their pledge to support Hezbollah and the Palestinian cause until a decisive victory is achieved, Insha'Allah.

Washington fears repercussions of war on Lebanon

Hezbollah is severely draining "Israel"

From page 1 ▶ It is noteworthy to mention that the head of the so-called Israeli National Security Council, Tzachi Hanegbi, and the Minister of Strategic Affairs, Ron Dermer, are heading to Washington to hold "important meetings."

According to analysts, the US administration has made clear to the mediators that it is relentlessly trying not to embarrass Netanyahu because it realizes that stopping the war now, without obtaining long-term gains in terms of who runs Gaza and the fate of the resistance, means a strategic loss for the Zionist entity.

Meanwhile, the enemy is approaching the moment of announcing the end of its aggression in Rafah, but it is looking for a scenario that will help it claim "victory," which is a serious challenge for Netanyahu. Therefore, it is expected that the next days will witness a series of pressures on the Palestinian resistance to force it to submit, which is difficult to achieve after 9 about months of steadfastness, which means more bloodshed, siege, and starvation.

This failure requires reactivating military alliances with the Persian Gulf monarchs to besiege Ansarullah in Yemen in a bid to secure the American and Israeli interests in both the Red and Arab seas. This is confirmed by the meeting of military leaders in Bahrain.

The region indeed is at a turning point. The Axis of Resistance is also prepared for what the enemies would do. In parallel, the American side will once again promote that Lebanon's fate will be exactly like Gaza's if Hezbollah does not stop its heroic operations against the occupation forces.

Despite the constructive rhetoric of ambiguity pursued by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, His Eminence, has emphasized since the onset of the genocidal war on the Gaza Strip that the Lebanon front would not allow the victory of "Israel" and the defeat of the Palestinian resistance. That speech and what has followed reveal a high-level of military flexibility that maintains Hezbollah's combat system according to what is required and the goals to be achieved. It is in addition to tactical planning, which is the art of leading the battle accurately that depends on diverse combat methods. As per military science, it is not logical to adhere to a specific set of plans during battle.

Hezbollah's tactics are developed based on the pace of the battle, given the importance of confusing the enemy and leaving it in a state of anticipation and fear. This strategy has led to an increase in the rate of losses in the enemy's military capabilities (surveillance and spy devices, Iron Dome batteries), as well as human losses (officers and soldiers).

Hezbollah has further succeeded in shooting down more of the enemy's most efficient drones, such as the Hermes 900, which is used to launch attacks and carry out assassinations. Given the high cost of these drones, the costs of war will go up to unprecedented levels.

In an unprecedented move, Hezbollah has targeted sensitive Israeli sites that revealed the enemy's vulnerability despite its possession of a multi-level air defense system, one of the best in the world. Among these sites: Ramat David Air Base, which contains a military airport.

This pattern in Hezbollah's operations has sparked a massive campaign of criticism from retired Zionist generals and colonial settlers in the occupied Palestinian territories against Netanyahu and his war cabinet, who have threatened Hezbollah of a massive military operation inside the Lebanese territory that would "return Hezbollah's Al Radwan Elite Forces behind the Litani River."

These threats have been met with ridicule by Zionist media, considering it "an uncalculated adventure that will cost huge losses, which may lead to the collapse of Israel's economy, especially if Hezbollah targets technological industries that generate billions of dollars annually."

Moreover, various Zionist military experts have warned that Netanyahu's accumulated failure and paranoia will push him to embark on a risky adventure against Lebanon, through which he will try to compensate for his immense failures in Gaza. That will inevitably lead to the collapse of all remaining deterrent power of the occupation regime.

One of the enemy's options may be to launch a limited ground operation on the villages located near the Lebanese-Palestinian villages, which have been subjected since October 2023 to intense bombardment in a bid to obstruct Hezbollah's

Tunisia lifts visa requirement for Iranian nationals

TEHRAN – Tunisia has implemented visa-free entry for Iranian travelers, turning a new page in bilateral tourism relations.

The Tunisian foreign ministry, on Friday, announced in a statement that the country had waived the entry visa for holders of ordinary Iranian passports for tourism not exceeding 15 days (and once every 180 days), provided that they show a prior and confirmed hotel reservation with a return ticket, as of June 15.

The statement also proclaimed a visa exemption for holders of ordinary Iraqi passports for tourism purposes.

The decision comes after measures adopted earlier by Iran in terms of the visa-waiver program.

Last year, Iran set the stage for the unilateral abolition of visa requirements for citizens of 32 countries, which took effect on February 4. The scheme was part of an initiative aimed at promoting tourism and easing travel restrictions for visitors from selected nations, according to Alireza Bigdeli, the deputy foreign minister for Consular, Parliamentary, and Iranian Expatriates Affairs.



The visa-waiver program was approved for India, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Indonesia, Brunei, Japan, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Belarus, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

Besides, the Islamic Republic has previously had visited cancellations with some countries like Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Oman, China, Armenia, Lebanon, and Syria, in various forms - unilateral, bilateral, and group visa cancellations, including airport visas, which were implemented in some cases.

Zanjan sparkles with 16,000 craftspeople

TEHRAN – Available data suggests more than 16,000 artisans have been registered as craftspeople in Zanjan province, a local official said.

In the past three years, 4,000 handicraft licenses have been issued or renewed within the province, Seyyed-Saeid Safavi added.

The official further elaborated that Zanjan's artisans work across 55 different handicraft disciplines, with a significant focus on metal crafts.

The province is renowned for its production of copperware, knives, filigree, traditional footwear, kilims, jajims, and engraving, according to the director-general.

Shedding light on the ongoing challenges within the crafts' industry provincially, the official pointed to marketing and sales.

"Efforts are underway to boost domestic marketing through various exhibitions across different provinces," he further stated. "On the export front, discussions and initiatives by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and handicrafts have made significant progress."

Safavi also noted that last year, Zanjan successfully met its employment commitment in the handicrafts sector, creating hundreds of jobs.

Emphasizing the importance of proper

packaging in his concluding remarks, the director-general stated that appropriate packaging could enhance the value of products and increase their recognition among consumers.

Known for its skilled artisans and distinctive crafts, Zanjan is a cultural hub where ancient techniques are preserved and passed down through generations. The province is particularly renowned for its metalwork, including exquisite copperware and finely crafted knives, which reflect the meticulous craftsmanship and artistic heritage of the region.

In addition to metal crafts, Zanjan is famous for its intricate filigree work, a delicate art form that involves creating intricate patterns with fine threads of metal. Engraving and intricate designs are common features in many of these handicrafts, further highlighting the province's reputation for detailed and high-quality craftsmanship.

The handicrafts industry in Zanjan not only supports the local economy but also preserves cultural traditions and provides employment for thousands of people.

Overall, Zanjan's handicrafts embody the artistic spirit and cultural identity of the region, making it a significant center for traditional arts in Iran.

Iran selected to host UNESCO session in 2025

TEHRAN – Iran has been chosen to host a UNESCO session on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in 2025.

The decision was made during the tenth session of the General Assembly of the 2003 Convention, which took place from June 11 to 12 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

According to Mehr news agency, the assembly recognized the successful efforts of the Tehran Intangible Heritage Center in addressing climate change impacts and capacity building in the region.

Consequently, the Islamic Republic was chosen as the center for intangible cultural heritage studies for West and Central Asia and will host the 2025 meeting.

The decision to appoint Iran as the host was approved by the Secretariat of the 2003 Convention which includes centers from Europe, Asia-Pacific, Southern Africa, Latin America, and the Persian Gulf region.

UNESCO wishes to protect intangible cultural heritage, or 'safeguard' it. To protect, or secure, means: to give a future to intangible cultural heritage, to find a form that also appeals to future generations, and to take away the bottlenecks that block the way to the future of this ICH.

Intangible cultural heritage is always dynamic and under development. Protection,

therefore, does not mean: keeping it as it used to be in the past. UNESCO does not want to turn ICH into museum pieces.

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage came into force in 2006, framing the international and national practices and policies associated with intangible cultural heritage. This volume critically and reflexively examines these practices and policies, providing an accessible account of the different ways in which intangible cultural heritage has been defined and managed in both national and international contexts.

As Safeguarding Intangible Heritage reveals, the concept and practices of safeguarding are complicated and often contested, and there is a need for international debate about the meaning, nature, and value of heritage and what it means to 'safeguard' it.

According to the UN cultural body, Safeguarding Intangible Heritage presents a significant cross-section of ideas and practices from some of the key academics and practitioners working in the area, whose areas of expertise span anthropology, law, heritage studies, linguistics, archeology, museum studies, folklore, architecture, Indigenous studies, and history.

Laleh Park: Tehran's blend of nature, culture, and recreation

TEHRAN – Nestled in Tehran's Amirabad neighborhood, Laleh Park offers something for everyone, from recreational activities to cultural experiences, making it a must-visit destination in Tehran.

As mentioned by Visit Iran, Laleh Park's design was inspired by New York's Central Park, situated in Manhattan's bustling Business District. Similarly, Laleh Park's north side is adjacent to the towering Laleh Hotel (formerly the Continental Hotel) and the shopping centers and towers of Kargar Street.

In the northwest section, near the Carpet Museum, visitors can explore a vibrant handicrafts market. Close by is the renowned Tehran Museum of Contemporary Arts, whose architecture is inspired by the windcatchers of Iran's desert regions.

The museum houses one of the world's most impressive collections of modern paintings.



The park is home to the first specialized library for children in Tehran and hosts the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults on its east side, which includes a center for puppet theater performances.

In contrast to the dense trees on the northern side, the southern areas of the park feature a Japanese-style garden with

winding waterways, bridges, ponds, and an island, creating a serene and picturesque setting.

Two main pathways extend from the north side throughout the park, offering ideal routes for walking, running, playing, and exercising. One of the park's highlights is the row of cedar trees planted in the east. The area also includes a skate rink, adding to its recreational appeal.

Laleh Park is lively and energetic in the mornings and evenings, making it an inviting spot to experience both the sporty areas and the lush nature of the north and east.

Access to the park is convenient, with short walks from Fatemi Street, Keshavarz Boulevard, Valiasr Square, or Hejab Street. Visitors can also reach Laleh Park by exiting the subway at Enghelab Square station on line 4 and taking a taxi or walking ten minutes north on Kargar Street.

Additionally, buses from Azadi Square to Haft-e Tir and Valiasr Square stop at Keshavarz Boulevard on the south side of the park.

With multiple entrances from all sides, this full-time park offers easy access for visitors, making it a convenient and welcoming destination.

Over 50,000 Russian tourists expected to visit Iran by yearend

TEHRAN – The number of Russian tourists visiting Iran is projected to surpass 50,000 in 2024, according to an Iranian official.

"Last year, about 50,000 Russian tourists traveled to Iran and that figure is expected to reach a new high this year," said Moslem Shojaei, who presides over the Office for Foreign Tourism Marketing and Development at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Shojaei made the remarks in an address to an international tourism conference held in Moscow, IRNA reported on Friday.

The official noted that over 60,000 Iranian tourists visited Russia last year, indicating that

both countries have the potential to increase these numbers significantly.

Moreover, he highlighted a newly implemented visa waiver agreement for group travel between Iran and Russia, which allows groups of 5 to 50 citizens from either country to stay for up to 15 days without a visa.

"Russia and Iran both boast rich cultural, historical, and natural attractions, creating excellent conditions for mutual tourism exchange," Shojaei said.

He emphasized the importance of taking joint steps to share experiences between the two countries, which will help boost tourism flows.

Earlier in May, Tehran's ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, extended an invitation to Russian firms to invest in Iran's tourism infrastructure.

Highlighting tourism as a significant potential area for collaboration, Jalali emphasized the opportunities for Russian firms to invest in developing Iran's tourism infrastructure and building hotels.

Last year, Tehran and Moscow introduced a visa-free exchange program, allowing tour group travelers to visit without the hassle of obtaining a visa. Available data suggests that initially, the visa-simplification scheme sparked significantly more in-



terest among Iranian tourists compared to their Russian counterparts.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 27 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Iranshahr to hold needlework festival

TEHRAN – Iranshahr, previously recognized as the national city of needlework, is set to host a festival celebrating this intricate art form.

The event will showcase a wide array of needlework pieces and honor the veterans of this craft. Visitors can look forward to a vibrant display of traditional and contemporary needlework, highlighting the skill and creativity of artisans from across the region.

A local official said the festival, taking place on June 22, is planned in collaboration with indigenous organizations and exhibitors featuring various joyful and entertaining programs.

Sistan-Baluchestan, a province in southeastern Iran, is renowned for its intricate and vibrant needlework, a craft that has been passed down through generations. This tra-

ditional art form, known as "Souzan-douzi" in Persian, involves detailed embroidery techniques that reflect the rich cultural heritage of the region.

The needlework often features geometric patterns, floral motifs, and bright, contrasting colors, which are meticulously hand-stitched onto fabrics used for clothing, accessories, and home decor.

The craft holds significant cultural and economic importance in Sistan-Baluchestan.

It is predominantly practiced by women, who learn the skills from their mothers and grandmothers. This practice not only preserves the cultural identity of the Baluchi people but also provides a source of income for many families in the region.

The intricate designs and high-quality



craftsmanship have gained national and international recognition, making Sistan-Baluchestan needlework a symbol of Iranian cultural heritage.

Efforts to preserve and promote this traditional art include festivals, workshops, and exhibitions, which aim to bring attention to the artisans' skills and encourage the younger generation to continue the practice.

'Incredibly fascinating' Roman, Iron Age and Bronze Age settlements unearthed in UK dig

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of Roman, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements in Essex, southern England, in findings described as "incredibly fascinating."

The settlements, discovered during excavations before a planned water pipeline was laid, provide a "real picture into what ordinary people's lives were like," Benjamin Sleep, a senior archaeology and heritage consultant at Stantec – the company employed to oversee the archaeological element of the scheme – told CNN Tuesday.

Evidence suggests that there was Late Bronze Age activity in the area, dating back roughly 3,000 years, Sleep said.

It was already widely known that the Romans had settled in Essex, but excavating an area as part of a pipeline project offered the opportunity to investigate a huge swathe of the

countryside, rather than the more common archaeological sites in or around towns and cities, he added.

The largest settlement found was a farmstead with surrounding buildings that archaeologists believe housed livestock and provided space for metalworking or pottery making, Sleep said.

And the artifacts they uncovered show "that the Romans didn't come in and wipe everything out and then set up their own settlements," he said.

"It's very much they're integrating with communities."

There was a continuation of certain pottery types, he added, explaining that objects made from locally sourced material continued to be used alongside imported Samian pottery from northern France.

"It's sort of like you'd have

your fine china, then you'd have your everyday pottery," he said. "These things tend to melt into one another in the archaeological records, which shows there's continuity there."

This pottery from northern France, or Gaul as it was known in Roman times, also highlights the level of international trade present at the time, even in the countryside and not just in port cities, he added.

Archaeologists excavated 14 areas across the 19.5-kilometer (12.1-mile) pipeline.

"Not all of those 14 areas turned up absolutely amazing archaeology... the reason they were chosen was because they showed something was going on," Sleep said. "And then in a couple of these locations we found really interesting stuff."

The excavation then took place over seven months, with four months of trial trenching

from April to September 2023 – where archaeologists investigate the potential of the site – before three months of further excavations, Daniel Wilson, a project manager at the Essex and Suffolk Water Company, told CNN.

"We were all quite excited by the fact that the team had found these finds," he said.

"It gives us the opportunity to engage with local communities on another level and embellish their local history... We already knew of Roman activity in the area... but this adds to it and confirms it."

Now, the pottery, objects and coins that archaeologists unearthed will go to the local museum, while all the features uncovered have been recorded, photographed and mapped so they will be available to use by future researchers, Sleep said.

(Source: CNN)

IRCS, ICRC enhance ties to promote rehabilitation services

TEHRAN –The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have discussed ways to enhance rehabilitation services for vulnerable and disabled individuals in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchestan.

During a meeting on Thursday, Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, and Vincent Cassard, representatives of the ICRC in Iran, visited the rehabilitation center in Zahedan, the IRCS website reported.

Visiting the center, Alishvandi reviewed the joint rehabilitation project which in collaboration with the ICRC aims at providing physical rehabilitation services to migrants in need as well as vulnerable citizens in the cities of Zahedan, Iranshahr, Chabahar, and Zabol in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Based on the agreement, physical rehabilitation services have been provided in Sistan-Baluchestan province since the Iranian year 1398 (2018-2019).

“Currently, the Iranian Red Crescent Society operates rehabilitation centers in all 31 provinces; they offer a wide range of services to individuals with physical disabilities as part of its program,” Alishvandi stated.

The ICRC funds physical rehabilitation programs for vulnerable and disabled individuals, both Iranians and Afghans in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

The support covers the costs of various services and supportive devices such as prostheses, orthotics, physiotherapy, special shoes, wheelchairs, canes, and walking aids.

The logistics department of ICRC purchases needed items either from Sistan-Baluchestan (in case available) or Tehran provinces.



Ongoing training sessions and on-the-job support are provided during field visits to orthotists and prosthetists throughout the manufacturing process.

Moreover, the ICRC allocates a budget to cover the costs of the project, including human resources, building rent, and equipment required for conducting screening assessments.

In 2022, the Physical Demand Analysis (PDA) Institute, encompassing social workers and physiotherapists, evaluated the needs in three remote areas of Sistan-Baluchistan province namely Zabol, Iranshahr, and Chabahar.

Out of 490 potential service users initially identified, some 300 met the inclusion criteria.

Then the FDA team set up relief clinics in Zabol and Iranshahr to provide services to the identified disabled people. Chabahar clinic also started operating in 2024.

Supporting Afghan refugees

The IRCS and the ICRC in Iran are conducting joint programs to address the challenges facing Afghan refugees and vulnerable Iranians residing in Golshahr district in Mashhad, northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

“The initiative to provide primary health and rehabilitation

services to Afghan immigrants and residents of Golshahr district is part of the joint program,” IRNA quoted Alishvandi as saying in May.

Based on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was signed in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (2013 –2014), IRCS and ICRC agreed to support the rehabilitated refugees.

The program aims to provide basic health, mental health, educational, and social services. It also focuses on providing preventive and social assistance and reducing social harm to the target population, she added.

Physically disabled people will benefit from rehabilitation services and mobility aids including orthotics and prostheses, wheelchairs, walkers, and sticks, Alishvandi noted.

They will also enjoy relevant physical therapy services such as physiotherapy or occupational therapy based on the committee's definitions.

The service recipients will be identified by the Society for Recovery and Support to be approved by the representative of the ICRC and then referred to the IRCS to receive these services.

The project is being implement-

ed in four provinces on the eastern border of the country after the arrival of Afghan immigrants who left their countries because of the new governance in Afghanistan.

Funded by ICRC, the necessary preparations have been made to equip the IRCS rehabilitation centers in Mashhad which offer services to a large number of residents and Afghan nationals.

Health services to vulnerable immigrants

In December 2023, Alishvandi and Cassard paid a visit to the Golshahr project site, the IRCS website reported.

The project focused on the provision of health services to pregnant women, and people who are suffering from diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, mental health disorders, and physical disorders, Alishvandi said.

“The Society for Recovery and Support provides an opportunity for Afghan women who need psychological support to share and solve their problems.”

Launching home businesses and vocational training centers, empowering for creating jobs, earning money, educating, and raising children were among the other programs of the IRCS in this regard.

It is worth noting that the IRCS health project is carried out by physicians, nurses, social workers, and dietitians. The health project includes medical consultations, physical rehabilitation, referrals to laboratories and radiology centers, dental centers, and specialists.

It also provides support for purchasing medication, receiving psychological and psychiatric consultations, nutrition, and holding health awareness-raising sessions with the help of nurses and dietitians.

Men's health week being held

TEHRAN – The national men's health week is being held from June 13 to 19 with the theme of ‘healthy men, strong and young Iran.’

Men's health week is an annual observance that aims to raise awareness about the health challenges faced by men and promote strategies for better physical and mental well-being.

The week aims to raise awareness of men's health and to encourage all men to seek help to address any health concerns that they may be experiencing.

The days of the week are named as follows.

Thursday, June 13, ‘Prevention and timely detection of infertility in men.’

Friday, June 14, ‘Health literacy, childbearing, and men's health.’

Saturday, June 15, ‘Persian medicine and men's health.’

Sunday, June 16, ‘Occupational situations,

and fertility health in Men.’

Monday, June 17, ‘Prevalent cancers in men; Stomach, prostate, bladder.’

Tuesday, June 18, ‘Backache, and work-related diseases in men.’

Wednesday, June 19, ‘Road accidents, disability, and men's death.’

The international men's health week was created in 1994 to heighten awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

Provided medical services

The Law on Family and Youth Support and the contribution of incentives for childbearing is part of the program conducted under the supervision of the administration of the late president.

It resulted in offering free infertility treat-

ment to couples to benefit from numerous services.

There are about 400 hard-to-treat diseases. Currently, the number of diseases covered by insurance has reached 107.

The frequency of these 107 diseases is higher than other diseases.

According to the authorities, the chance to come down with the rest of the diseases is so low that there are less than 100 cases of individuals suffering from them.

Family Health Program and Electronic Referral System is one of the most important priorities of the health ministry, which is designed and implemented in order to increase access to health services and strengthen the country's health network system.

According to the program, a health team comprised of two caregivers and a physician is responsible for 3,000 individuals.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزار می‌شود: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تأکید قرار گرفته است.

33 Iranian universities in THE Impact Ranking 2024

TEHRAN –Times Higher Education (THE) has included 33 universities from Iran among the top 1,500 universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDG) compared to 27 universities in 2023.

THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.

A total of 29 Iranian universities are mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401- 600); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Tehran (ranking 601 –800); Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, University of Kurdistan, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences (ranking 801-1000), Mehr news agency reported.

These leading universities are recognized for their overarching impact across several dimensions of sustainable development, making significant contributions to creating a sustainable and resilient future.

Their broad-based excellence underscores the importance of holistic approaches to global challenges and highlights the critical role of academia in driving sustainable change.

The methodology for the Overall Impact Rankings integrates scores across multiple SDGs to reflect overall performance and impact.

The SDGs indexes include no poverty; zero hunger; Good health and well-being; quality education; gender quality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology achieved the highest ranking in industry innovation and infrastructure, where they are placed 27.

Australia's Western Sydney University tops the list for the third consecutive year. The UK's University of Manchester and Australia's University of Tasmania follow in joint second place.

The top newcomer in 2024 is France's Institut Agro at joint 21st.

India is the most-represented country in the overall table, with 96 institutions.

Recent rankings

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

This year's ranking featured over 1,500 institutions across 105 higher education systems.

Sharif University of Technology (with a rank of 342), University of Tehran (368), Amirkabir University of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) were ranked first to fifth, respectively.

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951- 1000) were other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

A total of 29 Islamic countries with 270 universities were included in this ranking.

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey ranked first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities. Iran ranked 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR) 2024 placed 197 Iranian universities among the top institutions in the world compared to 194 universities in 2023.

The SIR is a classification of academic and research-related institutions ranked by a composite indicator that combines three different sets of indicators based on research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact measured by their web visibility.

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) were among the top 10 institutions in West Asia. They ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

The Research rankings of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran were 175 and 290, respectively, in the world.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranking improved from 486, in 2023, to 452 in 2024 marking it the top university in Iran.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences held first position in Medicine, 2nd in Dentistry, 5th in pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics in West Asia. It was also ranked 34th in Dentistry globally.

The University of Tehran was ranked 2nd in the country and 827th worldwide.

The University of Tehran was placed 1st in Business, Management, and Accounting (38th in the world), 3rd in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, and 4th in Engineering in West Asia.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences; Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences; were placed third to fifth in the country respectively.

These institutions' rankings in West Asia were as follows.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranked 3rd in Medicine, and 6th in Dentistry.

Mashhad University of Medical Sciences ranked 4th in pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics.

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences ranked 2nd in pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics (47th worldwide), and 5th in Energy.

The 14th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2024 included 17 Iranian universities in 17 subject entries, compared with 16 universities in 2023.

University of Tehran (346), Sharif University of Technology (401- 450) in Engineering and Technology; Tehran University of Medical Sciences (358), Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (451- 500), University of Tehran (451- 500), and Shiraz university of medical sciences (501 – 550) in Life sciences and Medicine; and University of Tehran (401-450), and Sharif University of Technology (501-550) in Natural Science are the top universities.



Paddy fields in Golestan province

A woman holds rice seedlings in a paddy field in the northern province of Golestan, June 14, 2024.

Planting season begins in mid-spring when the weather gets warm in the region.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The worst co-religionist brother is he who brings trouble to others.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:05 Evening: 19:43 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

Artists add pro-Palestinian art to Walgreens installation to protest a Miami nonprofit

A Miami arts nonprofit set off a controversy last month when it removed pro-Palestinian artwork from a Walgreens window display in Miami Beach.

The decision came after a complaint alleged that it was hate speech, and the removal left a blank space on the wall.

Weeks later, several South Florida artists have filled the space in protest with more pro-Palestinian artwork, Miami Herald reported.

In one painting, the phrase "Liberation then! Liberation now!" wraps around a watermelon, a symbol of Palestinian solidarity.

There are photographed portraits of people wearing keffiyehs.

A framed red poster reads "divest from death." White letters written across the window glass read, "Killing the flowers will not delay spring."

It's the latest in an ongoing saga that has embroiled Miami's tight-knit arts community since May 3 when nonprofit Oolite Arts removed a piece of art that referenced the controversial pro-Palestinian phrase "from the river to the sea," which is often criticized as anti-Semitic hate speech that calls for violence against Jews.

The art was in a Walgreens window display at 67th Street and Collins Avenue. Oolite and Walgreens have had a partnership to display artwork at two Miami Beach locations since 1999.

The removed artwork was part of an art installation called "How we live like water," by South Florida artist Vu Hoàng Khanh Nguyễn, who goes by Vu and uses they/them pronouns.

Vu shared the protest art on Instagram Friday morning, referring to it as a "week-long pop-up group exhibition featuring works that reflect themes of grief, resilience, and solidarity."

"It's just to keep the conversation going, keeping eyes on Palestine and the other ongoing genocides in the world," Vu told the Miami Herald. "It's kind of a time stamp and an act of defiance at the same time."

In a statement through a spokesman, Oolite said: "We were just made aware that something

had been placed in the window and we are reviewing."

The controversy surrounding Oolite and Vu's work reflects a larger global conversation surrounding the Israel-Hamas war.

Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and taking about 240 hostages. Israel responded by attacking Gaza with a stated goal of eliminating Hamas, killing more than 37,000 Palestinians.

Israel has been heavily scrutinized internationally for its military offensive in Gaza.

Founded in 1984 as ArtCenter/South Florida, Oolite Arts is well known in Miami's arts community.

The organization, which has a location on Lincoln Road in South Beach, provides free studio spaces, grants and exhibition opportunities.

Many of the artists critical of Oolite's recent decision have received grant funding, studio spaces and housing stipends from the organization before.

Vu, who participated in an Oolite residency program in the past, said a curator from Oolite reached out to them last August about creating a Walgreens installation.

Vu said Oolite approved a proposal for the exhibition, which largely focuses on themes of water and migration.

Vu and some friends installed the exhibition, including pottery, fishing nets and paintings, the week of March 20.

That's when Vu came up with the idea to include the artwork referencing "from the river to the sea," the artist said.

Born in Vietnam, Vu said they sympathize heavily with the plight of the Palestinian people, in part because their parents were refugees of the Vietnam War. Vu said their artwork was a call for peace, not violence.

"It's this transgenerational passage of trauma that is a repercussion of war, and then I'm witnessing it happen to people presently," Vu said. "I just decided it was the least I could do to use my voice with whatever platform I had."

RIBA International Awards for Excellence 2024 honors 2 Iranian architectural projects

TEHRAN-The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) International Awards for Excellence 2024 have been announced, with the 22 winners, with two Iranian projects among them.

The winners provide a worldwide showcase of exemplary architecture, and spanning from sustainably minded schools to secluded private homes and a sculptural subway station entrance, ISNA reported.

Together, the winners comprise standout architectural responses to contemporary social, cultural and environmental challenges – whether climate change, architectural reuse, or building for wellbeing and community – that represent a shift in the way buildings are conceived and constructed.

The Iranian winning projects include Jaldag Elementary School in Sistan-Baluchestan Province and Jihad Metro Plaza in Tehran.

Jaldag Elementary School is located in the village of Seyyedbar in the southeast of the country.

Like a game of architectural peekaboo, the playful rebuilding of a school in rural Iran – Jaldag Elementary School features a circular walled site with naturally ventilated classrooms around a central playground that also serves as a community space.

Insulated concrete formwork meets local earthquake legislation, while local earth clay creates a flood-protective finish and is easy to repair.

DAAZ Office designed and implemented the structure based on a request from villagers for building a school. The project started with an effort to change the villagers' intellectual and social layers, empower rural women, create public participation, and turn



Jaldag Elementary School in Sistan-Baluchestan Province (L) and Jihad Metro Plaza in Tehran

it into leverage for building a school.

At present, apart from the educational function, this school has other functions such as a children's play area on holidays and nights, a gathering place for villagers and their families, a place to watch movies and football in groups, a library, and a tourist residence.

The school is managed and maintained by a team of villagers and teachers, and part of the income from the tourism and needlework sections is spent on its maintenance. In this way, the school is built with the participation of the villagers and is perpetually maintained.

KA Architecture Studio has redeveloped the Jihad Metro Plaza. The project was a successful attempt to redefine subway entrances in the central part of the capital city.

The rebuilding of a subway station entrance, Jihad Metro Plaza creates a local landmark and a social public space. Mesh arches clad in 300,000 handmade bricks made from local soil are sculptural, welcoming and low-budget.

The architects wanted to define these entrances as a free and definable platform by users

for urban events and the re-creation of unusable points for citizens in line with the general plan of transforming Tehran into a pedestrian-oriented city. They have created a new democratic open space around the station that is sheltered by a cluster of barrel-vaulted forms.

"We tried to allocate most of the cost of the project, instead of using industrial materials, to local methods in this part of the city.

This decision activates these semi-active workshops around the city of Tehran, where the tradition of making bricks by hand has not been lost," said KA Architecture Studio. "The main materials we used in this project were 300,000 handmade bricks that were produced by eight workshops around Tehran."

"This project creates generous public spaces using handmade bricks made from locally sourced materials by local craftspeople.

Beautifully crafted, the building makes good use of natural light and ventilation to create a welcoming civic space in what would commonly be a much colder and more utilitarian structure," judges commented about their selection.

Located on a busy traffic intersection near central Tehran, the new entrance for the Meydan-e-Jihad metro station forms part of a wider initiative to make the city more pedestrian-oriented after decades of car-focused development. To the northeast, the corner of the site has been finished with stone paving and low brick benches incorporating planting, creating a flexible space that can be used by performers, street sellers and the public.

The RIBA International Awards are architecture's highest global accolades, celebrating buildings from around the world that demonstrate visionary thinking, design excellence and social impact.

It is one of the world's most rigorously judged architecture awards, with every selected project visited by a group of international experts and awarded by our Awards Group and Grand Jury.

All the winners of RIBA International Awards for Excellence go forward to compete for the RIBA International Prize 2024, to be announced in November this year.

Iranian director to bring Charlie Chaplin's life story to stage

TEHRAN- Iranian director Mehran Ranjbar is set to premiere a play about the life story of the legendary English comedian and filmmaker, Charlie Chaplin, in a Tehran theater this summer.

The production will feature prominent actor Behzad Khalaj in the lead role, bringing the iconic figure's story to life on the Iranian stage.

Ranjbar has previously presented plays on life stories of Steve Jobs, Marlon Brando, Maradona, and Ernesto Che Guevara.

Charles Spencer Chaplin, better known as Charlie Chaplin, was a British comedian, actor, director, and composer who is widely regarded as one of the most iconic and influential figures in the history of cinema. Born on April 16, 1889, in Walworth, London, Chaplin's early life was marked by poverty and hardship. His father, a music hall singer, abandoned the family when Charlie was just a young boy, and his mother struggled to make ends meet.

Despite these challenges, Chaplin's talent and creativity shone through early on. He began performing at a young age, singing and dancing



in music halls and eventually joining the Eight Lancashire Lads music hall troupe. His big break came in 1910 when he joined the Fred Karno comedy troupe, which took him to the United States. In 1913, he signed with Keystone Studios, where he began making short films and developed his signature character, the "Little Tramp," a lovable vagabond with a distinctive toothbrush mustache and bowler hat.

Throughout his career, Chaplin wrote, directed, and starred in numerous films,

many of which are still celebrated today for their timeless humor, wit, and emotional depth. Some of his most famous films include "City Lights" (1931), "Modern Times" (1936), "The Great Dictator" (1940), and "Monsieur Verdoux" (1947). Chaplin's innovative approach to filmmaking and his commitment to creative control earned him numerous awards and accolades, including an Academy Award for Best Original Score for "Monsieur Verdoux."

Chaplin's impact on the world of cinema extends far beyond his own films. He was a pioneer in the development of the medium, experimenting with storytelling techniques, editing styles, and sound design. His influence can be seen in the work of countless filmmakers who have followed in his footsteps. Despite facing challenges and controversy throughout his life, including being blacklisted in Hollywood during the Red Scare of the 1950s, Chaplin remained a beloved figure until his death on Christmas Day in 1977. His legacy continues to inspire new generations of artists and audiences alike.

IAF cinemathèque reviews Ryusuke Hamaguchi's "Evil Does Not Exist"

TEHRAN- "Evil Does Not Exist", a 2023 drama by Japanese film director and screenwriter Ryusuke Hamaguchi was reviewed during a session at the Cinemathèque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Friday.

A number of Iranian film critics attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

"Evil Does Not Exist" premiered at the 80th Venice International Film Festival, where it won the Grand Jury Prize and the FIPRESCI Award from the International Federation of Film Critics. It also received the Best Film award at the 2023 BFI London Film Festival.

The film takes place in the serene village of Mizubiki, where a widower, Takumi, lives with his young daughter, Hana. The peace

is disrupted by the arrival of a new real estate project, which aims to build a glamping site and has the potential to irreparably damage the village's ecosystem. The developers, Takahashi and Mayuzumi, downplay the concerns of the villagers, but Takumi's warnings about the site's impact on the environment fall on deaf ears.

As tensions rise, strange and unexplained gunshot noises are heard in the distance. The villagers are initially uneasy, but they soon become accustomed to the sounds. However, when Hana goes missing, the villagers' sense of unease turns to panic. Takumi's search for his daughter is met with resistance from the developers, who are more concerned with pushing forward with their project than finding Hana.

The film's exploration of human

nature is a central theme. The developers, who initially seem like villains, are shown to be flawed and struggling individuals. Takahashi, in particular, is drawn to Takumi's way of life and begins to question his own motivations. Meanwhile, Takumi's actions become increasingly erratic as he becomes more desperate to find his daughter.

As Takumi and Takahashi venture deeper into the forest, they are confronted with the harsh realities of nature. The film's haunting conclusion leaves the audience to ponder the themes of human nature and the existence of evil.

Throughout the film, Hamaguchi employs a slow-burning tension that builds towards a shocking climax. The cinematography is

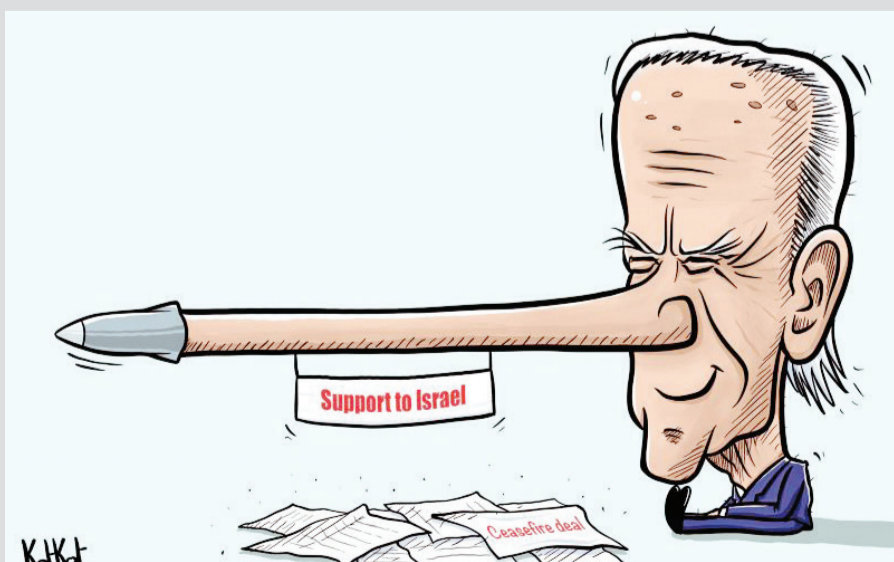
stunning, capturing the beauty of the forest and its inhabitants. The score is equally effective, adding depth and emotion to the film's most poignant moments.

"Evil Does Not Exist" is a thought-provoking and emotionally charged film that challenges its audience to confront their own morality.

"Evil Does Not Exist" has received widespread critical acclaim and has been recognized with numerous awards and nominations.

The film won the Grand Jury Prize of the Venice International Film Festival as well as its FIPRESCI Award by the International Federation of Film Critics. It also won the Best Film award at the BFI London Film Festival.

Cartoon of Day



Biden and Ceasefire Deal
Cartoonist: Morad Kotkot from Jordan