

Doomsday clock ticking for Israel's annihilation

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - As Israel's saber-rattling against Lebanon's Hezbollah heats up, the regime's vulnerability in case of a possible full-blown conflict with the resistance movement is thrust into the public spotlight.

An Israeli official has warned that Hezbollah can make Israel "uninhabitable in 72 hours".

The head of the company responsible for planning Israel's electrical systems made the comment on Thursday.

"We are not in a good situation, and we are not prepared for a real war. We are living in a fantasy," Shaul Goldstein, who leads Israel's Independent System Operator Ltd, known by its Hebrew initials NOGA, was cited as saying by Israeli media.

He added, "We cannot promise electricity if there is a war in the north. After 72 hours without electricity, it will be impossible to live here. We are not prepared for a real war."

Goldstein was responding to a question on whether he could guarantee continuous power in an emergency scenario if Israel goes to direct war with Hezbollah. ▶ Page 5

More Israeli casualties in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) confirmed on Friday that two sergeants were killed during battles in the Gaza Strip, while eight others were injured, three of whom sustained serious injuries.

Both of the Israeli officers killed were from the Alexandroni Brigade's 9203rd Battalion, based in Tel Aviv. They died after coming under a motor attack in central Gaza.

With these latest casualties, the death toll of Israeli soldiers (announced by Israeli media under strict censorship) has risen to 664, while thousands of others have been wounded since the start of the genocidal war on Gaza on October 7, 2023.

Data from the Israeli Ministry of Security reveals the number of disabled soldiers since October 7, 2023, who are being treated in rehabilitation departments, exceeded 70,000 for the first time, after 8,663 wounded soldiers enrolled in medical programs.

Information from the Israeli Medical Conference shows that more than 1,000 wounded soldiers are admitted every month for treatment in rehabilitation departments, and that 35% of the disabled in the occupation army suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Palestinian resistance continues to inflict heavy human losses on the IOF in various battlefronts. ▶ Page 5

Official highlights Tehran-Moscow sister-city agreement at BRICS Tourism Forum

MOSCOW - Evgeny Kozlov, the first deputy head of the Moscow Mayor and Government Office as well as the chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee, has said the sister-city agreement between Tehran and Moscow can greatly boost the partnership between the two sides in the tourism area.

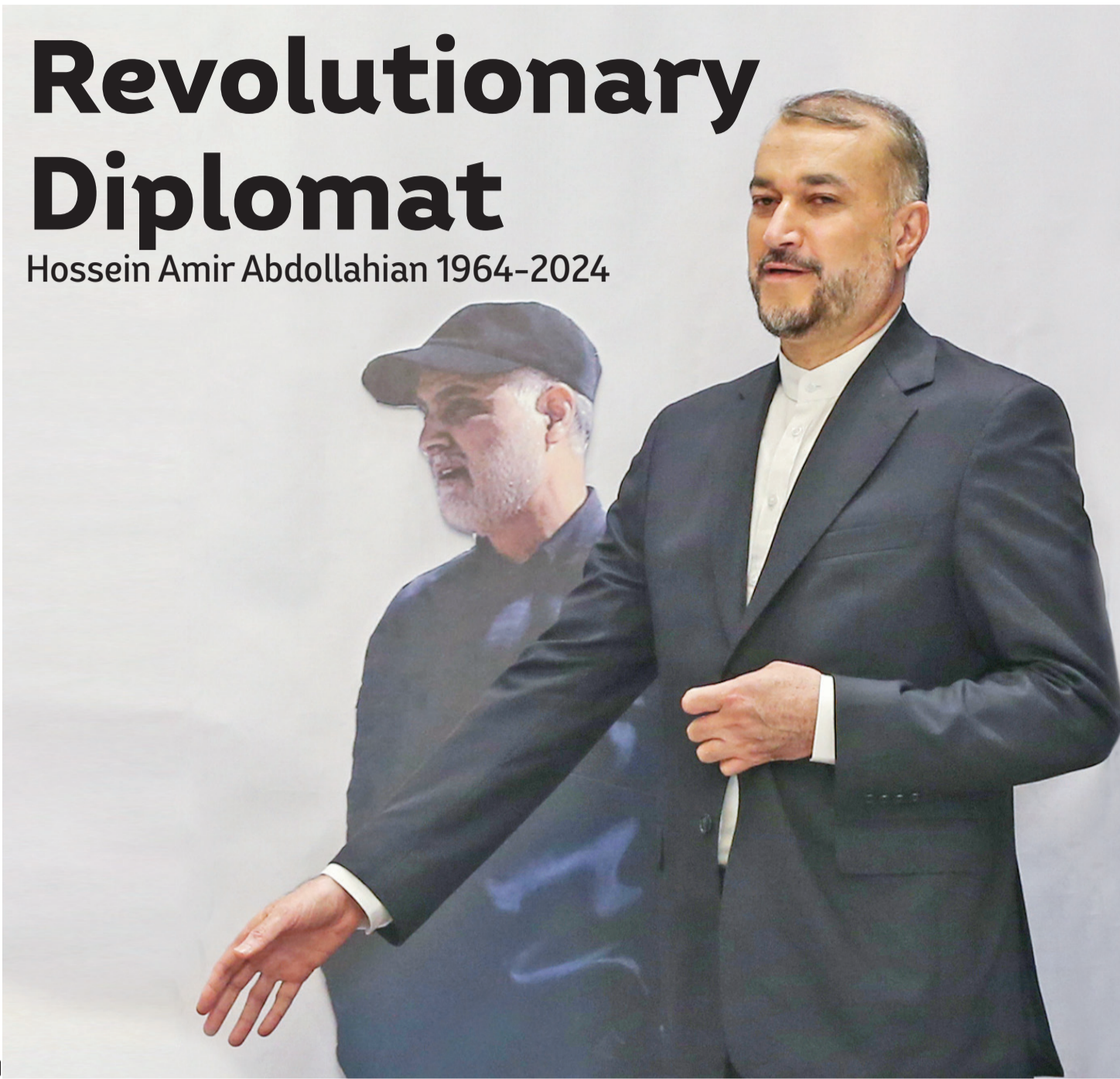
"It is a two-step strategy. Firstly, you should have the partnership in official level. Next step, you should have the partnership with tourism firm. So, the two-step strategy is a winning strategy," Kozlov said at the first BRICS Tourism Forum which was held in the Russian Capital on Friday, June 21.

In response to a question raised by the Tehran Times on whether the Moscow Tourism Committee have signed agreements or have any future plans like sister-city ▶ Page 6

Revolutionary Diplomat

Hossein Amir Abdollahian 1964-2024

©IRNA/Hasan Shirvani



By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

Following Iran's missile and drone strikes against Israel, codenamed "True Promise" a prominent European foreign minister contacted Amir Abdollahian expressing distress over the attacks and their impact on his sleep. In response, Amir Abdollahian pointed out that the defenseless people in Gaza have been under relentless bombardment for six months, resulting in the deaths of thousands of women and children, and questioned why such crimes had not disturbed his sleep.

TEHRAN - The world of diplomacy lost a shining star on that fateful day when Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the foreign minister, tragically perished in a helicopter crash in northwest Iran.

Throughout his career, Amir Abdollahian dedicated his life to active engagement in international affairs, accumulating valuable experiences and insights into Iran's capabilities, the evolving dynamics of the international system, and regional condi-

tions.

Known for his exceptional diplomatic skills, he had a deep understanding of regional developments and was recognized for his ethical conduct, humility, and tireless dedication.

One of the remarkable aspects of Amir Abdollahian's diplomatic career was his warm and close relationships with leaders and supporters of the resistance front both inside and outside Iran. His mutual

trust with key figures in the region and beyond underscored his competence as a diplomat.

Amir Abdollahian's active approach toward the ongoing Israeli atrocities and massacre in Gaza highlighted his commitment to supporting the oppressed. He became a voice for the innocent children in Gaza, whose plight often goes unnoticed by the Western world.

▶ Page 16 / Special issue

Tensions rise to unprecedented levels as Canada blacklists IRGC

TEHRAN - Canada's recent decision to designate a major branch of Iran's military as a "terrorist organization" has been met with a strong rebuke from the Iranian side, which says it reserves the right to reciprocate with a "proper" response.

"Listing the IRGC builds on the Government of Canada's broader efforts to ensure that there is no impunity for Iran's unlawful actions and its support of terrorism. Our government will always promote human rights and take action against those seeking to disrupt our way of life, here in Canada and around the world," wrote Dominic LeBlanc, Canada's Minister of Public Safety, on X after his government's decision was announced.

The Canadian minister, one of the main advocates of designating the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist entity, is believed to be extremely close to Israel. He has backed the regime's ongoing killing campaign in Gaza multiple times in the past months, saying Israel has the "right to defend itself."

Ottawa's decision to blacklist the Islamic Revolution Gauds Corps (IRGC) follows a similar move by the United States five years ago. ▶ Page 2

Acting president opens major railway in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Iran put into operation its third mega rail project that connects the northern city of Rasht to the Anzali Free Trade and Industry Zone on the Caspian Sea shore on Thursday.

The opening ceremony of the major railway project was attended by Acting President Mohammad Mokhber and Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash.

The new railway line will allow direct freight transport from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf via the country's existing railway network.

Khairullah Khademi, CEO of the company specializing in the construction and development of the Iran's transportation infrastructure said that this rail route is the last section of the North-South Sea Corridor.

The load-carrying capacity of this rail line is a maximum of seven million tons, and its passenger-carrying capacity is 600,000 people, Khademi added.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony Bazrpash said the transit of goods from the country increased 55 percent in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March-May 2024) compared to the same period last year.

The minister added that the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi made round-the-clock efforts for the completion of the Rasht-Caspian Rail project. ▶ Page 4



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Candidates talk economic policies in 2nd televised debate

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - The six candidates running for president in the June 28 vote appeared on TV for the second time on Thursday to discuss their plans and policies for Iran's economy, which has been under straddling pressure in the past few years due to U.S. sanctions.

Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian fell short of providing concrete and detailed policy proposals, instead resorting to his previous refrain of "not being an economist" as an explanation for the lack of specifics. ▶ Page 3

Lahore hosts Iran-Pakistan business forum

TEHRAN - The Pakistani city of Lahore hosted a meeting to explore the opportunities to increase trade volume between Iran and Pakistan to \$10 billion, a target that was agreed upon during the last visit of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to the neighboring country.

The Thursday meeting was attended by ambassadors of Iran and Pakistan, as well as officials from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), to explore opportunities to increase trade volume between the two countries to the \$10 billion.

At the outset of the meeting, Pakistani officials and traders discussed the obstacles hampering business activities between the two nations. These included the lack of banking channels, the necessity of building a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan, the implementation of a barter mechanism. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

The world admits that Iran's nuclear activity is peaceful

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

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and wrote: In recent days, numerous news and reports have been published about the increasing tendency of the possessors of nuclear weapons to expand these weapons, and this is a big alarm for the security of the world. The institute is worried about the increase of nuclear approaches in the world, while the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not mentioned in its alleged list. This is an acknowledgment of the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities. This is because in recent weeks, the Westerners in the form of the European troika, as well as those present at the Group of 7 meetings, have made false and repeated claims centered on Iran's nuclear threat. By making nuclear lies against Iran, the West seeks to accuse Tehran and exonerate the Zionist regime from international protests against the crime and genocide in Gaza, because the West has not reacted to the Zionists' repeated threats to use nuclear weapons against Gaza.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Exchanging messages with America?

Arman-e-Emrooz dealt with the trip of Ali Bagheri, the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, to visit and discuss with high-ranking Qatari officials. The paper said: It was said that consultation and exchange of views with the Qatari authorities regarding the end of the war in Gaza and quick assistance to the residents of Gaza are at the top of the discussion and exchange of views during Bagheri's trip to Doha, but it seems that the issue of negotiations with America has been raised once again. According to unofficial reports, negotiations between Iran and the United States have begun in the fourth phase, and it seems that the first axis of these negotiations is to reduce tension in the region, the second axis is to prevent an increase in tension, especially between Israel and Lebanon, and the third axis is to reduce tension with the Yemeni Houthis. Bagheri's hasty trip to Doha seems to be related to unofficial movements to reduce the tension desired by Iran and the United States in the region. It seems that both America and Tehran are worried about the tension level between Hezbollah and the Zionist regime getting out of control, and the next few hours will determine where the situation in the region is going to go!

Prominent Iranian cleric slams distortion of Quranic verses by ex-FM

TEHRAN – A leading Iranian cleric and head of the Islamic Development Organization has strongly criticized former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif for misrepresenting verses of the Holy Quran in a recent TV appearance.

On Tuesday, Zarif showed up to a televised roundtable as an advisor to Presidential candidate Masoud Pezeshkian. When pressed about Washington's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) the former top diplomat who signed the failed pact in 2015 referred to specific verses from Surah Al-Anfal to argue that Tehran should try to turn a blind eye to Washington's violations of its commitments.

Quran's verse 8:56 is an opening to a series of verses that speak on parties violating their pacts with Prophet Muhammad (PBU). The succeeding verses say the Prophet must "terminate" his treaties with violators, "encounter them in battle" and face them off with "cavalry."

During his appearance on TV, Zarif skipped the next five verses and cited 8:61 which tells the Prophet to "make peace" with enemies if they are "inclined" towards peace.

Islamic scholars have pointed out that Zarif's second mentioned verse is irrelevant to the first one.

The former foreign minister's seemingly deliberate distortion of the Holy Quran was met with a strong rebuke from Hujjat al-Islam Mohammad Qomi, head of the Islamic

Vatan-e-Emrooz: Presidential diplomacy is a unique model for the 14th government

The outstanding performance of the 13th government in foreign policy opened many doors for Iran not only in the economic field but also in the security and political fields. Some foreign leaders and officials came to Tehran to participate in the funeral ceremony of martyr Raisi and Amir Abdollahian, who had no official relationship with Iran in the past 40 years, and this was due to their diplomacy. This diplomacy made the leaders and officials of these countries travel to Iran for respect. A multifaceted view of diplomacy instead of a one-dimensional approach of looking at the West and its special importance to the economy in diplomacy showed the high power of this government in the field of foreign policy. For success in this field, the head of the 14th government must put the foreign policy of the 13th government at the top of his work, and following it will be one of the requirements for the success of the future government. It was a unique foreign policy that promoted the dignity of Islamic Iran and guaranteed the national interests of our country.

Ham Mihan: The path of interaction between Iran and Russia

In a commentary, Ham Mihan addressed the way forward in the interaction between Iran and Russia and said: According to some experts, Amir Abdollahian, the late foreign minister, played a significant role in consolidating Tehran's relations with Moscow. After Russia attacked Ukraine, Tehran increased defense cooperation with Russia, and in return, Tehran received three squadrons of training aircraft. On the other hand, as a trend, any new interaction between Tehran and Moscow is usually more media hype. One of these examples is the multibillion-dollar contract in Iran's oil and gas industry, which has no significant progress. In this regard, the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway has not been completed yet. Considering Tehran's anti-Western positions, it is unlikely that the new Iranian president will change Tehran's position towards the West, which means that Moscow's engagement with Tehran will potentially increase. However, this increased relationship will not necessarily lead to the quick completion of joint projects due to bureaucratic obstacles and delays. The fate of the joint projects will not change even if the new president follows Raisi's position with a trip to Moscow.

Development Organization (IDO).

"The interpretation that has been presented is peculiar, indecent, and inaccurate. We never anticipated such a rapid distortion of the Quran. To rationalize your errors, you have resorted to distorting and misrepresenting the Quran. We hope that individuals like Mr. Pezeshkian will refer to specialists, as he typically prefers to do. Therefore, in light of this incorrect interpretation of the Quran, it is important to seek guidance from Quranic experts. If you believe that interpretation is unnecessary, then at the very least, ensure that you accurately read the translated text of the Quranic verses!" said Hujjat al-Islam Qomi in a video address.

The JCPOA signed by Iran, the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, China, and Russia, limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the termination of sanctions. The deal fell apart when in 2018, Washington announced its withdrawal and re-imposed heavy sanctions against Iran. European signatories to the JCPOA have also stopped all trade with Iran despite not officially leaving the pact.

Zarif has been criticized for compromising on Iran's nuclear capabilities without receiving reliable guarantees from the West. Despite Western states' complete and utter shunning of their commitments, the former top diplomat believes Iran should revive the JCPOA in its initial form without pushing too much for guarantors.

Zarif has thrown his support behind Pezeshkian for the June 28 presidential elections.

Tensions rise to unprecedented levels as Canada blacklists IRGC

From page 1 ► which was also believed to have occurred under Israel's heavy influence on former U.S. President Donald Trump. The hostile act by Canada is likely to pile pressure on European states, which have resisted the regime's push to dangerously escalate tensions with Iran for the past few years.

The IRGC contains some of the most elite forces of the Iranian military, including the Quds Force.

The unit spearheaded the fight against Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria in the 2010s and successfully prevented the terror outfit's spread to the rest of the world.

'Canada just gifted Israel'

Iran's acting Foreign Minister condemned Canada's malicious move on Thursday, describing it as a senseless gift to the Israeli regime, terrorists, and enemies of peace and stability in West Asia.

"Canada's unlawful act of declaring an integral part of the official military force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has played an irreplaceable role in defending the national security and territorial integrity of dear Iran, protecting the security and stability of the region, and confronting the terrorism by Daesh, was malicious and violates the principles and rules of international law," Ali Baqeri expressed on X.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani issued a statement on the same day, accusing the Canadian



government of trying to meddle in the West Asian country's internal affairs.

"Canada's imprudent decision is

"Canada's hostile move goes against the recognized principles of international law."

a hostile move that runs counter to the recognized principles of international law, including non-interference in the internal affairs of countries, and it constitutes an example of violating Iran's national sovereignty," he said. "This irresponsible and provocative move is in line with the wrong path that the Canadian government has taken for more than a decade under the influence of warmongers and true violators of human rights and the main

sponsors of terrorism," he added.

Kanaani noted that the Canadian move will have no impact on the capabilities of the IRGC and that Ottawa should await a "proper response" to its illegal act of blacklisting an entity enshrined in Iran's Constitution.

'Supporter of terrorism labeling others as terrorists'

The secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights was another Iranian official to react to the news, pointing out the irony in Canada's blacklisting of the IRGC when the country itself is serving as a safe haven for one of the most notorious terrorist groups in history.

"We vehemently condemn the hostile measure by Canada," Kazem Gharibabadi wrote in a post on X.

"It is a bitter irony that the country, which is, itself, among the major violators of the human rights and a supporter of terrorism, has placed the name of the Corps, which bears responsibility for

guarding the national security and confronting terrorism in the region, in [its] self-proclaimed terrorist list," he added.

Canada is home to hundreds of Mujahedin-e-Khalq terrorists, whom it refuses to repatriate and allows to hold annual gatherings on Canadian soil.

The MKO has massacred over 17,000 Iranian officials and civilians since the 1980s, boasting that it would do it all over again if a chance is granted.

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned the Italian ambassador to Tehran, the protector of Canada's interests, to deliver its strong demarche on Thursday.

The Italian ambassador assured that she would promptly raise the issue with Canadian officials.

'Against UN Charter'

Abbas Kadkhodaei, a member of Iran's Guardian Council also reacted to the Canadian move, describing it as a hostile act.

"Canada's hostile act against IRGC contradicts UN Charter and international law. Canada has forgotten that IRGC – as an official military institution enshrined in Constitution– has a specific legal status," he wrote in a post on X.

He added, "Certainly, this could lead to international response. Listing IRGC as a 'terror entity' is against international peace and security and entire Iran nation."

'Illegal robbery': Iran condemns U.S. auction of Venezuela's Citgo oil firm



TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned the U.S. court-ordered auction of shares in Venezuela's Citgo Petroleum Corporation, calling it a violation of international law.

In a statement released Wednesday night, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani denounced the move as an illegal confiscation and sale of Venezuelan assets, describing it as an act of revenge for Venezuela's successful

resistance against U.S. sanctions.

"The courageous and intelligent resistance and persistence of Venezuela against the cruel unilateral sanctions of the U.S., which foiled the political schemes of the White House in international circles against Venezuela, prompted Washington to exact revenge on Caracas and steal the property of the Latin American country that belongs to the Venezuelan people," Kanaani stated.

He reaffirmed Iran's unwavering support for the Venezuelan government and people in their defense of their rights.

The auction, initiated on Monday, could see Venezuela's 113-year-old oil refiner, Citgo, placed in the hands of U.S. rivals or investors. The Houston-based refiner is legally owned by Venezuelan major energy company PDVSA. It reportedly registered

a \$2.8 billion profit last year and could be valued at \$13 billion.

While Venezuelan officials, including Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, have denounced the auction as a "robbery" and vowed not to recognize any "fraudulent transaction," the U.S. court has proceeded with the sale.

Caracas stated that it will adopt "all measures at its disposal to prevent the final consummation of the seizure of Citgo" and reserves the right to take action against those who acquire, facilitate, or negotiate the shares of the PDVSA subsidiary.

Washington believes it is free to do what it wants with the oil firm, as it recognizes a "parallel government" established by former opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's state, rather than the elected government of Nicolás Maduro.

Iran sounds alarm on weaponization of ICT

petrochemical industries, and gas stations.

These malicious activities highlighted the potential for ICT environments to be weaponized to inflict damage on the infrastructures of states.

Given the complex nature of ICT governance, I would like to highlight the following points:

1. The primary responsibility for maintaining secure, safe, and trustworthy ICT rests with individual states. The prominent role and active involvement of states in the ICT environment governance at the global level, especially in policy and decision-making, must be enhanced and ensured.

ICT governance should be developed in a manner that does not adversely affect the rights of states to determine their own development, governance, and legislation concerning the ICT environment.

States must act responsibly and in accordance with fundamental principles of international law, particularly the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.

2. The absence of universally legally binding norms for ICT remains a challenge. Current international law often lags behind the rapid pace of technological change, creating gaps that malicious actors exploit.

Therefore, developing and enforcing international legally binding norms that address the specific features of the ICT environment is essential.

3. States must refrain from using ICT advances as tools for economic, political, or



other coercive measures, including limiting or blocking measures against other states. They must also prevent and avoid abusing ICT-related supply chains under their control and jurisdiction, ensuring these do not develop vulnerabilities that compromise the sovereignty and data protection of other states.

States must ensure appropriate measures for ICT companies and platforms with extrajurisdictional impacts within their jurisdiction, to hold them accountable for their behavior in the ICT environment, especially if they violate the national sovereignty, security, and public order of other states.

4. We strongly believe that the ICT environment must be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. To this end, the UN must continue its central role through the OEWG (Open-ended Working Group) to develop legally binding obligations to prevent the use of ICTs for malicious purposes and maintain this domain for exclusive purposes.

Doomsday clock ticking for Israel's annihilation

An Israeli official says Hezbollah can make Israel 'uninhabitable in 72 hours'

From page 1 ▶ The official admitted that Hezbollah is able to neutralize Israel's power grid like a piece of cake.

"If Nasrallah (Hezbollah's leader) decides to paralyze Israel's power grid, he only needs to pick up the phone and call the head of Beirut's power grid, which is [technically] identical to Israel's," Goldstein said.

Hezbollah intelligence superiority

Goldstein's comments come two days after Hezbollah published footage from its reconnaissance drones flying over northern Israel, including Haifa port.

The roughly 10 minutes of video shows how the aircraft was able to capture footage and expose sensitive Israeli military sites without being detected by the regime's anti-air systems.

The successful mission humiliated Israel and highlighted the regime's vulnerability as it is beating the drums of an all-out war with Hezbollah.

Israel's empty rhetoric

Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech on Wednesday that the movement has hours of such footage and information about sensitive military targets in Israel.

He also said Hezbollah "Hoopoe" drones have uncovered military bases and headquarters located deep inside Israel, some of which have been camouflaged.

Nasrallah further issued a stern warning to Israel in the face of its war rhetoric against Lebanon warning nowhere in Israel would be safe in case of a major offensive against Lebanon.



Support for Palestine

Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire since the regime declared war on Gaza on October 7.

The Lebanese resistance movement has reiterated that it won't stop attacks against Israel unless the regime ends its Gaza onslaught which has so far claimed the lives of more than 37,400 Palestinians.

Senior Israeli electricity official: Hezbollah Leader can paralyze Israel's power grid just with a phone call.

Over the past months, Israeli officials have threatened Lebanon with a full-fledged war if Hezbollah does not halt its attacks.

The latest of such threats came hours after Hezbollah released the drone footage on Tuesday.

He added, " Hamas is an idea, Hamas is a party. It's rooted in the hearts of the people — anyone who thinks we can eliminate Hamas is wrong," he continued.

Israeli officials have admitted that the regime is incapable of defeating Hamas.

So how can Israel "destroy" Hezbollah which is by far stronger than resistance groups in Gaza?

Hezbollah military might

Israel was humiliated and had to retreat its forces following a war it launched against Hezbollah in 2006.

Since then, the movement has considerably boosted its military capabilities.

Citing the World Factbook of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Reuters reported on Thursday that Hezbollah's military strength is underpinned by upwards of 150,000 missiles and rockets of various types and ranges.

Nasrallah has also said that the number of fighters who are ready to join a possible war against Israel has exceeded 100,000.

Israel was only able to continue the 2006 war for 34 days. And now according to Goldstein, Israel can be "uninhabitable" in just three days if the regime engages in another direct war with Hezbollah.

Hence, the doomsday clock for Israel's destruction would start ticking if the Netanyahu regime carried out its threat and went to war with Lebanon.

The possibility of such a scenario could also turn Israeli cities into the graveyard for the regime's soldiers.

More Israeli casualties in Gaza

Palestinian resistance forces ambush occupation forces

From page 1 ▶ In a statement, the armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam brigades, reported that its fighters managed to prepare for a well-planned ambush against an Israeli armored force, using a large explosive device, which was planted under the convoy after monitoring its operations for several days.

The operation took place on al-Bahr street, south of the Tal Al-Sultan refugee camp, in western Rafah.

The al-Qassam brigades added that when the force passed and a Merkava tank was positioned above the mine, the device was detonated, leading to the tank's complete destruction and the killing of its crew.

Israeli operations to evacuate the remains of dead soldiers and the tank's wreckage continued for several hours, according to Hamas.

Two Merkava tanks were targeted with

Al-Yassin 105 shells in Rafah's al-Shaboura camp. The RPG grenade has proven a valuable weapon against Israeli tanks throughout the war.

Al-Qassam published footage on its Telegram page of its fighters targeting IOF vehicles and destroying them with mortar shells in Rafah.

The armed wing of Hamas also bombarded an IOF command and control site east of the Zeitoun neighborhood of Gaza City with heavy-caliber mortar shells, causing direct hits among the occupation regime's ranks.

The resistance fighters monitored the landing of Black Hawk and Sikorsky CH-53 Yas'ur helicopters that evacuated the dead and wounded.

This week, the American news broadcaster, CBS News, cited a U.S. official as saying,

"The Israelis have not come close to achieving their objective of destroying Hamas," and criticized Tel Aviv's current strategy as "a recipe for continuous war".

Hundreds of fighters and miles of unexplored tunnels remain, and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar is still at large, the American official added.

The comments came a day after the Israeli military's top spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, said that Hamas could not be destroyed.

In a reflection of the conflicting views between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and the Israeli military on how to proceed in Gaza, Hagari said in an interview "the idea that we can destroy Hamas or make Hamas disappear is misleading to the public".

occupied West Bank, which it captured in 1967 and where millions of Palestinians live.

Michael Sfar, an Israeli human rights lawyer, said: "The bottom line is that [for] anyone who thought the question of annexation was foggy, this order should end any doubts. What this order does is transfer vast areas of administrative power from the military commander to Israeli civilians working for the government."

It is the latest coup for Smotrich, who became finance minister and a minister in the defense ministry after a coalition agreement between his far-right political party and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party.

The Civil Administration is principally responsible for planning and construction in Area C of the West Bank — the 60% of the Occupied Palestinian Territories under full Israeli administrative and security control —

as well as enforcement against unauthorized construction, whether by Israeli settlers or by Palestinians.

The transfer of laws, which was largely unremarked upon in Israel, follows a years-long campaign by pro-settlement politicians to accrue many of the legal powers previously wielded by the military chain of command.

Mairav Zonszein, a senior analyst for Israel-Palestine at Crisis Group, said: "The big story is that this is no longer 'creeping annexation' or 'de facto annexation', it is actual annexation.

"This is the legalization [and] normalization of a long-term policy. Smotrich is basically re-establishing the way in which the occupation works by taking a large part out of the hands of the military."

WORLD HEADLINES

Palestine hails statehood recognition by Armenia

The Palestinian presidency and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) have welcomed Armenia's decision to recognize the State of Palestine.

According to a statement reported by the official Palestinian news agency, Wafa, "the Palestinian Presidency has commended the Republic of Armenia's decision to officially recognize the State of Palestine as an independent and sovereign nation."

The presidency expressed deep appreciation for "this courageous and significant decision", viewing it as a "pivotal step towards enhancing bilateral relations and fostering peace and stability in the region".

Hussein al-Sheikh, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, praised Armenia's recognition, saying it is "a victory for truth, justice, legitimacy and the struggle of our Palestinian people for liberation and independence".

Starmer refuses to accept Israel is committing genocide

Kier Starmer, the leader of the UK's Labour Party, told radio show LBC that he would need to see more evidence before deciding if Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

Israel, which has slaughtered more than 37,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 7, stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice.

The Labour leader, who is favorite to become prime minister in the UK's July general election, has frustrated pro-Palestine advocates who accuse him of supporting Israel's offensive in the besieged Strip.

Starmer has previously said Israel has the right to cut water and electricity to Gaza civilians.

Egypt, Jordan, UAE exports to Israel rise despite Gaza onslaught

Egyptian exports to Israel doubled in 2024 compared to the previous year despite Israel's devastating war on Gaza since October, according to a new report by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

The data published on Thursday showed that Egyptian exports in May 2024 stood at \$25m, double that of the same period in 2023, Middle East Monitor reported.

Despite increasingly fraught relations, energy and security cooperation between the two sides has intensified since October, with Israeli natural gas exports to Egypt sharply increasing in the last year.

Meanwhile, exports from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Israel also increased to \$242m in May 2024, compared to \$238.5m in May 2023, the report said.

Jordanian exports to Israel also continued to rise in 2024, reaching \$35.7m in May 2024 compared to \$32.3m in the same period last year.

Putin warns South Korea against arming Ukraine

Vladimir Putin has warned South Korea it would be making "a big mistake" if it arms Ukraine in the war against Russia.

His comments come after Seoul said it was considering such a possibility, in response to Russia and North Korea's new pact to help each other in the event of "aggression" against either country, the BBC reported.

Moscow "will... [make] decisions which are unlikely to please the current leadership of South Korea" if Seoul decides to supply arms to Kyiv, Putin said.

The Russian leader was speaking in Vietnam, shortly after a lavish visit to Pyongyang where he signed a mutual defense agreement with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Putin also warned that Moscow is willing to arm Pyongyang if the US and its allies continue supplying Ukraine with weapons.

"Those who supply these weapons believe that they are not at war with us. I said, including in Pyongyang, that we then reserve the right to supply weapons to other regions of the world," Putin said.

Seoul had earlier condemned the Russian-North Korean agreement as a threat to its national security, and national security adviser Chang Ho-jin had said his country planned to "reconsider the issue of arms support to Ukraine".

Following Putin's remarks, South Korea's presidential office said on Friday it would consider "various options" in supplying arms to Ukraine and its stance will "depend on how Russia approaches this issue".

It also summoned the Russian ambassador Georgy Zinoviev to protest the pact, demanding that Moscow "immediately cease" military cooperation with Pyongyang.

UN experts: Firms sending arms to Israel could be complicit in abuses

A group of United Nations experts has warned arms and ammunitions manufacturers against taking part in the transfer of weapons to Israel, saying it could make them complicit in human rights abuses and violations of international law, RT reported.

The group of 30 experts, including several UN Special Rapporteurs, said arms manufacturers supplying Israel should halt their transfers of war materiel, "even if they are executed under existing export licenses".

"These companies, by sending weapons, parts, components, and ammunition to Israeli forces, risk being complicit in serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian laws," the experts said in a statement.

The UN experts said the risk to arms firms had increased since the International Court of Justice ordered Israel last month to halt its military offensive in Rafah in the southern tip of Gaza, in a landmark emergency ruling in South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide.

"In this context, continuing arms transfers to Israel may be seen as knowingly providing assistance for operations that contravene international human rights and international humanitarian laws and may result in profit from such assistance," the experts said.

Foreign Affairs: Hamas stronger than October 7

Nine months of Israeli air and ground combat operations in Gaza have not defeated Hamas, nor is Israel close to vanquishing the group, Foreign Affairs wrote in an article titled "Hamas Is Winning".

On the contrary, according to the measures that matter, Hamas is "stronger" today than it was on October 7, the American magazine of international relations and U.S. foreign policy added.

The article, published on Friday, noted that Israel has invaded northern and southern Gaza with approximately 40,000 combat troops, forcibly displaced 80 percent of the population, killed over 37,000 people and dropped at least 70,000 tons of bombs on the territory.

It said these bombs surpassed the combined weight of bombs dropped on London, Dresden, and Hamburg in all of World War II.

The Foreign Affairs article, however, said Israel has failed to realize that the carnage and devastation it has unleashed in Gaza has only made Palestinians stronger.

Knowledge-based companies to attend intl. IT exhibition in Turkey

TEHRAN – Iranian knowledge-based companies will participate in the 28th Imex & ISAF Information Technology Exhibition, which will be held in Turkey from October 9 to 12.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund will support Iranian delegations and help them set up their pavilions, ISNA reported.

The exhibition will cover the sectors of Security; Electronic Security; Homeland Security; National Security; Cyber Security; Information Security and the increasing requirement; Smart Buildings; Smart Life; Smart cities; and the use of technology in the fields of Fire, Fire Safety, and Occupational Health and Safety.

Technological capabilities of Iran's agriculture, food in Kenya

Supported by the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy, a total of 16 Iranian knowledge-based companies took part in 9th edition of agricultural technology exhibition which took place in Kenya from June 12 to 16, Mehr news agency reported.

The exhibition provided Iranian knowledge-based companies the opportunity to showcase their latest achievements and findings in different sectors including agricultural drone, satellite monitoring technology, hybrid seeds, organic fertilizers, cow embryo technology, as well as food and packaging industries.

Over 20 countries displayed the latest innovations and technological advancements in the agricultural sector.

Iranian delegation pavilions were



well received by visitors.

Holding B2B meetings with important clients from state and private sectors as well as visiting farms and factories active in the field of agriculture were among the services offered to knowledge-based companies.

Notable growth in knowledge-based companies

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

The current administration underscores the quantitative and qualitative development of knowledge-based companies. The number of companies, which was around 5,000 before the current administration took office in August 2021, has now reached 10,000

with a total value of two billion dollars.

Emergence of knowledge-based companies

The law on supporting knowledge-based companies and institutions, and commercializing innovations and inventions, was approved by the parliament in Iranian year 1389 (2010 -2011), to achieve a knowledge-based economy.

Throughout these years, administrations have tried to boost infrastructure to support knowledge-based companies' growth.

These efforts have accelerated recently, especially in the current administration. At the beginning of the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi, there were about 6,474 knowledge-based companies in the country, but in less than two years, their numbers soared and reached 9,215 companies, a testimony of the government's approach to boosting local production in the knowledge-based and private sectors.

Meanwhile, the quantitative development of knowledge-based

companies has led to an increase in their employment by 8.4 folds, with more than 420,000 individuals currently working in knowledge-based related jobs.

Knowledge-based companies' products from 1399 (2020-2021) to 1401 (2022-2023) increased by about 100 percent reaching \$1,132 million from \$296 million. The knowledge-based companies' imports also increased by 50 percent from \$1,633 million to \$3,855 million.

Innovative companies with a share of about 20 percent of all knowledge-based companies, account for 67 percent of income and more than 75 percent of exports and imports. However, technology companies with a share of less than 7 percent have about 30 percent of revenue and over 20 percent of knowledge-based foreign trade.

Materials and products based on chemical technology have the largest share of exports, at least 50 percent, and this ratio has increased yearly. Machinery, electricity, electronics, and pharmaceutical technologies rank next respectively. Advanced chemicals is the only technology area that has a positive trade balance.

Meanwhile, the export of knowledge-based products has increased by 13 percent, while the import has decreased by 10 percent signifying the increase in the volume of knowledge-based exports.

Accessing new markets is a newly adopted strategy, that is, deepening trade ties with countries, like Africa, that the country has failed to note before.

Meighan preservation plan to be approved

TEHRAN – A comprehensive plan to preserve the Meighan wetland ecosystem will be approved under the supervision of the Department of Environment (DOE) in six months, Ali Salajeqeh, the head of DOE, has said.

The wetland is located in Markazi province and stretches over 25,000 hectares of land area.

Paying a visit to the wetland on Thursday, June 20, Salajeqeh said the Meighan wetland is one of the main habitats for diverse plant and animal species, including migratory birds. Moreover, the wetland acts as a natural defense against sand and dust storms, IRIB reported.

"The extraction of sodium sulfate has disrupted the balance of the wetland's ecosystem. The comprehensive plan will help resolve legal issues and restore the wetland," the official noted.

Salajeqeh went on to say, "Currently, the water right of the wetland comes from swage. So far, 65 percent of the wetland is filled with water. Thanks to the water year supply, the wetland hosts migratory birds."

Preservation of wetlands with an ecosystem approach

The ecosystem approach for the protection and management of 46 wetlands across the country is being used.

The approach is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization, which encompass the essential structure, processes, functions, and interactions among organisms and their environment.

It was launched in the Iranian calendar year 1384 (March 2005-March 2006) in Parishan and Shadegan wetlands as well as Lake Urmia, ISNA reported.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines the ecosystem approach as "a strategy for the integrated management of land, water, and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way".

It goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead, it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: rich mixes of elements that interact with each other continuously. This understanding is par-



ticularly important for coasts and seas, where the nature of water keeps systems and functions connected.

The Approach is also a way of making decisions in order to manage human activities sustainably. It recognizes that human activities both affect the ecosystem and depend on it. Thus, it aims to improve the way human activities are managed for the protection of the marine environment.

In 2015, the DOE initiated an effort with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) aiming to preserve and revive the country's wetlands.

In the next phase in 2017, the government of Japan supported the project focusing on the sustainable management of water and soil resources around Urmia Lake as well as Shadegan and Bakhtegan wetlands.

It is a five-year plan, voluntarily supported by Japan, to take advantage of both their financial and technical assistance, ISNA quoted Mojtaba Zoljoodi, an official with the Department of Environment, as saying. Three years have passed since the implementation of the project, he added.

"To implement the program in the remaining two years, we are consulting with the government of Japan and other governments that are willing to cooperate with Iran to be able to implement the project properly.

The plan to conserve Iran's wetlands is one of the good practical projects that, if continues, can help not only the wetlands of Iran but also the wetlands of other countries."

The results of the implementation of the project in 200 villages concerning water consumption have shown that a good amount of water in the agriculture sector has been saved. In addition, productivity, quality of the products, and the economic income of the family have increased.

IRCS provides relief to quake-affected people in Kashmar

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society has provided rescue services to people affected by the earthquake in the city of Kashmar, Khorasan Razavi province.

An earthquake of 4.9 magnitude at a depth of 10 km occurred in Khorasan Razavi province, northeastern Iran, on 18 June.

The epicenter was located approximately 2 km north-northwestern of Kashmar city.

According to reports four people died, 115 were injured (35 hospitalized), and some 900 buildings were damaged, YJC reported.

A total of 41 relief teams consisting of 226 rescuers conducted some 76 rescue operations, the IRCS website quoted Yaqub Soleimani, an official with the IRCS, as saying.

So far, seven emergency camps with 340 tents have been established in Kashmar, he added.

IRCS services

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) offered first-aid training services to more than four million people from March 14 to April 5.

Some 63,000 other people also received rescue services.

Among 4,370 operations and services carried out by the IRCS, 2,525 were rescue operations, ISNA quoted Babak Mahmoudi, an IRCS official, as saying.

The IRCS provided emergency shelters for 9,391 individuals, treated 5,257 wounded people, and transferred 1,567 others to health centers.

Moreover, within the framework of a program initiated on March 14, more than four



million individuals were trained in first aid by the IRCS trainers, and 400 others received online training.

Also, kids were made aware of natural hazards, such as floods and earthquakes, and other dangers using virtual reality or playing games.

A training workshop focusing on lowering harms caused by drug addiction was held with the cooperation of the IRCS and Villa Maraini Foundation of Italy in Tehran in December 2023.

Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the IRCS, and Massimo Barra, the head of the Villa Maraini Foundation, met on the sidelines of the event.

Kolivand stated that drug users encounter severe health issues, suffering from an identity crisis which leads to their exclusion by both their families and society, the IRCS website reported.

However, initiative projects, such as Harm Reduction on Drug Addiction, serve the purpose of educating and offering healthcare to these individuals, enabling them to reintegrate into society, reunite with their families, and restore self-esteem.

Foreign nationals can benefit from banking services: official

TEHRAN – Concerning the implementation of deposit plan for foreign nationals, they can benefit from different banking services, the head of the National Organization for Migration has said.

"The plan only includes authorized immigrants who have been accepted by Iran and have identity documentation," IRNA quoted Abdollah Mobini as saying.

The plan, started in the past Iranian year (March 2023 – March 2024), aims to organize the funds and financial resources of legal foreign nationals, he added.

The official went on to say foreign nationals need to open a bank account in their names and benefit from all banking services such as owning cards and using e-banking.

Services for legal foreign nationals

On March 13, the National Organization for Migration, and Salamat Health Insurance Organization signed a memorandum of understanding to provide health insurance services for legal foreign nationals.

Referring to the health services provided for refugees, Abdollah Mobini, the head of the Na-

tional Organization for Migration, said that international organizations should shoulder their responsibility and support Iran with the heavy costs [related to refugees], IRNA reported.

"Our most important concern is the transmission of diseases and other health problems by foreign nationals, and that's why we consider ourselves obliged to promote the health of refugees," he added.

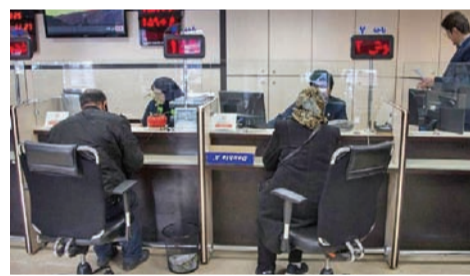
The memorandum of understanding takes a big step in improving the health of both host and guest communities. It prevents the heavy costs of prevention, treatment, and healthcare, he noted.

Mohammad-Mehdi Nasehi, the managing director of Salamat Health Insurance Organization, emphasized that providing insurance coverage for foreign nationals is a priority in the country's health system.

He added that it helps both refugees and the country with the heavy costs of treatment and prevention, respectively.

Free health coverage for 200,000 refugees

With over 3.4 million refugees and refugee-like populations, Iran has become the sec-



ond-largest refugee-hosting country globally.

About 200,000 foreign nationals in the country have been provided with free health insurance with the financial support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Nasehi said in February.

Foreign nationals who are considered financially struggling can benefit from free health insurance services, Mehr news agency quoted Nasehi as saying.

Stating that the number of refugees in the country is far more than the number of people who have been covered by free insurance, he added that legal refugees can enjoy insurance services by paying their insurance premiums.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

97% of Iran affected by long-term drought: expert

Based on the data collected over the past decade approximately 97 percent of the country is affected by long-term drought, director of the national drought warning and monitoring center, Sadeq Ziaiean, has said. Some 12.7 percent of the country is hit by extremely severe drought, 53.6 percent of the country is affected by severe drought while 24.8 percent of the country is facing moderate drought and 5.9 percent of the country is withstanding mild drought, ISNA news agency quoted Ziaiean as saying on Wednesday. He went on to say that extremely severe long-term drought has had negative effects on 14.2 percent of the country's total population, severe long-term drought has hit 47 percent of the country's population, 30.7 percent of the country's population is affected by moderate long-term drought and 5.1 percent of the population is stricken with mild drought.

۹۷ درصد مساحت ایران تحت تاثیر خشکسالی

است

صادق ضیائی‌ان رئیس مرکز ملی خشکسالی و مدیریت بحران سازمان هواشناسی اعلام کرد: بررسی داده‌های ۱۰ ساله خشکسالی بیانگر آن است که ۹۷ درصد مساحت ایران تحت تاثیر خشکسالی بلندمدت است. ضیائی‌ان در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا گفت: از این مقدار ۵۳٫۶ درصد مساحت کشور با خشکسالی شدید، ۲۴٫۸ درصد مساحت با خشکسالی متوسط و ۵٫۹ درصد مساحت با خشکسالی خفیف مواجه هستند.

وی ادامه داد: ۲ درصد جمعیت ایران با خشکسالی بسیار شدید بلندمدت است همچنین ۴۷ درصد جمعیت کشور با خشکسالی شدید، ۳۰٫۷ درصد جمعیت با خشکسالی متوسط و ۱۵٫۰ درصد جمعیت با خشکسالی خفیف دست و پنجه نرم می‌کنند.

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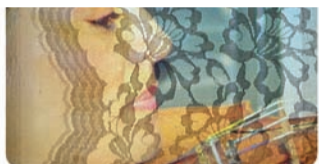
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One's obedience to God is proportionate to one's wisdom.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 19:38 Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

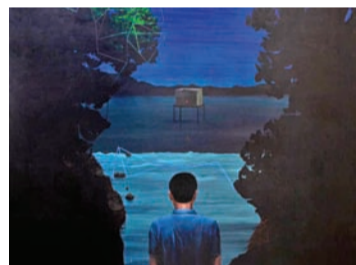
* Paintings by Sahar Eshqi Sani are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit named "Brides of the World" will continue until July 12 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



* An exhibition of paintings by Mahboubeh Barzi is underway at Jinus Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Inhabitant" will run until June 26 at the gallery located at 21 Fatemei St., off Vali-e Asr Ave.



* An exhibition of paintings by Hamed Sahihi is currently underway at Aran Gallery.

Entitled "Parallel Secret", the exhibition will run until July 12 at the gallery located at 5 Lolagar St., Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

* Zahra Qiasi is putting her latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "Phosphene", the exhibit will run until July 12 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* A collection of paintings by Navid Shahneshtin is currently on display in an exhibition at Ev Gallery.

Entitled "Alternative Rorschach", the exhibition runs until July 2 at the gallery located at No.5, Arabi Alley, North Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Roxaneh Rouhani is displaying her latest paintings in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until June 26 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Javid Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Mehri Seraj.

The exhibition entitled "Persona" runs until July 1 at the gallery that can be found at 17 Zartosht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.

* Shirin Hossaini is showcasing the latest collection of paintings by Leila Hosseinpour in an exhibition entitled "Ilmeh".

The exhibit will run until July 3 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.



Sculpture

* A collection of sculptures by Sohrab Hassanbeigi, Sahar Heidarzadeh, Sina Kondor and Amir Ali Maleki is on view in an exhibition at Naqsh-e Jahan Gallery.

The exhibit named "The Waste Art" will be running until June 26 at the gallery located at 9 Ayatollah Mahmudi St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.

* Sculptures by Ashkan Behjou are currently on view in an exhibition at Etemad Gallery 1.

The exhibition named "Eternal Statue" will be running until July 9 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

Chinese translation of Leader's "Cell No. 14" unveiled at Beijing International Book Fair

TEHRAN-The Chinese translation of "Cell No. 14," memories of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was unveiled on the opening day of the 30th Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF).

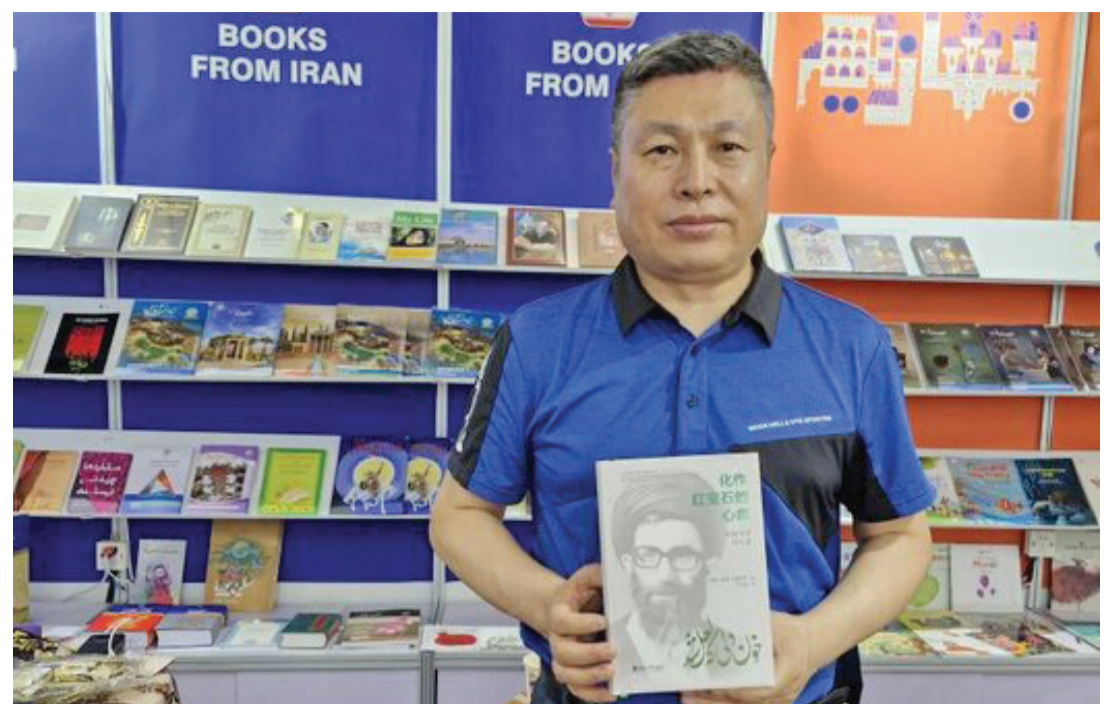
Iranian ambassador to China Mohsen Bakhtiar and cultural attaché Nematollah Iranzadeh were present at the unveiling ceremony on June 19, IRNA reported on Friday.

The book covers the first half of the life of Ayatollah Khamenei, from his early childhood all the way to the 1979 Islamic Revolution that brought the monarchical regime to an end in Iran.

In his book, the author skillfully transports readers to a tangible and realized space through simple yet comprehensive literature. The book's narrative is devoid of imposing or imaginative elements, resulting in a striking sense of concreteness and realization.

It is a remarkable saga of a young cleric blessed with an indomitable spirit who fights a dictatorial regime with his sermons and speeches as well as with his organizational abilities. He never loses hope despite being sent to prison and exile and finally emerges victorious against all odds.

The book serves as a source of inspiration to all activists around the globe who are trying to bring about social and political change.



It also contains unpublished photos of the Leader, his father, and his children, in addition to a photo collection of paintings related to the topics in the book.

The Persian edition of the book was published in 2019. It was a Persian translation of "Inna Ma as-Sabri Nasra" the Leader had written in Arabic. The memories were then compiled by the Iranian Arabic language scholar Mohammad-Ali Azarshab.

Since then, the Spanish, Portuguese, Urdu and Bengali translations of the book have also

been published.

Boasting a total of 220,000 books from China and abroad, the 2024 Beijing International Book Fair is underway in Beijing. The 2024 event is hosting 1,050 overseas exhibitors, 150 more than 2023.

With the theme "deepening exchanges and learning between civilizations, building a win-win future filled with cooperation," this iteration of BIBF has added 15 new participating countries compared with 2023, including Bangladesh, the Philippines, the Czech Republic,

Slovakia, New Zealand, and Nigeria.

The exhibited books cover categories such as philosophy and social sciences, ancient books, science and technology, literature and art, and children's books.

Iran has participated in the event with over 500 titles in various fields including literature, children's, history, and art among others.

Founded in 1986, the BIBF has become the second-largest book fair in the world and the most internationalized book fair in Asia.

This year's edition of the BIBF will conclude on June 23.

Iranian documentary "A Tale of the Final Year" compete in Mumbai International Film Festival

TEHRAN-The 18th Mumbai International Film Festival was held in India from June 15 to 21 with one Iranian film participating in the event.

"A Tale of the Final Year" by Mehdi Jabinsheenas was the only film from Iran, which was presented in the International Competition Section - Documentary, ISNA reported.

The 48-minute documentary shows Mrs. Salem, a second-grade primary school teacher, in the last year of her teaching. She has been involved in online education. But she does not send photos and videos of herself. The principal, who will also retire this year, is concerned about the state of education. She is trying to maintain the reputation of her 30-year management.

It won the best sound and editing award in the feature documentary section of the 16th Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) in India, earlier

this year in January.

The Mumbai International Film Festival, popularly known as MIFF is one of the oldest and much sought-after competitive festivals for documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films in South Asia.

Held biennially since 1990, MIFF has grown in terms of participation of countries, quality of films screened, run up and side events. The international event is organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

MIFF provides a platform for documentary filmmakers from all over the world to meet, exchange ideas, explore the possibilities of co-productions and marketing of documentary, short and animation films and also broadening the vision of the filmmakers vis-à-vis world

cinema.

Documentary cinema creates the most significant impact on the world. One that not only educates, inspires and motivates a change in the society but also acts as a tool that transcends cultures and boundaries.

The flourishing non-fiction film movement spearheaded by MIFF has gained momentum with the increased need for more realistic content as opposed to the more dramatized and commercial fiction stories.

MIFF with the participation of the world's leading documentary-making countries with their best content, gives documentary, animation and short fiction filmmakers their wings so that they can soar into deeper conceptualizations that accommodate narratives of the past, present and future of the society.

Album featuring Iranian traditional music unveiled in Isfahan

TEHRAN- The music album "Haal-e Bostan" by Master Fazlollah Shahzamani, a renowned veteran vocalist from the Isfahan School of Music, was unveiled in Isfahan on Wednesday.

Organized by the Isfahan Municipality's Music Department, the event was attended by local artists and music lovers.

During the ceremony Mansour Azamikia, a researcher, traditional music expert, and vocalist from the Isfahan School of Music emphasized that an artist's identity is shaped by three key factors, his school of thought, personal style, and musical content.

He added that these principles are applicable to all seven arts and that they enable artists to stand out as contemporaries or predecessors. He also highlighted the significance of Master Shahzamani's artistic career as a representation of the Isfahan School of Music's identity, style, and content.

The evening continued with a documentary about Shahzamani's life and career, followed by his own speech in which he spoke about his love and passion for Iranian music.

The program then featured a special performance by Master Shahzamani's students, featuring

celebrated vocalist brothers Ali and Mohammad Saedi, accompanied by an ensemble of renowned musicians, including Amir Mehdi Moqaddam on oud, Siavash Abedzadeh on tar, Amir Mohammadzadeh on kamancheh, and Iman Bohloul on tombak.

Fazlollah Shahzamani was born in 1950 in Isfahan, Iran. He graduated from the Isfahan School of Music under the guidance of renowned masters Hossein Yavari and Jalal Taj-e Esfahani. With over four decades of experience, Shahzamani has been teaching Iranian music since the 1970s and has also composed music for various cultural events. One of

his notable works is "Iran," which was produced during the Iran-Iraq War and broadcast on radio. He retired from the Isfahan center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

The album "Haal-e Bostan" showcases Shahzamani's masterpieces, accompanied by talented artists from Isfahan, including Hassan Mansouri, Misih Kaboutari, Masoud Kaboutari, Abbas Alikhani, Mohammad Golastaneh Zadeh, and Majid Hesabi.

Photo: Fazlollah Shahzamani gives a speech during the unveiling ceremony of his latest music album in Isfahan on June 19, 2024.

Guzel Yakhina's "My Children" published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "My Children" written by the Russian author Guzel Yakhina has been released in the book market across Iran.

Niloofar Publications has published the award-winning book in 466 pages with a translation by Zeynab Younesi.

In 2019, the book was the winner of Big Book, a Russian literary award for best prose in Russian, Mehr reported.

The novel happens in the early period of Soviet Union history, at the the Volga region in the 1920-1930s. The main character — Jacob Bach — is Russian German, a teacher in Gnadental. He brings a daughter up in an isolated village, writes fairy tales and becomes a witness of milestones in the country's life.

The novel is based on real events about the extermination of the Volga Germans during the reign of Joseph Stalin in the USSR. This is a story on the border of magical realism and surrealism, where everyday life is intertwined with a fairy tale, and reality with fiction.

"Volga Germans united two very important topics in my life — the German language, German culture and the Volga River. I can say it wasn't that complicated to write because these topics had been with me for long. I was born on the Volga River, I grew up on it, I love this river very much. I had a teaching degree in German first and my grandfather was a countryside German teacher (by the way, I dedicated this novel to him)," the author has said about her book.

According to Yakhina, "a historical novel

in Russia has many different functions. The first function is connection with previous generations. We know about our grandmothers and great-grandmothers' life little at times because family ties were broken for historical reasons: somebody left the country, somebody was killed at war, died from hunger. Many people hid their origin — the knowledge of the past often became dangerous for life for next generations. A historical novel talking about the early Soviet era or the early past century helps us today to feel our ancestors better, think of them, touch them. It's an important function".

Guzel Yakhina, 47, is a Russian author and screenwriter. She is a winner of the Big Book literary prize and the Yasnaya Polyana Literary Award.

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Revolutionary Diplomat

Hossein Amir Abdollahian 1964-2024



Amir Abdollahian: The Resistance's strong arm

The late diplomat dedicated his life to serving Iran and the region

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Throughout history, it is unusual to find a figure whose allies and detractors unanimously agree on their character.

Individuals are often perceived differently by different groups. However, Hossein Amir Abdollahian stands out as a man whose defining traits were consistently recognized. Anyone who came to know him can probably agree that Amir Abdollahian was hardworking, patient, and had a deep affection for both the Iranian nation and freedom fighters in the region.

An Israeli analyst appearing on the regime's TV following Amir Abdollahian's demise believed he worked as diligently as three ministers combined. Palestinians interviewing with journalists in the besieged Gaza Strip, spoke of how they felt like they had lost a dear friend and staunch supporter, and colleagues who had worked closely with him over the years admitted they had never encountered someone as hardworking and compassionate as him.

Life and career

Amir Abdollahian, born in Damaqan, Semnan province, in April 1964, dedicated his career to Iranian diplomacy. He began his journey by studying diplomatic relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs College, followed by a master's and doctorate in international relations from the University of Tehran. This academic foundation laid the groundwork for his extensive service to the Iranian government.

A series of prominent roles mark Amir Abdollahian's career. He served as deputy ambassador to Baghdad, gaining invaluable experience in regional diplomacy. He held key positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including deputy director of the Persian Gulf Department, deputy special assistant for Iraqi affairs, and member of the Iran-EU Nuclear Negotiations Committee. He played a crucial role in the Tehran-Baghdad-Washington negotiations on Iraq and headed the Special Iraq Desk at the ministry.



Amir Abdollahian's diplomatic expertise extended beyond the regional sphere. He served as Ambassador of Iran to Bahrain, further expanding his understanding of international relations. His commitment to diplomacy was evident in his appointment as director-general of the West Asia Department and deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs.

Prior to assuming the highest office in Iranian diplomacy, Amir Abdollahian also served

as special assistant to the Speaker of the Parliament and director-general of international affairs at the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament).

On August 25, 2021, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, a role he held until his tragic passing on May 19, 2024.

Efforts and legacies

Amir Abdollahian was a man of action, not words. His efforts often unfolded in the shadows; their impact was felt

only when their remarkable outcomes made headlines. His diplomacy was marked by quiet processes, yet yielded extraordinary results.

One of the late diplomat's most enduring legacies lies in the closer, more cordial ties he forged with regional countries. His tenure, though brief, bore remarkable fruit: a detente with Saudi Arabia and promising rapprochements with Egypt and Bahrain. While past administrations had boasted of ambitious plans,

like the Hormuz peace initiative, to foster regional security and strong relationships, Amir Abdollahian shied away from such pronouncements. He avoided media fanfare, instead opting to only appear in front of the camera to deliver good news, rather than hopes and wishes.

Beyond strengthening ties in West Asia, Amir Abdollahian extended his diplomatic reach to other corners of the world. His efforts with European, African, and Asian nations secured two landmark memberships for modern Iran: entry into BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Meanwhile contrary to predictions from his Iranian critics, Amir Abdollahian did not isolate Iran from the West. He maintained dialogue with Western nations even during turbulent times, ensuring that communication channels remained open regardless of domestic or international developments.

While his accomplishments in securing deals and agreements are notable, future historians may well deem Amir Abdollahian's most significant contribution to actually be the crises he prevented. His efforts played a crucial role in keeping war at bay in a volatile region, particularly amidst Israel's relentless attacks on Gaza. The U.S. State Department's condolences, extended to both him and President Raisi, speak volumes about his role in containing violence and preventing regional escalation.

From October 7 until his passing, Amir Abdollahian embarked on numerous regional tours. He not only met with foreign officials but also engaged with resistance forces, whom he held in high regard. He facilitated their strategic moves and amplified their voices on the diplomatic stage, demonstrating a deep understanding of the realities on the ground. He never separated diplomacy from the battlefield, and his efforts kept the region safe, at times when a full-scale war was just around the corner due to the Israeli regime's savage crimes.

Acting FM lauds Amir Abdollahian's tireless efforts to advance foreign policy goals

TEHRAN - Ali Bagheri, the acting foreign minister, issued a message on May 21 offering condolences over the demise of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and their entourage.

Ali Bagheri, who served as Amir Abdollahian's deputy for political affairs, called Raisi a valiant president and Amir Abdollahian a revolutionary foreign minister who sought to deepen peace and friendship among the regional nations.

Following is the text of his message:

My colleagues and I in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs offer condolences to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Imam Khamenei (may his life be long); the honourable families and the noble nation of Iran over the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, the beloved and valiant President; Mr. Amir Abdollahian, the honourable and revolutionary Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ayatollah Al-e-Hashem, the honourable Friday prayers leader of Tabriz; and their companions on the path of rendering another service to the people as well as deepening peace and friendship among the nations of the region.

Ayatollah Raisi and Mr. Amir Abdollahian had the honour of serving the sacred establishment of the Islamic Republic and the noble nation of Iran in their blessed lives, and their departure while on duty is the best divine reward for the chosen warriors of God.

During my collaboration with Ayatollah Raisi, a servant of Imam Reza, in both his positions as the chief of the Judiciary and the head of the executive branch of power, and during my cooperation with Mr. Amir Abdollahian, I have closely witnessed their lasting and impactful services to the sacred Islamic establishment and their deep love for the honorable nation of Islamic Iran.

Ayatollah Raisi, during his distinguished services in various positions, including during his presidency, showcased aspects of revolutionary and diligent governance by providing outstanding services to the dear people of Iran in various fields.



The late President meticulously pursued diplomacy based on the strategic principle of «dignity, wisdom, and expediency» with the aim of the comprehensive defense of the rights of the great Iranian nation, strengthening cooperation in foreign relations with a priority on good neighborhood policy, further elevating

the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the international system, supporting the oppressed nation of Palestine and other oppressed peoples against the tyranny of global arrogance and the criminal Zionist regime.

Mr. Amir Abdollahian's deep understanding, as a close and compassionate aide to

the honorable President, the resistance front, the people, and the countries of the region was a pivotal center for advancing the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including in the area of good neighborhood policy, enhancing friendly relations with nations and governments, and defending the Palestinian

people.

His dedication to the prosperity and security of the region's nations, especially during his tenure as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was exemplary, and his departure while on the return from another arena of service in this direction serves as another testament to this claim.

The character and performance of my dear brother Hossein Amir Abdollahian reflected his deep, heartfelt belief in the original principles of the Islamic Revolution and his concern for maximizing Islamic and national interests.

“Amir Abdollahian's dedication to the prosperity and security of the region's nations, especially during his tenure as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was exemplary.”

His tireless and selfless efforts to achieve the goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, especially in supporting the axis of resistance, developing ever more friendship with neighbors and solidarity with Muslims, strengthening relations with emerging powers and new multilateral alliances, and his high moral virtues, including good manners and humility, will be remembered forever.

The loss of these dear martyrs is a significant loss for the sacred establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the entire Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Indeed, their valuable and high-minded thoughts and policies for advancing Iran's foreign policy, including in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will continue using all capacities, and efforts will be made to ensure that this unfortunate incident will not hinder the serious duties and responsibilities of the sincere servants of the Iranian nation in the diplomatic apparatus.



By Mohammad Sadegh Fazli
Director General of the
Foreign Minister's Office

TEHRAN – For the past few days, the warm and kind voice of the foreign minister has been absent from the hallways, phones, meetings, and offices. There are no messages or instructions, and his always-open office door is now closed, with an eerie silence. He has left this earthly world and chosen to commune with the sacred and celestial.

I first met him in the early days of my service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and later in the Iraq Task Force, the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bahrain, the General Directorate of the Persian Gulf, the Deputy for Arab and African Affairs, and the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament). However, the period when I had the honor of working with him as minister stands out, showcasing his sincere efforts and tireless dedication as the organizer of our diplomatic efforts.

When Hossein Amir Abdollahian received his vote of confidence in the Islamic Consultative Assembly in 2021, I was the chief of the Lebanon Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Shortly afterward, with his approval, I took on the responsibility of the General Directorate of West Asia. A few months later, I was appointed as his Advisor and Director General of his Office. What distinguished him from others was his consistent behavior and approach, his unchanging personal character, coupled with his seriousness in action, good nature, and calm demeanor.



1000 days of service

Martyr Hossein
Amir Abdollahian was
a dedicated and active
Foreign Minister of Iran



Entering the ministry

Martyr Amir Abdollahian was born on April 23, 1964, the night of Imam Hussein's (PBUH) birth, which is why he was named Hossein. Having lost his father in childhood, he pursued his education diligently and was accepted at the School of International Relations School of the Foreign Ministry in 1987. After graduation, Amir Abdollahian was employed as an expert at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1997, after earning his master's degree from the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran, he was appointed as the Deputy Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Baghdad. He also obtained a PhD in international relations from the University of Tehran.

In 2001, after returning from Baghdad, he became the Deputy Director of the Persian Gulf Political Department and, from 2003 for three years, served as the Deputy Special Assistant for the Iraq Affairs. In 2007, he was appointed as the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bahrain. Upon returning to Tehran, he was appointed as the Director-General of the Persian Gulf in 2010. At the age of 47, in 2011, he was appointed Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs by then-Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi. In the subsequent administration in 2016, he went to the Islamic Consultative Assembly and served as an advisor to the Parliament speaker on international affairs.

From August 25, 2021, when he received 270 votes in favor, 6 votes against, and 10 abstentions to become Foreign Minister, to the day of his martyrdom, a total of 1,000 days passed. During these thousand days, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the 13th government, adhering to the fundamental principles of the Islamic Revolution and the sacred system of the Islamic Republic as stated in the Constitution and other upstream documents, worked towards maintaining the country's independence and security and achieving national goals and interests. Within the framework of the transformative goals of the service-oriented government of President Raisi, and considering the strategic principles of dignity, wisdom, and expediency, he based his plans and actions on the strategy of «balanced foreign policy, dynamic diplomacy, and intelligent interaction.» In this path, with active engagement in dynamic diplomacy, it prioritized the development of relations with neighbors, active economic diplomacy, strengthening public diplomacy in line with the jihad of explanation, supporting the Axis of Resistance, safeguarding the rights of the peaceful nuclear program, striving to lift unjust sanctions, strengthening multilateralism, countering the hegemonic system, activating and utilizing parliamentary diplomacy, protecting the rights of Iranians abroad and strengthening their connection with the homeland. It also optimized the use of committed and specialized human resources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and led organizational structural reforms.

His ministry initially faced multiple challenges, including the urgent need to secure and produce COVID-19 vaccines, developments in Afghanistan, the ongoing crisis between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia, and foreign exchange demands, which he managed and advanced the country through his efforts and leadership. He and his organization were able to achieve significant transformations in the field of summit diplomacy and neighborliness policy. Arranging meet-

ings between the President and foreign leaders every 14 days was just part of the summit diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran during this government. The acceptance of the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization as the ninth main member and membership in BRICS were other significant foreign policy achievements in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs played an unparalleled role. Under his guidance, the diplomatic body managed to implement the 25-year strategic cooperation agreement with China and prepared the groundwork for a similar pact with Russia. Furthermore, in implementing the policy of developing relations with neighboring and Asian countries, prioritizing economic diplomacy in foreign interactions, and developing relations with African and Latin American countries, other tangible achievements were made. Some of these include:

- Repairing relations with various countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Sudan, etc.
- Securing strategic needs from foreign countries like vaccines and medicines
- Recognizing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the top government agency in the 2022 Shahid Rajai Festival
- Signing over 600 cooperation documents with foreign countries
- Finalizing Iran's membership in two crucial organizations: BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- Planning to enhance the status of Iranians abroad
- Optimizing consular service systems and increasing service hours and days for the public
- Improving the rank of the Iranian passport from 190 in 2020 to 86 in 2023
- Implementing the 25-year cooperation agreement with China
- Effectively managing regional crises like Afghanistan, the Azerbaijan-Armenia war, and Turkey-Syria tensions ▶ Page 5

From page 4 ► - Conducting around 300 meetings and over 400 telephone conversations with foreign officials

- Establishing political-strategic consultation committees with dozens of countries

- Taking fruitful actions in un-freezing significant financial resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad

- Increasing the value of foreign exchanges by 14% with 21 target countries

- Securing the presidency of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue

In the early days of his service, Amir Abdollahian traveled to Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, and continuously supported the issue of Palestine and the Axis of Resistance. In recent months, with the brutal invasion of the Zionist regime against Gaza since October 7, the most extensive diplomatic efforts to condemn the invasion and prevent its continuation were initiated by Amir Abdollahian. Conducting over 120 phone calls with counterparts and more than 80 meetings with officials from various countries in the shortest possible time were among the actions of the «man of diplomacy.» His diplomatic movements to voice the plight of the oppressed Palestinian people were so impactful that Zionist media were forced to admit defeat against these actions. Martyr Amir Abdollahian also personally participated in several sessions of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council to condemn Zionist crimes, meeting with doz-

Amir Abdollahian was known for his politeness and humbleness even among his harshest critics.

ens of officials from different countries each time.

The history of Iran will not forget the services of this great man who managed interactions with global actors without imposing unnecessary costs and played a crucial role in opposing the Zionist regime's aggression. From my perspective, the world lost a peace-loving man, a guardian of national interests, an anti-imperialist, a supporter of the oppressed, and a valuable diplomat. Late Amir Abdollahian was known for his politeness and humbleness even among his harshest

critics. He never rejected anyone for insufficient reasons; on the contrary, he believed that a manager must be able to work with all elements of an organization. He always said it was wrong to exclude someone just because their views differ from ours; instead, we should try to win them over. During these unforgettable thousand days, he paid special attention to all

The world lost a peace-loving man, a guardian of national interests, an anti-imperialist, a supporter of the oppressed, and a valuable diplomat.

personal correspondence and calls from colleagues or fellow Iranians. None of the requests made to him went unanswered, and the annotation «follow up and let me know the result» was one of his well-known annotations on personal requests from colleagues. He was always committed to implementing the directives of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and had assigned a committee to execute those views. He pursued the President's orders with determination and power, always emphasizing: «We have a short time to serve and to move, the time is over; so we should not miss the opportunity.» Fatigue and laziness had no place in his management. I testify that he was highly sensitive to any illegal or non-regulatory actions and his greatest vigilance was towards higher officials and relatives. He was extremely sensitive to informal relationships and illegal actions, constantly worrying that a colleague's right might be infringed. At the same time, he believed that matters should be pursued with decisiveness, speed, and accuracy and concluded within a specified period. He placed great emphasis on respecting veterans and retirees and was ready to help provide for their welfare.

In conclusion, with his martyrdom, he continued diplomacy. The arrival of over 60 delegations from various countries to Tehran on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 22, marked another achievement in foreign policy.

May his soul rest in peace... He lived happily and died a martyr.

Japanese ambassador says Amir Abdollahian raised Iran's regional status



TEHRAN - Japan's ambassador to Iran tells the Tehran Times that Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian «played an instrumental role in realizing stable relations with Iran's neighbors and raising the profile of Iran in the region.»

Tamaki Tsukada also says dialogue between Iranian and Japanese Foreign Ministers deepened the «understanding and trust» between Tehran and Tokyo.?

Iranian Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, President Ebrahim Raisi and their entourage lost their lives in a tragic helicopter crash in northwestern Iran on May 19.

Ambassador Tsukada says Japan likes to continue to hold frank dialogue on issues of mutual concern with the new Iranian president and foreign minister.

Following is the text of the interview:

What is your feeling about the passing of the Iranian Foreign Minister?

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian. I express my condolences to Iran as a nation to its people, and especially to his family, not only as a representative of the Government of Japan, but also personally.

Upon receiving the news of their passing, the Emperor of Japan sent a condolatory message to H.E. Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Emperor and Empress of Japan offered flowers. Mr. KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, sent a message of condolences to H.E. Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and H.E. Mr. Mohammad Mokhber, the Acting President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan also sent a message of condolences. As indicated by the various forms of condolences expressed, the news came as a great shock to many who had close ties with Iran.

I met Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian for the first-time last December when I presented him the copy of my credentials and conveyed my determination to con-

tribute to the strengthening of Japan-Iran relations. When I underwent a surgery in Iran in February of this year, the Minister himself not only sent me flowers, but also visited my residence with his lovely family. This memory will remain in my heart for the rest of my life.

What is your perspective on his diplomatic legacies?

In August 2023, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian visited Japan and made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Kishida and also had a meeting with then Foreign Minister Yoshimasa HAYASHI, currently the chief cabinet secretary. During his visit, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian made important strides to continue our cooperation and dialogue on various fronts.

After these meetings, two high-level meetings took place one after another. Japan-Iran summit meeting at the margin of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2023, and Japan-Iran Foreign Ministers' meeting at the margin of the Global Refugee Forum in Geneva in December 2023.

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian's contributions went beyond strengthening relations between Japan and Iran. He played an instrumental role in realizing stable relations with Iran's neighbors and raising the profile of Iran in the region.

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian's visit to Japan and the continued dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of both countries have contributed greatly to strengthening our understanding and trust in each other's policies and standings. We are committed to carry on his lasting legacies.?

How do you assess the future of Iran-Japan relations

Although Japan and Iran have different positions and approaches on a number of issues, including nuclear, we would like to continue to hold frank dialogues on bilateral and regional issues based on our traditional and trusting relationship with the new President and the Foreign Minister.



‘We know nothing about him except good...’



By Parviz Esmaili

Former Iranian ambassador to Croatia

TEHRAN - In light of the recent tragic helicopter crash and the martyrdom of the esteemed President, Foreign Minister, and other servants of our country, it is with a heavy heart that I write. May their souls rest in divine mercy, and may God grant patience and strength to the grieving families and the noble nation of Iran.

I feel compelled to honor the memory of my dear brother, martyr Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, with whom I had a twenty-year friendship and professional collaboration. His dedication to defending the oppressed people of Palestine and his role as the first martyr Foreign Minister in the Islamic Republic of Iran are testament to his exceptional qualities.

I had the opportunity to build a connection with Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian through various media communications and his active participation in regional events, particularly in advocating for the oppressed people of Palestine. Additionally, I had the privilege of getting to know him better during our embassy tenure in Bahrain, where I was invited twice to attend regional conferences and media events. It was during these interactions that I came to appreciate his sincere, pure, and honest demeanor. Our bond deepened significantly during my visits to his home, thanks in large part to Dr. Amir Abdollahian's warmth and hospitality.

Even if there were lapses in communication on my end, he always made an effort to reconnect and demonstrate his affectionate nature.

In my view, personal and ethical characteristics are just as crucial as professional expertise and managerial principles when it comes to any responsibility. This is because specialized approaches, political views, and management policies can be relative and subjective, whereas human dignity and ethical principles are enduring and more valuable for evaluating individuals. Over the course of 20 years, I have come to know Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian as a person of noble and ethical character, who is humble, kind, sociable, and principled. He was always willing to help others, regardless of their ideological preferences. In addition to fulfilling his assigned duties, he consistently demonstrated sincerity, modesty, honesty, diligence, and unwavering perseverance.

Dr. Amir Abdollahian was a humble and respected collaborator for the diplomats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various periods. He possessed a deep understanding of Iran's foreign policy structure, key players, and influential factors, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the country's diplomatic organization. His experience in diplomacy spanned international, regional, and domestic dimensions. Notably, he navigated significant challenges such as Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA, the European Union's practical compliance, regional developments, the global impact of COVID-19, the war in

Ukraine, and other events that have affected Iran's foreign relations.

In these challenging times, Dr. Amir Abdollahian made remarkable efforts to not only reinitiate discussions with the JCPOA members but also to establish a more balanced approach by strengthening ties with neighboring nations and enhancing Iran's presence in regional and international organizations. This included expediting Iran's official membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Eurasia, and BRICS, as well as fostering bilateral relations with a diverse array of countries. This equilibrium catalyzes improvement in the country's overall economic situation and encourages influential nations to help revive the nuclear agreement.

Before my assignment to Croatia in 2019 for diplomatic duties, I had the privilege of being invited as a guest to his office for lunch. At that time, I was serving as an assistant to the head and director-general of international affairs at the parliament. During our meeting, he generously shared his valuable diplomatic experiences with me and also provided me with a folder containing essential information and letters from prominent figures such as the Speaker of Parliament and the chairman of the National Security Commission in Croatia. These documents, prepared by his counterparts in Croatia, detailed important national occasions of their country. This assistance proved to be incredibly beneficial for me and showcased his professional

expertise and forward-thinking approach in the field of diplomacy.

Dr. Amir Abdollahian had close and respectful relationships with his colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He held former ministers and veteran diplomats in high regard, actively seeking their input and bringing them together. He extended the same level of care and support to all his colleagues at the Ministry, striving to improve their professional and personal well-being within his means. He was a reliable source of support for his colleagues, sharing in their joys and sorrows. Despite his ministerial position, he remained approachable and attentive to their needs. Dr. Abdollahian also maintained strong connections with our country's ambassadors, often inviting them to join him on trips to discuss foreign policy, regional relations, and bilateral talks when visiting their respective regions.

I reached out to Dr. Amir Abdollahian several times regarding bilateral issues with Croatia and matters related to the Balkans and the European Union. I remember one night when an important issue arose at 11:30 Tehran time, which the relevant department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had postponed until the next day. Despite being tired, Dr. Amir Abdollahian listened kindly and issued necessary orders regarding the matter. The following night, even while he was abroad, he followed up on the result.

While the consular structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs generally deals with consular issues or legal mat-

ters of Iranians abroad, Dr. Amir Abdollahian had a special interest in this area. When an unjust problem arose for one of our compatriots at Tehran airport, I had to contact him. Despite heavy schedule constraints, he personally reached out, even outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and resolved the issue.

Another important aspect of proactive foreign policy is public diplomacy and communication with global public opinion. Dr. Amir Abdollahian's special attention to interacting with the media inside the country as well as engaging with influential international media was unprecedented and demonstrated his understanding of public opinion. I requested an exclusive interview with him for the most reputable newspaper in the Balkans and Croatia (Vecernji List), which he immediately and graciously accepted. This interview was conducted by sending a reporter to Tehran and was featured on the front page of the newspaper, receiving extensive coverage in international media.

As a colleague and friend, I bear witness before the people and in the presence of Almighty God that «O Allah, we know nothing about him except good...» and that martyr Dr. Hossein Amir Abdollahian did everything within his power for Iran and its people and did not hold back. I hum [this poem] with a heavy heart:

Upon seeing you, the crowd hushed, then whispered to the wind-swift horse,

‘Where does the breeze carry the crimson rose petal, where does it fall?’



Amir Abdollahian promoted new regional security order to advance neighborhood policy



By Alireza Enayati
Iran's ambassador to
Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - In the summer of 2021, as Ebrahim Raisi began his presidency, the concept of «neighborhood policy» became a cornerstone of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian was tasked with implementing this policy, building on his extensive experience with Iran's neighbors and regional countries during

his tenure at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He devoted himself to this mission wholeheartedly.

Through numerous phone calls, participation in regional and international conferences, meetings, visits, and effective communication with his counterparts in the foreign ministries of regional countries, Amir Abdollahian established himself in the political arena as a hardworking, diligent, humble, and knowledgeable diplomat.

After taking the initial steps and demonstrating Iran's goodwill, the countries in the region, particularly the Persian Gulf states, welcomed Iran's

outreach, leading to a new era in the relations between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries. During the late Amir Abdollahian's tenure, Iran's relations with Saudi Arabia were restored, ties with the United Arab Emirates improved, and connections with Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, and Qatar were strengthened.

The restoration of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia in March 2023 was hailed as one of the most significant events in recent years for the West Asia region by many experts.

This agreement and political

reconciliation made waves not only on a bilateral level but also reverberated throughout the broader Islamic world and the region at large.

The productive visits of the late President Raisi to Oman and Qatar, his participation in the extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Saudi Arabia, and his meetings with the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, along with leaders of Arab and Islamic countries, as well as the visits of the Sultan of Oman and the Emir of Qatar to Tehran, showcased the peak of the Islamic Republic of Iran's flourishing neighborhood policy and its progress.

In addition to expanding bilateral relations with southern neighbors in the Persian Gulf, there has always been hope among the architects of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy and its Foreign Minister for establishing a new security system in the region with the participation of all eight countries bordering the Persian Gulf (the GCC countries plus Iran and Iraq), free from the interference of extra-regional powers and based on the will of the region's peoples.

Promoting the idea of a new order for regional security was always on late Amir Abdollahian's agenda. He held numerous consultations with regional officials. One of his important proposals for regional stability was the idea of holding a Regional Dialogue Forum to strengthen dialogue among countries, encouraging listening to one another instead of talking about one another. Emphasizing peace, tranquility, and stability in the Persian Gulf was one of the cornerstones of the neighborhood policy envisioned by the late Foreign Minister.

His friendliness was always praised by friends and colleagues. This good character was also well-known among his counterparts in neighboring countries, and his personal relationship often resolved bilateral and regional issues, accelerating the process. The presence of the Omani Foreign Minister at his family home to express condolences and the post on social media X by the UAE Foreign Minister about the late Amir Abdollahian's character are testament to this.

One of the latest and most significant achievements of pursuing the neighborhood policy during his tenure was the revival of the process for dispatching Umrah pilgrims to Mecca. He personally followed up on this issue, making several phone calls and holding face-to-face meetings with his Saudi counterpart to resolve problems and remove obstacles.

The martyrdom of Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian in a helicopter crash was a deeply painful loss for his friends and colleagues. However, the fact that the incident occurred while serving national interests and during his return from inaugurating a joint project with a neighboring country, aimed at helping the people of both nations, marked a fitting conclusion to a lifetime of sincere service by the beloved minister and executor of Iran's neighborhood policy.



Envoy highlights four visits of martyr diplomat to Geneva

‘Tireless and patient Amir Abdollahian never hesitated to take right actions in line with national interests’



GENEVA – Geneva was a key hub for the government’s multi-lateral diplomacy, which led martyr Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to visit the city four times last year.

During these trips, he delivered speeches at major international meetings and met with his counterparts and the heads of international organizations based in Geneva.

In this interview, Ali Bahraini, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva, discusses the diplomatic abilities of the late Foreign Minister with the Tehran Times.

What do you think were the most important qualities of Martyr Amir Abdollahian as a diplomat?

Patience and composure, along with a dedicated pursuit of national interests. Those familiar with foreign policy understand that diplomacy is a process that matures and yields results over time. Professional diplomats seize every opportunity to secure benefits and avert threats

while avoiding hasty decisions. Effective navigation in foreign policy requires insight, strategy, planning, and deliberate perseverance. The late Amir Abdollahian exemplified patience, prudence, and composure, all while being dedicated to national interests. This approach was evident during his trips to Geneva and his numerous meetings with foreign representatives. His methodical approach enabled him to gradually resolve difficult and sometimes seemingly impossible issues, creating new opportunities for Iran’s foreign policy. His patience and forbearance were not just accidental but were the results of active and rigorous self-discipline. The late Amir Abdollahian was a self-made diplomat.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution recently referred to Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian as a ‘strong negotiator’. Could you elaborate on this?

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the late Amir Abdollahian as an active, hardworking, innovative Foreign Minister, a strong negotiator, intelligent, and

committed to principles and fundamentals. Notably, when highlighting his strong negotiation skills, he specifically referred to the session reports of Amir Abdollahian’s negotiations, emphasizing his strength in this area. The Leader’s remarks stem from a long and close acquaintance with the late Amir Abdollahian and are not mere formalities. A strong negotiator must first be well-versed in the main frameworks of negotiation. Secondly, they must be relentless and resilient in securing national interests, possessing high national confidence. Thirdly, they must be skilled in negotiation techniques, including understanding the personal and cultural characteristics of their counterparts. Our martyr minister excelled in all three areas. His deep understanding of the West Asia region contributed significantly to his success, particularly in advancing neighborhood policy and fostering understanding within the Islamic world. He was also very receptive to consultation, utilizing the opinions of experts at all levels. Given the diverse responsibilities of the Geneva representation and

his frequent trips to Geneva, he would often engage in patient and respectful dialogues with experts before making decisions. His resilience and tirelessness in advancing national interests were unwavering, and he never hesitated to take the right actions. His intelligence and special attention to the backgrounds and interests of his negotiation counterparts further underscored his negotiation skills.

As Iran’s representative to international organizations, you worked closely with the minister. What do you consider his main strength and achievement during his tenure?

Identifying a single strength or achievement of his tenure is very challenging. In bilateral relations, the renewed closeness with Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Egypt, was significant, with the late Amir Abdollahian playing a pivotal role. While many factors contributed to this improvement, it was Amir Abdollahian’s expertise and personal capacities that were crucial. ▶ Page 9

From page 8 ▶ In multilateral relations, one notable achievement was the significant increase in direct participation and the elevated level of engagement in international meetings.

About four months ago, the late Amir Abdollahian attended the 55th Human Rights Council session and the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. How was his presence and activity in this session, and what were his key agenda items?

He visited Geneva four times during his ministry. First for the Disarmament Conference and the 52nd Human Rights Council session in March 2023, then in November 2023 for discussions with international officials on Palestine following the October 7 attack by the Zionist regime (on Gaza). His third visit was for the Global Refugee Forum in mid-December 2023, and his fourth for the 55th Human Rights Council session and the UN Disarmament Conference in March 2024.

His first visit to Geneva coincided with the unrest following the death of Mahsa Amini and the peak of the Russia-Ukraine war. The purpose of this trip was to clarify our country's stance on global developments and deliver a local perspective on internal issues. At that time, the Human Rights Council had hostile arrangements against our country, and it was necessary to present the facts about Iran's responsibility and human rights observance. Given the national context following Mahsa Amini's death, there were natural doubts about the martyr minister's participa-

tion and speech at that session. Ultimately, after consulting experts and thoroughly analyzing the situation, he decided to attend the session with his characteristic patience, calm, firmness, and national confidence. By God's grace, he showcased Iran's power without any issues.

The tragic event of May 19 demonstrated the resilience and adaptability of the Islamic Republic's political system in difficult conditions.

During his trips to Geneva, he held dozens of meetings and engaged with key international actors, including government officials, heads of international organizations, and even non-governmental activists, to advance national interests and clarify our country's positions. Besides his presence in Geneva, he also participated and spoke virtually at numerous meetings, including those on Afghanistan after the Taliban's takeover and the Human Rights Council session condemning Quran burnings.

During the funeral and tribute ceremonies, we saw the presence of high-level delegations from dozens of countries and their respects in various international forums. What is your

assessment and analysis of this?

Iran holds an important position in the world. Naturally, some global platforms are dissatisfied with this and invest heavily in tarnishing Iran's image through international media. However, sometimes God provides opportunities to reveal the true face of Iran to the world. The Islamic-Iranian demeanor of martyr Amir Abdollahian as Iran's principal envoy to the global forums over the past three years significantly helped maintain and enhance our country's image. Many officials who came to sign the martyr's memorial book at the representation office acknowledged this. During his trips to Geneva, he met with many of his counterparts, and numerous resident ambassadors in Geneva were present at these meetings. He was respected by all of them. International organization officials also held special respect for Iran and the minister himself. During one of his trips to Geneva, the heads of four international humanitarian organizations jointly met with him at his hotel and had constructive discussions, especially on the topic of Afghan nationals in Iran, which has recently gained attention. Such meetings are rare and happen only because of Iran's high status and the unique personality of our late minister, benefiting the Iranian people.

The massive and grand public turnout for the funeral and ceremonies of the martyrs, what messages do you think this sends to friends and foes of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad?

Naturally, the world watched Iran closely after this tragic event. I think the people of Iran demonstrated well that despite all international pressures and restrictions, they support their political system in critical moments. One of the benefits of the martyr's sacrifice was that the world witnessed this scene firsthand.

Another significant issue is the resilience and adaptability of the Islamic Republic of Iran's political system in difficult conditions. The fact that after the martyrdom of the president and the foreign minister, the country continued its natural course based on internal structures and constitutional capacities, without disruption to its main programs, wards off many threats against dear Iran. All these are the blessings of the services and pure intentions of our martyrs.

"Sometimes God provides opportunities to reveal the true face of Iran to the world."

In conclusion, I pray to Almighty God to make us true followers of our beloved martyrs and grant us the success to strive wholeheartedly for national interests and the elevation of truth in the world, and may our life's end be martyrdom in the path of Islam and Iran.





Indian ambassador shares insights on Martyr Amir Abdollahian



By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN – In an interview with the Tehran Times, the Indian Ambassador to Tehran, Rudra Gaurav Shresth, offered his perspectives on the late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Following is the text of the

interview:

Could you please tell us about your impression of working with Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian?

Almost exactly one year back, soon after I arrived in Iran to take up my Ambassadorial assignment, I had the

opportunity to present a copy of my Credentials to Foreign Minister His Excellency Amir Abdollahian. He wished me well for my assignment, and gave me valuable guidance about the priorities and issues I should focus on during my time in Iran.

In your opinion, what are the most prominent characteristics of Mr. Amir Abdollahian?

Subsequently, I met him again on several occasions, whenever senior Indian dignitaries visited Iran and called upon him for discussions. In particular, I recall the excellent meeting that our External Affairs Minister, Dr. Jaishankar, had with H.E. Amir Abdollahian during his visit to Tehran in January this year. The last time I met Dr. Amir Abdollahian was just a week back, on 13 May 2024, during the visit of our Minister for Ports & Shipping, and soon after the signature of the landmark long-term Contract for India-Iran cooperation in Chabahar port. The two ministers outlined an ambitious future for bilateral cooperation, not just in Chabahar but on a broader canvas.

How do you evaluate Minister Amir Abdollahian's contribution to consolidating the relationship with India?

On all the occasions that I

met him, I found Dr. Amir Abdollahian to be very knowledgeable about the issues being discussed, and very mindful of Iran's best interests. He and Dr. Jaishankar shared a very warm and mutually respectful relationship, and frequently spoke to each other on phone. I especially recall their frequent communication with each other when Iran's BRICS membership was under consideration. Today Dr. Jaishankar conveyed his deep shock after hearing the tragic news of Dr. Amir Abdollahian's passing.

What are the reactions at popular and official levels in your country regarding the helicopter crash in Iran?

In the loss of His Excellency Amir Abdollahian, India has lost a valuable interlocutor who well understood the civilizational basis of India-Iran friendship, as well as the long-term potential of our bilateral and regional cooperation. May his soul rest in peace.

Amir Abdollahian greatly contributed to strengthening multilateralism, peaceful global order: Turkish ambassador 'His calm diplomatic effort will be a guide for the new generation of diplomats'

TEHRAN - Hicabi Kirlangiç, the Turkish ambassador to Iran, tells the Tehran Times that the late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian greatly contributed to peaceful world order and strengthening multilateralism.

Amir Abdollahian and President Ebrahim Raisi lost their lives in a tragic helicopter crash in northwest Iran on May 19.

Following is the text of the interview with Ambassador Kirlangiç:

What is your thoughts on the passing of the Foreign Minister?

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Honorable President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and their precious entourage at the tragic accident.

President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian had greatly contributed to enhancing the relations between Türkiye and Iran in various fields. They also had close contact with their Turkish counterparts, President H.E Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Hakan Fidan.

The Presidents and Foreign Ministers have often exchanged views and made joint efforts in the face of national and international challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the

6th February earthquakes in Türkiye and the Gaza War among others.

Throughout Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian's term in office, he and his Turkish counterpart cooperated on common challenges. Amir Abdollahian and his Turkish counterpart H.E. Hakan Fidan lastly met in Banjul on the margins of the OIC summit on 4 May. Additionally, President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian visited Türkiye on 24 January.

What is your perspective on his diplomatic legacies?

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian had contributed greatly to solidifying Türkiye-Iran bilateral relations. He visited Türkiye several times in recent periods to exchange views with Foreign Minister of Türkiye H.E. Hakan Fidan and his predecessor H.E. Çavuşoğlu. I observed that his clear and calculated speech during public addresses and meetings was one of his most distinguished strengths.

He contributed greatly to the peaceful world order and strengthening multilateralism through his openness to dialog and constructive diplomacy with his counterparts. He played a critical role in conveying the message of the Iranian government to the world community on the regional crises, particularly the Palestinian issue and



atrocities being perpetrated in Gaza. I believe that his calm diplomatic effort will also be a guide for the new generation of diplomats, especially in our region.

How do you see the future of Iran-Turkey relations?

Turkish-Iranian relations have always been strategic and significant for both sides throughout history. Türkiye's main goal is to develop bilateral relations with Iran, an important, friendly and brotherly neighbor, with which we have historical and cultural ties, on the

basis of the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect.

We strive to develop our bilateral and regional relations within the framework of our common interests. In this context, mutual high-level contacts have gained momentum in recent years. Hence, I believe that this positive trend will continue and give rise to closer relations in the upcoming period. Our effort will be always to realize the broad cooperation potential between Türkiye and Iran in all fields as friendly neighbor countries.

Pakistan ambassador says Amir Abdollahian had deep vision of geopolitical issues

Pakistan mourned the tragic loss of the Iranian President, FM

By Alireza Akbari

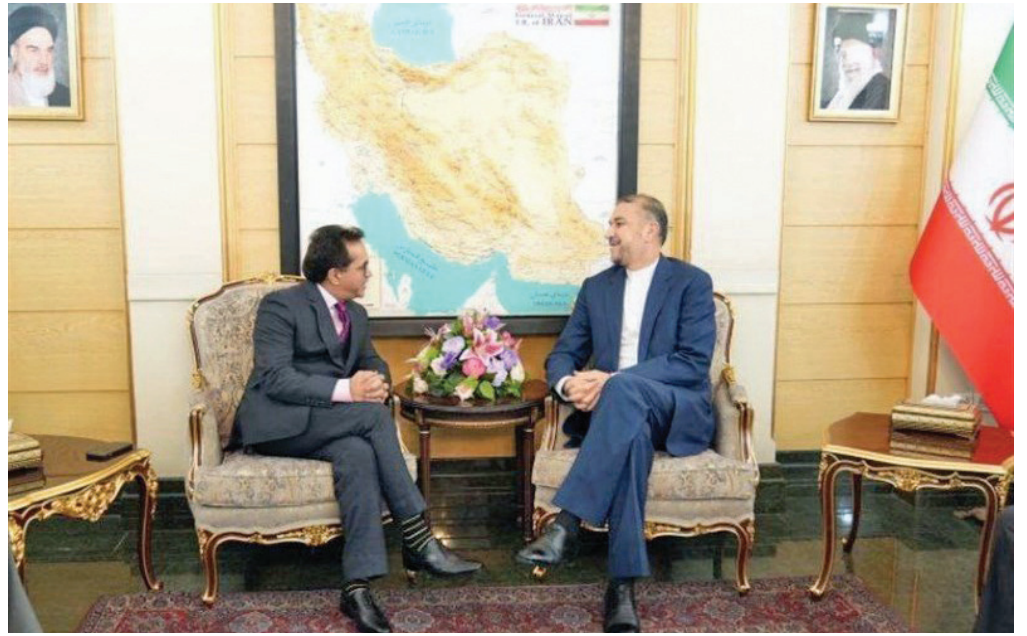
TEHRAN – Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran, in an interview with the Tehran Times, has stated that as a gesture of solidarity with the Iranian nation, the Pakistani flag was flown at half-mast over the tragic passing of its President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

"I am deeply saddened by the martyrdom of Honourable President Raisi, the Foreign Minister, and their entourage. Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian was an exemplary human being. I was profoundly impressed by his grace, humility, thoughtfulness, and foresightedness," Muhammad Mudassir Tipu stated.

When asked about his experience working with the Iranian Foreign Minister, the Pakistani diplomat remarked,

"Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian was extremely kind to me. I believe he was one of the most significant statesmen in the world. He had deep insight into geopolitical issues, strategic clarity, and pursued Iran's interests with remarkable dedication."

Regarding the contributions of Amir Abdollahian in strengthening relations with Pakistan, he stated, "Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian was deeply committed to Pakistan and aimed to solidify Pakistan-Iran relations. He visited Pakistan at the end of January to build trust and confidence between the leadership and the people of both countries. In April, he returned to Pakistan with Honourable President Raisi, where he had excellent meetings with our leadership and played an instrumental role in fortifying our ties. His contributions will be remem-



bered for generations."

Commenting on the tragic loss of the Iranian Foreign Minister, he noted, "In Pakistan, there is widespread mourning.

People are expressing their heartfelt condolences, feeling a personal loss. These two figures were highly revered in Pakistan and held a special place in the hearts of the Pa-

kistani people. The Pakistani flag was flown at half-mast to remain in solidarity with the Iranian people during this critical and tragic moment in their history."

Amir Abdollahian was highly engaging and consultative



By Mir Masoud Hosseinian
Ambassador of Iran to
Tunisia

In the Name of God

"And do not say about those who are killed in the way of Allah, 'They are dead'. Rather, they are alive, but you perceive [it] not." (2:154)

Speaking about the late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian is very difficult for me, especially since our acquaintance dates back more than 30 years. It is even harder to do so within just a few hours, while I was extremely busy. However, I have tried to summarize my thoughts in a few sentences.

We first met in the late 1980s at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs College. I was in

the third year, and the martyr Foreign Minister was a student in the fourth year.

After joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988 (myself) and the following year (Amir Abdollahian), we both worked in West Asia's Arab departments, benefiting from the teachings of the late Hossein Sheikh al-Islam, a master of Resistance diplomacy. Amir Abdollahian focused on the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Bahrain, while I focused on West Asia, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

He went to become the head of the Iraq Task Force, then a deputy and head of a department, the second-in-command in Baghdad, ambassador to Bahrain, and deputy minister. I was assigned to missions

in Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt.

When Amir Abdollahian became the deputy foreign minister for Arab and African Affairs, our professional relationship naturally deepened, as I was also the deputy director-general of the region. I was assigned as consul general in Karbala, and he moved from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Parliament. During my five-year mission, he visited Karbala once with his family, and I had the honor of hosting him, for which he repeatedly expressed his gratitude.

The most important point is that Amir Abdollahian's character remained unchanged throughout his career, from being an expert, head of department, ambassador, and deputy minister, to becoming a minister. These responsibilities did not affect his ethics, behavior, magnanimity, or compassion for his friends. Amir Abdollahian remained the same person: amiable, cheerful, smiling, highly consultative, and an expert in the region, particularly in the field of Resistance.

We were so comfortable with him that even when he became a minister, he was still known among friends simply as "Mr. Amir," not "Mr. Minister."

After his time in Parliament and my return from Karbala, I

became the director-general for West Asia and North Africa, and our relationship grew even closer, particularly regarding issues like Palestine and related conferences.

Later, he was appointed as Foreign Minister and won the confidence of the parliamentarians for the post in the late President Raisi's administration. Naturally, our regional office and I had even more interactions with him during meetings and travels. We traveled together to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and other places, and I witnessed his efforts and actions for the Axis of Resistance (in numerous meetings with Hassan Nasrallah, Bashar al-Assad, and other regional officials). Whether on flights, in hotels, or during meetings, he was highly engaging and consultative, always speaking highly of his friends, often saying, "Mr. ... is our mentor."

His excellent demeanor with accompanying journalists during trips always left a lasting impression of his courtesy and respect.

After handing over the post of director-general in 2021 to another friend and being appointed as the advisor to minister on West Asian affairs, his kindness towards me did not diminish. In late 2023, I was appointed as the ambassador of Iran to Tu-

nisia, signed by the two martyrs Raisi and Amir Abdollahian, and left for this country.

The last farewell

About two weeks before his martyrdom, when he traveled to Gambia, despite plans to refuel in Algeria, he expressed a desire to return via Tunisia. Despite the challenges of coordinating this during the weekend, with God's help, it was arranged, and he spent about two hours at an airport in Tunisia in a very friendly and affectionate meeting with colleagues, showing great kindness towards me. His last words before boarding the plane were: "I could have returned from Algeria, but I came here to see you," referring to my transfer in Tehran and its background, which need not be discussed here.

And Amir Abdollahian left and did not return, despite all the arrangements for his official visit to Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia. But God had a different plan. (Man plans, and God decides.)

May Allah have mercy on him and grant him a place in Jannah. May He give his honorable family patience and great reward, and may He help us continue the path of these martyrs.

Amen, O Lord of the worlds.



Martyr Amir Abdollahian strengthened Iran's position in the world: Bolivian ambassador



By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Hossein Amir Abdollahian was widely regarded as a dedicated and diligent diplomat throughout his relatively long career.

Before tragically losing his life in a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran's East Azerbaijan province on May 19, he had been serving as the country's foreign minister for the past three years.

To gain deeper insights into the character, efforts, and nature of Minister Amir Abdollahian, the Tehran Times conducted an exclusive interview with Romina Guadalupe Pérez Ramos, the Ambassador of Bolivia to Iran.

The Interview transcript can be read below:

As the Ambassador of Bolivia, how do you assess the role and impacts of the actions of martyr Amir Abdollahian in regional and global diplomacy?

Martyr Hossein Amir Abdollahian, as Iran's Foreign Minister, not only excelled in his role but also elevated the nation's foreign policy on regional and global fronts.

Iran has a transparent foreign policy in the region and the world. Under President Raisi's leadership, Minister Amir Abdollahian implemented Iran's clear foreign policy

strategies through diplomacy. Their combined efforts significantly enhanced Iran's international standing. Their contributions have been widely recognized by global leaders who have expressed condolences and solidarity with Iran in the past few days.

The martyrs forged strong diplomatic ties with world leaders, particularly in Western and Central Asia, as well as Russia. This led to new levels of political and military cooperation. Iran's relations with China also flourished, culminating in its full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Iran's transformation into a major player in the Eurasian Economic Union is another testament to the two officials' achievements.

Moreover, they strengthened relations with developing economies through BRICS membership, demonstrating the success of their multilateral diplomacy. Their speeches at the United Nations and other organizations consistently upheld principles of justice and international law. They promoted multilateralism and regional security based on government

sovereignty.

Throughout their lives, martyr Ebrahim Raisi and martyr Hossein Amir Abdollahian held high positions and important responsibilities that required a patriotic and revolutionary spirit based on national and regional interests, which also reached the international level. Amir Abdollahian's role in multilateral and bilateral diplomacy was particularly noteworthy. He emphasized Iran's impactful role as part of the «Axis of Resistance»

Martyr Amir Abdollahian showed resilience in his character and personality. His behavior was kind and respectful.

and promoted the teachings of General Qassem Soleimani. As I understood, martyr Amir Abdollahian was close to the Quds Force, which is why he mentioned that «strengthening the resistance front is on the agenda of the new government.»

We must also acknowledge the significant contributions of Martyr Hossein Amir Abdollahian in recent regional events, particularly during the Zionist regime's war against Gaza.

Despite the relentless aggression and attacks by Israel and the United States against Iran, including economic siege, assassinations, attacks on allies, and the deadly

assault on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Martyr Amir Abdollahian demonstrated his diplomatic skills and unwavering commitment to preventing further escalation and conflict.

Iran's response to these provocations was guided by international law. Through extensive diplomatic efforts, including trips abroad and meetings with foreign officials in Tehran, Martyr Amir Abdollahian worked tirelessly to contain and prevent the spread of war. His commendable diplomacy yielded positive results, both regionally and internationally.

Another notable aspect of his legacy is his initiative to re-establish relations with Saudi Arabia. This diplomatic move had the potential to improve regional stability and security by reducing external interference and fostering cooperation between the two countries.

What was the nature of relations between Iran and Bolivia during the time of martyr Amir Abdollahian?

Relations, especially after the tragic coup took place in Bolivia, have been strengthened. The coup led to the takeover of the de facto government against the country's constitution and the closure of the Bolivian embassy in Iran in 2019 and 2020. ▶ Page 13

From page 12 ▶ During the tenure of martyrs Ebrahim Raeisi and Amir Abdollahian, the people of Bolivia overthrew the dictatorship on the streets and at the ballot boxes, and Luis Arce Catacora was appointed as the legitimate president of Bolivia. Gradually, relations were strengthened, and the unfinished cooperation that remained from the government of Evo Morales since 2019 was resumed.

During this period, Iran and Bolivia resumed the cooperation agreements that had been initiated under the government of Evo Morales but remained unfinished due to the coup. To further strengthen bilateral ties, a comprehensive two-way agenda was adopted in 2021.

The first joint commission meeting was held to establish a cooperation framework in various fields, including politics, economics, social affairs, culture, science, technology, and security. A working program was developed and is currently being implemented by both countries. Since the establishment of the joint commission, cooperation between Iran and Bolivia has continued to grow and expand, contributing to the strengthening of relations between the two nations.

Was there a specific emphasis on developing relations with South American countries, particularly Bolivia, by martyr Amir Abdollahian?

Iran's foreign policy is structured and guided by Iran's strategic objectives and perspectives. In this context, there is a significant political determination from the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance ties with Latin American nations, including Bolivia. Martyr Amir Abdollahian effectively executed this strategy in an exemplary manner.

Considering the tragic demise of the Iranian Foreign Minister, what potential impact could this incident have on the diplomatic relations between Iran and Bolivia?

Bolivia and the Islamic Republic of Iran have established bilateral relations through official agreements and ongoing discussions.

These commitments involve short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions that are part of the agenda between both countries. The successors of martyrs

will be dedicated to implementing these commitments, with any changes being procedural and dependent on the timing of the agendas and the improvement of relations through new agreements.

The political relations between Iran and Bolivia are grounded in shared political, ideological, and social principles that guide their international policies. Both countries prioritize sovereignty and international diplomacy in their commitment to bilateralism.

How did you see the personality and character of martyr Amir Abdollahian in your meetings and encounters with him?

In addition to demonstrating his capabilities in dealing with untimely situations and scenarios, he displayed calmness and dignity.

Martyr Amir Abdollahian showed resilience in his character and personality. His behavior was kind and respectful. During his tenure as the foreign minister, in addition to demonstrating his capabilities in dealing with untimely situations and scenarios, he displayed calmness and dignity. His self-confidence came from his academic education and political experience in the diplomatic arena, which allowed him to play an important role in securing the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian people.

He managed well the resumption of relations with Saudi Arabia, from which both countries and the region as a whole benefited, and his speeches at international bodies were always distinguished due to the emphasis on ethical principles, justice, and international law.

In negotiations or diplomatic reports, he presented or in bilateral meetings we had, he showed determination in his beliefs and used communication channels that guaranteed constructive diplomatic dialogue. By taking an active position in seeking harmony and strengthening bilateral relations within the framework of the sovereignty of both countries, he made efforts to achieve the proposed goals.

In this regard, one can refer to the achievements and results of his activities in the mission entrusted to him. His empathy in bilateral meetings showed his sensitivity and willingness to help grow, develop, and strengthen

Amir Abdollahian worked tirelessly to contain and prevent the spread of the Gaza war.



bilateral relations, always placing the interests and concerns raised at the negotiation table as a starting point for discussion.

Professional and intellectual instructions, political insight, and maturity, all indicate his strong political will in seeking solutions and making fair decisions.

Therefore, his management style allowed him to carry out his duties and achieve the expected results, be responsible in any field, and always consider the «lessons learned» thanks to his professional and diplomatic performance in positions such as: Deputy for Arab and African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Special Assistant to the Speaker of the Parliament and Director-General of International

Affairs at the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of the International Conference on Supporting the Palestinian Uprising, Editor-in-Chief of the Strategic Quarterly Journal of Palestine, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bahrain, Director-General of Persian Gulf and Middle East Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, founding member of the Center for West Asian Studies, as well as visiting professor at the Faculty of World Studies at the University of Tehran and the Faculty of International Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

These experiences strengthened his communication skills and ability to listen to others. I value Martyr Amir Abdollahian for the positive human and political relations we established during my tenure as ambassador.

His political insight and maturity made him seek solutions and fair decisions.



Amir Abdollahian deeply understood Africa: Zimbabwean envoy



By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian was perhaps the only top Iranian diplomat who understood that the world has different pillars and that all countries must be addressed with the same level of respect and engagement.

Amir Abdollahian is believed to have left a lasting mark on ties between Iran and African nations. His commitment to Africa takes on even greater significance when considering the current global power dynamics. Russia, China, and the United States are all vying for influence in the continent, making Amir Abdollahian's work to forge strong ties with African nations all the more impactful.

To better understand the significance of his legacy, we spoke with Bright Kupemba, Zimbabwe's esteemed ambassador to Tehran, about the late senior diplomat's endeavors and efforts to elevate Iran's relationship with Africa.

The text of the interview has been edited for more clarity and conciseness:

How was the news of the late Amir Abdollahian's passing received in Zimbabwe?

First, let me begin by saying that we were in a state of shock and extreme sadness when we heard the news of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian's passing. Our sorrow is still very fresh. We grew very strong ties with Iran during the past three years and these two figures were responsible for driving it to where it is. President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian's visit to Zimbabwe last year received immense attention inside our country and people were deeply shocked and moved when they heard about what had happened.

Do you think the late top diplomat put a particular emphasis on strengthening

ties with the African states compared to his previous predecessors?

Yes, there was a deliberate move by the president and the Foreign Minister to forge relations with Africa. As we all know Dr. Amir Abdollahian used to be a deputy minister for Africa and the Middle East from 2011 to 2016. I believe during this time he grew an affinity with Africa. He deeply wanted to understand Africa's history, culture, and political landscape. That's why he ended up feeling the need to forge close relations with African nations. He took it upon himself to make sure that relations were taken to a new level. I believe he did ultimately gain a deep understanding and knowledge of Africa, and what he pursued in his diplomatic endeavors was eventually based on mutual benefit and respect. Dr. Amir Abdollahian also believed in the multi-polarization of the world. That was an even bigger reason for him to strengthen and expand ties with African states because in a future multiple-polar world Africa can certainly not be left out. In the view of many, Africa is in fact going to be one of the main pillars.

Do you expect to see less focus and emphasis on ties between Iran and Zimbabwe now that Minister Amir Abdollahian is gone?

Our relations with Iran are deep and systematic. Our current president visited Iran shortly after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and was received by the founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khomeini. The road map for our ties was designed years ago and we have kept in touch in various ways over the last decades. So, I don't think relations between Iran and Zimbabwe are going to take a significant hit because there is a firm nucleus to our relations. But I would say that Dr. Amir Abdollahian had a very big emphasis on ties with African nations and multi-po-

larity. During his tenure, our ties began to have more strategic, knowledge-based, and tech-based exchanges. We also saw an increase in economic trade. I don't know who is going to replace him but whoever he or she is, might not have the same deep knowledge of Africa. Nevertheless, I think ties between the two nations will continue unabated because they are systematic, fixed, and rooted in history.

How would you describe Dr. Amir Abdollahian's character and what made him such an effective diplomat?

Dr. Abdollahian was an exceptional diplomat, blending academic rigor and intellectualism with remarkable diplomatic skills. He was a master negotiator, firm yet diplomatic, persistent yet elegant in his approach. While his kind demeanor might have initially suggested a softer personality, he was truly a force to be reckoned with. All these traits combined made him one of the finest top diplomats in the history of modern Iran.

His tireless energy was evident in his constant travel, especially between Tehran and Baghdad during the crucial period leading up to the rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia. His unwavering determination, courage, and skill were evident in all his endeavors.

His humble beginnings, marked by the loss of his father at a young age and a challenging financial life, likely contributed to his resilience and tenacity. He was a diplomat par excellence, even in his final days, traveling to Azerbaijan to mend ties with Baku while simultaneously overseeing a project launch.

Dr. Abdollahian navigated the region through a turbulent period and always strived to achieve a positive outcome for all involved. He was a man who believed deeply in his mission to create a better future, and I think his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

Facilitating key negotiations was a testament to Amir Abdollahian's diplomatic acumen: Korean ambassador



TEHRAN - Kim Junpyo, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Iran, calls Foreign Minister Abdollahian a “notable figure” in the diplomatic community whose untimely demise is a “significant loss” for Iran and the international community.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Ambassador Kim also says the late Foreign Minister “demonstrated a commitment to fostering dialogue and improving Iran’s relations with various nations.”

Following is the text of the interview:

What is your feeling about the passing of the foreign minister?

First of all, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the people of Iran and the families of all those who perished in this tragic helicopter crash. The sudden loss of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and other esteemed individuals is a profound tragedy.

Foreign Minister Abdollahian was a notable figure in the diplomatic community, and his untimely demise is a significant loss not only for Iran but for the international community as well.

I met Foreign Minister Abdollahian in person when I presented my credentials to him last March. During our brief meeting, I was impressed by his seasoned diplomatic skills and found him a pleasure to converse with. His deep interest and strong initiative in upgrading Iran-South Korea relations made me optimistic about a brighter future for our two nations.

To commemorate Foreign Minister Abdollahian and all those who passed away, I half-raised the embassy’s flag and participated in a ceremony to sign a book of condolence, expressing my heartfelt sympathies and solidarity with the Iranian people

during this difficult time.

What is your perspective on his diplomatic legacies?

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian left behind a substantial legacy in international diplomacy. Throughout his tenure, he demonstrated a commitment to fostering dialogue and improving Iran’s relations with various nations. His efforts to engage in constructive conversations on complex issues showcased his dedication to peaceful and collaborative international relations.

His work in facilitating key negotiations was a testament to his diplomatic acumen and tireless service. His initiatives in strengthening multilateral ties, especially within the Middle East, have been instrumental in shaping a more connected and cooperative region. The loss of such an influential figure will be deeply felt across the diplomatic community.

In regards to the Iran-South Korea bilateral relationship, he paved the foundation for strengthening and improving the ties between the two countries. During his tenure, he played a significant role in solving the frozen asset issue, and the positive momentum was created for the additional improvement of bilateral relations.

Iran-South Korea Foreign Ministers had their telephone conversation on 4th September 2023, and met on the occasion of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly on 22nd September 2023, where they expressed their commitment to work together to advance

bilateral ties. In addition, a South Korean high-ranking official attended the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, co-hosted by the Iranian Government and the United Nations. Now we are on the path to further enhancement of partnership.

What are your views on the future of Iran-South Korea relations?

Honoring the legacy of Foreign Minister Abdollahian, I believe that Iran-South Korea relations will continue to be guided by mutual respect and shared interests.

Our nations have a long history of exchange and collaboration, and we are committed to maintaining and strengthening these ties. We see huge potential for cooperation in various areas such as economy, culture, and human exchange. I hope for a day when our nations can fully realize these potentials.

Moving forward, it is crucial to build on the foundations laid by previous diplomatic efforts to ensure that our bilateral relations grow even stronger. I am optimistic that through continued dialogue and cooperation, the partnership between Iran and South Korea will flourish, contributing to the stability and growth of

both our nations.

As the South Korean Ambassador to Iran, I will exert my best efforts to promote our ties and to bring a brighter future which Foreign Minister Abdollahian had presumably hoped for.

“During his tenure, Amir Abdollahian played a significant role in solving the frozen asset issue.”



Revolutionary diplomat

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

TEHRAN - The world of diplomacy lost a shining star on that fateful day when Martyr Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the former foreign minister of Iran, tragically perished in an air crash. Throughout his career, Amir Abdollahian dedicated his life to active engagement in international affairs, accumulating valuable experiences and insights into Iran's capabilities, the evolving dynamics of the international system, and regional conditions. Known for his exceptional diplomatic skills, he possessed a deep understanding of regional developments and was recognized for his ethical conduct, humility, and tireless dedication.

One of the remarkable aspects of Amir Abdollahian's diplomatic career was his warm and close relationships with leaders and supporters of the resistance front both inside and outside Iran. His mutual trust with key figures in the region and beyond underscored his effectiveness as a diplomat.

Amir Abdollahian's active involvement during the recent conflict in Gaza highlighted his commitment to advocating for the oppressed. He became a voice for the innocent children of Gaza, whose plight often goes unnoticed by the Western world, turning a blind eye to the atrocities and massacres they endure.

Following Iran's missile and drone strikes against Israel, codenamed "True Promise" a prominent European foreign minister contacted FM, expressing distress over the attacks and their impact on his sleep. In response, Amir Abdollahian pointed out that for six months, defenseless people in Gaza had been under relentless bombardment, resulting in the

deaths of thousands of women and children. He questioned how such crimes did not disturb the sleep of his European counterpart.

Described by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, as an active and dedicated diplomat, Amir Abdollahian's legacy as a diplomat will undoubtedly shine brightly in the annals of Iranian diplomacy.

While some attempt to create a false dichotomy between field and diplomacy, portraying them as conflicting pursuits, Amir Abdollahian's tenure as foreign minister exemplified the symbiotic relationship between the two. He demonstrated that field without diplomacy is largely futile, and diplomacy without the backing of field power is ineffectual.

Amir Abdollahian exemplified what it means to be a revolutionary diplomat, bridging the gap between theory and practice with unwavering commitment. His name will undoubtedly be etched in the annals of Iranian diplomacy as a beacon of integrity, dedication, and unwavering commitment to advancing Iran's interests on the global stage.

In conclusion, Martyr Hossein Amir Abdollahian's legacy as a revolutionary diplomat serves as an inspiration for future generations of diplomats. His unwavering dedication to advocating for justice and defending the oppressed will continue to resonate in the corridors of diplomacy, reminding us of the importance of upholding ethical principles and working tirelessly for a more just and peaceful world. May his memory be honored and his legacy cherished for years to come.