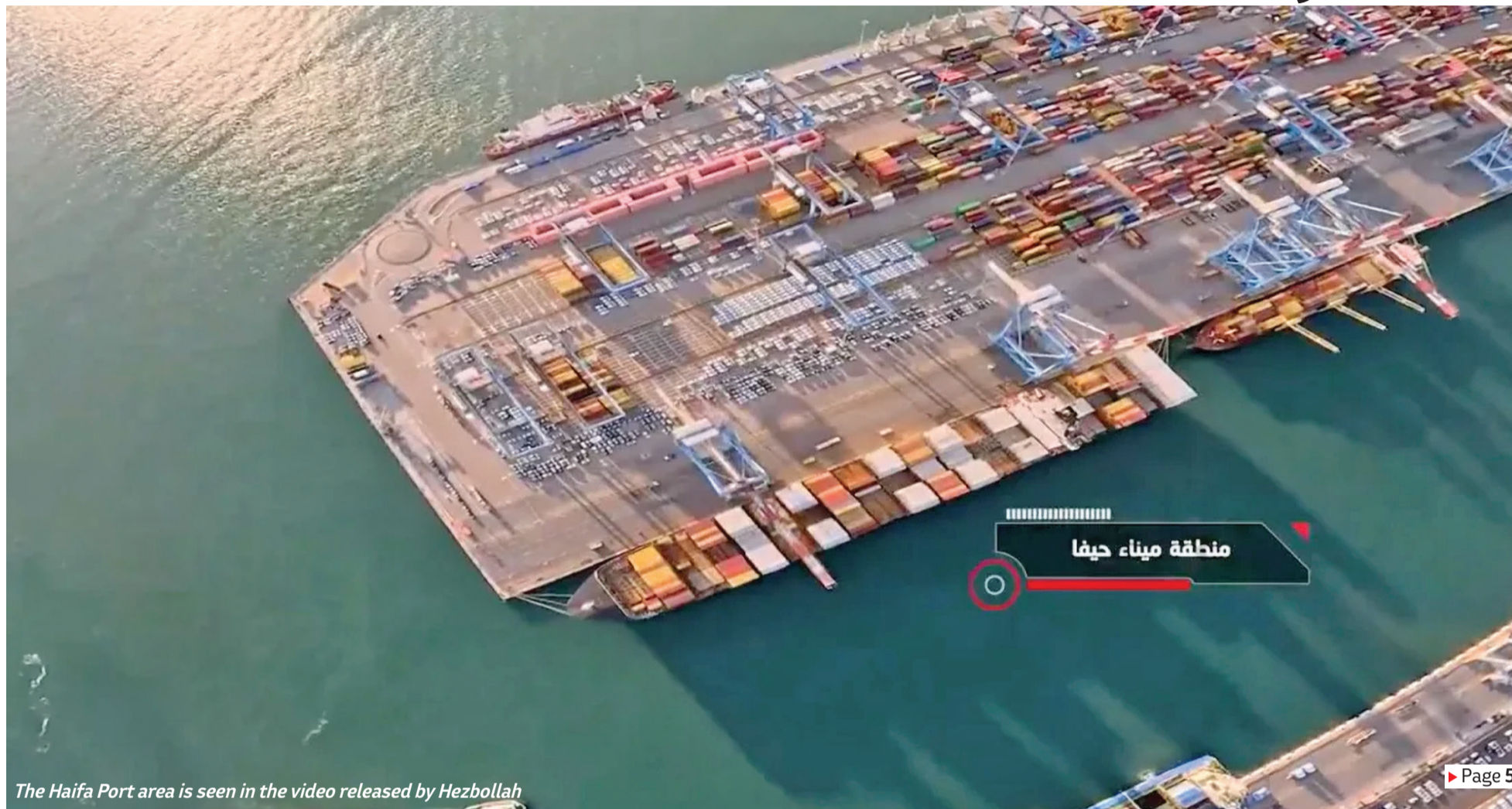


“Only decision-makers” in Tel Aviv understand the magnitude of the situation as new drone footage is published

Hezbollah Fully Exposes Israel's Vulnerability



The Haifa Port area is seen in the video released by Hezbollah

▶ Page 5

Iranian parliament condemns Canada's blacklisting of IRGC

TEHRAN – The Iranian Parliament has strongly condemned Canada's decision to label the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist entity, expressing firm support for the IRGC and its crucial role in enhancing Iran's regional and international standing.

On Sunday and in a statement endorsed by over 250 lawmakers, the Iranian Parliament criticized the Canadian government's “ill-advised” decision to blacklist the IRGC. They described this measure as “idiotic” and a violation of international laws, accusing Canada of supporting the Zionist regime.

The MPs urged the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to use all political and international channels to denounce Canada's decision.

According to the statement, the Canadian government, a known supporter of the Zionist regime and its actions in Gaza, blacklisted the IRGC following Iran's retaliatory True Promise Operation against Israeli military targets.

On June 19, Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc announced the IRGC's designation as a “terrorist entity” under the Criminal Code, advising Canadians in Iran to leave the country. This decision followed a non-binding resolution by the Canadian House of Commons urging the government to blacklist the IRGC and expel about 700 Iranians. ▶ Page 2

Iran ranked world's 7th largest steel producer in May: WSA

TEHRAN – The World Steel Association announced in its latest report that Iran's monthly production of raw steel in May 2024 increased by 2.1 percent compared to the same month in 2023, reaching 3.3 million metric tons, so Iran secured the seventh position among producers of crude steel in the world.

The report on the global production of raw steel in May 2024 that was released a few hours ago indicates that Iran ranked seventh in terms of monthly production among the top steel producers in the world for the first time in 2024.

The Islamic Republic produced 3.3 million metric tons of steel, with a point-to-point growth of 2.1 percent and a 9.1 percent increase in production of the commodity in the first five months of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

It is noteworthy that in terms of the volume of Iran's raw steel production in the first five months of the current year, the country produced 14 million metric tons of raw steel and ranked ninth among world's top producers after Germany and Türkiye with a production of 16.2 million metric tons and 15.5 million metric tons in the same period respectively. ▶ Page 4

Tribal war against West Bankers

By Narges Pakdel

TEHRAN – West Bankers are facing a kind of vicious tribal-like war initiated by violent Israeli settlers and soldiers.

Tribal war is like the law of the jungle in which no rules of war are observed. In this tribal war, Palestinians in the West Bank are defenseless and unprotected. They are living in a constant state of fear.

While the world's focus is mostly on Israel's unthinkable atrocious war in the Gaza Strip, cruel settlers are going on the rampage in the West Bank.

West Bankers are being driven out of their homes and farmlands; their farms are being demolished; their sheep are being stolen and communities of shepherders are being forced to flee; their homes and cars are being set on fire; their agricultural lands and crops are being destroyed by untreated wastewater released from settlements, etc.

Injustice against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank is not something new. However, it has intensified since the start of the Gaza war in October last year. During this time, 528 Palestinians, including 133 children, have been killed by Israeli security forces or settlers. ▶ Page 5

Resistance will respond to potential Israeli attack on Lebanon: Iranian commander

TEHRAN – The Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force has stated that the Axis of Resistance is capable of delivering a severe response to Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari discussed the potential for a widespread war with the Resistance Front, as suggested by some Israeli officials.

He reaffirmed the strong capabilities of the Resistance Front. “Should the Zionist regime launch an attack on Lebanon and initiate a broad conflict with Hezbollah, the Axis of Resistance will not remain passive. A harsh and decisive response will be delivered to counter the Zionists' malice,” he declared.

Heydari emphasized that the dynamics in the West Asia region have significantly shifted following Operation True Promise.

“Operation True Promise has altered many old strategic formulas, leading to a new reality in the region,” Heydari said. He highlighted that Iran, emerging as a significant power in the region, showcased its military prowess through missile strikes on positions held by the “vile Zionist regime” in the occupied territories. ▶ Page 3

Israeli ships in the crosshairs of regional resistance

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The recent joint military operations carried out by regional resistance groups against Israeli ships have demonstrated a growing sense of solidarity and sent a powerful message of unity amid the regime's genocidal war on Gaza.

Yemen's Ansarullah movement and the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which is an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters in the Arab country, have conducted the operations.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq confirmed on Sunday that it had hit four ships in the Israeli port of Haifa and one ship in the Mediterranean through joint drone attacks with Ansarullah.

The Iraqi resistance group said the vessel that was hit in the Mediterranean was sailing to Haifa Port.

It said the military operations were launched “in solidarity with the people of Gaza” and vowed to continue attacks against “the enemy's strongholds,” which is a reference to Israeli interests. ▶ Page 5

5 countries to attend Ghadir 10-kilometer celebration party in Tehran

TEHRAN-Temporary stations from five countries in the Axis of Resistance, including Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, will be set up along the path of the 10-kilometer celebration party in Tehran on Tuesday, Sasan Zare, the secretary of the Public Affairs Headquarters for the event said.

“Citizens from these countries in Iran will be hosting the people of Tehran with their traditional culture and cuisine. Additionally, in five countries namely, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Iraq, and Lebanon, 10-kilometer celebrations will be held, inspired by Iran's initiative,” he added.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday, Zare explained about the precise time and location of the event, stating that from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., ▶ Page 8



Presidential frontrunner blasts Zarif for blaming JCPOA's failure on parliament

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The leading candidate in Iran's upcoming presidential elections has vehemently denounced former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's claim that the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal has been hindered by a bill passed by Iran's parliament 18 months after the United States withdrew from the agreement.

“Some say that the strategic act adopted by parliament prevented the revival of the JCPOA. Do these people have no shame? Right after the U.S. left the pact, ▶ Page 2

Iran's hosting of ACD summit demonstrates strength amid loss of top officials: Deputy FM

TEHRAN – Iran's hosting of the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting shows the country is resilient and strong despite the tragic loss of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for economic affairs said on Sunday.

During a press conference at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mehdi Safari said that over 35 countries are in attendance at the summit, with substantial delegations that carry significant weight. “They are coming despite knowing that we have an election on June 28,” he pointed out.

President Raisi and Minister Amir Abdollahian lost their lives during a helicopter crash in Iran's mountainous northwestern region on May 19. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Iran's foreign policy prospect in the 14th government

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

In a conversation with Hassan Beheshtipour, an expert on foreign policy issues, Etemad investigated various aspects of the foreign policy of the upcoming government. It wrote: The priority of the future government in foreign policy should be to end the sanctions.

These sanctions will not end unless Iran increases the country's economic power as much as it increases its nuclear power.

We can't think that the other party will settle down with nuclear power and negotiate. The Raisi government had a policy of interaction and confrontation, meaning neither complete interaction nor complete confrontation.

This means that it confronted in the battleground and prioritized negotiation in the interactions.

The future government can be a government that advances this policy of interaction and confrontation with each other.

On the other hand, developments in the region are also very important for Iran, especially when Iran's relations with its neighbors in the Persian Gulf have improved, and we are witnessing a gradual reduction in tensions and a gradual increase in interaction between the parties.

Arman-e-Melli: Zionist lobbying in Canada

Arman-e-Melli talked to Hassan Hanizadeh, an international relations expert, about designating the IRGC as a terrorist entity by Canada and said: It seems that Israel played a serious role in making this decision by Canada. The American reaction shows that they also support this action and any action against the IRGC.

The Americans are trying to convince the Europeans to consider the IRGC as terrorists. This possibility is very weak because this unilateral and hostile action will have very dangerous consequences for the peace, stability, and security of the region and the world because the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is making efforts to maintain and create security in the region. These efforts will benefit many countries outside the region.

If the security role of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps is ignored, it is not unlikely that terrorist groups will gain power again. This case is neither in the interest of the regional countries nor in the interest of the extra-

regional military forces that are present in the region.

Sazandegi: The main challenge is to remove sanctions

In a note, Sazandegi discussed the upcoming challenges in Iran's foreign policy and quoted Ghasem Mohebbali, a foreign policy expert, as saying: The undeniable fact is that the most important problem of our country at the moment is not being able to achieve economic development as a result of U.S. and European sanctions. One of the most important obstacles in this way is the future American government.

If Trump comes to office, any government in Iran will face a serious challenge. Even if Biden comes to office again, he will experience his second term and can take risky actions with high costs.

The main challenge of the future government is the lifting of sanctions, and this does not only include nuclear sanctions.

For example, the human rights sanctions for Russia and Iran or the sanctions imposed over the support of resistance groups are among the sanctions that requires a comprehensive agreement.

Ham Mihan: The new Middle East

The Islamic Republic of Iran has come to believe that it can maintain its security only through increasing power and influence.

Using the strategy of strategic depth, Iran is trying to move the front line of the battle outside its geographical borders to reduce the possibility of regional rivals and enemies attacking Iran directly.

The Middle East has created a new atmosphere after what happened on October 7, 2023, which will destabilize the position of the countries of this region in the new Middle East if the foreign policy is not dynamic.

Also, Iran has not been able to use its privileges. Those privileges made the United States send messages to Tehran several times to control the tension in the region.

What is important is that the quality of the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the groups that have gained a sense of independence from Tehran during the developments of recent months are all dependent on the dynamics of Iran's foreign policy.

Tehran urges IAEA to refrain from exceeding legal framework



TEHRAN - The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has emphasized that any requests made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must adhere to the legal framework established by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Safeguards Agreement.

Requests that do not align with these agreements would not be within the scope of the UN nuclear agency's authority in its interactions with Iran, Mohammad Eslami said during a press conference on Sunday.

The nuclear chief underscored that under the two agreements, the IAEA's mandate is to supervise, support, and encourage Iran's nuclear activities within its defined framework.

Eslami's comments come in response to a recent resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors, which emphasized the agency's crucial role in verifying Iran's compliance with its safeguards obligations. The resolution also

urged Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA to clarify and resolve outstanding safeguards issues.

However, Eslami insisted on Sunday that any request from the IAEA must be made within the context of the established cooperative framework. "There is not any other subject that the Agency may intend to pursue," he stated.

Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is peaceful and that it is committed to fulfilling its obligations under the NPT.

While Iran has expressed a willingness to resolve differences with the IAEA, it has clarified multiple times that it would not tolerate demands that exceed the legal framework established by the international treaties.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson previously emphasized the country's commitment to resolving disputes with the IAEA.

When asked about the IAEA's installation of new cameras at Iran's nuclear sites last month, Nasser Kanaani stated that "Iran's firm stance is to address issues with the (IAEA)."

He further emphasized that Iran is resolute in preventing matters related to its peaceful nuclear activities from escalating into a confrontational process with the IAEA, in line with this policy.

Presidential frontrunner blasts Zarif for blaming JCPOA's failure on parliament

From page 1 ▶ they [Zarif and other Rouhani officials] held a press conference saying they would soon take action. Several months passed and they did nothing." Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said during a gathering with his supporters in the city of Qom on Sunday.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was a deal on Iran's nuclear program signed by Iran, the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China. It limited the West Asian country's nuclear activities in exchange for the termination of sanctions. Following Washington's announcement of its withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the subsequent re-imposition of sanctions in 2018, the agreement collapsed. In an attempt to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions, European signatories to the deal pledged to establish INSTEX, a financial mechanism aimed at facilitating trade with Iran by bypassing the embargoes. However, after failing to facilitate any transactions, INSTEX was dissolved by Europe in 2022.

In December of 2020, the Iranian parliament adopted the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions law, ordering the government to gradually scale back on its JCPOA commitments in the face of Western non-compliance with the pact.

Zarif, whom analysts believe compromised on Iran's nuclear program without receiving any reliable guarantees from the West, has blamed the failure of the JCPOA on multiple forces in the past years including parliament, Russia, and Iran's military officials. He repeated his accusations against lawmakers during a TV appearance last week, where he had shown up as an advisor to reformist candidate



Masoud Pezeshkian. "Unfortunately, Parliament's strategic law prevented a return to the JCPOA," he said.

"They used to warn that scrapping the Additional Protocol would bring us into war. Yet, when we canceled it and even enriched uranium to 20% and 60%, no war ensued. Rather, these bold actions compelled the West to acknowledge and engage in dialogue with us," Qalibaf added while talking to his supporters.

Iran voluntarily implemented the Additional Protocol as part of its commitments under the JCPOA which granted the IAEA expanded access to information and locations within the country. It gradually ceased implementing some aspects of the Additional Protocol after Washington's exit from the pact.

Pezeshkian seems to draw on politicization despite Leader's warning

In his own gathering with voters, Pezeshkian said there are people within the country's political circles who wish to see sanctions remain in place. "Those making money off of sanctions want us to remain under pressure so that they can continue stealing. We have to dismantle this [system]," he said without pointing to a specific group or individuals.

Pezeshkian's remarks came a day after Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned presidential

hopefuls to refrain from making "enemy-pleasing" comments.

"The assumption is that all candidates love Iran and the Islamic Republic, that's because they aspire to become president within this system and in order to serve the people," he noted on Saturday.

Expanding on the meaning behind the Leader's reference to "enemy-pleasing" comments, an official from Ayatollah Khamenei's office explained that one instance of candidates appeasing the enemy is by deliberately fostering division on a particular issue to gain an advantage over their competitors. Specifically, the official cited the issue of sanctions termination, emphasizing that although all Iranian officials desire the removal of sanctions, a candidate could falsely accuse their rivals of supporting these embargoes while positioning themselves as the sole advocate dedicated to ending them. "This is a sort of politicization that will be detrimental to the country as a whole," the official added.

Pourmohammadi talks to reporters at Tasnim

Sunday seemed to be a bad day for Pezeshkian and his entourage, as the only candidate holding views similar to him said the reformist would not be "suitable" to serve as the next president.

"I would consider utilizing

[medical] experts like Mr. Pezeshkian in my government, but I do not believe he is the best fit for the presidency," said Mostafa Pourmohammadi who is believed to belong to the moderate camp. He made similar assessments about Zarif. "While Mr. Zarif has proven himself to be a skilled diplomat, I do not believe he has the necessary qualifications to develop a comprehensive foreign policy strategy. He is better suited for a role as a negotiator or diplomat."

During a press conference held in Tasnim news agency's building, Pourmohammadi said he would continue the path of late President Ebrahim Raisi. "Every government has its own stance and policies. While I express my own viewpoints, I also acknowledge and respect the positions of Martyr Raeisi. He had a commendable approach to engaging with the people, and I intend to continue this approach."

"Homemaking should be recognized as a job"

Conservative candidate Amir-Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi used his Sunday appearance on TV to outline his economic and social plans in more detail.

His comments on the recognition of homemaking as an official occupation received huge appreciation. "Iranian women saw an exponential growth in education and employment after the Islamic Revolution. While this is admirable, one thing we have not paid enough attention to is the situation of the women who live as homemakers. We need to recognize homemaking as an official job because it has nothing short of other occupations," he said.

Qazizadeh Hashemi did not explain how such ambitious plans would be made possible.

Iran files indictment against U.S. officials for General Soleimani's assassination

TEHRAN - Iran has taken new steps to proceed with its trial against the United States concerning the assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, issuing an indictment against 73 American government and military officials.

The indictment, consisting of over 12,000 pages of documentation, was announced by Ali Alghasi-Mehr, the judiciary chief for Tehran province.

"After collecting more than 12,000 pages of documents, the 164-page indictment was issued against 73 American officials regarding the martyrdom of Hajj Qassem Soleimani and his companions and was referred to Tehran Criminal Court number 1," he announced on Sunday.

Alghasi-Mehr stated that a public trial will be held next month. "All the defendants, who are U.S. statesmen and military officials, have been officially notified of the case and required to

introduce their lawyers," he added.

General Soleimani was assassinated during a U.S. drone attack on Baghdad on January 3, 2020. The Iranian military leader spearheaded the fight against Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria during the 2010s. He is widely regarded as an anti-terror icon. Iran retaliated against the assassination by striking the most important American military base in Iraq, which, according to American media, left hundreds of U.S. soldiers with "brain damage".

The attack on an Iranian official who was inside Iraq at the country's own request was also slammed by legal experts and UN investigators as a blatant and serious violation of international law.

This is not the first time Iran has pursued legal action against the U.S. government. A separate case involving patients suffering from



epidermolysis bullosa (EB) has resulted in a court order for the U.S. to pay \$1.475 trillion in material damages and \$5.310 trillion in compensation for the impact of American sanctions.

Additionally, a court ruling concerning the 2018 Ahwaz attack, blamed on a U.S.-backed terrorist group, demands \$960 million for the families of victims, along with additional damages.

Iran's hosting of ACD summit demonstrates strength amid loss of top officials: Deputy FM

From page 1 ▶ While the tragedy plunged the nation into shock and dismay with grand funeral ceremonies following the incident in the coming days, the country managed to swiftly arrange snap elections to choose the next president.

A day after the helicopter crash, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei appointed Vice President Mohammad Mokhber as the acting president. Ali Baqeri Kani who had been serving as the deputy foreign minister for political affairs also took

charge as the acting top diplomat.

ACD meeting to boost cooperation

Elsewhere in his remarks, Safari outlined the agenda of the meeting. "The meeting will primarily focus on two key aspects: dialogue and projects. By facilitating discussions among participating nations, the summit aims to foster understanding and cooperation.

Additionally, the project section offers opportunities for joint initiatives, with the North-South corridor being highlighted as a potential avenue for mutual

collaboration," he said.

The diplomat emphasized one of the key topics that will be discussed is the issue of Palestine and Israel's ongoing brutal war in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"One of the other main objectives of this summit is to strengthen existing alliances such as BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), D-8, and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). By maximizing the utilization of these partnerships, the ACD meeting hosted by Tehran aims to enhance regional cooperation and promote

economic growth."

Additionally, Safari revealed that Iran has proposed the establishment of six committees dedicated to various areas of focus including transit and communications, science and technology, education, culture and tourism, comprehensive and sustainable development, and trade and commerce for the summit.

"These committees aim to facilitate scientific and commercial collaborations among 35 participating countries, providing platforms for cooperation and exchange of ideas," he explained.

Iranian parliament condemns Canada's blacklisting of IRGC

From page 1 ▶ Canada's move mirrors a similar action by the United States five years ago. This act by Canada is expected to increase pressure on European states, which have so far resisted escalating tensions with Iran.

The IRGC, including its elite Quds Force, has been instrumental in combating Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria, preventing the group's spread.

Iran's acting Foreign Minister condemned Canada's decision on Thursday, calling it a senseless gift to Israel, terrorists, and enemies of

peace 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 Kani wrote on X.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser

Kanaani also issued a statement accusing Canada of interfering in Iran's internal affairs. Kanaani emphasized that Canada's move will not impact the IRGC's capabilities and warned Ottawa to expect a "proper response" for its illegal act.

Following Canada's move, 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.

Representatives from Kazakhstan, Singapore meet with Iran's acting FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has met with representatives from Kazakhstan and Singapore, who are in Tehran to attend a meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).

Akan Rakhmetullin, Kazakhstan's deputy foreign minister, and Ong Keng Yong, special envoy of the Singaporean foreign minister, met with Bagheri Kani on Sunday on the sidelines of the ACD summit in Tehran.

Akan Rakhmetullin, the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, and Ong Keng Yong, the special envoy of the Foreign Minister of Singapore, are in Tehran to participate in the ACD summit.

Their discussions with Bagheri Kani, which took place on Sunday morning, centered on the objectives and collaborative opportunities within the ACD framework.

The ACD summit, which gathers foreign ministers from the member countries, is scheduled to take place on June 23 and 24.

Since October 2023, the Islamic Republic of Iran has held the chairmanship of the ACD, taking over from Bahrain's leadership.

The acting Foreign Minister of Iran, expressed his enthusiasm on social media, stating, "We are honored to host the meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministers in Tehran and to chair this meeting."

He emphasized the significance of the event, noting that "41 delegations from ministers and international organizations will participate in this meeting."

Bagheri Kani highlighted the



broader implications of the summit, stating, "This event provides a platform to strengthen cooperation among Asian countries and demonstrates the Asian desire for multilateralism and inclusiveness."

The ACD aims to foster unity and collaboration across Asia, enhancing the region's global standing and mutual growth.

The ACD meeting demonstrates the Asian desire for multilateralism and inclusiveness

As the summit unfolds, the diverse representation of Asian nations underscores the commitment to regional solidarity and cooperation, paving the way for a more integrated and prosperous Asia.

On Sunday, senior officials of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) gathered in Tehran, chaired by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, Mehdi Safari.

Representatives from 32 countries assessed the latest developments and reviewed documents for approval at the upcoming ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Earlier on Saturday, Safari informed reporters that a primary objective of the ACD Foreign Ministers' Meeting is to achieve synergy among Asian nations in various sectors.

He highlighted that the ACD summit in Tehran offers an excellent platform for enhancing cooperation between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS.

Iran has previously hosted significant ACD events, including a summit of foreign ministers, a meeting of heads of chambers of commerce, and a tourism ministers' conference in the historic city of Yazd.

During the last ACD Ministerial Meeting, held on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly session in New York in September 2023, the late Foreign Minister of Iran, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, emphasized the importance of multilateralism.

He stressed the role of organizations like the ACD in

fostering consensus among countries to address global challenges and create growth opportunities.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to maximize its contribution to the ACD during its chairmanship, in close coordination with Member States and the Secretariat," Amir Abdollahian had stated.

"A More Integrated and Capable Asia through Emerging New Technologies" had been set as the slogan for this round of the ACD, according to the late Iranian diplomat, inviting the member countries of the organization to take part in the 2024 meeting of the forum in Tehran.

After the tragic death of Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian in a helicopter crash on May 19, Ali Bagheri Kani was appointed acting Foreign Minister, continuing Abdollahian's responsibilities.

The meeting of top diplomats from ACD member states, hosted by Iran and chaired by Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani, will take place on June 24, 2024.

The ACD, established two decades ago and headquartered in Kuwait, is the first continent-wide forum of its kind in Asia. It comprises 35 member countries and was chaired by Bahrain for the past two years.

More specifically, the ACD aims to integrate every Asian country into a cohesive community without duplicating other organizations or forming exclusive blocs.

Its core mission is to consolidate Asia's strengths and enhance the continent's competitiveness by leveraging its diversity and abundant resources.

Resistance will respond to potential Israeli attack on Lebanon: Iranian commander



From Page 1 ▶ On April, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) launched extensive missile and drone strikes on the Israeli-occupied territories.

The retaliatory strikes, dubbed Operation

True Promise, inflicted damage on Israeli military bases across the occupied lands. The operation came after the Israeli attack on April 1 against the Iranian consulate in Damascus, located next to the embassy building in Damascus's Mezzeh district.

Addressing the situation in Gaza, Heydari remarked on the confusion and entanglement of the Israeli regime in Gaza. He pointed out that threats from Israel against Hezbollah in Lebanon are not new, suggesting a continuous pattern of aggression.

The conflict in Gaza has inflicted devastating losses, with Israeli actions since October 7 leading to the deaths of at least 37,598

Palestinians, primarily women and children, and injuring 86,032 others.

Despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, Israel's ongoing crimes in the beleaguered enclave have drawn widespread global condemnation.

UN agencies are now warning that over one million Palestinians in Gaza could face severe starvation by mid-July, as the hunger crisis worsens due to Israel's continued blockade of humanitarian aid.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has highlighted the dire and chaotic conditions in Gaza, describing the situation as "total lawlessness."

Bahrain FM to visit Tehran

TEHRAN – Bahrain's Foreign Minister, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, is scheduled to visit Tehran.

Al Zayani will attend the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting, set to take place on Monday in the Iranian capital.

During his visit, he will also have a bilateral meeting with Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Bagheri Kani.

The meeting will convene over 30 foreign delegations, including ministers, deputy ministers, relevant foreign ministry deputies, general secretaries of regional organizations, and special envoys

from member nations. This varied representation highlights the extensive support for the ACD's mission.

Iran has led the ACD since late 2023, taking over from Bahrain's two-year leadership. The ACD, founded in 2002 in Thailand and based in Kuwait, is a unique forum uniting 35 Asian countries.

It aims to integrate Asian nations into a unified community without duplicating other organizations or forming exclusive groups.

A key objective of the ACD is to leverage and unify Asia's strengths, boosting



the continent's global competitiveness. By capitalizing on Asia's diversity and abundant resources, the ACD strives to create a robust and cohesive Asian community, promoting cooperation and shared growth.

This ministerial meeting in Tehran is a crucial event for the ACD, providing a platform for member countries to reaffirm their commitment to regional unity and cooperation, and setting the stage for a more integrated and prosperous Asia.

Iran's space agency announces two satellite launches for July

TEHRAN – The Iranian Space Agency (ISA) is gearing up for two satellite launches in July, with ongoing compatibility and joint testing of the satellites and their launchers currently underway.

ISA head Hassan Salarieh, in a statement to IRNA on Saturday, acknowledged the sensitivity of these technical tests and cautioned about the possibility of delays due to unexpected issues.

Despite this, Salarieh expressed confidence that the Pars-2 satellite and an upgraded version of Pars-1 will be ready for launch

this Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 2025).

He also revealed that Iran's first radar satellite project is expected to be completed next year.

Additionally, the test models of the "Qassem Soleimani" satellite system project are in the final stages of development and will be ready for launch this year.

Salarieh emphasized the agency's commitment to achieving a 100% success rate before any launch, even if testing indicates a 99% probability of success. "We

are dedicated to ensuring the reliability and safety of our space missions," he said.

Beyond the upcoming launches, Salarieh highlighted that approximately 30 satellites are currently in the design and development stages, with each project typically spanning a timeframe of two years or more. These projects include Nahid-3, Pars-3, and two additional radar satellites.

Iran has been actively working on its space program to develop and launch various types of satellites for communication, remote sensing, and scientific purposes.

Iranian athlete Khosravani banned three years for doping

TEHRAN – The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has banned Para athletics athlete Amir Khosravani for a period of three (3) years for committing an anti-doping rule violation (ADRV), in breach of the IPC Anti-Doping Code.

The Iranian athlete returned an adverse analytical finding (AAF) for a Prohibited Substance in a urine sample provided out-of-competition on 10 October 2023, paralympic.org reported.

The prohibited substance was oxymetholone metabolite 2?-hydroxymethyl-17?-methyl-5?-androstane-3?,6?,17?-triol, which is a long-term metabolite of both oxymetholone and methasterone. The substance is included on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) 2023 Prohibited List under the class S1.1 Anabolic Androgenic Steroids. It is a Non-Specified Substance for the purpose of the Code.

The athlete was provisionally suspended by the IPC on 16 January 2024 pending a resolution of his case.

The athlete subsequently accepted the commission of the ADRV and the consequences proposed by the IPC.

As a result of his violation, the athlete will be ineligible for competition and other sporting activities (other than authorized anti-doping education or rehabilitation programs) for three years from 16 January 2024 until 15 January 2027.

All results obtained by the athlete from the date the Sample was collected (10 October 2023) until the commencement of the Provisional Suspension are also disqualified, with all resulting Consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

Each athlete is strictly liable for the substances found in their sample. An ADRV occurs whenever a prohibited substance (or its metabolites or markers) is found in their sample, whether or not the athlete intentionally or unintentionally used a prohibited substance or was negligent or otherwise at fault.

As a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code (the WADC), the IPC remains committed to a doping-free sporting environment at all levels. The IPC has established the IPC Anti-Doping Code in compliance with the general principles of the WADC, including the WADC International Standards, expecting that, in the spirit of sport, it will lead the fight against doping in sport for athletes with an impairment.

Germany sweep Iran: 2024 VNL

TEHRAN – Germany beat Iran in straight sets (25-20, 25-23, 25-20) in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Week 3 on Sunday.

Germany's Moritz Karlitzeck earned 21 points and Amin Esmailnezhad scored 19 points.

Iran started the final week in style, beating the U.S. and the Netherlands but lost to France and Germany.

Iran failed to book a ticket to the 2024 VNL Finals.

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

The seven best-ranked national teams in the Preliminary Phase will join hosts Poland for the Finals, which will be held in Lodz from June 27 to 30.

Iran come sixth at 2024 Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran finished in sixth place after losing to South Korea in straight sets 3-0 (25-21, 25-22, 25-17) in the 15th Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

Iran had started the competition on high note, beating the Philippines 3-0 in Pool B but lost

to holders Japan 3-0, Chinese Taipei 3-0, South Korea 3-0 in the following days.

The Iranian girls defeated Kazakhstan 3-1 in their penultimate match.

The flagship biennial championship, which got underway at Nakhon Pathom Gymnasium and Ratchaburi Gymnasium in Ratchaburi Province from June 16 to 23, serves as the Asian qualification for the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Championship, attracted 13 teams to vie for top honor.

Top four teams China, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Thailand qualified for the U19 World Championship.

Golmohammadi takes charge of Foolad: PGPL

TEHRAN – Yahya Golmohammadi was appointed as head coach of Foolad football team on Saturday.

Golmohammadi, who parted ways with Persepolis in January, has penned a two-year deal with the Ahvaz-based football team.

Golmohammadi replaced Abdollah Veisi in Foolad.

Golmohammadi led Persepolis to three titles in Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) and one Hazfi Cup.

Under his leadership, Persepolis also advanced to the final of the 2020 AFC Champions League, where the Reds lost to South Korean side Ulsan Hyundai 2-1.

Foolad finished 13th in the 16-team table last season.

Reza Alipour secures Paris 2024 ticket

TEHRAN – Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour secured his spot in the 2024 Olympic Games.

In the Olympic Qualifier Series held in Budapest, Hungary, Alipour finished 13th in the Men's Speed.

Seven men's and seven women's tickets were up for grabs from the finals of the Speed competition whilst the Boulder & Lead climbers also settled all but two of theirs after the semi-final stage.

The climbing competition will take place at the Le Bourget Sport Climbing Venue in Le Bourget in the Seine-Saint-Denis suburb of Paris from Aug. 5 to 10.

Niazmand linked with AEK Athens: report

TEHRAN – Iran and Sepahan goalkeeper has been reportedly linked with a move to Greek club AEK Athens.

His former teammate Ehsan Hajsafi is a member of AEK and has recently extended his deal with the team until 2025.

Niazmand has been also linked with Iranian side Persepolis.

The 29-year-old custodian was a member of Portuguese coach Portimonense from 2021 to 2023 but left the team due to lack of playing time.

Iran lose to Tunisia at 2024 President's Cup

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Tunisia 26-23 in Group I of the 2024 President's Cup on Sunday.

Iran are scheduled to meet Chile on Tuesday.

The Persians had suffered three losses against the Netherlands, Romania and Brazil in Group A of the 2024 IHF Women's Junior World Championship and failed to advance to main round.

Fatemeh Merikh was named the Player of the Match.

The competition is being held in North Macedonia from June 19 to 30.

Mokhber hails President Raisi administration's oil trade achievements

TEHRAN - While at the beginning of the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, which took office in August 2021, the country's oil-selling capacity stood at 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), it rose to 1.8 million bpd a year and a half later.

This is according to Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber who said, "The reality is that while oil selling capacity stood at 300,000 barrels per day at the beginning of the administration; martyr Raisi could raise the capacity to about 1.8 million billion bpd over a year and a half span and the country was rescued from the very tight financial situation it trapped during the first days of taking office."

He added, "When the late President Raisi

took power in August 2021, the country was faced with long hours of blackout, especially during peak hours of electricity consumption, but the Raisi administration managed to solve the problem by getting help from the Energy Ministry capabilities," Shana reported.

"Some people who boasted that they were capable in view of carrying out negotiations, diplomacy and expanding foreign relations, finally ended up in loneliness even among the neighboring countries; he said, noting the Raisi's administration could overcome some shortcomings during his 3-year in office and improved relations with the neighboring countries," he said.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran-Tajikistan trade exchanges up fivefold: Energy Minister

TEHRAN - The trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan have increased fivefold since August 2021 when the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi assumed office, Iran's minister of energy announced.

Ali Akbar Mehrabian said that the volume of trade between Iran and the regional countries, including Tajikistan increased in the administration of the late president.

He said the trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan have increased fivefold.

Mehrabian made the remarks in a meeting with Tajik Minister of Energy and Water Resources Daler Juma on the sidelines of the 4th meeting of the energy ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s member states.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mehrabian pointed to the activation of Iranian companies in the advancement of the construction operation of the Rogun Dam in Tajikistan and said Iranian technical

and engineering companies, benefiting from high technical know-how and experiences and also equipped with the most competent manpower, can play a leading role in advancing various hydroelectricity projects in Tajikistan.

Tajikistan's minister of energy, for his part, emphasized the need for developing relations between the two countries in all areas.

Tajikistan is ready to support Iranian companies in the development projects in the country, Daler Juma highlighted.

Earlier this month, Tajik Ambassador to Tehran Nizamuddin Zahidov said Iran and Tajikistan signed 44 cooperation documents in the previous three years, which shows that relations between the two countries are on a trajectory of growth.

Zahidov pointed to the expansion of relations between Tehran and Dushanbe and said the two sides signed 44 cooperation documents over the past three years.

Speaking in a meeting with the head of Iran Mapping Organization to follow up the agreements inked previously between the two countries, he underlined that Iran and Tajikistan have witnessed the expansion of political, economic and cultural relations over the past years.

Zahidov put the value of trade exchanges between the two countries in the last Iranian year (ended March 19, 2024) at \$270 million, IRNA reported.

The presidents of the two countries agreed that the value of bilateral trade should reach \$500 million in near future and this shows that the bilateral cooperation is on an upward trajectory especially in the fields of trade and economy, the ambassador stressed.

Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe hosted the 16th meeting of Iran-Tajikistan Joint Economic Committee in late December 2023. Mehrabian and Juma co-chaired the two countries' Joint Economic Committee meeting.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's thermal power plants output up by 9.364 GW in 3 years

TEHRAN - Iran is generating 9.364 GW more thermal power than that generated before the inauguration by the late President Ebrahim Raisi some three years ago, according to an energy official.

Hadi Modaqeq, the director of the planning bureau of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company, made the remarks while inaugurating a development project at a thermal power plant in the country's central province of Yazd on Saturday.

The official put the country's aggregate thermal power generation at 76 GW.

He added that presently 630 thermal power generation facilities are operating in 145 Iranian power plants, being responsible for 94% of the energy needed by Iranian consumers.

Iran's thermal power plants generated over 50 million megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity in the first two months of

the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 19), an official with the Thermal Power Plants Holding (TPPH) announced.

According to Esmail Namazi, the director of TPPH's Production and Technical Office, the output of the country's thermal power plants increased by three percent in the mentioned two months compared to the same period in the previous year, IRIB reported.

Thermal power plants accounted for 93 percent of the country's total power generation during the mentioned nine months, the official said.

Iran's thermal power plants' electricity generation capacity increased by 1,035 megawatts (MW) in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Last year, in addition to the construction of new power plant units, the thermal power industry had put on the agenda the program of increasing the

power generation capacity of the existing power plants.

According to Namazi, the capacity of 286 thermal power plants across the country increased by about 1,035 MW with the implementation of a plan to increase the number of gas and combined cycle units and remove the limitation of thermal power plants.

Over two-thirds of Iran's thermal power plants are owned and operated by the country's private sector and private owners are currently generating nearly 67 percent of Iran's thermal power.

Currently, a total of 478 thermal power plants are operating throughout Iran which includes both gas power plants and combined cycle plants.

Iran's total power generation capacity currently stands at about 90,000 MW, more than 90 percent of which is supplied by thermal power plants.

Private sector seeks more role in next government

TEHRAN - Referring to Iran's upcoming presidential elections, Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh has urged the need for enhancing the position of the private sector.

Addressing the ICCIMA Board of Representatives on Sunday, Hassanzadeh expressed hope that in a large voter turnout in the June 28 elections, the best candidate will be elected as the country's next president.

He highlighted that the election is a chance for the whole Iranian people, the private sector in particular, to play their role, raising the concerns and demands of the business actors on the eve of the elections.

Noting that the recent years have been tough years for the private sectors, Hassanzadeh stressed that the private sector actors have to convey their specific and prioritized demands to the candidates and the new government.

The private sector expects the next government to prioritize solving the economic issues and pay due attention to the role of the private sector, the Iran Chamber of Commerce president said, adding that "the next government should consider the private sector as a complement, not a rival."

Two presidential candidates - Alireza Zakani and Mostafa Pourmohammadi - came to Iran Chamber of Commerce where they briefed the Iranian business actors on their plans and had separate

meetings with Hassanzadeh last week.

Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, a presidential candidate, is seen addressing the Iranian private sector actors in the headquarters of the Iran Chamber of Commerce in Tehran, on June 23, 2024.

Early today, Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf, another presidential candidate visited the Iran Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Tehran and talked with the members of the ICCIMA board of representatives about his plans. He also got familiar with the viewpoints of the private sector actors.

Masoud Pezeshkian, another presidential hopeful, is also scheduled to visit the ICCIMA.

Iran ranked world's 7th largest steel producer in May: WSA

From page 1 ► According to the report, raw steel production in the first five months of the current year increased in states such as Turkiye, Iran, India, Germany, and Brazil compared to the same period last year, but the production level experienced a decline in China, Japan, the United States, Russia, and South Korea in that period.

The country's steel production increased by 1.8 percent in 2023 as compared to the previous year, when the production stood at 30.6 million tons, based on the WSA data.

West Asia's total crude steel output increased by 1.3 percent in the mentioned year as compared to 2022.

Based on the WSA data, Iran was the world's 10th largest steel producer in 2023.



The world's steel producers managed to produce more than 1.888 billion tons of steel in 2023, which is a very slight decrease compared to 2022, and as a result, the World Steel Association has declared the percentage of change to be zero.

China with a production of 1.019 billion tons, India with a production of 140.2 million tons, and Japan with a production of 87 million tons were the top three steel-producing countries in the world in 2023.

The Iranian Steel industry has

been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

The official noted that steel production in the country also increased by 10.5 percent in the first three months of the current calendar year (March 21-June 21) as compared to the same quarter in the previous year.

Yaghoubi estimated Iran's steel production to reach 32 million tons in the current year.

IN HIS EXALTED NAME

INVITATION TO TWO STAGE PUBLIC BID – SECOND NOTICE

Phase one of Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant (500±10% MW) on EPCF Basis
Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)
Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC)

INVITATION NO: 200309024600001

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) with representation of Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC), intends to international two stage public bid for Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant Project. To do this first a short list of eligible experienced companies will be prepared and on next stage they will be invited to technical evaluation. This second notice of invitation for renewal of first stage of Bid is based on the sub-clause 10-B of "Clause C, Article 12, tenders formalities law" dated 16/07/1385 Iranian calendar date.

Herewith, we are inviting eligible candidates (Applicants) to refer Bid No 200309024600001 on Iran Public eProcurement System (SETAD) available on www.setadiran.ir, should they to be i) a company duly organised, registered, existing and having grade one certificate of EPC for power generation sector from Iran Plan and Budget Organisation for local Applicants or similar certificate from pertinent authorities in their countries, which to be verified by the respective consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for overseas Applicants; or ii) to be a Consortium comprising of two or more companies (members), whose members are organised, registered, existing and collectively having grade one or two certificate of design/engineering for power generation sector and grade one certificate of construction for power generation sector with aforesaid procedure for such certificates as well as valid HSE certificate from Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare.

After preparation of the pertinent short list of qualified Applicant, we invite them for second stage of the Bid.

As specified before, participating in the Bid as Consortium is allowed.

Bid in brief:

1) Company/Client: Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC) on behalf of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) with the following address:

Bids Department,

Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC),

No. 1713, 1st floor of National Iranian Steel Company building, Vali-e-Asr Avenue (Above Valiasr Sq.),

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Postal Code: 1594643118, Tel: +98-21-88906133

Email: parsian_ccpp_tender@psez.ir

2) Invitation subject: Selecting the EPCF contractor for Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant (500±10% MW) project on EPCF Basis (phase one)

3) Project's estimated price: Two hundred eighty-five million (285,000,000) Euros.

4) Bid Bond: The Bid Bond shall be in the form of a bank guarantee in the amount of 2.055.000 € (two million fifty-five thousand euros) issued by an Iranian bank acceptable to the Company According to related circular (governmental transactions guarantees regulation) dated 24/08/1394 as per Iranian calendar (15/11/2015) No. H50659 T/123402. The Bid Bond shall be extendable and shall be valid for six (6) months after the Bid Closing Date. The bank guarantee shall have SEPAM number without any conditional statement.

5) Source of Fund: IMIDRO's internal resources

6) Prequalification Documents obtaining: The Prequalification Questionnaire will be available on the portal of government's electronic procurement system (www.setadiran.ir) from 2024 June23, Sunday, 08:00 AM until 2024 June29, Saturday, 04:00 PM.

7) Prequalification Documents submission: The Prequalification Documents shall be uploaded on the portal of government's electronic procurement system, available on www.setadiran.ir website before 2024 July20, Saturday, 04:00 PM.

8) Bid Opening Date and Place: on the 2024 July21, Sunday at a/m address.

9) Bid Validity Period: Bids shall remain valid for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of Bid opening.

10) Invitation notice date: The invitation will be noticed on 2024 June23, Sunday through the portal of government's electronic procurement system (www.setadiran.ir).

All Bidding stages from beginning, i.e. noticing of this invitation, sending/ delivering of Bidding Documents up to opening of the Bids will be conducted via Iran Public eProcurement System (SETAD) available on www.setadiran.ir.

Therefore, Applicants shall be registered in the mentioned system and receive the electronic signature certificate in order to participate in the Bid if they have not been a member before.

Hezbollah fully exposes Israel's vulnerability

“Only decision-makers” in Tel Aviv understand the magnitude of the situation as new drone footage is published

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The military media of Hezbollah has published a new video showing vital Israeli targets “known only to the Israeli security system”.

This was released as Israeli officials are making threats to launch a full-fledged war on Lebanon although military experts say the Israeli occupation regime does not have the capability or manpower of doing so against a formidable Lebanese force.

The new video included a segment from a speech by Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Wednesday in which he warned the occupation regime that the Lebanese resistance would fight “without constraints, rules, or limits” if war were imposed on Lebanon.

He emphasized that those contemplating war against Lebanon would regret it.

Nasrallah's words in the new clip were accompanied by translations into English and Hebrew, while the video displayed coordinates, both longitude and latitude for the targets presented without naming them.

Before the video was aired Hezbollah's military media published a statement saying: “Stay tuned... for those concerned.”

According to reliable sources cited by regional media, the video was intentionally vague, with no specific targets identified. The sources explained that it was a message understood only by decision-makers and relevant circles in Israel.

Israeli media covered the new revelation with deep interest, underlining that it “included an official threat to the headquarters of the Ministry of Security in



Tel Aviv”.

Israeli media reported that the “HaKirya compound” appears in the video, housing the headquarters of the Israeli Ministry of Security, the General Staff of the Army, and several high-ranking military leaders.

Additionally, the video showed a military satellite base and military bases, as well as others in the Negev and Galilee regions. It also included Ashdod Port, Ben Gurion Airport, oil refineries in Haifa, and Haifa port, according to Israeli media.

Other reports also cited sources as saying the new video shows vital targets in Haifa, Ashdod port, the Hadera power station, Ramat David Military Airport in Afula, Ben Gurion Airport, Nevatim Airbase, the Negev desert, oil refineries on the coast, satellite area in Yehuda and the research center at the Dimona Nuclear Reactor.

As Israeli officials are threatening full-scale war on Lebanon the Israeli minister for war, Yoav Gallant, traveled to Washington on Sunday to increase the rhetoric.

The ground commander of the

Iranian army warned about the possibility of a regional war if Tel Aviv decides to attack Lebanon.

Sources within the Islamic Resistance in Iraq say tens of thousands of fighters would open a major front from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights if Hezbollah was attacked.

Yemen's Ansarullah have declared their intentions to significantly expand the battlefield as well if Israeli leaders make such a “foolish decision”.

But Hezbollah says it has the manpower (estimated by some experts at a quarter of a million) and many precision-guided missiles, drones, and torpedoes to take “Israel back to the stone age”.

The latest video clip was published days after Lebanon's Hezbollah released more than 9 minutes of footage from a drone that flew undetected to Haifa and safely returned to Lebanon.

Footage in that video showed aerial reconnaissance from Kiryat Shmona to the cities of Karmiel, Nahariya, Safed, and Afula, reaching as far as Haifa and sensitive sites across the city.

The scenes have caused significant concern among the Israeli security apparatus, with officials and media acknowledging Hezbollah's substantial and effective intelligence capabilities, and Tel Aviv's inability to handle the threat posed by the resistance movement's drones.

On the same day that the new video was published, Hezbollah released details of the latest operations it waged against the Israeli military over the past 24 hours in solidarity with Gaza.

A statement underlined that in “support of the resilient Palestinian people in Gaza and bolster their honorable resistance, the Islamic Resistance (Hezbollah) conducted a number of operations against Israeli army positions and deployments along the Lebanese-Palestinian borders.

According to the statement, the operations included:

Targeting a building used by Israeli soldiers in the Menara settlement with appropriate weapons, resulting in direct hits, in response to Israeli attacks on steadfast southern villages and safe houses, especially in the town of Mays al-Jabal.

Targeting buildings used by Israeli soldiers in the Metula settlement with appropriate weapons, resulting in direct hits that caused fires.

Targeting the Zabdin site in the occupied Lebanese Sheba'a farms with rocket weapons, resulting in a direct hit.

Targeting the Rmeitha site in the occupied Kafrouchouba hills of Lebanon with rocket weapons, resulting in a direct hit.

Targeting buildings used by enemy soldiers in the Metula colony with appropriate weapons, resulting in direct hits.

The ground commander of the sand in the eyes of the public.... 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”.

Israel has suffered crushing blows at the hands of Hamas fighters in the Gaza battlefield.

Israel's warmongering against Lebanon's Hezbollah has also brought the regime nothing more than humiliation.

Pipe dreams

Both Israel and its Western allies, in particular the United States, have been under the illusion that they are able to eliminate regional resistance groups through military means.

The US has repeatedly targeted resistance groups in West Asia that are opposed to Israel's war on Gaza and Washington's support for the regime. These American strikes have been aimed at deterring the groups from conducting military operations against the US and its protégé, Israel.

However, growing resistance against the US hegemony and Israel's occupation and savagery has clearly shown that Israelis and their Western masters are just building castles in the air.

moderate Hutus, the Israeli soldiers and extremist settlers in the occupied West Bank have been treating Palestinians as sub-humans. They have been humiliated, intimidated, displaced, arrested, abused, and killed for decades.

What settlers are doing against Palestinians in the West Bank is in many ways similar to what is being done against civilians in Sudan's West Darfur by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the Rohingya population in Myanmar at the hands of the military and others.

Israeli ships in the crosshairs of regional resistance

Yemeni, Iraqi resistance movements launch joint attacks on Israeli vessels

From page 1 ▶ **Successful strikes**

The Ansarullah movement also confirmed the joint attacks.

“The two operations successfully achieved their goals, and the strikes were precise and direct,” the spokesman for the Yemeni armed forces said.

Yahya Saree also said on Saturday that the Yemeni army targeted the US aircraft carrier Eisenhower in the Red Sea with missiles.

He said the move was in line with efforts to express solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

Saree noted that the attacks were also a response to American and British strikes against Yemen.

The Yemeni and Iraqi resistance forces have been hitting Israeli targets since the regime declared war on Gaza on October 7.

The Yemeni army has launched several drone and missile attacks against Israeli ships and vessels affiliated to the regime in the Red Sea since November.

The Ansarullah said it would stop the attacks if Israel ended its relentless air and ground attacks on Gaza.

Nonetheless, the US and the UK chose to escalate the situation after they began strikes against Yemen in early January in response to the targeting of Israeli vessels.

This prompted the Ansarullah movement to order the army to target American and British warships in the Red Sea over the complicity of London and Washington with the Tel Aviv regime's crimes against Palestinians.

Manifestation of unity

The US and UK attacks against Yemen have not only failed to deter the country from targeting Israeli interests, but they have also led to greater unity among the axis of regional resistance.

Growing unity among resistance groups was thrust into the spotlight after the Islamic Resistance in Iraq and the Ansarullah movement teamed up to target the Israeli ships.

Resistance has the upper hand

Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7 after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel.

More than 260 days have passed since Israel began the onslaught, which has claimed the lives of about 37,600 Palestinians.

But the regime has failed to eliminate Hamas which has been its main military goal since the war erupted.

According to Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesman, “This business of destroying Hamas, making Hamas disappear — it's simply throwing

The United States and the European Union that have announced sanctions against violent settlers in the West Bank have so far refused to target major tribal war leaders, including Itamar Ben-Gvir and settlement financier Bezalel Smotrich.

So far, only Benzi Gopstein, an epitome of the tribal war criminal who is a top ally of Ben Gvir, is facing symbolic sanctions by the Biden administration and the European Union.

If in 1994 the extremist Hutus in Rwanda killed more than 800,000 civilian Tutsis and

WORLD HEADLINES

Israel under fire for using Palestinians as ‘human shield’

Footage of an injured Palestinian man strapped to a military jeep by Israeli soldiers during a raid in the occupied West Bank has drawn international outrage.

Mujahed Azmi, a resident of the city of Jenin, was seen tied to the bonnet of the vehicle as it passed two ambulances on Saturday, in video shared on social media and verified by Reuters.

Francesca Albanese, the United Nations' special rapporteur to the occupied Palestinian territory, called the incident “human shielding in action”.

“It is flabbergasting how a state born 76 years ago has managed to turn international law literally on its head,” she wrote in a post on X.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the United States' largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, also condemned the incident.

“These Israeli-US massacres and war crimes must be stopped. American taxpayer dollars should not be used to kill, maim and starve innocent civilians. The Biden administration must end its complicity in this genocide and begin to recognize the humanity of the Palestinian people.”

Former Israeli PM calls for ending Gaza war

Ehud Olmert, a former Israeli prime minister, has joined a chorus of voices criticizing the regime's war strategy and calling for a ceasefire.

In comments carried by Israel's Hayom newspaper, Olmert said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has turned the world against Israel due to the violence unleashed in Gaza.

“The government has lost the support of the world during these months of stagnation,” said Olmert. “At first, everyone supported our response, but with all the destruction in Gaza, support for us eroded.”

Netanyahu has also lost the trust of the Israeli public, he said, who are frustrated by deepening insecurity in the north and the failure to bring back the captives.

“We must end the fighting with an agreement under which all the abductees will be returned and an international force will enter the Gaza Strip and prevent the return of Hamas rule,” said Olmert.

What would be the Europeans' fate if they were involved in war on Lebanon?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT- Since October 2023, it is nothing new for the Western mainstream media to broadcast news that the Israeli enemy intends to launch a war against Lebanon.

During a recent trip to the Middle East, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken reportedly informed an Arab counterpart that Israel appears determined to attack Lebanon.

In fact, Blinken is consistent with the new wave of intimidation to pressure Hezbollah to stop its heroic operations in support of oppressed people of Gaza.

The pace of events -during the past eight months- and regardless of whether or not there is a possibility of broad war, has pushed Hezbollah to raise the level of its military readiness in conjunction with a diplomatic campaign led by its Secretary-General, Sayyed Hasaan Nasrallah, as he has clearly revealed in his recent speech.

The Secretary-General of Hezbollah vowed during his speech on January 14 that no amount of US pressure or “intimidation” will halt Hezbollah's daily operations. “The Americans threatened Lebanon, saying that if the southern front was not de-escalated, Israel would wage a war against the

London activists vow to protest until Gaza ‘genocide’ ends

Pro-Palestine activists staged a demonstration in the British capital at the weekend to express solidarity with people in Gaza, vowing to keep protesting until “the genocide ends and Palestine is free.”

Gathering at the Victoria Embankment Gardens, a group of protesters decried Western governments' “silence” in the face of ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza, where about 37,600 Palestinians have been killed since October 7, TRT reported.

Speaking at the rally, Hala, a protester from Gaza, touched on the worsening situation in the enclave, where people are facing hunger and disease.

Criticizing the UK government's stance, she noted that so far the government has not accepted any injured Palestinian for treatment.

“The UK until today has taken zero patients from Gaza. Here we are eight months later in supposedly one of the most developed countries in the world, and not one single person is getting treatments in this country... not one,” she said as the crowd chanted, “Shame!”

Gaza war deprives 800,000 students of ‘right to education’

At least 800,000 students have been deprived of an education as Israel's months-long offensive against the Gaza Strip continues, the Gaza Media Office said.

The Office said, according to a statement by the Ministry of Education in Gaza, “more than 800,000 students of various educational levels in the Gaza Strip have been deprived of their right to education since October 7 last year, due to the genocidal war being waged by the criminal Zionist occupation on the Gaza Strip.”

Among them: “40,000 high school students from various branches will not be able to participate in this year's session of the high school exams, representing an unprecedented violation that threatens their future and undermines their chances of enrolling in local and international universities and colleges,” the Office added, Anadolu reported.

The Gaza Media Office said that “85% of educational facilities are out of service due to direct and deliberate targeting, posing a significant challenge to efforts to resume the educational process after the war ends.”

country ... Your intimidation will not work, neither today, nor tomorrow, nor any day,” Sayyed Nasrallah said.

Meanwhile, the entire Zionist colonial settlers are aware that their fate is identical to what has taken place in the northern occupied Palestinian territories. Accordingly, the enemy's political and military leadership has realized that in case of a comprehensive confrontation erupts, they will be obliged to submit to Hezbollah's innovative rules of engagement.

“The Israeli army, when it was in good shape and fully equipped, was destroyed in the face of our resistance forces during the July War of 2006 ... Israel and its settlers are the ones who should fear war, not Lebanon,” Sayyed Nasrallah went on to say, adding, “We have been ready for war for 99 days, and we are not afraid of it. We will fight without limit [if war is imposed on us].”

His Eminence Sayyed Nasrallah has drawn the attention of regional and international players who support the Israeli enemy (militarily, diplomatically and politically) to the fact that the consequences to launch an aggression against Lebanon is completely different than Gaza.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

4 villages, 3 cities named national handicraft hubs

TEHRAN – On Sunday, the national registration of four Iranian villages and three cities as handicraft hubs was announced by Maryam Jalali Dehkordi, the deputy minister of handicrafts and traditional arts.

The decision was reached after extensive discussions and deliberations during a session of the Strategic Council for the Selection of National Handicraft Cities and Villages chaired by Jalali Dehkordi at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

In addition, the jury included representatives from the Ministry of Interior, the Rural Development Department of the Planning and Budget Organization, and provincial officials and experts.

The number of dynamic workshops in specific regions, people engaging in a specific field, and the facilities available for trading new crafters were among the elements taken into account to reach the shortlist.

Bafruyeh in Yazd province was named a national city for mat weaving. Mamaqan in East Azarbaijan province was recognized as the national city for Mamaqanduzi (weaving a kind of needlework), and Kuzehkonan in Shabestar county of East Azarbaijan province was declared the national village for traditional pottery.

Golestanak in Alborz province was registered as the national village for pottery and ceramics. Najaf-e Tarakomeh in East Azarbaijan province was named the national village for Vernibafi (weaving a kind of rug-like flooring). Khor in South Khorasan province was named a



national village for agate carving. And finally, Shahediye in Yazd province was recognized as the national city for textile weaving.

According to experts, the bestowing of that national label helps promote those places to become more prosperous travel destinations and foster economic growth and cultural preservation.

Earlier this month, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami said the country boasts nearly 300 distinct fields of handicrafts, a diversity unparalleled globally.

He made the remarks at a ceremony celebrating World Handicrafts Day at the ministry headquarters, attended by veteran artisans, craftspeople, and media representatives. "We have around 300 diverse fields of handicrafts, making us unique in the world due to this variety."

Currently, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as the world cities of handicrafts.

Restoration revitalizes water supply system at Ali Qapu Palace

TEHRAN – The centuries-old Ali Qapu palace in Isfahan has undergone a restoration project focused on its ancient water supply system.

Speaking to IRNA on Sunday, the director of the World Heritage site of Naqsh-e Jahan Square, stated that the water supply route, which uses clay and copper pipes to transfer water from the lower parts of the palace to the fourth floor, where it then overflowed into a copper basin, had not been restored since the 1970s and was in urgent need of reinforcement.

Fariba Khatabakhsh noted that while the reinforcement and restoration of the Ali Qapu palace's structure were completed by 2017, the water supply routes and chambers were not restored at that time.

"This year, with funding from the Isfahan Cultural Heritage Department," she elaborated, "this important task was accomplished."

The water routes and pipes of the Ali Qapu palace, Khatabakhsh added, were identified with the assistance of professors from the Isfahan University of Art and basins on the third and fourth floors, which were integral to the water system, were restored.

The Ali Qapu palace is one of the most beau-

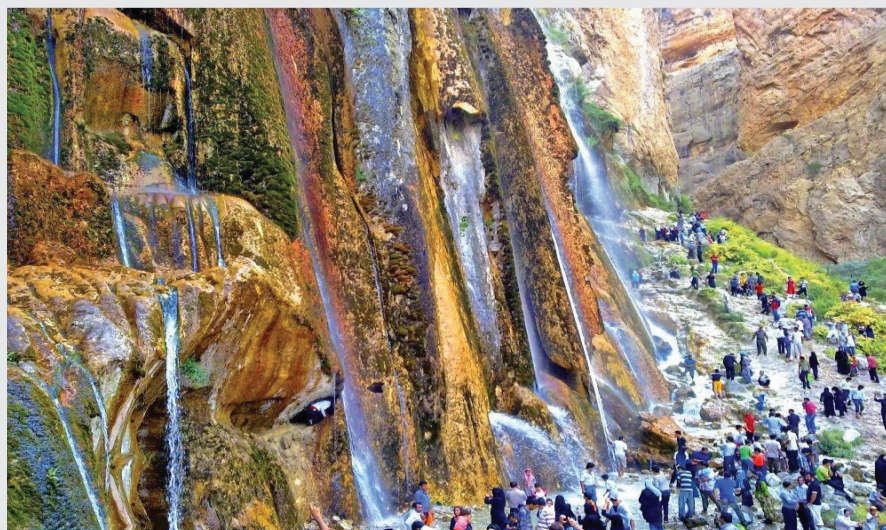


tiful architectural remnants from the Safavid era in Isfahan.

The palace, with its distinctive six-story structure, is located on the western side of the iconic Naqsh-e Jahan Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Each floor of Ali Qapu reveals intricate details and artistry, from the elaborate frescoes and miniatures to the stunning plasterwork and wooden ceilings. One of the most notable features is the music room on the upper floors, designed with niches in the walls to enhance acoustics for royal performances.

Its unique blend of function and beauty makes it a significant historical and cultural landmark, drawing visitors from around the world to experience its splendor and the rich history of Isfahan.

Iran in frames



People tour Margoon fall, where nature's symphony of cascading waters and lush greenery offers a tranquil escape near Sepidan of Fars province.

Sustainable rural tourism high on agenda, says deputy minister

TEHRAN – Deputy Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian has emphasized the importance of developing rural tourism in a way that minimizes environmental, social, and cultural drawbacks.

Speaking on Saturday, Shalbafian underlined thorough planning and expert consultation to safeguard the integrity of rural communities as they transition into tourist destinations.

He made the remarks in a meeting with a host of travel insiders and media personnel held in the ministry headquarters, saying the National Rural Tourism Desk performs a critical role in that regard.

"This body, comprising representatives from government agencies, the private sector, and provincial administrations, is tasked with overseeing the comprehensive development of rural tourism. The aim is to ensure that this growth does not come at the expense of environmental, social, or cultural degradation."

The deputy minister also pointed to the unique opportunity presented by the annual UN Tourism competition, which recognizes exceptional rural tourism destinations worldwide. Iran has nominated eight villages for this prestigious label: Abyaneh in Isfahan province, Kandovan in East Azarbaijan province, Meymand in Kerman, Kandelus in Mazandaran, Soheil in Hormozgan, Qasemabad in Gilan,



Palangan in Kordestan, and Bisheh in Lorestan. These candidates were selected from 130 villages by a working group affiliated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

"These nominations provide a special platform to showcase our villages on the global stage," Shalbafian said, adding that recognition from the UN Tourism (formerly known as the UNWTO) could significantly enhance Iran's rural tourism profile.

He emphasized that while Iran's rural areas boast a lot of potential, they have yet to be fully commercialized and transformed into major tourist attractions. To address this, he stressed the importance of both hard infrastructure, such as roads and utilities, and soft infrastructure, including digital content creation and marketing.

Shalbafian noted that one of the key strategies is leveraging digital platforms to promote the villages in line with international tourism standards. This digital push is expected to create a competitive environment for content creation, ultimately leading to better branding and marketing of Iran's rural tourism products. "Introducing our rural capacities in the digital space in accordance with UNWTO standards can be a significant step towards making these villages competitive tourism products and brands," he remarked.

He further elaborated on the need for product development and content creation in the digital space to transform these villages into new destinations. Highlighting the importance of visibility, Shalbafian stressed that promoting rural capacities on digital platforms in line with international tourism stan-

dards could be a crucial step towards achieving competitive content creation for Iran's villages and turning them into branded tourism products.

Shalbafian concluded by describing the National Rural Tourism Desk meeting as an invaluable opportunity for sharing experiences and insights about the selection process for the UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages label. He stressed the importance of highlighting the strengths of these villages to enhance their appeal and competitiveness.

Many Iranian villages offer a unique experience of rural charm and cozy accommodations overwhelmed by warm hospitality.

During the meeting, Shalbafian also presented a report on the latest developments that progressed at international tourism meetings held in Spain.

Many Iranian villages offer a unique experience of rural charm and cozy accommodations overwhelmed by warm hospitality.

'Picturesque Iran' presents tourism capacities on Pakistani stage

TEHRAN – Aimed at presenting Iran's tourism capacities to a neighboring country, "Picturesque Iran" conference has taken place in Pakistan's Karachi.

On Saturday night, the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi played host to a number of Pakistanis tourism activists, IRNA reported. The guests included more than 170 managers and representatives from Pakistani travel agencies and airlines.

Some local officials along with several consul generals from different countries were also invited to the Iranian tourism gathering.

Shedding light on available opportunities between the two nations, Hassan Nourian, Iranian consul general to Karachi appreciated Pakistan's positive approach to boosting bilateral tourism ties.

"Boosting tourism and paving the way for pilgrims' travels, are our priorities," he highlighted. "Easing the process of establishing Karachi-Mashhad flight route is among the measures taken."

Some Iranian airlines, Nourian continued, have expressed enthusiasm towards initiating new flight routes between the two countries.

Considering the cultural, religious, and social commonalities among Iran and Pakistan, a wide range of tourism capacities are available to be exploited by the two neighboring countries, the consul general highlighted.

Nourian added that based on Pakistan's geographical richness, adventure tourism, a type of tourism in which tourists engage in adventure activities such as trekking, climbing, rafting, scuba diving, or the likes, is a potential

sector for Iranian visitors.

Moreover, he pointed to the private sector as a key player in bolstering bilateral relations in the tourism field.

Enhancing infrastructures on the borders between Iran and Pakistan is a momentous measure to draw more tourists, which is in need of special attention, he further noted.

"With special attention to the enhancement of infrastructures in borders," he further noted. "more Pakistani tourists and pilgrims are expected to enter Iran."

At the end of the event, some free round tickets, sponsored by Iran Air and Taban Airlines were given to the guests as a measure to familiarize the travelers with Iran's tourism capacities.

Qalaichi's ancient necropolis excavated for the first time

TEHRAN – The first archaeological season is currently underway at an ancient necropolis associated with the Qalaichi site, which was once the capital of the Mannaean kingdom from the 10th to 7th centuries BC.

Situated in northwestern Iran, close to Lake Urmia, Qalaichi is renowned for its glazed bricks looted and smuggled out of Iran about four decades ago but were repatriated with the assistance of Swiss officials in December 2020.

According to CHTN, the excavation commenced about a month ago following damage to the Qalaichi necropolis. The dig has received authorization from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism and support from the municipality of Boukan and the tourism directorate of West Azarbaijan province.

On Sunday, Yousef Hassanzadeh, the lead archaeologist, said: "Despite nine previous excavation seasons at Qalaichi from 1985 to 2006, led by esteemed archaeologists Ismail Yaghmaei and Bahman Kargar, the necropolis had not been explored until now."

He added the Qalaichi site, dating back 2,800 years to the Mannaean kingdom, gained fame for the exquisite glazed bricks discovered there.

This inaugural season of research in the necropolis, backed extensively by Boukan's municipality and in collaboration with the West Azarbaijan's tourism directorate, aims to investigate the architectural structure of the graves and the burial practices of the Mannaean people.

In conclusion, Hassanzadeh expressed optimism that the Qalaichi

site and its necropolis could be developed into a tourism complex.

In the 1970s, a farmer plowing at Qalaichi came across a decorated brick, probably from the columned hall of a citadel. This discovery led to extremely damaging illegal excavations, partly using a bulldozer. Eventually, in 1985, there was an official rescue excavation, but this was quickly abandoned because of an intensification of the Iran-Iraq War. There were then 14 more years of illegal digging until 1999, when there was another official excavation. But by this time, only small fragments of broken bricks were found.

Situated about nine air km northwest of Boukan, Qalaichi (or Ghalay-chi) is an ancient settlement so far yielded a large number of glazed objects. Some of which are monochrome and the others show complex compositions. The

glazed objects from the regular excavations were curated in Urmia Museum and Tehran National Museum.

The artifacts are connected to the Mannai civilization, which flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC. Mannai, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time, namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Mannaeans are first recorded in the annals of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (reigned 858-824 BC) and are last mentioned in Urartu by Rusa II (reigned 685-645 BC) and in Assyria by Esarhaddon (reigned 680-669 BC). With the intrusion of the Scythians and the rise of the Medes in the 7th century, the Mannaeans lost their identity and were subsumed under the term Medes.

Researchers discuss tourism and green investment

TEHRAN – Tehran has played host to the third national symposium on tourism and green investment with transformative approach.

During the scientific symposium, 16 researchers presented their insights over the course of 10 hours within three specialized panels.

The discussions focused on topics such as natural and cultural heritage in tourism,

green economy and entrepreneurship in tourism, the green tourism supply chain, and the art of green tourism with an emphasis on the development of organic tourism destinations.

The scientific and specialized event, with a transformative approach, was held last week at the Iranian Chamber of Commerce.

Given Iran's rich history and potential in the realm of green tourism investments, the

symposium sought to develop supportive policies, network stakeholders, and back innovative ideas, paving the way for the growth of green tourism and increased investments.

Green tourism, also known as sustainable tourism, is a growing trend in the global tourism industry. It involves promoting environmentally friendly practices and supporting local communities to ensure tourism has a positive impact on the environment and society.

TEHRAN –This summer is forecasted to be hotter than normal, according to Metrological Organization.

Air temperature will be one to two degrees higher than normal, and on certain days due to abnormal temperature it will get four to five degrees hotter than average, IRIB quoted Ahad Vazifeh as saying.

The current heat will peak from July 5 to August 5, he added.

During spring, the country received 98.2 mm of rain, marking a 60 percent increase compared to 60 mm in long-term. It partly made up for lack of precipitations in fall and winter, particularly in the southern and eastern half latitudes.

The western and southwestern as well as the south and southeast regions of the country, which include the provinces of South Khorasan, Yazd, Isfahan, Sistan-Baluchestan, received normal to above normal rainfall, the official added.

However, Fars, Hormozgan, Khorasan Razavi, Alborz, Markazi, and Zanjan experienced 10 to 30 percent less rainfall than normal.

The amount of rainfall in Tehran, Semnan, and Qazvin provinces were 25 to 35 percent below normal; consequently these provinces are going through the fourth consecutive year of drought.

Due to prolonged below-average



precipitations, which have led to reduction in water availability in rivers and lakes, the provinces have entered a stage of hydrological drought, Vazifeh explained.

On June 18, he stated that "the average temperature of the country has been 13.3 °C since the beginning of fall, September 23, which compared to the three-year-period figure, 11.3 °C, shows the temperature has increased by 2 °C over time."

Since the beginning of winter, the temperature has been 9.1 degrees, while it had been 7.1 degrees in long-term average. The last two months of the fall this year were the hottest months on record in the past 50 years, Vazifeh added.

El Niño-driven floods

El Niño was the primary driver of extreme rainfall in April and May that caused widespread

flash flooding across Iran, as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan, doubling the chance of extreme rainfall, a new World Weather Attribution study found.

Throughout April and May, West Asia was hit by several storms. Flash floods killed at least 500 people in Afghanistan, 124 in Pakistan, and 18 in Iran, destroyed thousands of homes, and wiped out crops, worsening food shortages and threatening agricultural livelihoods.

WMO reports on Iran

On April 23, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a report on extreme events such as floods, drought, dust storms, and strong winds that affected the country, ISNA reported.

According to the report, below-normal rainfall in most regions of Iran for the third consecutive

year in 2023 led to widespread drought in the country.

The eastern half experienced severe rainfall shortage within the year. Decreased rain and severe drought in the region along with above-normal temperatures have resulted in the drying up of the main inland lakebed, the Hamoun Lake.

In Iran, autumn 2023 was much warmer than normal with severe shortages of rainfall throughout the country, the report added.

Severe dust storms hit most parts of Asia. In mid-September, a dust storm affected Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan causing serious health problems.

High winds in the southeast of the country from September 18 to 25, caused severe dust storms resulting in severe injuries and hospitalization.

Levar wind along with the dust from dried Hamoun wetland affected the region, causing adverse health effects, closure of schools, transportation hazards, and damage to crops.

According to the report, the flood that struck Astara city from September 17 to 19 significantly affected 300 households. The flood resulted from intense and prolonged rainfall in Astara on September 18. Within a span of 12 hours, 220 mm of rain was recorded causing profound damage.

Over 7,000 schools were constructed during Raisi administration

TEHRAN –More than 7,000 schools with 32,000 classrooms were constructed during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi, Education Minister Reza-Morad Sahraei has said.

"Per capita education space has extended to five meters and 35 cm as eight schools were constructed on a daily basis on average, ISNA quoted Sahraei as saying.

Also, some 2,700 sport and educational spaces have been built in the same period, the official stressed.

The official went on to say that a total of 70,000 classrooms were renovated and more than a few million square meters of educational spaces were retrofitted.

Prefabricated classrooms will not be used anymore for areas with more than 10 students by the end of the current year.

Half of the schools across Iran are built with the participation of benefactors, Sahraei added.

In August 2023, the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipment of Schools announced that the number of newly built schools across the country has increased by 104 percent over the past two years.

On a daily basis, 47 new classrooms have been constructed all over the country during the past two years.

About 40,000 donors are active and involved in building schools across the country, said Mohammad Reza Jafari, CEO of the School-Building Donors Association.

He went on to say that over 49 percent of schools, amounting to 150,000 classrooms, in the country are built with the participation of school-building benefactors.

Construction of sports spaces, libraries, and developing smart schools are among the current needs in school construction, Jafari stressed.

On July 11, 2023, the 25th conference on honoring school-building benefactors was held at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in Tehran.

Addressing the conference, First Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber said investing in education and manpower training is the root and basis of any country's development, and this starts from schools.

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) has approved a special budget to support building schools nationwide.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Education should spend one percent of the revenues of state-run companies and the net profits of banks and private institutions to build schools in deprived areas in line with the goal of promoting educational justice.

Intl. day to honor women in diplomacy marked

TEHRAN –Every year on June 24th, International Day for Women in Diplomacy is celebrated worldwide.

Women have participated in diplomacy for centuries, yet their contributions have often been overlooked.

Women and girls represent half of the world's population and, therefore, also half of its potential.

Women bring immense benefits to diplomacy. Their leadership styles, expertise and priorities broaden the scope of issues under consideration and the quality of outcomes.

Research shows that when women serve in cabinets and parliaments, they pass laws and policies that are better for ordinary people, the environment and social cohesion.

Advancing measures to increase women's participation in peace and political processes is vital to achieving women's de facto equality in the context of entrenched discrimination.

When women are represented in legislative bodies, it enhances the effectiveness of governance and ensures that a wider range of perspectives and experiences are considered in decision-making processes.

This inclusivity not only reflects the diversity of the population but also leads to better-informed policies that address the needs of all citizens.

However, the unfortunate reality is that violence against women in politics remains a significant issue that hinders progress towards gender equality.

Such violence not only violates the fundamental human rights of women but also poses a serious threat to their participation in the political process. It creates a hostile environment that deters women from entering politics or voicing their opinions, ultimately undermining their ability to contribute fully to society.

Iranian women empowered after Islamic Revolution

The status of women in various fields was improved after the Islamic Revolution and women, as half of the country's population, have been leading in many fields.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979 by toppling the Pahlavi regime [the last Iranian royal dynasty, ruling for almost 54 years between 1925 and 1979], women were given equal rights to shape their futures. The Islamic Revolution provided them a chance to build their distinct identity and they have been tremendously successful in doing that.

There were extensive changes in the fields of science, education, economy, employment, and presence in management positions for women. Now a large part of activists in various fields of academia, business, and management are made up of capable Iranian women.

Education as a social value for women is seen as real freedom for them. Illiteracy among women and girls has been nearly eradicated as the literacy rate reached 99.3 percent and the ratio of female to male students has increased by 28 percent.

According to the latest data, nearly 60 percent of all university students are females today. The percentage of women in higher education has increased nearly 21 times since the Revolution.

The notable presence of women in the education sector has had a remarkable impact on the job market of the country as well, with women taking more jobs in both the public and private sectors.

The labor force of the country today consists mostly of women specialists, which indicates that women are playing an important role in shaping the future of Iran.

A report by the World Bank shows that the number of female board members in various organizations has seen a three-fold increase, growing from 11 percent in 1970 before the Revolution to 30 percent in 2016 after the Revolution.

During the last 44 years after the Revolution, the number of female faculty members in universities has grown more than 17 times. The share of women in university faculty members has increased by 33.3 percent, and in medical sciences universities by 34 percent.

Only 1.4 percent of teaching staff was made up of women before the Revolution and now the number stands at above 24 percent in higher education.

A ten-fold increase in the number of women doctors could be seen between 1979 and 2012, according to some data, and nearly 40 percent of all specialized physicians in Iran today are women.

ENGLISH IN USE

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SDSs mitigation plan to take effect next year

Sand and dust storm (SDS) mitigation plan will be implemented in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan as of the next Iranian calendar year (beginning March 21), Department of Environment (DOE) chief has announced.

A total fund of \$150 million from the National Development Fund has been proposed to counter dust storms in Sistan-Baluchestan province, IRNA quoted Issa Kalantari as saying on Tuesday.

Referring to the SDSs hitting southeastern part of the country causing the residents severe health problems, he noted that the president is pursuing the issue and as long as the fund is provided the plan will go into effect.

طرح مهار گرد و غبارهای سیستان از اول سال آینده اجرایی می شود

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: طرح مهار گرد و غبارهای منطقه سیستان و بلوچستان از ابتدای سال آینده اجرایی می شود. عیسی کلانتری روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: برای مبارزه با گرد و غبار این منطقه رئیس جمهوری تقاضای ۱۵۰ میلیون دلار اعتبار از صندوق توسعه ملی کرده است.

وی بیان کرد: توفان ها و گرد و غبار مساله جدی در منطقه سیستان است و مردم سالها با این مشکل مواجه و از آن رنج می برند و رئیس جمهوری به شدت پیگیر حل این مساله هستند. طرح مهار گرد و غبارهای منطقه سیستان به محض تایید منابع مورد نیاز اجرایی می شود.

Restoration of trees in Chitgar forest park kicks off

TEHRAN – In line with the protection of the national lands and resources, as well as preservation of green spaces, the plan to restore Chitgar forest park has commenced.

Founded in 1963, the forest park is situated in Tehran; it covers an area of about 14.5 square kilometers. The park is known to be effective in mitigating air pollution in the city.

The plan includes taking necessary measures for the irrigation of the trees, which have not been watered for many years; the removal of trees' pests, and the issuance of land certificate for Chitgar forest park under the ownership of natural resources and watershed management organization after 60 years.

A special working group is established to provide solutions to prevent trees from drying

out and reviving them, as well as following up on the plan.

The working group is also responsible for preparing planting certificates and plaques for all trees, supplying water resources needed for tree irrigation, creating a new water supply network for green space irrigation, collecting dry and infested trees and replacing them with new trees.

Regular and planned irrigation of dried trees will continue for a month. In case they do not revive, immediate action should be taken to plant replacement trees.

Formerly 800 trees were cut down, but about a thousand trees have been planted so far.



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Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



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

JUNE 24, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The elderly are the sources of mercy and divine blessing.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:50 (tomorrow)

5 countries to attend Ghadir 10-kilometer celebration party in Tehran

TEHRAN-Temporary stations from five countries in the Axis of Resistance, including Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan will be set up along the path of the Ghadir 10-kilometer celebration party in Tehran on Tuesday, Sasan Zare, the secretary of the Public Affairs Headquarters for the event said.

"Citizens from these countries in Iran will be hosting the people of Tehran with their traditional culture and cuisine. Additionally, in five countries namely, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Iraq, and Lebanon, 10-kilometer celebrations will be held, inspired by Iran's initiative," he added.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday, Zare explained about the precise time and location of the event, stating that from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., a total of 2,200 temporary stations will be serving the public from Azadi Square in the west to the intersection of Damavand Street and Imam Ali Highway in the east, Mehr reported him as saying.

The stations will offer food and drinks to attendees. Some of the stations will provide children with playgrounds. Flowers and cultural gifts will be also distributed among the people.

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

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

Afterward, two tents were pitched, in one of which Muslims congratulated the Prophet (PBUH) for his excellent choice and, in the other one, Muslims from all tribes gave their allegiance to Imam Ali (AS).

According to the Holy Qur'an, this is the day when God Almighty perfected Islam as the religion by introducing Imam Ali (AS) as the next leader. That is why it is celebrated in honor of the first Shia Imam.

Imam Ali (AS) was the cousin of the Prophet (PBUH) and is known as the first man to embrace the Prophet's call for Islam. According to Islamic sources, the Imam rooted out poverty and promoted an unprecedented justice system across the Muslim world during his 5-year rule based in the Iraqi city of Kufa.

"In this year's celebration, the temporary stations in Tehran have increased by 30%," Zare added. Regarding the number of Ghadir celebrations held across the country, he said: "300 cities are hosting Ghadir celebrations, totaling 360 kilometers of celebrations nationwide."

"We have planned the launch of 22 stations representing various ethnic groups. We will have live coverage in four main stages located in Azadi, Imam Hussein, Ferdowsi, and Enqelab squares," he noted.

He highlighted three special events for this year's celebration and said: "We will have special lighting in 26 locations, 100 flight teams will perform, and numerous balloons will decorate the city's sky."

According to estimates, every year about 3 million people participate in this glorious street ceremony in Tehran.

Eid al-Ghadir is celebrated annually around the world by Shia Muslims on the 18th of Dhul-Hajjah (June 25).

Iranian actor Hassan Pourshirazi wins award at Transylvania film festival

TEHRAN- Iranian actor Hassan Pourshirazi has won the Best Performance Award at the Transylvania International Film Festival, which was held in the Romanian city of Cluj-Napoca.

The award was presented to him during a ceremony on Saturday for his outstanding performance in Oktay Baraheni's film "The Old Bachelor".

"The Old Bachelor" explores the tumultuous relationship between two middle-aged brothers and their tyrannical father, who has a history of verbal and emotional abuse. The father's second wife left him due to his chauvinistic behavior, and now he directs his venom towards his eldest son. The younger brother, meanwhile, harbors dark fantasies about ending his father's life.

When the father rents out the flat above to a young woman, who has her sights set on marrying him, the situation becomes increasingly volatile. As the woman's affections for the older brother grow, the family's fragile dynamics are pushed to the brink, threatening to shatter their already damaged relationships.

Starring Hamed Behdad, Leila Hatami, Hassan Pourshirazi, Mohamadreza Davoudnejad, Reza Ruygari, and Babak Hamidian, "The Old Bachelor" is Baraheni's second feature film. His debut feature film "Bridge of Sleep" (2016) was screened at several international film festivals in Australia and Switzerland among others. A film



Iranian actor Hassan Pourshirazi acts in a scene from Oktay Baraheni's "The Old Bachelor"

director, writer, and producer, Baraheni, 49, is a graduate of the fine arts from York University in Toronto, Canada.

His successful career includes several short films and a documentary about the well-known Iranian poet and writer Reza Baraheni (his father).

"Girls Will Be Girls" by Indian director Shuchi Talati received Transylvania Trophy and Best Director Award was awarded to Sebastián Quebrada from Argentina for his film "The Other Son".

The Special Jury Award was given to "The Adamant Girl" by Vinothraj Palani from India, while

"Summer Brother" by Joren Molter from the Netherlands won the Audience Award. The Transylvania International Film Festival (TIFF) is presented by the Romanian Film Promotion.

As the first international feature film festival in Romania, it has established itself as a significant event in Eastern Europe's film industry. Founded in 2002, the Transylvania International Film Festival is the first and largest international film festival in Romania and one of the most important film events in the region, with over 100,000 participants at each edition. The festival takes place every year

in the heart of Transylvania, in Cluj-Napoca, a modern city with a rich history. Since 2021 Cluj-Napoca is part of the UNESCO City of Film network. The festival features a competitive section for debut and second-time directors, providing a platform for emerging talent to showcase their work.

Open to the general public as well as industry professionals, the Transylvania International Film Festival shows over 250 films and its program includes cine-concerts, concerts, as well as art exhibitions and meeting opportunities between filmmakers and the Romanian audiences.

2nd "Hand in Hand" International Anthem Festival to be held in Basra

TEHRAN-On the occasion of Eid al-Ghadir, the second "Hand in Hand" International Anthem Festival, organized jointly by the Art Bureau and the South Islamic Cultural Center in Basra will take place On June 24 and 25 in Basra, Iraq.

According to the Art Bureau website, the festival will feature more than 12 vocal groups from Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, and Bahrain. Distinguished scholars from the Resistance Front and prominent figures in the cultural and artistic sphere will also participate.

Notably, Ashraf Altmeme from Iraq, Hussein Khair dine from Lebanon, and Abouzar Rouhi from Iran will present their latest musical works.

Eid al-Ghadir is among important feasts and happy holidays of Shi'a held on Dhu l-Hijja 18 at the time when, according to reports, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) appointed Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) as his caliph and the Imam after himself following an order from God. That event happened in the Prophet's Farewell Hajj (Hajjat al-Wida'), in a place called Ghadir Khumm.

According to hadiths, the Prophet (PBUH) gathered people in Ghadir Khumm, raised Imam Ali's (AS) hand so that everyone sees and asked, "O people! Do I not have wilaya (guardianship) over you more than you have over yourself?" People answered, "Yes, O Prophet!"

Then, the Prophet (PBUH) said: "God is my wali (guardian), and I am wali of the believers; I have wilaya over them more than they have over themselves. So, anyone I am his wali, Ali is his wali." Then, the Prophet (PBUH) repeated it three times and said, "O God! Befriend and be the wali of anyone who loves Ali and considers him as his wali; be the enemy of anyone who is his enemy; and assist anyone who assists him and abandon anyone who abandons him."

He then told people, "Those who are present, convey this message to those who are absent".

Shi'a Muslims celebrate this day around the world with various customs.

"The Wasteman" wins award at 26th Shanghai International Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian feature film "The Wasteman" directed by Ahmad Bahrami and produced by Mohammad Hosseinkhani won an award at the 26th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) in China.

Competing with 13 other films from Spain, Argentina, Germany, France, Japan, Bangladesh, Italy, Georgia, Russia, Kazakhstan, and China in the main competition section of the event, "The Wasteman" won the Outstanding Artistic Achievement award on the closing ceremony of the festival on June 22, Mehr reported. A 2024 production, "The Wasteman" is about a middle-aged wagon driver, of a determined demeanor, who trundles a corpse toward the cemetery of a strange, silent village bereft of all apparent life.

Ali Bagheri is the sole actor in the 80-minute drama that had its world premiere at this year's

SIFF. With no dialogue, Bagheri focuses intensely on facial expressions, body language, and interaction with the environment during the film.

The movie serves as the final chapter of Bahrami's "Waste Trilogy". It continues the previous films' use of long takes, black-and-white cinematography, and themes of struggle. In "The Wasteland," a man facing imminent unemployment fights for his rights, while in "The Wastetown," a woman imprisoned for killing her husband fights for custody rights.

China's longest-running and most internationally respected major cinema event, the Shanghai festival hosted an estimated 1,600 screenings of 461 films across its 10-day duration this year. This year's festival was held from June 14 to 23 and hosted masterclasses, debates on women's position in the film industry, forums

on story-telling and the development of the Chinese film industry and numerous company presentations. Founded in 1993, the Shanghai International Film Festival is the only competitive film festival in China approved by FIAPF.

SIFF focuses on awards, markets, forums, and film exhibitions to build an international platform and promote the development of the Chinese film industry. In recent years, with the increasing growth of China's economic strength and the rise of its international status, Chinese films have attracted more and more attention from people worldwide. SIFF, held in June annually, has become a great event for filmmakers worldwide, whose universal industry appeal, international influence, and effect on the world's multicultural film culture and development of the film industry have also been praised by people inside and outside the industry.

Iranian play "Story of Khosrow for Shahrazad" to be Performed in Istanbul

TEHRAN- Iranian director Hamed Sheikhi plans to stage his play "Story of Khosrow for Shahrazad" in Istanbul, Turkey on June 29 and 30.

After a successful run in Armenia, the play will make its way to Istanbul, where it will be performed in both Persian and Turkish, Mehr reported on Sunday. The play will be shown at the Sanatiyafklasimlar Theater on June 29 at 8pm and at the Mask_kara Tiyatrosu Theater on June 30 at 7pm. The cast includes Hamed Sheikhi, Zhila Ghanjeh, Ali Pilevar, Yasaman Fazel Hashemi, Yasaman Tahbaz, Ghazal Baharestani, Bita Jabbari, Maral Abolqasemi, Elnaz Reza, and Mehdi Honarsazan.

This production is the 18th play by Hamed Sheikhi and the 27th production of the Tandis artistic group. The play will also be performed in Tehran in the near future. Shahrazad is the protagonist of the ancient Persian tale, "One Thousand and One Nights".

She is a beautiful and clever princess who has been forced to marry the ruthless King Shahryar, who has taken to marrying and then executing a new wife each night, believing that no woman can resist his charms. Shahrazad, determined to avenge her younger sister's death at the king's hands, decides to take on the role of his latest bride.

At first, Shahrazad's cleverness and wit serve her well as she tells a different story each night to stall for time, preventing the king from taking her life. Her stories are full of magic, adventure, and romance, and they captivate the king's imagination.

As the nights pass, Shahrazad's stories become more and more elaborate, and the king becomes more and more entranced. But beneath her words, Shahrazad's true intentions remain hidden, as she works tirelessly to unravel the mystery of her husband's dark past and bring him to justice.

Khosrow is a prince of ancient Persia, known for

his bravery and chivalry. He is the hero of many stories and poems in Persian literature, including the epic poem "Shahnameh" by Ferdowsi. According to legend, Khosrow was a just and fair ruler who loved his people dearly. He was also a skilled warrior and hunter, feared by his enemies and respected by his allies.

Khosrow's story is one of triumph and tragedy. He faces many challenges throughout his life, including battles with foreign invaders and rebellious nobles.

Despite these challenges, he remains steadfast in his commitment to justice and honor. His greatest love is for Shirin, a beautiful princess who becomes his queen. Together, they have children and rule Persia wisely. However, their happiness is short-lived, as Khosrow's life is cut short by the treachery of one of his own nobles. Despite this tragic end, Khosrow remains an iconic figure in Persian literature and culture, symbolizing courage, honor, and loyalty.

Cartoon of Day



Short Story
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen