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The celebration was held as long as 10 kilometers in Tehran

Great Ceremony

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Cruelty of starvation

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN - All the laws of the war have been largely and unbelievably violated in the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

In the first step after Hamas' attack on southern Israel on October 7, Israel cut off water, food, medicine, and other essentials to the blockaded strip, which houses 2.3 million people.

It is Hamas that launched the attack on southern Israel whose members are ready to die for their cause, which is ending occupation, humiliation and apartheid. But what is the fault of the ordinary people, especially children?

What has been done against the population in Gaza will leave a dark stain on the forehead of humanity just as the Rwanda and Srebrenica massacres.

For a normal human being the cutoff of water and food to civilians is horrific and unimaginable.

According to international law, collective punishment is a war crime.

Two days after the start of the war, Israel's so-called defense minister Yoav Gallant defended banning the flow of necessities to Gaza, saying, "We are fighting human animals".

Denying water and food to non-combatant people is a clear example of cruelty. It is purely sadistic.

Dozens killed in fresh massacres

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Dozens have been killed in new Israeli massacres in Gaza, including an airstrike on the house of the Hamas political bureau chief that killed his sister and other relatives.

Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes on various areas in Gaza City, north of the Strip, killing at least 32 people and injuring 139 others amid the genocidal war that has been ongoing for 264 days now.

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) intensified its bombardment of Gaza City, targeting shelters for the displaced and several houses.

The IOF attacked Abdel Fattah Hamoud School, killing 8 Palestinians. Reports say fires have engulfed the area.

Likewise, the IOF targeted Asma'a School, which also shelters displaced people in the Shati refugee camp west of Gaza City, killing several people, including children, and injuring others.

Also in the Shati refugee camp, the IOF committed a massacre against the Haniyeh family after bombing their home. More than 13 people fell victim to the massacre, with several still under the rubble, according to reporters on the ground.

Bibi reveals Israel's true colors

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Since unveiling a ceasefire plan for Gaza nearly a month ago, the United States has stepped up smear campaigns against the Hamas resistance movement.

President Joe Biden proposed the plan in a televised statement on May 31 and described it as an Israeli ceasefire proposal.

On June 10, the United Nations Security Council approved a US resolution backing its ceasefire plan which called for ending the Gaza war.

The resolution set out conditions for a complete ceasefire, the release of Israeli and foreign captives held in Gaza, and the exchange of Palestinian prisoners.

The US claimed that the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had agreed to the ceasefire plan calling on Hamas to accept it too.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US ambassador to the UN, said after the Security Council passed the resolution that the vote "sent a clear message to Hamas to accept the ceasefire deal on the table," reiterating that "the fighting could stop today," if Hamas did so.

Iran advocates for multilateralism, stronger cooperation among ACD states

TEHRAN - Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, has emphasized the importance of multilateralism and constructive interaction among independent bodies within the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) member states.

In a message on his social media X account on Monday, Baqeri Kani pointed out that the recent ACD meeting in Tehran provided an opportunity for the representatives of the member states and the secretaries general of the Asian international organizations to discuss and exchange opinions on the issues of the agenda of the meeting and the perspective of the activities of the forum. Page 3

Iran calls for 'sincere dialogue' to revive nuclear deal, blames West for stalemate

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, has called for "sincere dialogue and constructive cooperation" as the only viable path to restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the 2015 Iran deal.

Delivering a statement at a UN Security Council meeting on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) - which endorsed the JCPOA - Iravani pointed the finger at the U.S. and the E3 (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom) for the current impasse. He noted that the Western states have been engaging in a destructive blame game and hindering progress toward reviving the agreement. Page 2



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Iranian nation will not permit others to determine their fate: Leader

TEHRAN - During a meeting with a significant gathering on Tuesday, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, conveyed his heartfelt congratulations to the Iranian nation and Muslims across the globe on the joyous occasion of Eid al-Ghadir.

He emphasized the pivotal role of the Ghadir event as the bedrock for upholding Islamic governance and ensuring the perpetuation of the Islamic way of life.

As he pointed to some of the virtues of Imam Ali (PBUH), Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized, "We have learned the people-centered nature of the Islamic system and belief in the impact of each individual's presence on the fate of the country from our master." Page 2

Tehran, Manama discuss releasing Iran's frozen forex reserves by Bahrain

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that negotiations have commenced between senior Iranian and Bahraini banking officials to release the frozen foreign resources of the CBI and other Iranian banks in Bahrain.

During a meeting between the Deputy for International Affairs of the Central Bank of Iran and the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain on June 23, both sides emphasized the release of Iran's foreign exchange resources in Bahrain in a technical context and based on mutual respect. IRNA reported citing CBI on Monday. They discussed the causes of the issue and identified existing obstacles, presenting solutions to address them in hope of achieving results soon. Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

A step towards global multilateralism

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

In an analysis, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the gathering of the members of the Asian Cooperation Dialogue forum in Tehran and wrote: The Asian Cooperation Dialogue forum (ACD) in Tehran kicked off while the main focus of the participants in this meeting was to avoid the unilateralism of the West and embark on a broader approach to multilateralism based on global justice. The regional structure centered on the eastern countries has taken many steps in recent years to end the destructive unilateralism of the West and reach global multilateralism, and the Tehran meeting after several BRICS and Shanghai meetings is an important step in that direction. According to experts in the field of foreign policy, holding the 19th meeting of foreign ministers of this forum in Tehran with the presence of a significant number of foreign ministers and senior officials of Asian countries after the martyrdom of Raisi and foreign minister and also on the eve of the 14th presidential election is of importance. It is very beneficial for Tehran and it shows the continuation of the dynamic and active diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the policy of looking to the East by strengthening the Asian identity in the framework of multilateral diplomacy.

Kayhan: The achievements of Raisi's government

In a commentary, Kayhan talked about Raisi's achievements and said: The important fact is that the 13th government will be a suitable and successful model for the 14th government. What needs to be recorded these days is experience and extracting a management model from the model that Raisi used and was able to move the country forward without delaying the country in dichotomies such as negotiation/opposition to negotiation, JCPOA/anti-JCPOA, and so on. The model of neutralizing sanctions was started by the government of Raisi. With the implementation of this model, the country's oil sales reached the highest level since the return of the sanctions, the currency price was controlled in such a way that the most important regional developments such as the Al-Aqsa storm and even the unprecedented operation of True Promise did not cause a fundamental change in it. Production and economic growth went from negative in the 12th government to over 4% in three consecutive years and the important, vital and geopolitical corridors of the country were placed one by one on the path of completion.

High voter turnout will enhance national power: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN - Nasser Kanaani, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, has highlighted the significance of the upcoming presidential election, emphasizing a high participation rate as a crucial factor in bolstering Iran's regional and global influence.

"The elections in Iran demonstrate religious democracy. The broad participation of Iranians in the elections, along with their influential role in managing the country, will enhance national power for advancing foreign policy goals," he said in a post on X on Tuesday.

Kanaani noted the presence of numerous foreign journalists covering the election, highlighting the international attention on this important political event. "The journey of 180 foreign journalists to Iran for news coverage and visual representation of the election developments and their process

Jam-e-Jam: Continuity in the high position of the Islamic Republic in global equations

In a note, Jam-e-Jam investigated the importance of Iran's upcoming elections and wrote: At this stage of holding the elections, the Iranian society is ready to choose the most competent person with care and knowledge and allow the elected president to work for the pride and progress of Iran. The noteworthy point is that we are facing developments in the international arena that have increased Iranian-Islamic authority in the world arena more than in the past. The current developments show that in the occupied territories, the Palestinian people are suffering due to the criminal actions of the Zionist regime, but the resistance axis of Lebanon and Iraq support the Palestinians to stand up against the occupiers. A wave of awakening in support of the Palestinian people has started among American students and other western countries and people all over the world. All these factors have once again shown the importance of Iran in the international arena more than in the past. Of course, the president who relies on the position of executive management of the country, must pay attention to the position of the Islamic Republic in the global equation.

Ettelaat: Iran should not drop behind its competitors in the region

In an article, Ettelaat dealt with the developments in the region and the progress of Iran's neighboring rivals. It wrote: Iran's regional rivals, especially Turkey and the countries of the Persian Gulf have tried more than ever to create a precise and effective balance between their security and economic policies and advance their political-security goals in such a way that there is no harm and threat to their economy, technological growth, and tourism industry. It seems that these countries are willing to create a strategic balance with the Islamic Republic of Iran by developing relations between them. Although in recent years, these countries have shown the green light for developing relations and de-escalating tensions with Iran, at the same time, they are interested in creating many opportunities and options for their foreign relations in the region, and this will be an alarm for Iran's active role in the economic, political and security equations of the region. Therefore, if the Islamic Republic of Iran takes a different path, it will gradually become a losing and underdeveloped player.

demonstrates the importance of Iran's position and role, as well as its transformations in the regional and international scene. It also highlights the impact of these elections on Iran's domestic and foreign policies," he said.

He concluded by stating, "Undoubtedly, the pride of dear Iran is the common aspiration of all Iranians, and Iranians living abroad will once again show their great love for dear Iran with their enthusiastic participation in this election."

Iranians will head to the polls on Friday to elect the president who will stay in office for the next 4 years. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei called for snap elections after President Ebrahim Raisi lost his life during a helicopter crash on May 19. Elected in 2021, Raisi still had a year to finish his first term in office.

Tehran condemns terrorist attack in Russia's Dagestan

TEHRAN - Iran has condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Russia's Dagestan region, expressing condolences to the Russian government and people.

In a statement on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani offered sympathy to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery for those injured in the attacks.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers terrorism of any kind as a threat to human society and international security," he said. Kanaani also stressed that the international community needs to show serious determination and make effective efforts to deal with the common threat against human beings.

The attacks, which occurred on Sunday during

the Russian Orthodox Church's Pentecost festival, targeted churches, a synagogue, and a police post in the cities of Derbent and Makhachkala. At least 15 police and National Guard officers, several civilians, and an Orthodox priest were killed, with 12 others injured.

The attacks come three months after some 133 people were killed when gunmen opened fire at a rock concert in the Crocus City Hall on the outskirts of Moscow. Russia has blamed both attacks on Ukraine, saying Kyiv is employing and arming terrorists to wreak insecurity inside Russia.

The terrorists who carried out the Crocus City Hall attack were arrested near the border with Ukraine, as they were attempting to flee to Russia's western neighbor.

Iranian nation will not permit others to determine their fate: Leader

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He emphasized the pivotal role of the Ghadir event as the bedrock for upholding Islamic governance and ensuring the perpetuation of the Islamic way of life.

As he pointed to some of the virtues of Imam Ali (PBUH), Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized, "We have learned the people-centered nature of the Islamic system and belief in the impact of each individual's presence on the fate of the country from our master."

During the meeting, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution discussed the upcoming presidential elections, noting that these elections will be held 40 days after the loss and funeral of President Raisi, a poignant event that drew millions in a heartfelt tribute. Additionally, he expressed hope that God will grant glory to the Iranian nation in these elections.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the key to national pride in the elections lies in maximum public participation and the election



of the most qualified candidate. He stated that "The reason for the insistence and emphasis on maximum participation in the elections is that the most important impact of a high turnout is that it brings honor to the Islamic Republic."

While referring to the continuation of hostilities against the Islamic Republic from the moment of its formation until now, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution regarded the elections and high voter turnout as factors overcoming enmities. "People's participation is a part of the essence of the Islamic Republic. The most important demonstration of this is in the elections," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei criticized the belief held by certain politicians

that progress can only be achieved by relying on foreign powers and the illusion that the US is the only path to development.

"Those who are pinning their hopes on those outside the borders of the country do not see these capacities [within our borders]. When they do not see or understand the value of these capacities, they will naturally fail to make plans to use them," he stated.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution underscored that despite facing hostility and challenges, the Islamic Republic has advanced with the help of God and without relying on foreigners. "The Iranian nation will not permit others to determine its fate in the future either," he asserted.

The Leader considered the act of not relying on foreigners as a demonstration of valor and national independence. With these two components, he noted, the Iranian nation will showcase its capability, character, and power, and it will garner further respect on the global stage.

Elsewhere in his speech on the day of Eid al-Ghadir, Ayatollah Khamenei attributed the despair of the disbelievers to the continuation of Islam's political sovereignty in the light of God's command to announce the succession and Imamate of Imam Ali (PBUH) by the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

"The continuation of Islamic sovereignty and politics, which is manifested in Imamate, is the continuation of the spirit of Islam," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei attributed the continuation of the Islamic way of life to the continuation of Islamic sovereignty through the concept of Imamate and Wilayah. "The goal of the 250-year-long endeavors and battles of the Imams - which some Shia scholars later pursued and continued, and in the present era with the endeavors of Imam Khomeini and the Iranian nation - was the sovereignty of Islam, in order to promote the Islamic way of life in society," he stated.

Iran calls for 'sincere dialogue' to revive nuclear deal, blames West for stalemate

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, has called for "sincere dialogue and constructive cooperation" as the only viable path to restoring the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the 2015 Iran deal.

Delivering a statement at a UN Security Council meeting on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) - which endorsed the JCPOA - Iravani pointed the finger at the U.S. and the E3 (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom) for the current impasse. He noted that the Western states have been engaging in a destructive blame game and hindering progress toward reviving the agreement.

The Iranian envoy emphasized that genuine dialogue and collaborative efforts are essential to overcoming the current obstacles and reviving the JCPOA. He stressed that Iran remains committed to pursuing a diplomatic path toward restoring the deal, but it remains contingent on the willingness of other parties to engage in good faith.

The JCPOA, agreed upon in 2015, aimed to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the termination of sanctions. However, the U.S. withdrawal from the deal in 2018 and the subsequent re-imposition of sanctions have significantly hampered its implementation. Despite ongoing efforts to revive the agreement, no significant progress has been achieved so far, as European signatories to the JCPOA have also shunned their commitments.

"Despite the widespread and systematic violation of the JCOPA on the part of the U.S., EU, and E3, the revival of the JCPOA to ensure its complete, effective, and unconditional implementation is in everyone's best interest," Iravani noted.

The full text of his statement is as follows:

"In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Mr. President,

I want to begin by strongly condemning the recent terrorist attacks that targeted innocent civilians in Dagestan Russia and express our sincere condolences and sympathy to the people and government of Russia for this tragic incident.

I thank USG Di-Carlo for her briefing. I also thank Ambassador Frazier and her team for their efforts as the facilitator of Resolution 2231.

We note the statement delivered by the EU permanent representative. Despite the EU's role as the JCPOA coordinator, regrettably, the statement remained politicized, biased, and one-sided.

We also note the Secretary-General's recent report (S/2024/471), which accurately states that the United States has neither returned to the JCPOA nor lifted the unilateral sanctions reimposed after its illegal withdrawal on 8 May 2018 and urged participants, especially the United States to pursue dialogue and cooperation. However, the report continues to

overlook the root causes of the current situation: the unilateral and unlawful US withdrawal from the JCPOA and the subsequent failure of the E3/EU to honor their commitments under the deal.

We sincerely appreciate most Council members for reaffirming their resolute support for the restoration of the JCPOA and calling for its full implementation by all sides as the only viable course of action.

However, the US, the UK, France, and Germany, again unsuccessfully attempted to shift onto Iran the blame for the JCPOA's current status.

This is simply untrue. They deliberately disregarded the underlying origin of the current situation, that is, first and foremost, the unilateral and unlawful withdrawal of the US from the JCPOA.

They also intentionally ignored another origin of the current situation, namely, the years-long significant non-performance of all those countries with their explicit legal obligations.

Instead, they launched a disinformation campaign against my country, as is their standard practice. However, repeating big lies over and over does not make them true!

Mr. President,

The JCPOA was not perfect, but it remains the most viable option. Despite the gross systematic violations by the US and E3/EU, restoring the JCPOA to ensure its full, effective, and unconditional implementation by all participants is in everyone's best interest.

To this end, Iran made substantial efforts through active engagement in nine rounds of negotiations in Vienna and was willing to reinstate the JCPOA based on the understanding reached in August 2022. Nevertheless, despite our good faith efforts, the US and E3/EU have consistently lacked sincerity and determination to revive the deal.

The E3/EU continues to violate their obligations grossly and systematically under the JCPOA and Resolution 2231. Their failure to implement their sanctions-lifting commitments under paragraph 20 of Annex V of the JCPOA on 18 October 2023, is one of the latest examples of their significant non-compliance.

Again, instead of addressing their non-compliance with the JCPOA and Resolution 2231, the E3 (France, Germany, and the UK), with US support, took an unconstructive approach by proposing a politically motivated resolution at the recent Board of Governors meeting. We have already warned that such a move, intended to pressure Iran, is a mistake that will be counterproductive.

Mr. President,

We have made it clear time and again that Iran's remedial measures have been taken in response to the unlawful withdrawal of the US as well as the subsequent failure of the E3/EU to uphold their commitments.

Our measures have been in full conformity with our rights under paragraphs 26 and 36 of



the JCPOA, according to which, in the case of re-introduction or re-imposition of sanctions by the US or the EU, Iran has the right to cease performing its commitments under the JCPOA in whole or in part.

The objective of Iran's decision was to restore balance in reciprocal commitments and benefits. Taking such remedial measures was unavoidable as the JCPOA is based on Iran's nuclear commitments in exchange for the lifting of the UN, US, and EU sanctions as well as "promoting and facilitating the development of normal economic and trade contacts and cooperation with Iran" - as clearly stated in Resolution 2231.

Yet, Iran's measures were implemented gradually, starting a full year after the US withdrawal and the E3/EU's failure to lift sanctions. At the same time, unlike the irreversible effects of the US and E3/EU sanctions, our remedial measures are reversible if all sanctions are lifted fully and verifiably.

Therefore, it is crystal clear that the responsibility for the current state of the JCPOA lies only with the US and E3/EU. Instead of playing a destructive blame game, they must prove that they genuinely advocate dialogue and diplomacy.

Mr. President,

Iran's nuclear activities, including enrichment at various levels, are for peaceful purposes. They are conducted in full accordance with Iran's rights and obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

These activities are under the strict monitoring and verification of the Agency, and to date, Iran has been under the Agency's most robust verification and monitoring activities. Iran continues its maximum and constructive cooperation with the Agency in full conformity with its Safeguards Agreement.

Within the framework of our remedial measures, we ceased the implementation of "modified" Code 3.1, which was just a voluntary transparency and confidence-building measure beyond our obligations under Iran's Safeguard Agreement -- as explicitly reflected in paragraph 65 of Annex I of the JCPOA.

Likewise, Iran's decision to enrich uranium in Fordow was another remedial measure. It is also in full conformity with our rights and obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and our Safeguards Agreement and is conducted under the Agency's supervision.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Candidates attend last presidential debate after grilling on foreign policy

By Mona Hojati Ansari

TEHRAN – With Friday's presidential election looming, Iran's six presidential candidates took to national television for their fifth and final debate on Tuesday.

Unlike the previous debate, which was dominated by foreign policy, Tuesday's segment focused on domestic issues, with candidates outlining their plans for improving "government efficiency" across economic, social, cultural, and political spheres.

The debate maintained a relatively calm tone, a stark contrast to the fiery and confrontational nature of Monday's debate, which saw the JCPOA take center stage.

Conservative hopefuls attack Rouhani's gov't. for "tying country's fate to West's mind games"

As expected, there was significant scrutiny and criticism of the JCPOA and the negotiation tactics used by former President Hassan Rouhani with the West. Rouhani's team, including former top diplomat Mohammad Javad Zarif, are close to reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian and have been actively supporting him in his campaign rallies.



While Pezeshkian argued that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was an impressive accomplishment of Rouhani's administration, he refused to address the elephant in the room: That the JCPOA was never really implemented by the West, despite Iran fully compromising on some of its nuclear abilities.

Pezeshkian said that if the JCPOA was a bad deal, then late President Ebrahim Raisi wouldn't have engaged in talks to revive it, to which conservative Amir-Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi replied: he had no other choice.

"As the vice president of Martyr Raisi, I would like to address this. If Martyr Raisi had chosen to withdraw

from the agreement, wouldn't you [reformists] have accused him of aligning with Trump and Netanyahu?" Qazizadeh Hashemi questioned. He further emphasized that "the previous Iranian administration brought the JCPOA to the UN and integrated it into an international resolution, making it impossible for any future governments to alter it.

How can you question why Martyr Raisi did not exit the agreement? What other option did he have? Disregard the commitments that Iran had pledged to uphold in the UN Security Council?"

Saeed Jalili was another

conservative figure to criticize reformists' approach to foreign policy: "The problem is that you only interact with two or three countries which not only fail to offer opportunities but also present threats."

"It is crucial for us to broaden our perspective and consider the entire world. We should not overlook the potential opportunities that can arise from engaging with countries in Latin America, Africa, our neighboring nations, and those on the resistance axis. By expanding our reach, we can tap into new possibilities and avenues for growth," Jalili added.

The current frontrunner, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said he is willing to revive the JCPOA in a way that benefits Iran, but would also try to neutralize sanctions in the meantime. "Regarding the neutralization of sanctions, we have significant opportunities such as Eurasia, SCO, and BRICS," he noted.

Pezeshkian responded to the criticisms by announcing that he only abides by "the policies set by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution" adding, "What anyone else says to me doesn't matter."

Iran advocates for multilateralism, stronger cooperation among ACD states



TEHRAN – Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, has emphasized the importance of multilateralism and constructive interaction among independent bodies within the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) member states.

In a message on his social media X account on Monday, Baqeri Kani pointed out that the recent ACD meeting in Tehran provided an opportunity for the representatives of the member states and the secretaries general of the Asian international organizations to discuss and exchange opinions on the issues of the agenda of the meeting and the perspective of the activities of the forum.

Iran underscores D-8's active global role

Also speaking on Monday, and during a meeting with D-8 Secretary General Isaiqa Abdulqadir Imam on the sidelines of the ACD summit, Baqeri Kani called for the organization to take an active and innovative role in various economic and commercial sectors to benefit its members.

Baqeri Kani urged the D-8 to enhance dynamism and promote synergy among its member states to achieve the organization's goals and implement its plans effectively. He praised the recent D-8 foreign ministers' meeting in Istanbul, which focused on the Zionist regime's crimes against the Palestinian people in Gaza, showcasing the D-8's determination and capacity to address significant issues in the Muslim world and beyond.

Isaiqa Abdulqadir Imam, the D-8 Secretary General, acknowledged Iran's active role in both the D-8 and the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD). He expressed optimism that the ongoing ACD meeting in Tehran would yield positive outcomes for its member states. Imam elaborated on the D-8's agenda, particularly in the economic and financial sectors, and welcomed Iran's readiness for close cooperation with the organization.

Iran, Bahrain to resume diplomatic relations

Iran and Bahrain have agreed to start negotiations to resume political relations after an eight-year hiatus.

This announcement was made on Monday in a joint statement following a meeting between Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, and Bahraini Foreign Minister, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, who was in Tehran for the ACD ministerial meeting.

The statement highlighted the meeting's context within the framework of fraternal and historical relations, religious and neighborly ties, and

common history and mutual interests. Both sides agreed to establish mechanisms to restart political relations between Tehran and Manama.

In early June, Mohammad Jamshidi, the deputy chief of staff for political affairs to the Iranian president, mentioned that Bahrain had sent a message through Russia to normalize relations with Iran. Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa had also indicated during a state visit to China that efforts were underway to restore diplomatic relations with Iran, emphasizing principles of good neighborliness and non-interference.

King Hamad expressed a desire to improve relations with Iran during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in May 2023. Recently, Bahraini Foreign Minister Abdullatif al-Zayani visited Tehran to offer condolences on the passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Iran acting FM condemned terrorist attack in Russia

Baqeri Kani also held talks with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko on the sidelines of the ACD ministerial meeting in Tehran.

At the start of the meeting, Bagheri condemned the recent terrorist attack in Russia, expressing solidarity with the Russian government and people. He described terrorism as a tool of unilateralism aimed at pressuring independent nations like Iran and Russia.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ACD meeting centered on expressing solidarity with Palestinians: Iran acting FM

TEHRAN – Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, has highlighted solidarity with the people of Gaza as the primary focus of the recent Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) foreign ministers' meeting.

In a joint press conference with Boranchai Danvivatana, the Secretary General of the ACD, on Monday, Baqeri Kani detailed the outcomes of the meeting, which saw the participation of 41 foreign delegations in Tehran.

Baqeri Kani emphasized that, on the eve of Iran's presidential election, the assembly of foreign ministers from 41 countries in Tehran underscored the significance of the event.

He noted that ministers and secretaries general of international organizations utilized this opportunity to finalize cooperation frameworks. The day's discussions culminated in a final statement outlining the assembly's vision for the coming year.

Additionally, Baqeri Kani announced the approval of two key documents: one governing the activities of the Assembly Secretariat and another detailing the regulations of the ACD. The final statement reflected the collective views of member countries on regional and global developments, with a strong emphasis on empathy for the people of Gaza and a condemnation of the

Zionist regime's actions.

The members also called for immediate humanitarian aid and an end to the conflict in Gaza.

Expressing gratitude for the high attendance and efforts of the Secretary General and his team, Baqeri Kani expressed hope that their ongoing efforts would elevate the Assembly's status in Asia and enhance its role in international relations. He underscored that the ACD, with its extensive membership, offers a valuable platform for diverse viewpoints.

Baqeri Kani reiterated Iran's commitment to supporting the ACD's mission of fostering peace and friendship among Asian nations. He highlighted the active participation of Iran in regional and international meetings, including the United Nations, to promote global support for Palestine.

According to Baqeri Kani, the late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian had twice visited the United Nations to advocate for the Palestinian people and condemn the Zionist regime's actions.

Baqeri Kani also discussed Iran's foreign policy achievements under the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration, noting the improved relations with neighboring countries and the broader region. He mentioned

successful diplomatic efforts with countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE, which resulted in enhanced bilateral relations. Furthermore, he highlighted the completion of Iran's neighborhood policy cycle with Bahrain, emphasizing mutual cooperation and understanding.

"Significant progress was also made in security cooperation, particularly with Turkey and Iraq, as well as improving relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan," Baqeri Kani noted the favorable outcomes of the regional "three plus three" mechanism involving Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Russia, and Turkey, which was held in Tehran last year.

In conclusion, Baqeri Kani praised the pivotal role of Iran's martyrs in shaping the country's foreign policy, especially in supporting the Palestinian Resistance. He credited their efforts for the successful convening of Islamic summits in Jeddah and Riyadh, and a special BRICS meeting focused on Palestine.

The conflict in Gaza has inflicted devastating losses, with Israeli actions since October 7 leading to the deaths of at least 37,626 Palestinians, primarily women and children, and injuring 86,098 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."

This steadfast support and active engagement at various international platforms demonstrate Iran's commitment to advocating for the Palestinian cause and addressing regional challenges.

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.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Gharibshahi wins gold at 2024 Para Powerlifting World Cup

TEHRAN – World record holder Aliakbar Gharibshahi secured the gold medal for Iran in the Men's up to 107 kg at the 2024 Para Powerlifting World Cup on Tuesday.

He finished in first place with 240kg.

Uzbekistan's powerlifters Ilkhom Khalimov and Nuriddin Davlatov won silver and bronze medals with 230kg and 220kg, respectively.

Gharibshahi also won another gold medal with a total of 705kg.

Mexican powerlifter Jose de Castillo and Emirati athlete Abdalla Al Naqbi came second and third with a total of 641kg and 593kg, respectively.

Overall, a total of 313 athletes from 66 nations compete in the prestigious event aiming to improve their Paralympic rankings one last time, making it the most competitive fields ahead of the Games.

Powerlifting powerhouses and Tokyo 2020 medal toppers China, Nigeria, Jordan, Iran, Malaysia, Egypt among others have brought in their top names to stamp their dominance ahead of the Games.

The competition kicked off on June 20 in Tbilisi, Georgia and will run until June 26.

Juan Carlos Garrido named Persepolis coach

TEHRAN – Juan Carlos Garrido Fernandez was named as new head coach of Persepolis football club on Tuesday.

The 55-year-old coach has penned a one-year deal with the Iranian team.

Garrido has most recently worked as head coach of Algerian team USM Alger.

The Spanish coach will replace Brazilian coach Osmar Loss, who led Persepolis to title in the 2023/24 Iran Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL), in the Iranian team.

Garrido started his coaching career in Spanish team Onda in 1998 and has also worked as head coach in Real Betis, Club Brugge, Al Ain of the UAE, Egyptian club Ismaily Sporting Club and Moroccan team Wydad.

Persepolis are most-decorated team and arguably the most popular Iranian football club.

Iran victorious over Kyrgyzstan at FIBA U18 Women's Asia Cup Division B

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kyrgyzstan 73-40 on Tuesday at the 2024 FIBA U-18 Women's Asia Cup Division B.

Iran took care of business against Kyrgyzstan in a physical encounter with Mahsa Karani once again leading the way to finish with 18 points, 6 rebounds running at 15 efficiency. Atena Jafarzadeh played a pivotal role early on when Kyrgyzstan was applying pressure with Helya Houdneh instrumental under the rim at both ends to finish with 6 rebounds, 4 offensive and 3 defensive.

Iran had defeated Hong Kong 65-52 in its opening match.

Samoa and Iran ready for an epic challenge on Wednesday with both countries undefeated heading into the final day of the group phase.

"None of these games are easy for us until we make them easy, our motto is being tough of defense for the full 40 minutes, because this is what will keep us in games and competitive," Coach Kapogianni said.

"We know we are not the favorites at this tournament, but we are going step, by step, doing our best and seeing what happens."

Poised their final group match against Samoa tomorrow, with both teams undefeated, Coach Kapogianni know her girls will embrace the challenge. "Samoa is the favorite but we will go back, watch the tape, and we will put our best

effort in. This means a lot for Iran Basketball, and Iran, everything comes at the right time, so everything will come when we are ready."

David Bettoni linked with Tractor: report

TEHRAN – Former Real Madrid assistant David Bettoni has reportedly been linked with a move to Iran's Tractor football club.

The 53-year-old coach has most recently worked as the head coach of Swiss football side Sion.

Bettoni worked as an assistant of Zinedine Zidane in Real Madrid from 2014 to 2016.

He has also worked as a Real Madrid assistant for two more stints.

Tractor parted company with Spanish coach Paco Jemez in mid-April.

Iran edge Chile at 2024 IHF Women's Junior World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran earned a narrow 27-25 win over Chile in the 2024 President's Cup on Tuesday.

Iran are scheduled to face Group III's third team on Thursday for the 25-28th place.

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 also lost to Tunisia in the President's Cup.

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

Iranian Grego-Roman wrestlers finish runner-up in U17 Asian

TEHRAN – The Iranian Grego-Roman wrestling team has finished runner-up in U17 Asian Championships held in Amman, Jordan.

The under-17 Iranian wrestlers won 3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze, securing a total of 200 scores and finishing the second after Uzbekistan.

The three gold medals were scored by Abolfazl Karami in 51kg, Emadreza Mohsen-nezhad in 80kg, and Danial Izadi in 92kg.

Iran was followed by Kazakhstan. India and China came next respectively.

The U17 Asian Championships were held on June 22-23.

Taremi: Ronaldo Nazario is my idol

TEHRAN – Iranian international striker Mehdi Taremi says that Brazilian legendary forward Ronaldo Nazario is his idol.

The Iranian's fate has been clear for months. He decided in January that he will join the Nerazzurri on a free transfer when his contract with Porto expires. The 31-year-old striker will aim to make the most of this summer as he prepares for his first season wearing the Inter shirt.

Taremi had his pick of clubs for this summer, as he did not need Porto to agree a deal. And the Iranian settled on Inter.

As he reveals, it was not a hard decision or one that required too much consideration.

Taremi revealed that "I only had one meeting with the Porto directors regarding extending my contract. I gave my demands, and they said 'no.' And that was the end of the story there."

"I consider Portugal to be my second home. The feelings of the Porto fans had a big impact on my personal life. I told them that I'll remain a Porto fan until I die," the striker admitted.

Taremi then hinted at his possible shirt number at Inter. "If 99 is free, I'd like to take it."

And the Iranian gave his reason for wanting that number.

"Ronaldo Nazario is the greatest player in history. He's my idol."

800km of rail lines inaugurated across Iran over past 3 years

TEHRAN - With the inauguration of three rail lines in the provinces of Yazd and Isfahan, the total length of rail lines inaugurated during the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi reached 800 kilometers, an official said.

Miad Salehi, the CEO of the Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI), said connecting the large industrial and mineral centers to the rail lines has many advantages, adding that assuring the transportation of agricultural raw materials, reducing traffic congestion and accidents, and also reducing fuel consumption are among the important advantages of the development of the rail lines.

Earlier, Mehrdad Bazrpash, Iran's minister of roads and urban development, speaking in the inaugural ceremony of the Rasht-Caspian Railway at the Anzali Free Zone, said that the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi made round-the-clock efforts for the completion of the Rasht-Caspian Rail project.

The Rasht-Caspian Railway Project in Iran's northern province of Gilan was inaugurated on June 20, 2024.

It was launched in a ceremony to be attended

by Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber, Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation Igor Levitin, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev, Governor of Astrakhan Oblast Igor Babushkin and the ambassadors of the neighboring countries.

The project will bring considerable benefits to Iran and regional transport networks. Upon operation of this rail project, which is part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the Persian Gulf will be connected to the Caspian Sea via rail.

The 37-kilometer Rasht-Caspian Railway completes the Qazvin-Rasht rail route and connects the city of Rasht to the Caspian Sea.

Located in the northern part of Iran, the primary purpose of the Rasht-Caspian Railway is to enhance connectivity to facilitate transportation and trade links between Iran and the Caspian Sea region northward and to the railway network southward. It provides a more efficient and cost-effective mode of transportation for freight and passengers.

Iran's three-month customs revenues grow 33% y/y

TEHRAN - Iran's customs revenues during the first three months of the calendar year (March 20 - June 20) have grown by 33 percent compared to that of last year's corresponding period, according to the head of the country's customs administration.

Mohammad Rezvani said on Monday that Iran's customs revenues reached some 490 trillion rials (\$823 million) in the period under review.

He noted that a total of 490 trillion rials (\$823 million) of customs revenues has been collected and deposited into the government treasury, including all the duties on imports and value-added taxes.

The IRICA head said Iran's customs income reached about \$3.23 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), making it the third largest source of revenues for the government after oil export and tax.

Iran has increasingly relied on trade income, including customs and transit revenues, as part

of a policy introduced in recent years to diversify the economy away from oil.

The deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for economic affairs Mohammad Shirijian has put the total trade turnover of the country in the previous Iranian calendar year at \$180 billion.

Iran's trade turnover reached \$180 billion in the previous calendar year (March 21, 2023-March 19, 2024) based on the balance of payments of the bank, Shirijian said.

According to the balance of payments of the Central Bank of Iran, the Islamic Republic exported \$100 billion worth of goods in the period, marking a three percent rise compared to the previous year, he added.

The official said that \$80 billion worth of products were imported into the country in the said time, showing a 6.2 percent hike compared to the year before.

Iran's trade with member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reached \$61 billion last year.

Pakistan mulling over plans to set up shipping line with Iran: Report

TEHRAN - Pakistan's official news agency has announced that the government in Islamabad is mulling over plans to launch a shipping line with Iran to make it easy for Pakistanis going on pilgrimage trips to the southwestern neighbor.

The news agency made the announcement on Sunday, citing Minister of Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh who said that the Pakistani government is assessing plans to launch shipping lines with both Iran and Oman.

The minister said that the shipping line with Iran is

part of efforts to facilitate trips by Pakistani pilgrims to the country. No further details were reported.

Pakistan first came up with the plan in 2014 when the then government decided to set up a shipping line with Iranian ports of Chabahar and Bandar Abbas in an effort to ease trips by Pakistani pilgrims and address the security challenges faced by them.

Almost 120,000 Pakistani passengers, including pilgrims, visit Iran each year through Mirjaveh and Rimdan border crossings.

116 idle, semi-active production units revived since late March



TEHRAN - The Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Farshad Moghimi said that 116 idle and semi-active production units have been revived in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

The official also announced that 10,000 economic units were revived during the late President Raisi's administration of which 4,600 units

were industrial ones, IRIB reported.

In the past few years, many of the production units across Iran have been wrestling with financial issues as well as the problem of supplying their raw materials, so that, many have been forced to shut down or decrease their activities.

The Industry Ministry's program for reviving such units has tried to identify major problems and issues that the production units are facing in order to bring them back into the production cycle by resolving such problems.

Last month, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi inaugurated 20 industrial, infrastructure, and development projects valued at 294.8 trillion rials (over \$60 million) in industrial parks and zones across the country through video conferencing.

Put into operation in 11 different provinces, the mentioned projects were inaugurated on the occasion of the national day of supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The projects include nine infrastructure projects with a total investment of 1.88 trillion rials (about \$3.82 million), seven industrial projects with an investment of 18.35 trillion rials (over \$37.8 million), and the revival of four idle industrial units with an investment of 9.24 trillion rials (over \$18.9 million).

As reported, the inauguration of the mentioned projects has created direct job opportunities for 723 people.

The projects were carried out in the provinces of Kermanshah, Markazi, Zanjan, Yazd, Alborz, Lorestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Golestan, Isfahan, Qazvin, and East Azarbaijan.

Iran inaugurates 17 new oil, refining, petrochemical projects

TEHRAN - In a significant boost to the country's energy infrastructure, Iran has officially inaugurated 17 major oil, refining, and petrochemical projects across seven provinces, with a total investment of over 180 trillion rials.

The projects were inaugurated in the presence of Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber on Monday.

They include the construction of eight crude oil storage tanks with a capacity of four million barrels and concrete storage tanks along the Goreh-Jask Oil Pipeline Project in the Hormuzgan and Bushehr provinces, the launch of the Varavi gas pressure boosting station in Fars province, and a 14-inch pipeline connecting Tabriz, Khoy, and Urmia.

A 400-kw electrical substation was also launched in Khuzestan province and the xylene units



at the Bouali Petrochemical Complex in the province were brought on stream after reconstruction.

The Nakhle-Asemari Petrochemical Project in Khuzestan, the Qeshm Oil Storage and Export Terminal in Hormuzgan, and a flare gas recovery project in Ilam were the other major projects inaugurated

on Monday.

The projects are expected to increase crude oil production by 10,000 barrels per day, collect 4 million cubic meters of flare gas, increase crude oil storage capacity by 18 million barrels, boost Euro-5 diesel production by 5.7 million liters per day, add 3 million tons per year of petrochemical production

capacity, and expand product pipelines by 222 kilometers.

In remarks at the ceremony to inaugurate the projects, Oil Minister Javad Owji said that Iran's oil production has now reached 3.6 million bpd.

He added that more than 155 major energy projects worth \$34 billion have been commissioned during the administration of the late Iranian president, Ebrahim Raisi, aimed at increasing the output, completing the value chain, and boosting energy exports.

"Thanks to these projects, the country's oil production increased from 2.1 million bpd to 3.6 million barrels, the daily gas processing capacity was increased by 53 million cubic meters, the daily oil refining capacity grew by 270,000 bpd, and the daily petrochemical production rose by 13 million tons," the minister said.

Tehran, Manama discuss releasing Iran's frozen forex reserves by Bahrain

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that negotiations have commenced between senior Iranian and Bahraini banking officials to release the frozen foreign resources of the CBI and other Iranian banks in Bahrain.

During a meeting between the Deputy for International Affairs of the Central Bank of Iran and the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Bahrain on June 23, both sides emphasized the release of Iran's foreign exchange resources in Bahrain in a technical context and based on mutual respect, IRNA reported citing CBI on Monday.

They discussed the causes of the issue and identified existing obstacles, presenting solutions to address them in hope of achieving results soon.

The two sides agreed to continue specialized talks between the central banks of the two countries after the political talks of the Bahraini Foreign Minister in Tehran.

Specialized talks between the two sides are scheduled to be held in Tehran or Manama

in the coming days and it will continue until the results are achieved.

Reportedly, the Central Bank of Iran still has the option of pursuing legal action in international courts, as approved by the parliament in the past few months.

However, the parties are hopeful that desired results can be achieved faster through negotiations and by providing technical solutions.

Back in May, Deputy Speaker of the Bahraini Parliament, Abdul Nabi Salman, announced that Bahrain and Iran are on the path to restoring diplomatic relations with the support of Russia, emphasizing the importance of fostering good neighborly ties between the two nations.

In an interview, the Bahraini lawmaker expressed that the process of reestablishing relations with Iran has garnered positive responses from both the Bahraini government and its people, with the Bahraini parliament issuing a statement welcoming this development. Salman underscored

the significance of reviving political and commercial connections with Iran, citing the neighboring country's proximity and the mutual support for unity and stability in the region.

Highlighting the long-standing trade exchanges and shared residency of Iranian citizens in Bahrain and vice versa, Salman emphasized the unique closeness between the two countries within the Persian Gulf.

He stressed the necessity of Russia's anticipated support as a mediator in facilitating the restoration of relations between Tehran and Manama, given Russia's vested interests in regional stability and robust ties with Persian Gulf nations.

These remarks follow the recent visit of Bahrain's foreign minister to Tehran for the funeral of President Ebrahim Raisi and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's trip to Moscow, during which he advocated for the reinstatement of diplomatic relations between Bahrain and Iran.

FAO expects Iran's grain output to further increase in 2024

TEHRAN - The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has forecasted a further increase in Iran's grain output this year amid efforts by the government in the country to rely more on domestic farming rather than imports for the basic needs of the country.

Figures cited in a Monday report from FAO's Food Outlook, a biannual publication focusing on developments affecting global food and feed markets, showed that Iran's grain output is expected to reach 20.1 million metric tons (mt) in 2024.

Iran was the 10th largest grain producer in Asia in 2023 with 19.8 million mt of output. The country relied on imports for 14.9 million mt of its grain needs.

The FAO report estimated that Iran's wheat output will reach 13.5 million mt this year, flat on

last year.

Rice output in the country is expected to increase by 18% to 2.6 million mt in 2024, the figures showed.

Iran has introduced policies to encourage increased agricultural output in the country to prevent any shortage of basic foods that can be caused by US sanctions targeting its foreign trade.

According to the FAO, Iran ranks third in terms of grain reserves among Asian countries. Only China and India have larger grain reserves than Iran. China's reserves stand at 414 million mts, while India has 65 million mts. In the current year, Iran's cereal reserves amount to 11.8 million mts. Of this, 8.8 million tons are wheat reserves.

Additionally, FAO predicts that Iran's wheat production during the current agricultural year will reach 13.5 million mts. Iran is the fifth-largest

producer of wheat in Asia, following China, India, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Also, the manager of the Agriculture Ministry's Wheat Project said Iran's wheat production is expected to reach 13.5 million tons in the current crop year (September 2023-2024).

According to Sohrab Sohrabi, the government purchased 10.4 million tons of wheat from farmers in the previous year, while the figure is expected to reach 10.5 million tons in the current year.

Putting the country's annual need for wheat at 12 million tons, the official said considering the current trend of production, Iran will become self-sufficient in wheat production over the next few years.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Call for Tender 2st Announcement for the Purchase of necessary Pigs (spare parts) for South Pars Gas Field Development Phase 11 Pipeline Project, Tender No. 963617

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to **Purchase of necessary Pigs (spare parts) for South Pars Gas Field Development Phase 11 Pipeline** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Mr Amir Nosratzadeh with Tel: +9821-82841533 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Since unveiling a ceasefire plan for Gaza nearly a month ago, the United States has stepped up smear campaigns against the Hamas resistance movement.

President Joe Biden proposed the plan in a televised statement on May 31 and described it as an Israeli ceasefire proposal.

On June 10, the United Nations Security Council approved a US resolution backing its ceasefire plan which called for ending the Gaza war.

The resolution set out conditions for a complete ceasefire, the release of Israeli and foreign captives held in Gaza, and the exchange of Palestinian prisoners.

The US claimed that the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had agreed to the ceasefire plan calling on Hamas to accept it too.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US ambassador to the UN, said after the Security Council passed the resolution that the vote "sent a clear message to Hamas to accept the ceasefire deal on the table," reiterating that "the fighting could stop today," if Hamas did so.

Hamas welcomed the resolution urging the US to provide guarantees that the Israeli regime will abide by the resolution and implement it.

Netanyahu, however, has not stated directly whether he supports the ceasefire plan. His army has also continued its war of genocide against Gaza even after the Security Council overwhelm-



ing passed the resolution.

Despite the transparent position of the Palestinian resistance group and Israel's warmongering strategy, Washington's propaganda machine against Hamas has been working round the clock accusing the movement for the failure of the truce.

No to ceasefire

On Sunday, Netanyahu gave an interview saying Israel will not end the Gaza war even if his regime agrees to a ceasefire deal with Hamas.

Netanyahu said Israel is prepared "to make a partial deal [with Hamas] - this is no secret - that will return to us some of the people", referring to the remaining captives held in Gaza.

He doubled down on his promises to defeat Hamas.

"But we are committed to continuing the war after a pause, in order to complete the goal of eliminating Hamas. I'm not willing to give up on that."

These statements clearly indi-

cate that he is walking back on his commitment to the US ceasefire plan which was approved in the form of a resolution at the Security Council.

Hamas position

The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas issued a statement saying Netanyahu's position confirms his rejection of Biden's ceasefire proposal.

Hamas attached significance to its call for a permanent ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

It described the call as "an inevitable necessity to block Netanyahu's attempts of evasion, deception, and perpetuation of aggression and the war of extermination against our people".

Netanyahu's insistence on pressing ahead with the Gaza war has thrown doubt on Washington's sincerity in proposing the Gaza ceasefire deal.

The US is Israel's main ally which provides it with unwavering military and political support. Undoubtedly, President Biden is

just one phone call away from ordering Netanyahu to end the war.

In order to obscure its reluctance to exert pressure on Israel, the White House has proposed the ceasefire deal to paper over its complicity in the Israeli war of genocide on Gaza which has left more than 37,600 Palestinians dead since October 7.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's remarks have brought to mind the comments that the Russian ambassador to the UN made when the Security Council approved the US-backed resolution.

Russia was the only country in the 15-member Security Council that abstained while 14 others voted in favor.

"Hamas has been called to accept the so-called 'deal'. But there is still no clarity as to whether Israel has formally agreed, as stipulated in the resolution, to the 'deal' proposed by President Biden, given numerous statements by Israel on continuing the war until Hamas is completely defeated. What exactly did Israel agree to?" Vassily Nebenzia said after the vote as he tried to explain why Russia had decided to abstain.

Since launching war on Gaza, Netanyahu has vowed to "destroy" Hamas. He has failed to achieve his goal. Hence, the Israeli premier prolongs the war to cover up the regime's military failures.

The US ceasefire plan is also seen as an electoral tactic ahead of the November presidential election amid rising domestic opposition to Washington's backing for Israel's onslaught on Gaza.

Cruelty of starvation

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN - All the laws of the war have been largely and unbelievably violated in the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.

In the first step after Hamas' attack on southern Israel on October 7, Israel cut off water, food, medicine, and other essentials to the blockaded strip, which houses 2.3 million people.

It is Hamas that launched the attack on southern Israel whose members are ready to die for their cause, which is ending occupation, humiliation and apartheid. But what is the fault of the ordinary people, especially children?

What has been done against the population in Gaza will leave a dark stain on the forehead of humanity just as the Rwanda and Srebrenica massacres.

For a normal human being the cutoff of water and food to civilians is horrific and unimaginable.

According to international law, collective punishment is a war crime.

Two days after the start of the war, Israel's so-called defense minister Yoav Gallant de-

fended banning the flow of necessities to Gaza, saying, "We are fighting human animals".

Denying water and food to non-combatant people is a clear example of cruelty. It is purely sadistic.

Gaza is at 'high risk' of famine

A draft report on June 24 said the entire Gaza Strip remains at "high risk" of famine after Israel's offensive in Rafah caused displacement and the disruption of aid operations in the south.

The report by the leading international authority on the severity of hunger crises said more than 495,000 people, or greater than a fifth of the population of 2.3 million, are expected to experience the highest level of starvation in the coming months, the Associated Press reported.

The latest findings come from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, an initiative first set up in 2004 during the famine in Somalia.

Israel not only cut off food and water, its troops also killed people waiting to receive humanitarian aid. The "Flour Massacre" on February 29 is now recorded in history.



UNRWA says thousands of families in Gaza are now using seawater. This is because sadistic bombardments have wrecked all of the enclave's water wells.

International humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) have been taken to the slaughterhouse in Gaza.

The horrific crime of starving Gazans will not end even if the war ends tomorrow. It badly affects the physical and cognitive development of people, especially children.

Actually, an entire generation is badly affected. Scientifically speaking, the effects of starvation and malnutrition will even affect the next generation or generations.

Remember that based on international law intentional starvation is a war crime.

Dozens killed in fresh massacres

Israeli occupation targets family members of Hamas leader

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Dozens have been killed in new Israeli massacres in Gaza, including an airstrike on the house of the Hamas political bureau chief that killed his sister and other relatives.

Israeli warplanes carried out airstrikes on various areas in Gaza City, north of the Strip, killing at least 32 people and injuring 139 others amid the genocidal war that has been ongoing for 264 days now.

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) intensified its bombardment of Gaza City, targeting shelters for the displaced and several houses.

The IOF attacked Abdel Fattah Hamoud School, killing 8 Palestinians. Reports say fires have engulfed the area.

Likewise, the IOF targeted Asma'a School, which also shelters displaced people in the Shati refugee camp west of Gaza City, killing several people, including children, and injuring others.

Also in the Shati refugee camp, the IOF com-

mitted a massacre against the Haniyeh family after bombing their home. More than 13 people fell victim to the massacre, with several still under the rubble, according to reporters on the ground.

Among the victims of the massacre was the sister of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, whose three sons and four grandchildren were assassinated by the occupation regime on April 10.

In western Gaza City, Israeli forces targeted a group of Palestinians killing several and injuring many others.

In eastern Gaza City, specifically in the Shejaia area, the IOF targeted a house belonging to the Zameli family. Civil defense teams retrieved the bodies of two women and tried to transport several others who sustained injuries.

An Israeli airstrike that targeted a house in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza killed five people, including three children.

The IOF also struck a house in the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza, resulting in deaths and injuries.

In southern Gaza, Israeli bombardment continued throughout the night targeting al-Mawasi, west of Rafah with artillery shells.

Al-Mawasi is supposedly a humanitarian zone, which Tel Aviv has repeatedly ordered Palestinians to travel to for their own safety.

According to the latest figures released by the Gaza Health Ministry, the death toll in the enclave has risen to over 37,685 Palestinians and more than 86,100 others have been injured since October 7. The majority of them are women and children.

Meanwhile, victims of Israeli airstrikes remain under the rubble and on the streets, as ambulance crews and civil defense teams are unable to reach them amid ongoing Israeli shelling. Efforts by rescue teams are also being hindered by the IOF, targeting the rescue workers.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Turkey: Cyprus has become a military base targeting Gaza

Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan says Ankara has received intelligence reports that indicated Cyprus had become a military base for operations in Gaza.

"We constantly see in intelligence that the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus is a base for certain countries in operations targeting Gaza," he said during an interview broadcast by Haberturk.

"When we brought this to the agenda, our European counterparts suddenly declared it a logistics base."

Fidan added that using the island for military operations nearby would benefit neither Greece nor the Greek administration in the divided island, and said that calling it a "logistics hub" was an attempt to veil military operations, according to Middle East Eye.

"The regional actors need to see this. There is serious militarization there," he said. "It needs to be prevented."

Australia's senator Payman defies party on Palestinian statehood

Australian Labor senator Fatima Payman has crossed the floor, voting in support of a Greens motion on recognizing Palestinian statehood in a move that imperils her party membership.

While Coalition backbenchers are allowed to cross the floor, the Labor party requires all of its parliamentarians to support collective decisions or face the possibility of expulsion. Some Labor members to have crossed the floor have been expelled from the party and others have been suspended, the Guardian reported.

After crossing the floor, Payman, a first-term senator for Western Australia, described it as the "most difficult decision" she has had to make.

She told reporters what would happen next was the party's "prerogative", but she would like to continue serving as a Labor senator. Payman said she believed she had "upheld the party ethos and called for what the party's platform has stipulated".

Payman said she crossed the floor "for humanity", adding she was "bitterly disappointed" her colleagues did not feel the same.

Barak: Netanyahu causing strategic ruin for Israel

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak says the only way to return the Israeli captives being held in Gaza is to end the war.

According to Israel's Channel 12, a senior Israeli official has said that discussions regarding an exchange deal with the Palestinian resistance groups have reached a dead end. The official claimed that Israel has no choice but to continue military pressure to release the detainees.

However, Barak disagreed. He also described Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "failure" who is causing strategic ruin for Israel and called for his removal from power by all means.

Barak's comment comes as the families of Israeli prisoners held in Gaza continue to put pressure on the far-right cabinet to conclude a deal that guarantees their release.

Macron warns of 'civil war' if far left or far right wins

French President Emmanuel Macron told a podcast episode shown Monday that both the far right National Rally (RN) party and the left-wing New Popular Front coalition — front runners in the parliamentary election — risked bringing "civil war" to France.

Macron told the podcast "Generation Do It

Yourself" that the manifesto of the RN party — which election pollsters put in first place — and their solutions to deal with fears over crime and immigration were based upon "stigmatization or division".

"I think that the solutions given by the far right are out of the question, because it is categorizing people in terms of their religion or origins and that is why it leads to division and to civil war," he told the podcast.

Macron made the same criticism of the France Unbowed (LFI) extreme left-wing party, which forms part of the New Popular Front coalition.

"But that one as well, there is a civil war behind that because you are solely categorizing people in terms of their religious outlook or the community they belong to, which in a way is a means of justifying isolating them from the broader national community and in this case, you would have a civil war with those who do not share those same values," said Macron.

Kenya's anti-tax protests turn deadly

Police opened fire on demonstrators trying to storm Kenya's legislature on Tuesday, with several protesters killed, dozens wounded and sections of the parliament building set ablaze as lawmakers inside passed legislation to raise taxes.

In chaotic scenes, protesters overwhelmed police and chased them away in an attempt to storm the parliament compound. Flames could be seen coming from inside, Reuters reported.

Police opened fire after tear gas and water cannon failed to disperse the crowds.

A Reuters journalist counted the bodies of at least five protesters outside parliament. A paramedic, Vivian Achista, said at least 10 had been shot dead.

Another paramedic, Richard Ngumo, said more than 50 people had been wounded by gunfire. He was lifting two injured protesters into an ambulance outside parliament.

Police eventually managed to drive the protesters from the building amid clouds of tear gas and the sound of gunfire. The lawmakers were evacuated through underground tunnels, local media reported.

ICC issues arrest warrants for Russian army chief, former defense minister

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Russia's former defense minister and its military chief for attacking civilian targets in Ukraine.

The Hague-based court said in a statement on Tuesday that warrants were issued because judges considered there were reasonable grounds to believe that the men were responsible for "missile strikes carried out by the Russian armed forces against the Ukrainian electric infrastructure" from October 10, 2022, until at least March 9, 2023.

The ICC accused former Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Valery Gerasimov of war crimes and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts.

Russia: No conditions for normalizing dialogue with West

Russia does not yet see any conditions for normalizing dialogue with the West despite French President Emmanuel Macron's remarks on the possibility of interaction with Moscow, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said at a news briefing.

"So far, except for such hesitant statements, regrettably, we do not see any conditions for normalizing dialogue," the Kremlin official said, noting that the atmosphere of trust between Russia and the West has been shattered, Tass reported.

Peskov noted that restoring ties is "a matter of time." "It all depends on the stance of our counterparts," he stressed.

Official urges practical steps for Mazandaran's tourism development

TEHRAN – Mazandaran's governor-general has emphasized the need for a coherent tourism strategy to be implemented in the northern province.

Youssef Nouri made the remarks in a recent meeting with private sector representatives, highlighting the necessity of transforming the province's comprehensive tourism plan into actionable packages, Mojnews reported on Tuesday.

"The comprehensive tourism plan for Mazandaran must be converted into executable packages. Historical houses and seaside mosques should be included in the travel destinations and tourist tours along the coast."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nouri stressed that the tourism sector must advance through careful planning. "Tourism requires strategic policy decisions and should progress with well-thought-out planning."

His remarks come at a time when Mazandaran is focusing on leveraging its rich historical and cultural heritage to attract more

tourists. The inclusion of historical homes and coastal mosques in travel itineraries aims to offer visitors a unique blend of cultural and scenic experiences.

Mazandaran, known for its stunning landscapes and Caspian Sea coastline, is set to enhance its tourism infrastructure to better serve both domestic and international visitors. The implementation of the comprehensive tourism plan is expected to boost local economies, create jobs, and preserve the province's cultural heritage.

The picture-perfect province has long been a highly popular destination for domestic travelers. Its varied nature features plains, prairies, forests, and rainforests stretching from the sandy beaches of the Caspian Sea to the rugged and snowcapped Alborz sierra, including Mount Damavand, one of the highest peaks and volcanos in Asia. More than 800 registered historical and cultural sites, 338 km of shoreline, mineral springs in jungles and mountains, waterfalls, and caves are among the major tourist attractions in the province.

UNESCO inscription anniversary of Abr Forest celebrated

TEHRAN – Yesterday, a group of nature lovers and environmental enthusiasts gathered in the Abr Forest to celebrate its anniversary of being inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

According to the local officials, the vibrant event was arranged to take place within Jangal-e Abr (meaning "Cloud Forest"), as a part of the ancient Hyrcanian Forests that has been recognized by the UN Cultural body for its unique biodiversity and ecological significance.

"Registering Abr Forest, the jewel of Hyrcanian Forests," was the motto of the tourism festival, featuring a wide array of programs, such as performing folklore music, offering traditional products and souvenirs, and conducting nature tours, as mentioned by the event organizers.

The festival was aimed at presenting the tourism capacities lie within the region, with an eye toward drawing more visitors and prompting sustainable tourism.

Situated in Iran's Semnan province, Jangal-e Abr (literary meaning Cloud Forest), is one of such magnificent destinations where dense fog and misty clouds often cover the trees to yield a mystifying atmosphere.

The forest boasts a diverse array of wildlife, comprising animals such as wild boars, lynx, Persian leopards, and gray wolves. It also has tens of plant species, with some being extremely rare and unique to the region.



Jangal-e Abr is a place where its visitors can have different experiences, including hiking trails that take you deep into the forest, and adventure activities that include rock climbing and zip-lining. The forest is surrounded by several stunning waterfalls, which add to the area's natural beauty.

The trees in the forest are so tall that their tops are often shrouded in mist, making it appear as if they disappear into the clouds. Much of this vegetation is unique to the area.

The forest's altitude also provides a cool climate throughout the year, making it ideal for those seeking refuge from the typically hot Iranian summers. The forest is perfect for picnics and camping, with several designated areas for visitors to pitch their tents.

Inside the thick forests, you cannot believe that you are in Semnan province, not far from Iran's Central Desert and Khar Turan National Park, a biosphere reserve. Right there you will realize why Shahrud, a nearby ancient city, is called "a small continent."

Restoration breathes new life into Qajar-era bathhouse

TEHRAN – Hammam-e Qal'eh, a historical public bathhouse in Hamedan, has opened its doors on Sunday after going through a restoration project.

Aimed at putting some sparks into the tourism capacities of the province, Hammam-e Qaleh is set to host enthusiasts as of now, a provincial official in charge of cultural heritage brought to light during the inaugural ceremony.

"Initiating renovation projects of some other historical buildings is in the pipeline," said Hamidreza Heidari. "Soon they'll also welcome tourists."

The bathhouse, he underscored, dates its historical roots back to the Qajar era, being recognized as a national heritage in 2002.

Heidari elaborated that, directed by the national Fund for Development and Revitalizing, the renovation took place with the private sector investment.

"Hammam-e Qal'eh will do duty as a cultural, touristic hub," the official wended up.

Moreover, attending the ceremony, Shahab Talayi, the CEO of the National Fund for De-

velopment and Revitalizing, announced that one restored historical building is planned to open doors every 20 days with an eye toward enriching the tourism infrastructures across the country.

Bathhouses or "hammams" in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news.

There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities, but they do not have their social function anymore, since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past.

Shushtar Hydraulic System: a living testament to Iran's ancient water engineering

TEHRAN – Yesterday marked the anniversary of the UNESCO inscription of the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System, a testament to the ingenuity and creativity of ancient Iranian engineering.

Dubbed a "masterpiece of creative genius" by the UN cultural body, these water structures exemplify the advanced knowledge and skill of ancient Iranian engineers in water management and architecture.

The property can be considered a living museum of Iran's water industry, providing tangible evidence of the advanced engineering knowledge possessed by the ancient Iranians.

Although only parts of this intricate system remain today, the cascading waters, mills, beautiful artificial waterfalls, and pools still create a breathtaking scene in the heart of the city.

Interestingly, these historical water structures have been interconnected for centuries and still function as a cohesive water system.



Recognized as one of the largest known industrial complexes in the pre-industrial world, the Shushtar Hydraulic System was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the fifth of Tir (June 25) 2009.

This system, which dates back to the time of Darius the Great in the 5th century BC, involved the creation of two main diversion canals on the Karun River.

One of these, the Gargar canal, remains in use today, supplying

water to Shushtar through a series of tunnels that power mills.

This system forms a spectacular cliff from which water cascades into a downstream basin before entering the plain south of the city, where it has enabled the cultivation of orchards and farmland over an area of 40,000 hectares.

The Shushtar Hydraulic System is not just an ancient marvel; it is a symbol of human ingenuity and the enduring value of harmony with the natural elements.

The system includes a variety of interconnected elements, such as bridges, dams, tunnels, and mills, all working together to manage and utilize water efficiently.

The design and construction of these structures demonstrate a profound understanding of hydraulic engineering and a deep respect for the environment.

The legacy of the Shushtar Hydraulic System continues to inspire modern engineers and architects. Its innovative design and functionality have been studied and admired by scholars worldwide.

The system's ability to sustain agricultural practices and support the local population for centuries stands as a remarkable achievement in sustainable engineering.

As we look to the future, the lessons of Shushtar remind us of the incredible potential of human ingenuity and the enduring value of harmony with the natural world.

Old Jiroft's boundaries defined after decades of wait

TEHRAN – The legal boundaries of the ancient Jiroft have been officially determined after nearly half a century, Kerman province's tourism chief said on Monday.

"Legal boundaries and preservation regulations of the ancient city of Jiroft, also known as the city of Daqyanoos, have been officially determined and approved after almost half a century," Saeid Shahrokhi said.

In a statement on Monday, Shahrokhi noted that the map and regulations concerning the boundaries and preservation of the ancient city of Jiroft, which was registered on the National Heritage List in 1966, have been ratified by the Heritage Council of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

"The designated area is now under the protection and supervision of our [provincial] department.

Any alteration or violation of the protective regulations within this area is considered a criminal act and will be subject to legal penalties," Shahrokhi emphasized.

He further explained that the delineation of historical sites' boundaries and preservation areas is based on the significance of the site and the extent of archaeological excavations and surveys conducted.

Highlighting the importance of historical sites, Shahrokhi stated, "Historical artifacts reflect our cultural past and the lives of our ancestors.

Future generations need to be familiar with their heritage and history, and the only way to achieve this is by preserving historical and national artifacts."

The ancient city of Daqyanoos (Old Jiroft) is located along the banks of the Halil River,



adjacent to the modern city of Jiroft. The Jiroft culture, also known as the Intercultural style or the Halilrud style, is an early Bronze Age (3rd millennium BC) archaeological culture located in what is now the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan and Kerman.

Until the early 21st century, no one had ever imagined that a refined, forgotten culture could re-emerge from the sands of a remote and arid region in southeast Iran.

The story started when heavy floods swept away the topsoil, revealing thousands of previously unknown tombs in a Bronze Age cemetery in Jiroft.

The remarkable findings at Jiroft demanded a reassessment of the earlier interpretation that Mesopotamia was the sole cradle of civilization.

In 2001, a flood of archaeological objects began appearing on the antiquities market, seemingly out of nowhere.

In a short time, distinctive pieces of jewelry, weapons, finely crafted ceramics, drinking vessels, and game boards featuring unusual artistry and magnificent inlays of carnelian and lapis lazuli found their way to antique markets for sale.

These extraordinary pieces displayed a

complex symbology of animals, both wild and domesticated, depicted fighting among themselves or with human figures, the humans always triumphant.

There were beautifully realized bucolic scenes of animals grazing in vast palm groves and architectural reproductions of temples or palaces.

Data provided by the internet sites and auction houses selling these mysterious pieces is sparse and, at best, vague.

Their origins were often listed as "from Central Asia."

At first, it was assumed that the pieces were the work of expert forgers.

However, as more items appeared on the market in the following months, scholars began to speculate that they could be genuine, originating from an undocumented site.

In 2002, more artifacts appeared on the market.

Iranian police solved the mystery later that year. A coordinated investigation led to the arrest of several traffickers and the confiscation of a hoard of artifacts.

These objects were being prepared for shipment from Tehran, Bandar Abbas, and Kerman to buyers around the world. Investigators revealed that most of these distinctive pieces could be traced back to the Halil River Valley, about 25 miles south of Jiroft, a remote and peaceful city in southeastern Iran, not far from the Persian Gulf.

Layers of sediment were washed away, exposing the remains of an ancient cemetery. Locals and looters quickly recognized the importance of the find and moved to collect and sell the artifacts they had found.

Fars exports \$2.5m worth of handicrafts in three years



TEHRAN – Fars province, situated in southwestern Iran, has exported \$2.5 million worth of handicrafts in about three years.

Speaking in a press conference on Monday, the provincial tourism chief, Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, brought to light that province has exported 2,548,000 million dollars in handicrafts since August 2021.

Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi noted that employment in the hand-

icrafts sector of province saw a remarkable increase over the past years.

"The number of active individuals in the handicrafts' industry, surged by 56% in the course of the last three years, reaching a total of 3,593 employees," he further elaborated.

Sabet-Eqlidi highlighted the issuance of 4,137 individual production permits and 2,383 identification cards for handicraft artists over the last three years.

"Additionally, around 17 workshop files were established during this period," he continued.

A 32% increase in handicraft training courses, the director-general emphasized, played a significant role in provincial

employment growth.

From August 2021 to June 2024, a total of 2,922 training classes across various handicraft disciplines were conducted within the Fars province, according to Sabet-Eqlidi.

Fars province boasts a rich heritage of traditional handicrafts that reflect its cultural and historical depth. The region is renowned for its intricate and diverse craftsmanship.

One of the most prominent handicrafts of Fars is Gabbeh weaving, a type of Persian carpet characterized by its simple, bold designs and vibrant colors.

These hand-knotted rugs, often made by tribal artisans, are known for their thick texture and use of natural dyes.

Another significant craft is Khatam Kari (marquetry), an ancient Persian art form that involves inlaying delicate pieces of wood, bone, and metal into geometric patterns, commonly used to decorate boxes, frames, and furniture.

Minakari (enamel work) is also notable in Fars, where artisans create elaborate designs on metal surfaces, typically using rich blue and intricate patterns.

The handicrafts of Fars are not only a source of aesthetic pleasure but also an important aspect of the local economy, providing livelihoods for many artisans.



TEHRAN – People from all walks of life gathered on streets across the nation on Tuesday to celebrate Eid al-Ghadir – the day on which Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia, was appointed as successor to Prophet Muhammad (S).

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei sent a message, congratulating the Iranian nation and the Muslims all around the world and called the public celebration of Eid al-Ghadir 'a very good initiative.'

In Tehran, the celebration was held in a length as long as ten kilometers. Some 600,000 persons contributed financially to holding the event. The municipality provided children with books and multimedia content about

religious ceremonies.

Healthcare services such as testing blood pressure and blood sugar as well as other services were provided free of charge.

The tourism headquarters of the municipality invited different ethnic groups to set up tents and pavilions on the route to show their culture and traditions.

Buses were ready around the main squares of the city, mosques, and neighborhoods to transport people to the festival.

Some 2,200 mawkibs (voluntary stations to serve people) were set up this year, an increase of 30 percent compared to the year before. The mawkibs offered food and drinking

to people.

The feast was held in 300 cities of the country and representatives and guests from Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan were present.

The celebration was also held in Brazil, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, and Afghanistan.

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

Afterward, two tents were pitched, in one of which Muslims congratulated the Prophet (S) for his excellent choice and, in the other one, Muslims from all tribes gave

their allegiance to Ali (AS). One of the Muslims was Hazrat Fatima (SA), the wife of Imam Ali (AS) and daughter of the Prophet (S).

Ayatollah Khamenei has said the regulation of government, power, and ruling in the Islamic community was determined by Ghadir. This is the significance of Ghadir.

"No doubt, the day of Eid al-Ghadir is an extremely important day. The importance of this Eid--the most important Eid based on the Shia narrations--relies on its theme: wilayah [governance]. It could be said that the goal of all the efforts made by the prophet Muhammad and other prophets and religious figures was to establish the wilayah of God."



'Sanctions on Iran's anti-drug fight will boomerang on imposers'

TEHRAN –Imposing sanctions on Iran, particularly in the fight against narcotics, will have adverse impacts on imposers, decreasing the global security consequently, the Iranian Police Chief, Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan, has said.

He made the remarks on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The day is marked on June 26 every year to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse.

The official went on to say that if it were not for brave Iranian forces' sacrifice, the world, particularly European countries, would have been far more heavily engaged in drug issues; and many more young people would have lost their lives.

"With 4,000 martyrs and over 12,000 veterans in the fight against drugs, we are proud to have managed to save many youths' lives both nationally and internationally.

Stressing that Iran is at the forefront of the fight against narcotics, he said about 130 tons of narcotics were seized since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 19).

On June 7, Radan underscored that Logistical, equipment, and financial sanctions under the pretext of political sanctions, in practice, have left Iran alone in dealing with the world's largest drug trafficking axis.

While about 35-40 percent of the drugs produced in Afghanistan are smuggled through Iran to enter Europe and west of Asia, Western countries have so far withheld even

the slightest aid to Iran.

Relying on the expertise of Iranian elites and researchers, as well as using up-to-date equipment and modern inventions of knowledge-based companies, the anti-narcotics police has been able to achieve good results in drug discoveries and arresting drug dealers.

Considering that drug-related crimes are considered transnational organized crimes, no single country can effectively tackle the fight against drugs alone.

Effective implementation of anti-narcotics programs

In March, the secretary general of the anti-narcotics headquarters stressed the need for effective implementation of anti-narcotics programs in the region free from political considerations.

"One of the most important challenges of the present era is the narcotic drugs, industrial substances and new psychedelics and the sufferings that I would like to refer to as the quiet war against humanity," IRIB quoted Eskandar Momeni as saying.

He made the remarks in the 67th UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, urging all countries to be committed to the sustainable and effective implementation of international drug control conventions.

"In the past five years, adopting a balanced strategy in the fight against drugs, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective measures to promote security and public health in alignment with the implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, international

treaties, and conventions," Momeni added.

He referred to the compilation and implementation of the comprehensive document on treatment and harm reduction; the expansion of treatment centers both quantitatively and qualitatively, the maximum use of the private sector and non-governmental organizations (7,200 centers), employing diverse treatment methods including pharmaceuticals and psychological and social interventions, ensuring access to medicinal substances for medical and scientific purposes, boosting harm reduction programs by providing various services to people at risk and managing the spread of AIDS and Hepatitis C as other measure taken by the country.

Momeni further underscored the need to stop the cruel and unilateral sanctions and foster cooperation between the United Nations, international communities, and Iran in various aspects to strengthen the global fight against drugs.

In June 2023, the UNODC representative in Tehran, Alexander Fedulov said Iran should provide other countries of the world with its experiences in dealing with narcotics.

"The successful experiences of Iran's anti-narcotics police in the field of combating drug transit should be made available to all countries in the region and the world in different ways," he added.

The international community, while becoming more familiar with the countermeasures of the Islamic Republic of Iran, should provide more support for the fight against narcotics in this country, the UNODC official stressed.

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Mental health screening scheme to be launched at schools

A scheme to determine the prevalence and incidence of psychiatric disorders in students will be implemented at schools across the country by the next school year (starting on September 23), director for education department at the Ministry of Education has said.

Since last year, all students on seventh to ninth grades have undergone the mental health screening, so, we decided to conduct the tests on students on all grades, ISNA quoted Masoud Shokouhi as saying on Saturday.

"The scheme will be launched by the beginning of the next school year," he added.

غربالگری «سلامت روان دانش آموزان» کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی از مهرماه

مدیرکل امور تربیتی و مشاوره وزارت آموزش و پرورش، اعلام کرد که از مهرماه آینده غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان در کلیه مقاطع تحصیلی انجام می شود.

مسعود شکوهی در گفت و گو با ایسنا، افزود: تا سال گذشته همه دانش آموزان پایه هفتم، هشتم و بخشی از دانش آموزان پایه نهم مورد سنجش قرار گرفتند.

وی اظهار کرد: غربالگری پایه سلامت روان برای همه دانش آموزان از سال تحصیلی جدید آغاز می شود.

UNODC, Iran cooperate to optimize drug treatment services

TEHRAN –The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in close collaboration with the Iranian Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME), has conducted a workshop to enhance the effectiveness of drug treatment in the country.

In a step towards addressing drug use disorders significant progress has been made in establishing widespread services for the treatment of drug use disorders over the past two decades in Iran, the UN website announced in a press release on June 12th.

Recognizing the need to improve further and bridge the gap between the medication-centered and the psychological and psychosocial interventions in drug treatment, the UNODC in Iran has taken proactive measures to address this problem in close cooperation with the national partners.

A crucial step in this endeavor was the recent organization of a comprehensive training workshop on "Assessment and Drug Use Disorders Treatment Counselling" in Tehran from June 9th to 12th.

The workshop aimed to utilize the invaluable resources of the TreatNet package, developed by the UNODC.

It covered essential aspects of drug dependence treatment, providing insights into evidence-based practices and equipping participants with the necessary skills for effective counseling in the context of drug use disorders.

The capacity and knowledge of the participants; counselors and treatment professionals of the MoHME and the State Welfare Organization in Tehran and Alborz provinces, on the Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) screening and brief intervention basic counseling skills for the treatment of drug use dependence and basic principles of motivational interviewing were increased through a hands-on training workshop.

Majid Qorbani, the Director General of the Treatment and Social Support Office of the DCHQ, emphasized the workshop's alignment with Iran's national approach and roadmap to drug treatment.

He highlighted the goal of integrating non-pharmacological approaches, based on scientific evidence, with pharmacological treatments to develop more comprehensive and effective treatment plans.

Qorbani emphasized the importance of experts' knowledge and expertise in drug treatment, especially in counseling and understanding evidence-based approaches to motivate and retain clients. He acknowledged the intensified efforts supported by UNODC Iran in achieving this goal.

Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, expressed his appreciation for the Iranian government's dedicated efforts in combating drug use disorders.

He assured that UNODC Iran, as the leading UN agency in the country's drug control initiatives, remains committed to assisting service providers and individuals affected by illicit drugs, regardless of the circumstances.

This commitment is upheld through the agency's assistance under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Iran and its Country Partnership Program.

The collaborative partnership between UNODC Iran and its national stakeholders holds great promise for advancing Iran's drug treatment initiatives and better responding to the challenges posed by drug use disorders.

By combining international expertise with local knowledge, this joint effort aims to enhance the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of drug treatment services in Iran.

This collaboration owes its success to the generous funding by the Netherlands, enabling the realization of shared objectives and the advancement of impactful initiatives.

Cooperation on drug-related issues

In May, the UNODC and the Iranian law enforcement force explored ways to boost cooperation in areas related to drug trafficking and drug-related crimes.

During a meeting between Fedulov, and Director General of Iranian Interpol Brigadier General Majid Karimi, the two officials revised the activities under implementation, and discussed the scope and perspective of future cooperation, the UN website announced in a press release on May 1.

In this meeting, Fedulov briefed the Iranian side on the recent activities and procurements conducted by UNODC Iran under the generous funds received from the UNODC traditional donors.

He reiterated the readiness of the UNODC to delegate technical and procurement support to the Islamic Republic of Iran under the UNODC Iran Country Partnership Program with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Brigadier General Karimi, for his part, stated that drugs are obviously one of the pillars of the UNODC mandate as reflected in its name, though various topics on crimes could also be addressed by this Office, and inter alia he suggested cooperation to address challenges posed by drug trafficking and drug-related crimes.

This meeting was organized as part of the activities foreseen in the framework of sub-program 1 "Border Management and Illicit Trafficking" and sub-program 2 "Crime, Corruption, and Criminal Justice" of the UNODC Country Partnership Program for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Addressing drug use issues

The UNODC and its national stakeholders including the Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS), conducted a two-day training program to enhance ongoing initiatives for addressing drug use issues among inmates.

The Iranian Drug Control Headquarters and the Iranian Prisons Organization also participated in rolling out the program, the UN website announced in a press release on May 28.

Topics covered during the two-day program included rapid HIV testing, evaluation of high-risk behaviors, assessment of quality of life and treatment satisfaction, and an in-depth review of the Addiction Severity Index (ASI).

The United Nations program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) grant, funded the study titled "A Comparative Research Study of Evaluating the Efficacy of Buprenorphine with Methadone Substitution Therapy in Prisons."

Iran faces a grave challenge in drug abuse, grappling with one of the highest rates of opiate use worldwide, alongside a significant prevalence of amphetamine-type stimulant abuse, the website reported.

In response, opioid substitution therapy (OST) has emerged as a proven intervention, replacing illicit drug use with medically prescribed, orally administered opiates such as buprenorphine and methadone.

While methadone maintenance therapy has been the cornerstone of OST for the past two decades, the introduction of buprenorphine in recent years calls for a comparative research study to gauge its effectiveness in this unique setting.

During the training program, national partners emphasized the alignment of this training with the country's overarching policies, which aim to diversify the treatment portfolio and promote Buprenorphine Maintenance Treatment (BMT) as a replacement for Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) within prison facilities.

The importance of enhancing the expertise of professionals working with inmates, and facilitating accurate data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of BMT, thereby significantly influencing the country's treatment roadmap was highlighted.

Fedulov, expressed his appreciation for the implementation of this comparative research study on the effectiveness of methadone and buprenorphine maintenance therapies within the prison setting.

Acknowledging the substantial number of inmates benefiting from opioid substitution therapy in Iran, currently exceeding 80,000 individuals, he noted the significance of this research endeavor.

The training brought together experts well-versed in drug use disorders from the provinces of North Khorasan, Kordestan, Khuzestan, and Fars.

This collaborative endeavor between UNODC Iran and its national stakeholders holds promise for advancing Iran's drug treatment initiatives within correctional facilities and among inmates.

By conducting a comprehensive comparative study on the efficacy of buprenorphine and methadone maintenance therapies, the project aims to enhance evidence-based and informed critical decisions regarding inmate care and the future direction of drug treatment in Iran.

The UNODC works towards advocating for harm reduction programs within the Iranian penitentiary system, specifically targeting individuals with drug dependencies.

The organization promotes a human rights-based, gender-responsive, public health-centered, and evidence-based approach, aiming to eliminate stigma, discrimination, and violence within these facilities.



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:51 (tomorrow)

Alireza Ghorbani to hold historic concert at Persepolis



TEHRAN-In a momentous occasion, acclaimed Iranian vocalist Alireza Ghorbani is set to make history by becoming the first singer to perform at the ancient Persepolis site (Takht-e Jamshid) in Shiraz, Fars Province.

Ghorbani is set to hold three concerts at the historical site, on June 29, 30, and July 1, the tickets for which have already been sold out, ISNA reported.

For years, several singers had expressed their desire to perform at Persepolis, but bureaucratic hurdles prevented their concerts from materializing. However, after persistent efforts, the permit for Ghorbani's concert has finally been issued. The singer's team submitted the initial request over a year ago.

Persepolis, with its majestic ruins dating back over two millennia, provides a breathtaking backdrop for Ghorbani's performance.

Persepolis (literal meaning "City of Persians," the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC), has long been a symbol of grandeur and historical significance. However, the question of whether to hold concerts within its ancient walls for years sparked heated discussions among various officials, experts, and artists.

Advocates would argue that concerts attract tourists, and Persepolis could benefit from increased footfall. Moreover, revenue generated from ticket sales could be reinvested in preserving and maintaining the site.

On the other hand, detractors would emphasize the need to preserve Persepolis as a solemn historical site. They fear that loud music and large crowds could harm the ancient ruins.

Concerts involve heavy equipment, staging, and lighting. Critics expressed concern over potential damage to the delicate structures, especially considering Persepolis's age and fragility.

In response to questions and concerns regarding the impact of holding a concert in the vicinity of Persepolis, the concert organizers, provided explanatory details: "In recent months, extensive scientific research, study, and consultation with experts and custodians have been carried out to address the preservation of the ancient structures. With careful consideration of all necessary factors, efforts have been made to prevent any harm or negative impact on the historical site and the surroundings".

"The concert site has been carefully chosen to maintain an appropriate distance from the ancient structures and to prevent the transmission sound waves through airflow or direct vibration to the buildings. In fact, the performance area will be located entirely outside the main historical site, with sufficient visibility and perspective on the structures," the organizers noted.

Persepolis is situated 70 km northeast of city of Shiraz. It is one of the key Iranian Cultural heritages. UNESCO declared the ruins of Persepolis a World Heritage Site in 1979.

An artist of great caliber, Ghorbani is deeply rooted in the tradition with an insatiable curiosity and open-mindedness towards other cultures. He is attributed with dozens of musical albums, numerous live performances and concerts, and scores of international multicultural projects and festivals in many countries around the world.

Iran nominates storyteller Akbarpour, illustrator Haddadi for 2025 ALMA

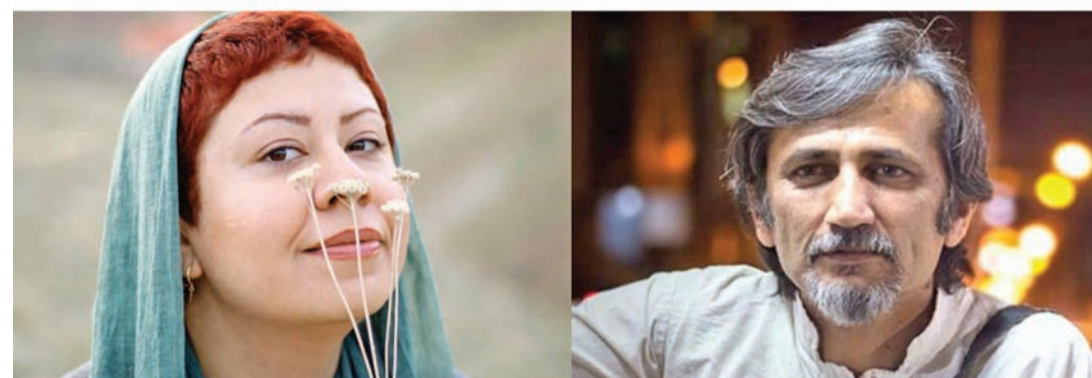
TEHRAN- The Iranian Association of Writers for Children and Youth unveiled its nominees for the prestigious Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) on Sunday.

Writer Ahmad Akbarpour and illustrator Hoda Haddadi will be competing for the prestigious Swedish prize for children's literature in the world.

A press release from the association detailed Akbarpour's selection, highlighting his innovative storytelling techniques, experimentation across genres, and international reach.

His works have been translated and studied globally, and his commitment extends to research, writing for children with special needs, and promoting universal values like peace, friendship, tolerance, and family. The statement further emphasized his continuous 30-year presence in the field, actively engaging in cultural activities across the country through storytelling workshops for various age groups.

Haddadi's nomination recognizes her over two decades of excellence in children's literature, encompassing both illustration and writing. The association lauded her contributions to the growth of picture books, her bold and creative illustrations, and her commitment to exploring themes of women and nature. Notably, she pioneered collage techniques in



Hoda Haddadi

Ahmad Akbarpour

illustration, garnered international recognition through publications and exhibitions, and conducted workshops abroad.

Her focus on human rights, regardless of gender, and themes of peace, love, rebellion, freedom, and environmentalism resonated with audiences. Haddadi has also shared her expertise through workshops held in Britain, Bulgaria, and Serbia, further solidifying her international standing.

It's important to note that the Institute for Research on History of Children's Literature and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCY-Kanoon) also

hold nomination rights for the ALMA on behalf of Iran.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) amounts to SEK 5 million (about €570,000), making it the world's largest award for children's and young adults' literature.

The award was established in 2002 by the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs to commemorate Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren and to promote children's and youths' literature from around the world.

The nomination process kicked off in March 2024, and every year, around 250 individuals

and organizations from all over the world are nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. The candidates are authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and reading promoters.

The winner will be chosen by a jury and announced sometime later this year. The award ceremony typically takes place in the spring of the following year.

Earning the ALMA brings not only significant prize money but also international recognition for the laureate's work in promoting children's rights and fostering a love of literature in young readers around the world.

Artworks from exclusive collection of Niavaran Palace Complex on display

TEHRAN-An exhibition of works by Iranian and foreign painters, from the exclusive collection of Niavaran Palace, is underway at the Niavaran Palace Historical Cultural Complex in north of Tehran.

Titled "Buildings, Gateways to Civilization," the exhibition features paintings using techniques such as oil and watercolor on paper and canvas, with a focus on historical buildings and old districts of Tehran, ILNA reported.

The painting works on display are oil, gouache and watercolor on cardboard, and focus on the buildings and old areas of Tehran from the perspective of Iranian and foreign painters.

Visitors can explore works depicting ancient Shemiranat by Greek painter Michalis Makroulakis, Houshang Seyhoun's old Fasham landscape, Ardestan City by Alen Bayash, Parviz Kalantari's cob work, Hamedan's Abdolmomen village by

Mahmoud Badiee, and Rasool Farhadani's depiction of an old neighborhood in Isfahan, among other works.

The Niavaran Palace Complex consists of several palace buildings and monuments dating back to the Qajar and Pahlavi eras.

"Buildings, Gateways to Civilization" is open to the public until July 10. Niavaran Palace Historical Cultural Complex is located at Niavaran Square in District 1.

Jury announced for 6th International Biennial Book Cartoon Contest

TEHRAN- The Iran Public Libraries Foundation has revealed the jury for the 6th edition of the International Biennial Book Cartoon Contest, a premier international competition presenting the perspectives of national and international artists in the fields of books and reading.

The jury is comprised of renowned international and Iranian cartoonists, including Cristina Bernazzani from Italy, Hicabi Demirci from Turkey, and Fan Lintao from China.

The jury panel also includes Iranian cartoonists Masoud Shojai Tabatabaei, Mohammadreza Doostmohammadi, Jaber Asadi, and Shahram Shirzadi.

This esteemed group of artists will review submissions and select the winners for the competition, considering caricature as an understandable language for all people around the world.

Moreover, a special exhibition featuring

selected works from the previous editions of the biennial was inaugurated at the National Library of Tatarstan in Kazan, Russia on June 18.

The event was attended by several Russian and Iranian cultural and artistic figures.

The exhibition, jointly organized by the Iran Public Libraries Foundation and in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kazan and the National Library of Tatarstan, showcases 40 outstanding works from five editions of the International Biennial Book Cartoon Contest, featuring an impressive array of 30 works by Iranian cartoonists and 10 works by their Russian counterparts.

Organized by the Iran Public Libraries Foundation (IPLF), under the direction of the Masoud Shojai Tabatabaei, the 6th International Biennial Book Cartoon Contest will be held in the themes of "Books, Children, and Family," "Books, Leisure, Joy, and Tranquility," "Books, Digital Age, and

Artificial Intelligence," "Books, Libraries, and Business," "Books, Libraries, and Cultural and Social Hangouts," and "Books, Libraries, and Important Social Events." Additionally, "Books, Palestine, and Gaza Resistance" will be a subsidiary theme of the festival.

Participants can submit their works in two categories: professional (for professional artists) and beginner (for artists who have not participated in domestic and international competitions before).

Participation in the contest is open to all professional and beginner artists, and each artist can submit a maximum of five works in the specified themes to the festival.

The use of artificial intelligence to create works will result in disqualification. All handmade and digital works are accepted.

Those interested in participating in the contest can submit their works by August 21 by registering on the festival's official website.

Iranian short flick "Manless" to participate in Italy's Ischia Global Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film "Manless" directed by Sajad Yari will take part in the 22nd Ischia Global Film Festival in Italy, from July 7 to 14.

It will be the first international presence of the short flick, which has Lotfollah Seifi, Avishan Sedghi, Hadi Abyari, and Kian Ghadrshenas in the cast.

The short film depicts a builder of scarecrows who finds a faceless soldier on the shore of a nearby lake, Honaronline reported.

In a statement about his film, the director said: "When one wants to know another's true soul, studying and evaluating their face is oftentimes a productive place to start.

When this proves to be ineffective, it probably means that the subject was 'faceless' to begin with and continued evaluation is necessary.

To avoid unintended bias, particularly when trying to understand the true soul of soldiers, the subject's clothing must be removed.

A true understanding of souls may very well lead to replacing superstition with peace".

Sajad Yari, 39, is an interdisciplinary artist focused on film and theater mediums. Holding a Ph.D. in theater studies from Lisbon University, he is a lecturer/invitee professor at university of Tehran and Soore University.

Yari is also a theater director, a researcher, and a writer striving to influence contemporary art history.

Iran Film Port, an Iranian film distribution agency is responsible for the international distribution of "Manless".

Ischia Global Film Festival takes place on the

Isle of Ischia, a few miles off Naples and Capri, Italy since 2003.

It's the most popular summer film event in the world with Italian and international screenings, attended by the leaders and top performers in the entertainment and communications industries as well as some of the most celebrated luminaries of the global stage.

Ischia Global Festival is a week of major film premieres, timely panels and symposium and awards ceremonies that will be attended by numerous industry executives, filmmakers and international journalists.

In addition, some of the most recognized international talents and Italian artists attend the industry events and get-togethers with their European and American counterparts.

Cartoon of Day



War & Famine

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan