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Leader in a meeting with the officials of the 13th administration:

Raisi Foreign Policy Was Based on Dignity

Iran's president-elect meets with acting president, discusses future plans

TEHRAN – Iran's acting president, Mohammad Mokhber, met with the president-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, on Sunday.

During this crucial meeting, Mokhber presented a comprehensive report detailing the current state of executive affairs across various sectors, including political, economic, cultural, and social fields. This report aimed to provide the president-elect with a thorough understanding of the ongoing initiatives and challenges facing the nation.

Pezeshkian expressed his respect for the late President Ebrahim Raisi, acknowledging his tireless and dedicated efforts throughout his presidency. He also extended his gratitude to the administration's members for their relentless work following Raisi's martyrdom, highlighting the significant and effective steps taken by Mokhber to ensure the smooth operation of the government during this transitional period.

Jalili extends congratulations to president-elect

In another significant development, Saeed Jalili, the presidential election candidate and Pezeshkian's rival in the runoff election, met with the president-elect on Saturday night. ▶ Page 2

Terrorists involved in attack on ballot boxes arrested in southeastern Iran

TEHRAN – Iran's intelligence forces have arrested 8 individuals responsible for a June 28 attack on election ballot boxes in the Southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, the province's intelligence department announced.

The attack, which targeted a vehicle transporting ballot boxes in the Jakigoor rural district of Rask County during the first round of Iran's recent presidential elections, resulted in the death of two soldiers and injury of several others.

"In response to the heinous act, intelligence forces swiftly launched a thorough investigation to identify and neutralize the perpetrators, both within the country and beyond its borders," The intelligence ministry's Sistan and Baluchestan branch announced in a statement.

"After a series of meticulous operations conducted across various locations and terrorist hideouts in the province, a decisive final stage culminated in the apprehension of all eight members of the terrorist cell, including both operational and support personnel. Additionally, authorities uncovered caches of weapons, grenades, handheld radios, and substantial quantities of explosives during the operation," the statement said, adding that the terrorists were arrested at around 4 a.m. local time (0030 GMT) on July 5, hours before voting was set to commence for the second round of the presidential elections. ▶ Page 3

Over 10,000 Palestinians under rubble in Gaza

More than 10,000 Palestinian men and women are missing under the rubble in the Gaza Strip, with no way to recover them or properly bury their remains, in a blatant violation of international law amid total international inaction to assist in their retrieval, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor said.

The rights group said recovering the bodies of the victims of Israel's deadly and destructive military attacks on civilians will be extremely difficult, given the lack of heavy machinery and equipment for civil defense crews and the difficulty of their work.

It added that the Israeli army has deliberately and methodically targeted and destroyed this machinery and equipment, while preventing any replacement equipment entry to the Gaza Strip.

The group said Israel has a pattern of systematic operations to prevent and obstruct the recovery of victims and missing persons from under the rubble.

Ansarullah war games amid Israel's warmongering

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Units from the Fourth Military Region Forces of Ansarullah Armed Forces in Yemen have staged wide-scale anti-Israeli military exercises dubbed "Devastating Storm Maneuver".

The name of the operations was chosen after "operation al-Aqsa storm" staged by the Palestinian resistance on October 7.

The war games come on the backdrop of pledges by the government in Sana'a to heavily strike the Israeli occupation in the event of an all-out war between Tel Aviv and Hezbollah.

Major General Mohammed Abdul Karim al-Ghamari, Chief of the General Staff, and Major General Abdul Latif al-Mehdi, Commander of the Fourth Military Region, led and oversaw the operations.

The two generals said the war games marked a significant demonstration of Yemen's military capabilities and strategic coordination, adding that they were "meticulously planned and executed". ▶ Page 5

Israel on the brink of chaos amid widespread protests

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Public pressure is mounting on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to reach a deal with Hamas and secure the release of remaining captives in the Gaza Strip as the regime's war on the Palestinian territory entered its tenth month at the weekend.

Protest groups launched a week of demonstrations in the wake of the Netanyahu regime's failure to free captives.

The protest movement dubbed the "week of resistance" began with mass protests in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (al-Quds) on Saturday night.

The protests mark exactly nine months since Israel launched its war of genocide in Gaza on October 7.

The demonstrators call for new elections, Netanyahu's resignation and an agreement to free captives.

Protesters staged rallies outside the homes of several Israeli ministers and Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana to have their voices heard. ▶ Page 5

Iran ranks first among Islamic nations in Leiden ranking 2024

TEHRAN – Leiden University ranking system 2024 has included 46 Iranian universities among the top 1,506 universities worldwide, ranking the country first among Islamic nations in terms of the number of universities.

A total of 146 universities from Islamic countries are included in this year's ranking.

Turkey with 40, Saudi Arabia with 16, Egypt with 15, and Pakistan with 13 universities are placed second and fifth.

The Leiden Ranking provides indicators of scientific impact, collaboration, open-access publishing, and gender diversity.

The Leiden Ranking is based on publications in the Web of Science database produced by Clarivate. ▶ Page 7

Echoes of Karbala: Glimpses of Muharram mourning rituals

TEHRAN – Every Muharram, hundreds of foreign nationals flock to Iran to experience its profound mourning traditions firsthand despite the language barrier.

Throughout the first ten days of the lunar month, numerous mourning rituals pay tribute to Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions, martyred in the tragic Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. Celebrated with exceptional grandeur, these rituals hold a revered place in the hearts of the Iranian people. Each unique ritual conveys profound messages of sacrifice, justice, and devotion.

The zenith of Muharram observances is Ashura, the tenth day of the lunar month, marked by large gatherings at mosques and religious centers. ▶ Page 6



Tehran, Moscow ink monetary contract

TEHRAN – Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said a monetary contract has been signed between Tehran and Moscow for carrying out bilateral trade exchanges.

Farzin told reporters on Saturday that he and his Russian counterpart had a meeting in Saint Petersburg last Thursday where they finalized agreements already signed between the two countries.

During the meeting, the chief bankers of Iran and Russia also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on joint measures to be taken by the two countries for the expansion of economic and monetary ties.

According to Farzin the new monetary contract enables Iran and Russia to trade in local currencies. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

The first step is economic opening

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

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtasad investigated the main priority of the new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, and wrote: Sanctions as one of the most important effective factors on Iran's economy, especially in the last decade, have had extensive effects on all aspects of the country's economy. These effects were not only limited to the reduction of oil revenues and the increase of business costs but have also penetrated deep into the economic structures of the country and led to the intensification of many existing problems. Considering the wide and deep effects of sanctions on Iran's economy, the lifting of sanctions should be placed as the first economic priority of the country. The limited and temporary lifting of sanctions cannot solve the main problems and uncertainty continues to cast a shadow on the country's economy. Therefore, it is necessary to take steps towards the permanent removal of sanctions in order to completely reduce their negative effects and achieve sustainable development. Lifting sanctions can help improve macroeconomic indicators such as reducing inflation, increasing government revenues, and reducing budget deficits, and can lead to increasing public confidence and improving people's living conditions.

Ham Mihan: The foreign policy challenge of the 14th government

In an article, Ham Mihan dealt with Iran's nuclear strategy and the options for the United States of America and its allies. The paper said: Upon the failure of negotiation between Iran and the JCPOA member countries, the issue of the nuclear program has become the main challenge of Iran's foreign policy. Considering the course of political developments in America, the region, and the international system, it is possible to see the possibility of escalation of tensions over the nuclear program in the months after the presidential elections in Iran and the United States. The 14th government should be well aware of the fact that the possibility of reviving the JCPOA as it was done in 2015 is largely impossible. Any diplomatic effort to remove nuclear sanctions and solve the challenge in this field requires awareness of the fact that the talks to deal with Iran's nuclear program will be conducted with an understanding of the new conditions. In addition to proposing new demands, the negotiating countries will make more efforts to impose economic, political, and even military threats.

Kayhan: The priority of foreign policy is the neighbors

In a note, Kayhan pointed out the congratulations of many countries for the

election of Mr. Masoud Pezeshkian as the new president of Iran. It wrote: Despite the congratulations of many countries, some Western governments, especially the United States, not only refused to congratulate, but even the American government several times, questioned Iran's elections.

America supported mercenary groups such as monarchists, terrorists, and separatist groups who were tasked with boycotting the elections. Now, more clearly than ever, it can be seen that the priority of our foreign policy and commercial diplomacy is not the United States and some disloyal European governments, but the neighbors and important economic and political partners in Asia, as well as Latin America and Africa. Our country is located in the heart of West Asia at the crossroads of communication between East and West and South and North of the region and has a high capacity for global trade and transit. Our strategic priority is constructive and intellectual interaction with honor, wisdom, and interest with these countries in the region, especially economic powers.

After that, it will be the turn of the belligerent and arrogant West to decide whether they want to engage respectfully and return to their broken commitments or not.

Shargh: The new season of diplomacy

In a conversation with Heshmatollah Falahat Pisheh, a senior analyst of international issues, Shargh discussed the program and foreign policy strategies of the 14th government and said: For the 14th government to be able to make the current positive trend in the market and economy stable, it should pay more attention to the foreign policy field. Two basic steps must be taken by the Pezeshkian government. The first step is to strengthen popular support to increase the power of diplomatic bargaining in order to strengthen the power of Iran's foreign policy through synergy. In the second step, this government should send positive messages to regional and extra-regional actors from a position of power.

Therefore, America and Europe have to not miss the opportunity to de-escalate the tension with the Pezeshkian government. This issue can create a positive basis for the country's domestic atmosphere. In the situation where the tension between Tehran and the IAEA has become stronger, de-escalation activities and more cooperation with the IAEA should be on the agenda in the coming months, because the issue of activating the trigger mechanism and referring Iran's nuclear case to the Security Council is on the agenda.

Axis of Resistance top figures congratulate Iran's president-elect on victory

TEHRAN – The victory of Masoud Pezeshkian in Iran's snap presidential elections has been met with congratulations from resistance leaders in Lebanon and Yemen, who have pledged to continue their close partnership with Iran.

The secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement issued a statement late Saturday, congratulating Pezeshkian and the people of Iran on his win.

"We congratulate you on this glorious election by the beloved and honorable people of Iran, and we pray to the Almighty that he protects you and helps you in achieving the desires and aspirations of this selfless and loyal nation," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said.

The Hezbollah chief stated that Resistance forces in the region see Iran as a strong and staunch supporter.

"We, in Hezbollah and all resistance movements in the region, as part of the nations that have been in a long confrontation with the occupying Zionist forces and the hegemonic American project for years, have always considered Iran a strong, stable, and permanent support for resistance and the oppressed since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeini (RA) and the continuation of this revolution under the leadership of Imam Khamenei and successive governments in the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said.

Nasrallah also announced Hezbollah's continued support for Iran. "We are by your side and, God willing, we will continue this path until reaching the final victory."

In Yemen, the spokesman for the popular Ansarullah resistance movement expressed his heartfelt felicitations to the people of Iran, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and the newly elected president for earning the trust of their citizens.

Furthermore, Mahdi Al-Mashat, the chairman of the Supreme Political Council in Yemen, also conveyed his congratulations to Pezeshkian on his electoral triumph.

Al-Mashat affirmed, "We extend our warmest congratulations to Masoud Pezeshkian for securing the confidence of the Iranian people and wish him every success in his important role in advancing Iran's prosperity and safeguarding its security."

Al-Mashat further emphasized, "We are committed to enhancing the bilateral relations between Yemen and Iran for the mutual benefit of both nations across various sectors."

Pezeshkian is to succeed the late President Ebrahim Raisi after emerging victorious during snap presidential elections held in two rounds on June 28 and July 5.

He won the runoff with 53.7 percent of the vote. Over 16.3 million people voted for him during the second round of the race.

Iran's president-elect meets with acting president, discusses future plans

From page 1 ▶ This friendly meeting was marked by Jalili's congratulations to Pezeshkian on his election victory. The two discussed various national issues and Jalili shared his views and proposed solutions.

Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of not only having plans but also employing experts to ensure these plans are successfully implemented. He expressed his readiness to receive Jalili's opinions and suggestions, demonstrating a willingness to incorporate diverse perspectives into his administration.

Pezeshkian meets with ex-parliament speaker

Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, the former Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, met with the president-elect on Saturday.



Nateq Nuri congratulated Pezeshkian on his victory in Iran's presidential elections, wishing success for the elected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Veteran parliamentarian Pezeshkian emerged victorious in Iran's runoff presidential election, as announced by the interior ministry.

The election concluded a tight race, with voters turning out in significant numbers on Friday. Pezeshkian received over 16 million votes, surpassing his rival Saeed Jalili, who garnered more than 13 million votes from the total of over 30 million votes cast.

"By gaining a majority of the

votes cast on Friday, Pezeshkian has become Iran's next president," stated the interior ministry.

Pezeshkian's victory marks the end of an intense electoral process and positions him as Iran's 9th president. The final vote count revealed that out of 30,530,157 votes, Pezeshkian secured 16,384,403, while Jalili received 13,538,179. The voter turnout was reported to be 49.8%.

Pezeshkian originally ran against a field of five candidates last week, winning the largest number of votes but falling short of a majority which sent him and Jalili to a second round.

Pezeshkian, 69, previously served as the vice speaker of the 10th Parliament and as the country's health minister during the administration of President Mohammad Khatami.

Iran denounces Arab League's claims over Persian Gulf islands

TEHRAN – Iran has denounced the Arab League's recent declaration regarding the Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb islands in the Persian Gulf as "false and baseless," accusing it of interfering in the country's internal affairs.

In a letter addressed to the UN Security Council on Saturday, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Saeid Iravani, expressed Tehran's strong condemnation of the claims. He categorically rejected the allegations in Paragraph 11 of the League of Arab States' declaration, which reiterates the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) claims over the three islands.

Iravani emphasized that Tehran views the declaration, delivered by Bahrain's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jamal al-Rowaie, to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Security Council President Pedro Comissário Afonso on May 20, as a blatant

interference in its internal matters.

"This action directly contradicts the spirit of good neighborliness and constitutes a blatant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly the well-established principles of sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs," Iravani stated.

He reiterated Iran's sovereignty over the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, underscoring that they are integral parts of Iranian territory. Furthermore, Iravani condemned the use of an incorrect name for the Persian Gulf in the declaration's Paragraphs 11 and 16.

"Iran reiterates that 'The Persian Gulf' is the only legitimate and valid geographical designation for the body of water between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, a name that has been used since ancient times. All reputable cartographic

organizations recognize and refer to this marine area as the 'Persian Gulf,' which must be respected by all," Iravani highlighted. Historically, the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb have been part of Iran, a fact supported by numerous historical, legal, and geographical documents.

Despite this, the UAE has repeatedly laid claim to these islands. The islands fell under British control in 1921, but on November 30, 1971, just before the UAE became an official federation, Iran's sovereignty over the islands was restored.

The dispute resurfaced following the conclusion of the 33rd Arab League summit held in Manama, Bahrain, where the final statement echoed the United Arab Emirates' ongoing claim to the islands.

Iran's firm stance against the Arab League's declaration underscores its commitment to maintaining its territorial integrity and rejecting any external interference in its sovereign affairs.

Parliament to hold vote of confidence sessions for Pezeshkian cabinet in August

TEHRAN- The vote of confidence session of the Iranian parliament for the ministers of the fourteenth government will be held in August.

Mojtaba Yousefi, a member of the presiding board of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, said in an interview with IRNA on Monday, "The inauguration ceremony of the president will be held on the 4th or 5th of August, and after that, the president will have 15 days to

introduce his proposed cabinet for a vote of confidence in the parliament."

Sessions of the parliament to review the qualifications for confidence in the ministers will be held in August.

Yousefi pointed out that the resignation of a representative can be submitted to the presiding board by either the resigning representatives or their representatives, who must be a member of the parliament, and

then it should be voted on in the open session of the parliament.

According to articles 90 to 93 of the internal regulations of the parliament, a resigning representative has 30 minutes to explain their reasons for resignation, and opponents of the resignation also have up to 30 minutes to speak, after which the resignation will be voted on in the parliament chamber.

Masoud Pezeshkian, the president-

elect, is the representative of the people of Tabriz in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, who according to the constitution must resign from the parliament. In this regard, he must submit his resignation to the presiding board of the parliament, and subsequently, after the announcement of the receipt of this resignation by the presiding board of the parliament, the representatives must review this request.

Iranian military ship faces unexpected incident

TEHRAN- The Iranian Navy's Public Relations Department has announced in an urgent report that the Sahand frigate, which had been dispatched for repairs to one of the shipyards in Bandar Abbas, has been involved in a maritime accident.

According to Fars News, the Public Relations of the First Naval Region of the Army announced that the Sahand frigate, while undergoing repairs

at the dock, lost its balance due to water leakage into the tanks. Fortunately, due to the shallow depth of the shore, the frigate quickly returned to a balanced state. Those suffering minor injuries as a result of this accident have been transported to hospital for treatment.

Sahand is the third surfing class frigate built and designed by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Navy. The frigate was unveiled in September 2012 and launched in December 2018. It is named in memory of the frigate "Sahand-class Alvand" which was engaged with the United States Navy fleet during military operations in the Persian Gulf in 1988 and sank during the operation. "Sahand" is now in service with the naval defense industries of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army.

Iran demands Israel's suspension from International Railway Union

TEHRAN – Iran has called for the suspension of the Israeli regime's membership in the International Union of Railways (IUC), citing the recent atrocities committed by Israel in Gaza which have so far resulted in the deaths of over 37,000 Palestinian civilians.

Miad Salehi, Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI), made the proposal during virtual meetings with IUC officials last week. Salehi, who exchanged views with IUC Director General François Davenne, argued that the IUC should not tolerate the Israeli regime's actions and should take steps to address its heinous alleged crimes against Palestinians.

The IUC is a global organization

focused on advancing the railway industry. They are responsible for developing international standards to ensure interoperability between railway systems, promoting knowledge sharing and best practices, advocating for railway-friendly policies, and fostering international cooperation on projects that benefit the global railway sector. The IUC has 218 members across five continents.

Salehi's call comes after the IUC suspended the participation of Russian and Belarusian railways following the conflict in Ukraine. He criticized the IUC for applying double standards by taking action against Russia and Belarus while remaining silent on Israel's actions.

"Iran views the IUC as a technical organization and has expressed concern over attempts by previous leadership to politicize its operations," Salehi said, urging the IUC to uphold its principles and act decisively in condemning Israel's actions.

Rights groups have organized various international organizations of turning a blind eye to Israeli crimes against humanity under the influence of Western states. They point out the global condemnation and shunning of Russia due to its 2022 invasion of Ukraine, which has resulted in far less death and destruction in the span of two years compared to Israel's military 9-month campaign in Gaza.

Besides being dropped by the

IUC, Russia has been banned by several sporting bodies including FIFA and UEFA which have so far refused to address calls asking for the same treatment toward Israel.

Israel's latest war in the besieged Gaza Strip has been termed the most destructive war of the 21st century. Besides killing and maiming tens of thousands of people, the regime has tried to make Gaza uninhabitable by destroying all of the enclave's hospitals, schools, universities, homes, and resources. UN Secretary-General António Guterres previously characterized the situation in Gaza as "dangerous and horrific," saying Palestinian children trapped there are essentially living in "hell on earth."

Leader's advisor hails election as 'historic milestone'

TEHRAN- The political advisor of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the fourteenth presidential election as a symbol of pride and honor in the country's history.

Ali Shamkhani, former Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, congratulated Masoud Pezeshkian on his election as the ninth President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a congratulatory message, saying, "By divine grace and with the informed presence of the noble people and the situation-aware Islamic Iran,

the fourteenth round of presidential elections has been registered as a symbol of honor and instructive in the history of our country."

He pointed out that in this election, once again it was proven that democracy and people's rule are based on the valuable and historical teachings of the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini, who said "The benchmark is the people's vote."

In continuation of his address to Masoud Pezeshkian, the political advisor to the Leader

stated, "Your Excellency, by the vote of the majority of our compatriots in Iran and around the world, in a completely competitive and healthy election, you have been chosen as the ninth President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Congratulations on the valuable trust that the noble and appreciative people of Iran placed in you. I wish you a continued success in your path of sincere and effective service to the honorable nation of Iran, and I hope for your comprehensive efforts to solve their problems using all the capacities and capabilities of the country."

Raisi administration's foreign policy was based on dignity: Leader

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, held a meeting with Iran's Interim President Mohammad Mokhber and members of late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration on Sunday.

During the meeting, which was the Leader's final meeting with cabinet members of the 13th administration, he described this administration as one of "work, hope, and action" while praising Martyr Raisi as a president who was "truly hopeful and optimistic about the future and determined to achieve the set goals."

In describing Raisi's outstanding qualities, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the late president's people-centric approach as an important trait and a true model for all officials. "By being among the people, our dear Raisi would feel the realities. He would listen to what people had to say and make their needs the basis for his plans," he stated.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized that "being among the people" is an Islamic requirement for officials and authorities. Quoting Imam Ali's (pbuh) letter to Malik Ashtar, he added, "Imam Ali (pbuh) stresses to Malik that the most beloved work in your eyes should be the one that gains the satisfaction and contentment of the masses. Martyr Raisi followed the same approach as Imam Ali (pbuh), and this too should



serve as a model for all."

Highlighting another one of Martyr Raisi's outstanding qualities, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized Raisi's genuine faith in domestic capabilities. "Raisi wholeheartedly believed in the potential and capacity of domestic resources to solve the country's problems," he said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also highlighted the martyred president's other notable characteristic of expressing his religious and revolutionary stances with clarity, while avoiding doublespeak or the desire to gain approval from others.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated, "Raisi was straightforward in adhering to the revolutionary positions that he believed in, and he expressed them clearly. In his very first interview, he was asked about [whether Iran was seeking] relations with a particular country, 'Will you be establishing

relations?' He said, 'No,' and adhered to this clear and straightforward position until the very end."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution praised Martyr Raisi for his indefatigability in work. "I would repeatedly say to Raisi that you need to rest some in order to be able to continue working in the future, otherwise you will collapse one day and not be able to work anymore. But he would say that he never got tired of work and he truly never did."

Ayatollah Khamenei further stated, "He adhered to two aspects at the same time. One was interaction, and the other was dignity and respect. He was a person who interacted with others. He would sometimes talk on the phone with some European presidents for an hour or an hour and a half. Imagine actually talking on the phone for an hour and a half. He was a man of interaction, but his interaction was from a position of dignity. He wasn't

harsh and didn't repel others, and he wouldn't break off talks or give away concessions unnecessarily."

In this regard, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution recalled that "our martyred president interacted from a position of honor with all countries that were possible, giving priority to neighbors. As a result, following his martyrdom, several prominent world leaders described Raisi as an exceptional figure, rather than an ordinary politician, in their messages of condolence."

Ayatollah Khamenei underscored that "The qualities of Martyr Raisi were mentioned to illustrate a model and to record it in history to demonstrate that the head of the executive branch can possess a set of intellectual, emotional, and practical virtues and pursue them in his governing and individual performance."

In his concluding remarks, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution once again expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people and the diligent efforts of government officials, the Interior Ministry, the national media, security officials, and the police force for successfully organizing the elections without any incidents. He pointed out that "in some countries around the world, elections are accompanied by fights and quarrels, while in our country, the elections were held in the best possible manner."

Tehran condemns continuation of Israeli atrocities in Gaza Strip

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson denounced the ongoing war crimes and the brutal massacre of Palestinians, especially innocent children, by Zionist forces in the Gaza Strip.

Nasser Kanaani made the remarks in a message on his social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, on Sunday.

The message comes amidst escalating tensions and violence in the region, prompting renewed international concern.

According to official Palestinian sources cited in the message, the death toll from the conflict since October 7 has tragically climbed to 38,153 individuals, with an alarming 87,828 wounded. The toll includes a significant number of innocent

civilians, underscoring the severe humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza.

The message further highlighted the dire situation with more than 10,000 individuals still missing and buried under rubble, reflecting the widespread devastation and loss caused by recent military actions. Additionally, the spokesperson noted with sorrow that in the past 12 hours alone, five journalists lost their lives in Gaza, bringing the total number of journalists killed to 158, as they bravely reported on the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also criticized nations that openly support the Zionist regime while purportedly championing human rights principles.



The spokesperson condemned such nations for what was described as shameless interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, a move seen as exacerbating tensions and prolonging the suffering of the Palestinian people.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's military leaders pledge support for president-elect Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iran's top military officials have voiced their readiness to support and collaborate with President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian's administration following his decisive victory in the runoff election.

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, extended his congratulations to Pezeshkian in a message on Sunday. Baqeri highlighted the significant turnout in the election, describing it as a pivotal moment for national unity and a robust response to adversarial threats.

Baqeri stated, "As in the past, we announce the readiness of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

to cooperate and interact with the 14th government." He emphasized the importance of bolstering defense capabilities, aiming to enhance the nation's security and uphold the ideals of the Islamic Republic. Baqeri expressed optimism that under Pezeshkian's leadership, Iran would see substantial advancements in defense and deterrence.

Masoud Pezeshkian, a seasoned parliamentarian and cardiac surgeon, secured more than 16 million votes, surpassing his opponent, former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, who received over 13 million votes out of a total of more than 30 million cast. The voter turnout was nearly 50

percent, reflecting substantial public engagement in the election process.

Army ready to cooperate with Pezeshkian's administration

In a separate message on Sunday, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief Commander of the Iranian Army, praised the enthusiastic participation of Iranian voters and congratulated Pezeshkian on his election victory. Mousavi affirmed the Army's readiness to work with the new administration and leverage its extensive capabilities to support the government's success.

"The fervent presence of Iranian voters at the polls demonstrates their commitment to the nation's

future," Mousavi stated. He pledged the Army's cooperation with Pezeshkian's government to achieve the administration's goals.

Defense minister promises full support for president-elect

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani also extended his congratulations to Pezeshkian, expressing his best wishes for the president-elect's success during his tenure. Ashtiani assured Pezeshkian of the Defense Ministry's full support, particularly in the realms of defense, science, and technology.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Terrorists involved in attack on ballot boxes arrested in southeastern Iran

From Page 1 ▶ The statement also revealed that the captured terrorists were being directed from a neighboring country. "They were preparing to carry out full-blown acts of terror in the days following Iran's presidential election."

While intelligence forces have not specified which foreign country the terrorists were receiving instructions from, analysts have pointed the finger of blame at terror outfits based in Pakistan, which have targeted people living southeast of Iran multiple

times in the past. Tehran has been strengthening its collaboration with Islamabad to tackle the security challenges posed by terrorists located in Pakistan. Additionally, it has initiated the construction of a barrier along its eastern borders.

Guardian Council verifies authenticity of Iran's runoff presidential elections

TEHRAN – Iran's constitutional body, the Guardian Council, has validated the final results of the second round of nationwide presidential elections held on July 5, confirming the victory of reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian.

The Guardian Council is responsible for overseeing election processes in Iran. In a statement on national TV, the Council's

spokesperson confirmed the accuracy and legitimacy of the election results and said the body has formally notified the Interior Ministry of the verification.

"No complaints were lodged by the candidates, and there were no significant reports of public complaints that could affect the election results. As a result, the Guardian Council has confirmed

the validity of the fourteenth presidential election," Hadi Tahan Nazif added.

Pezeshkian, who is to succeed the late President Ebrahim Raisi, will have to receive the official decree of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, endorsing the election results before heading to the Iranian Parliament to gain approval from the lawmakers.

Pezeshkian gained about 16.4 million votes, 53.7 percent of the vote, beating his conservative rival Saeed Jalili with a substantial margin of almost 3 million.

The president-elect's defeated conservative competitors have vowed to aid Pezeshkian's administration during his upcoming 4 years in office.

Sprinter Taftian determined to stand tall in 2024 Paris

TEHRAN – Iran's sprinter Hassan Taftian is going to make splash in the 2024 Olympic Games.

Taftian has previously represented Iran at the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, but has yet to win any silverware. In Paris, Taftian is determined to do his best despite knowing there is a difficult task ahead of him.

"First of all, I have to say I cannot hide my happiness because I will represent my country for third consecutive Olympics. Then, I would like to thank you all who supported me to qualify for the Games," Taftian said in an exclusive interview with Tehran Times. "I am full of praise for myself for the discipline, dedication, and devotion I have displayed in the years to turn my dream into reality," he added.

"Olympic Games is the most exciting sports competition in the world and the 100 meters is the most exciting event in the Games. I am very excited as a competitor in the tournament. I want to do my best in the tournament and make my nation proud. "I am training in Paris for several years and I am very happy to compete in a city I have trained here for many years. I hope to do my best as an experienced athlete," Taftian concluded.

The men's 100 meters at the 2024 Summer Olympics is scheduled to be held in four rounds at the Stade de France in Paris, France, on Aug. 3 and 4. This will be the 30th time that the men's 100 meters is contested at the Summer Olympics.

Pakistani volleyball star Faryad joins Shahdab

TEHRAN – Pakistani international outside hitter Ali Usman Faryad joined Shahdab Yazd.

The Iranian team has recently completed the signing of outside spiker Morteza Sharifi.

Faryad, 25, has joined Shahdab from Hoorsun Ramsar. He has joined Shahdab to strengthen the Iranian team for 24th edition of the Men's Asian Club Volleyball Championship.

The Asian Club Volleyball Championship will be held in the Iranian city of Yazd from September 6 to 15.

Iran 9th at 2024 Asian Women's U20 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran beat New Zealand 3-1 (25-15, 25-27, 25-13, 25-16) in 9th Place Playoff match of 2024 Asian Women's U20 Volleyball Championship at the Jiangmen Sports Center Gymnasium on Sunday. Outside hitter Shaghayegh Hassankhani delivered 15 points from 12 kills and 3 aces for Iran, while opposite Sepinood Dastbarjan and middle blocker Paria Hajatmand contributed 11 points apiece. Opposite Charlie Vail scored 13 points including 6 attacks from 14 attempts on the New Zealand's loss.

Padideh Bolourizadeh's team lost to Vietnam and Thailand and defeated Australia and New Zealand in the competition.

"I think we had a good start in this match against New Zealand, but then we lost our focus in the second set. They could gain composure back and had a very good start in the third set. In the fourth set, I think the players played very well, not as expected, but the problem was that we started from a very difficult group and we were very disappointed because we thought that we could be in the round of last 8. All in all, it's a good experience for young players and I hope they can perform better in the near future," Bolourizadeh said.

Iran finished a well-earned sixth place at the previous edition in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan two years ago, but this time, they returned with the ninth position. The Asian Women's U20 Volleyball Championship started on July 2 in Jiangmen, China and will run until July 9.

A total of 12 teams will vie for top honor and four berths at stake for the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Women's U21 World Championship.

Japan are defending champions.

Mehrabi to officiate at 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian referee Ebrahim Mehrabi Afshar will officiate at the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup. All six global confederations will be represented at the FIFA Futsal World Cup 2024 in Uzbekistan with match officials from all corners of the globe named on FIFA's official list.

Matches will be played in three Host Cities, Andijan, Bukhara and Tashkent, with one of the 24 competing teams crowned world champion after the final in the capital on 6 October. Iran national futsal team have been drawn in Group F along with Venezuela, Guatemala and France.

Iran to compete at CFA International Women's Futsal Tournament

TEHRAN – Iran have discovered its opponents at the 2024 CFA International Women's Futsal Tournament.

The tournament will be held in Lanzhou from July 12 to 15. Team Melli Banovan will start the four-nation campaign on July 12 with a match against Uzbekistan.

Iran are scheduled to play Vietnam and China on July 13 and 15, respectively.

The 2024 CFA International Women's Futsal Tournament is a round-robin competition.

Iran claim title of 2024 IFBB Asian Championships

TEHRAN – Iran claimed the title of the 2024 IFBB Asian Championships on Sunday.

The Iranian bodybuilders won 17 medals (10 golds, five silvers, two bronzes) in the competition, which is being held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Iranian team won the title in fitness challenge division.

The championship is being held under the auspices of the Mongolian federation.

Balsa Radulovic named Sepahan volleyball coach

TEHRAN – Montenegrin coach Balsa Radulovic has been appointed as new head coach of Sepahan volleyball team.

Radulovic, 35, has penned a three-year deal with the Iranian club.

Radulovic has previously worked as head coach in Montenegro U-21 and U-23 volleyball teams.

He has most recently worked as head coach in Cypriot team Pafiakos Paphos.

Sepahan club were founded 1953.

Persepolis could offer Al Arabi a swap deal for Omar Al Somah

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club are interested in signing Qatari club Al Arabi forward Omar Al Somah, according to the Iranian media.

Al Arabi have previously shown interest in hiring Persepolis left back Abdelkarim Hassan and the media reports suggest that the Iranian giants might consider his departure.

Persepolis are open to proposing a swap deal for the Syrian international forward.

Hassan joined Persepolis in January transfer window and helped them win Iran Persian Gulf Pro League. The Qatari defender has been also linked with another Qatari club Al Wakrah.

Persepolis have recently completed the signing of Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido.

They will have to participate in the 2024/25 AFC Champions League Elite.

Iran becomes board member of Turin Education Center



TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran was selected as a member of the Board of Directors of Turin Education Center in Italy, which is affiliated with the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The Turin International Education Center, which was established in 1964, is known as an educational and training arm of the ILO.

This center aims to improve the capacities of

ILO member states in various fields including sustainable development, merited work, and social justice.

Providing specialized training services in the fields related to work and employment, exchange of experiences and best working practices among member countries, development of human resources and promotion of workforce skills at the international level are among the main goals of the center.

This selection strengthens Iran's position as an important player in the Middle East region in the field of education and development of the workforce, Mehr news agency reported.

Also, Iran will have the opportunity to share its experiences in the fields of education and employment with other countries and benefit from international experiences.

Iran's trade with India could hit \$16b: envoy

TEHRAN - Indian Ambassador to Iran Rudra Gaurav Shresth says that if the Iranian economy was not under the pressure of sanctions, the volume of trade between the two countries could reach \$16 billion while it is now as low as \$2 billion.

The ambassador made the remarks during a visit to Iran Chamber of Commerce headquarters in Tehran last week when he met with a group of Iranian businesspeople.

Speaking during the meeting, Ebrahim Jamili, the head of Iran-India Joint Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the significance of the Indian market, adding that "we are seeking to facilitate the chance for joint investment."

He called on the central banks of the two countries to expedite the transfer of Indian rupee and Iranian rial.

Jamili pledged that the joint chamber of commerce would do its best to remove the obstacles on the way of trade between the two countries.

The Indian ambassador also addressed the meeting, terming the economies of Iran and India as complementary.

India used to import some \$11 billion worth of oil from Iran before the sanctions were re-imposed on Tehran in 2018, the ambassador said, while noting that there are still other items that can be used in bilateral trade between the two countries.

If the Iranian economy was not under the pressure of sanctions, the volume of trade between Iran and India could rise to \$16 billion from the present \$2 billion, he stressed.

The ambassador urged the need for Iran and India to focus on non-sanctioned items, including

agricultural, pharmaceutical, and food items.

The value of trade between Iran and India reached \$1.836 billion in 2023, according to India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The trade exchange between the two countries declined by 26 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year, the figure was reported to be \$2.499 billion in 2022.

According to the Indian Ministry data, Iran exported commodities valued at \$699 million to India during the past year, registering no significant change from 2022.

Petroleum products were the top goods imported by India from Iran in 2023, and India imported \$221 million worth of such products from Iran this year. The import of Iranian oil products by India in 2023 increased by 26 percent compared to the previous year.

Raw materials for dye production and various fruits were also among the top exported goods to India in 2023.

India's exports to Iran in January-December 2023 experienced a 35 percent decrease and reached \$1.187 billion. In the previous year, India had exported \$1.847 billion worth of goods to Iran.

Rice was the top export product of India to Iran in 2023. India's rice exports to Iran decreased by 34 percent in 2023, falling from \$1.98 billion in 2022 to \$723 million.

India's tea export to Iran also declined by almost a third, from \$86 million in 2022 to \$30 million in 2023. The country's fruit exports to Iran however increased by 14 percent and reached \$55 million and spice exports decreased by 28 percent to \$15 million.

Private sector signals readiness to help president-elect Pezeshkian

TEHRAN - Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh has issued a congratulatory message to the country's president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian.

The message was issued on Saturday shortly after Pezeshkian was announced to have managed to secure the majority of votes in a run-off election to become the Iranian next president, the ICCIMA portal reported.

In his message, Hassanzadeh expressed hope that further cooperation between the government

and the private sector would lead to more prosperity of the country and pride for the Iranian people.

He also referred to the large turnout of the Iranian people in the Friday elections which he said doubles the duty of the president-elect.

Hassanzadeh called on the president-elect to create coordination in the economic policy-making wings of the government which he believed are now distributed between several ministries.

He also urged the president-elect to choose his ministers, especially the economic ministers, based on their scientific and executive capabilities.

Iran launches energy optimization market

TEHRAN - The head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Majid Chegeni has officially unveiled the country's energy and environment optimization market in the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), Shana reported.

Speaking during the unveiling ceremony on Saturday, he said that the launch of the energy optimization market is one of the tools for people's participation in managing the country's energy consumption.

"Over the past three years, important achievements in the field of gas and energy management were achieved, one of which is the launch of the energy optimization market as one of the tools for people's participation in the energy sector," he said.

The license to supply 125 million cubic meters of gas in IRENEX has been obtained from the country's

Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), and a part of it is being sold in the market today, the official said, noting that the considered ceiling for issuing saving certificates is 10 billion cubic meters.

According to Note 4 of the Budget Law of 1403, the Ministry of Petroleum has been obliged to issue 40 thousand billion rials of energy-saving certificates for optimization projects, he explained.

The deputy oil minister also stated that simultaneously with the release of the first saving certificates, the memorandum of understanding to replace one million low-efficiency heaters with high-efficiency ones will be signed between the Iran Gas Trading Company and a capable domestic company and will be implemented soon.

NIGC will make every effort to use the capacity and capabilities of domestic producers to implement the heater replacement plan, he noted.

Iran, Russia ink monetary contract

TEHRAN - Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin said a monetary contract has been signed between Tehran and Moscow for carrying out bilateral trade exchanges.

Farzin told reporters on Saturday that he and his Russian counterpart had a meeting in Saint Petersburg last Thursday where they finalized agreements already signed between the two countries.

During the meeting, the chief bankers of Iran and Russia also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on joint measures to be taken by the two countries for the expansion of economic and monetary ties.

According to Farzin the new monetary contract enables Iran and Russia to trade in local



currencies.

He added that based on agreements between the specialized delegations of the two countries, Iran's Shetab banking system will link Russia's MIR interbank system by the end of August.

The official said that the new

scheme would allow Iranian nationals to take ruble from Russian ATMs using their Iranian banking cards.

"During the meeting, the two sides finalized the requirements to connect Russia's Mir payment system to Iran's Shetab and this project has entered the

operational phase," Farzin said.

He added that the scheme will further develop in the next phases to allow Russian nationals to use their banking cards in Iranian ATMs and will then enable using Iranian cards at the Russian poses.

"The second stage [involves the possibility of] paying with Russian citizens' cards in Iran," Farzin said, adding that in the third stage, Iranians will be able to pay with a Shetab card in Russian stores via an ordinary bank terminal.

In April 2024, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that the project to use Mir cards had entered the implementation stage. In May 2022, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said that the countries were discussing how to connect the Mir and Shetab payment systems.

Wheat purchase from local farmers hit 6.3m tons since April



TEHRAN - According to a senior official with the Agriculture Ministry, the Iranian government has purchased some 6.3 million tons of wheat worth over \$2.22 billion from farmers since April in carrying out a national plan that guarantees the purchase of domestic production of the crop.

Sohrab Sohrabi said the figure is 562,000 tons (10 percent) more than that of last year's corresponding period when the government

purchases stood at 5.741 million tons, IRNA reported.

He added that the government has so far paid over \$1.05 million to the farmers which is nearly half of the sum that has to be paid.

The southwestern province of Khuzestan has been the number one province in the supply of wheat with 1.62 million tons of supply, followed by the provinces of Golestan, Fars and Ilam which ranked second to fourth, respectively, the official said.

It is estimated that between 14.5 and 15.5 million tons of wheat will be harvested from both irrigated and rainfed fields by the end of the crop year which will totally meet the domestic needs.

Wheat production in Iran increased by six percent in 2023, putting the Islamic Republic in 14th place among the world's top producers of the strategic grain, according to the United

States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s World Agricultural Production report.

Based on the said report, Iranian farmers managed to produce 14 million tons of wheat in the 2023 crop year, 800,000 tons more than the figure for the previous year in which the total production stood at 13.2 million tons.

According to USDA, Iran was the world's 13th largest wheat producer in 2022.

The department has also predicted that Iran will produce 14 million tons of wheat in 2024, which will not change compared to 2023.

The increase in Iran's wheat production during 2023 comes as the world's total wheat production this year has decreased by about seven million tons to reach 782 million tons.

According to this report, Iran, which is the 18th most populous country in the world, has produced more wheat than many countries including Brazil and Egypt.

'Iran, Türkiye FTA should replace previous agreements'

TEHRAN - Director of Asia and the Pacific Office of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) International Affairs Department Niloufar Asadi has said a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Iran and Turkey should replace the previous trade agreements between the two countries to boost economic exchanges.

In a meeting with the Consul General of Iran in Istanbul, Asadi referred to a previously reached preferential trade agreement between Iran and Turkey under the framework of the Group of Eight Developing Islamic Countries (D8) and said: "Considering the shortcomings of the previously signed preferential trade agreement and the necessity to improve and develop it, I suggest that a free trade agreement between the two countries replaces the previous agreements."

The trade exchanges between Iran and Turkey in the first five months of 2024 reached \$2.3

billion, showing a five percent increase compared to the same month last year.

According to the latest figures released by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TURKSTAT), Iran's trade with the neighboring country stood at \$2.189 billion in January-May 2023.

According to TURKSTAT, Turkey's exports to Iran in the mentioned five months reached \$1.34 billion, recording a 16 percent increase compared to last year's corresponding period.

Turkey's imports from Iran however fell from \$1.038 billion in January-May 2023 to \$960 million in the first five months of 2024.

The trade exchange between Iran and Turkey stood at \$5.490 billion in 2023 with a decrease of 14 percent.

Based on the data previously released by the Turkish Statistical Institute, the value of Iran's exports to Turkey increased by 19 percent to reach \$3.35 billion in 2022.

Turkey had imported over \$2.82 billion worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic in 2021.

Based on the mentioned data, Iran's imports from the country also marked an 11-percent rise to hit \$3.07 billion in the past year, in comparison with 2021, when the figure was \$2.77 billion.

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the trade between the two countries registered a 15-percent rise in 2022 compared to 2021.

The value of trade between the two neighbors reached \$6.42 billion in 2022, while the figure stood at \$5.59 billion in the preceding year.

Iran's trade balance with Turkey was \$280 million positive in favor of Iran in the past year.

Last July, Iran, and Turkey discussed ways of expanding economic relations along with political ties at the Turkish-Iranian High-Level Cooperation Council in Tehran.

During the meeting, which was co-chaired by late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the two sides negotiated the extension of the gas export contract between the two sides for the next 25 years.

In the meeting, President Raisi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to expand economic relations with neighboring countries.

The president also evaluated Tehran-Ankara ties as positive and progressive, saying that the two countries should pursue appropriate policies to move towards increasing their annual trade exchanges to \$30 billion.

On the sidelines of the mentioned meeting, Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian also held talks with Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dunmez in which the two sides exchanged views on cooperation in energy fields.

Electricity consumption in Iran hits new record high

TEHRAN - Peak electricity consumption in Iran exceeded 76,000 megawatts (MW) on Saturday as a new heat wave hit the country, Head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said.

According to the official, electricity consumption in the country reached 76,768 MW on the mentioned day, while the consumption stood at 71,486 MW on the same day last year, IRNA reported.

The simultaneity of the increase in temperature in the south and north of the country has caused a sharp increase in electricity consumption and the country is spending its hottest days.

In order to meet the electricity demand in the peak summer period, the Iranian Energy Ministry has put several programs on its agenda among which increasing electricity production and managing consumption are the major ones.

The ministry is going to implement a comprehensive program during the summer, based on which low-consuming households are going to be

rewarded while the subscribers whose consumption exceeds the normal level will face a penalty.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rises and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has repeatedly announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Earlier this month, an official said that Renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,000 megawatts are under construction in Iran, including a 780-megawatt plant being built in the southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Alireza Parandeh Motlaq, the deputy head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA) for technical and engineering affairs, stated that Sistan and

Baluchestan is one of the richest provinces in the country in the field of renewable energies and enjoys high capabilities in different sectors including wind energy and geothermal energy.

Currently, there is a 60-megawatt renewable power plant installed in Sistan and Baluchestan province, including a 10-megawatt unit that had been installed in Zahedan region and a 50-megawatt unit constructed in the northern part of the province in recent years.

Parandeh Motlaq pointed to the high advantages of the generation of wind energy in Mil Nader region, the northern part of Sistan and Baluchestan, where a 50-megawatt wind power plant has been installed and is generating 210,000 megawatts/hour of electricity.

He went on to say that the wind energy generated in Sistan and Baluchestan province not only can meet the electricity demand of this southern province, but also there is the possibility of exporting the electricity to neighboring Afghanistan.

Israel on the brink of chaos amid widespread protests

Israelis call for ceasefire and release of captives as Gaza war enters 10th month

From page 1 ▶ Eran Schwartz, the executive director of a coalition of protest groups, accused Israeli ministers of abandoning the captives, engaging in discrimination and “hanging on to their chairs at any price.”

The weekend protests were marked by violent clashes between demonstrators and police with protesters injured and arrests made.

Such protests have become a regular occurrence in Israel over the past months.

Israel declared war on Gaza after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel on October 7. More than 1,100 people were killed during Operation al-Aqsa Storm and around 250 Israelis and foreigners were taken captive.

More than 100 captives were freed during a weeklong truce in November last year. Dozens of the remaining captives have also lost their lives during the Israeli army attacks on Gaza.

The Israeli premier has repeatedly said the Gaza war is aimed at freeing captives and destroying Hamas. He has vowed to continue the war until “total victory” over the resistance movement. But his goals have so far remained elusive.

Israeli political and military officials have acknowledged that the regime will not be able to eliminate Hamas.

Lapid: Stop Gaza war

Opposition leader Yair Lapid is



among officials who have thrown a spotlight on Israel's failure to achieve its war objectives.

On Sunday, he called on the Netanyahu cabinet to halt the war in the Gaza Strip and negotiate a deal with Palestinian factions to secure the return of captives.

“We need to stop the war, strike a deal, and bring the hostages home,” Lapid told Israeli Army Radio.

He admitted Israel's inability to continue the Gaza war.

“Israel has always opposed prolonged wars, and our army, which relies on reserve forces, is not equipped for this kind of warfare,” Lapid said.

Earlier this month, war minister Yoav Gallant said the Israel army needs 10,000 more soldiers immediately amid the Gaza war.

Gaza genocide

Over the past months, the Netanyahu regime has turned a blind eye to domestic calls to end the Gaza war.

Nonetheless, reports suggest that Israel and Hamas are engaged in indirect talks to reach a ceasefire agreement and exchange captives as well as Palestinian prisoners. This clearly indicates that the Palestinian resilience has forced Israel to hold negotiations with Hamas as the regime has failed to achieve its goals during the nine-month onslaught.

In addition to domestic pressure, Israel has faced international condemnation amid its continued brutal offensive on Gaza.

The Netanyahu regime has slaughtered more than 38,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 7. Most of the victims are women and children.

Vast tracts of the Gaza Strip also lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel remains accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. The ICJ found in

January this year that there was a risk of violation of the rights of the Palestinian people to protection from genocide.

The UN's top court ordered Israel to “take all measures within its power” to desist from killing Palestinians in contravention of the genocide convention, to prevent and punish the incitement of genocide, and to facilitate provision of “urgent basic services”.

It also issued a ruling in May calling on Israel to end its operation in the Gaza Strip's southern-most city of Rafah.

But the regime has ignored the court's rulings and continued its genocidal war.

Power of resistance

Neither domestic nor international pressure has been able to force the Israeli regime to reach a ceasefire deal and stop its brutalities against Palestinian people in Gaza.

However, Palestinians have prompted the regime to hold ceasefire negotiations with Hamas through putting up stiff resistance.

In fact, Israel's engagement in talks with Hamas has revealed its failure to defeat Palestinian resistance fighters in the Gaza battlefield despite receiving huge amounts of weapons from Western countries, including the United States.

WORLD HEADLINES

Erdogan to invite Assad for talks to restore Turkey-Syria ties

Turkey will extend an invitation to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad “any time” for possible talks to restore relations between the two neighbors, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday.

“We will extend our invitation (to Assad); with this invitation, we want to restore Turkey-Syria relations to the same level as in the past. Our invitation may be extended at any time,” Erdogan said, according to a presidency readout of an interview by Turkish media, Reuters reported.

Turkey severed ties with Syria in 2011 after the outbreak of the Syrian foreign-backed militancy in which it supported militants looking to oust Assad.

Speaking to reporters on his flight back from Berlin, Erdogan also said Ankara would reciprocate any positive steps from Damascus, and that Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Iraqi Prime Minister could contribute to facilitating the contact.

“We have now arrived at a point where if Bashar Assad takes a step towards improving relations with Turkey, we will also show that approach towards him,” Erdogan said.

“Putin and the Iraqi prime minister have an approach for talks to be in Turkey. We are talking about mediation everywhere, why not with our neighbor?” he was quoted as saying by the Turkish presidency.

Syrian officials have repeatedly said that any normalization in ties can only come after Turkey agrees to pull out thousands of troops from the militant-held northwest.

from their families and more than 4,000 who are under the rubble and are presumed dead.

It also includes children who are buried in unmarked graves and children who are detained and disappeared by Israeli forces.

That comes on top of more than 14,000 children who have been killed and thousands more who have been maimed,” she said.

Hamas denies its fighters were present in UNRWA school

Hamas has rejected Israel's claim that the resistance movement's fighters were present in a UN-run school in the Gaza Strip that was targeted by the Israeli army.

At least 16 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in an Israeli air strike on the building that was sheltering thousands of displaced people at Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

Israel claimed its aircraft targeted Hamas fighters operating around the Al-Jawni school in Nuseirat.

“The claim of the occupation army of the presence of members of the resistance in the UNRWA al-Jaouni school is a lie and misleading,” Hamas said in a statement.

The resistance movement added, “The occupation is trying through allegations to pass and market its crimes to public opinion and hide its clear goals that it seeks to implement by exterminating our people.”

Rights group denounces ‘field execution’ of Palestinians

The Palestinian Prisoner's Society accused Israeli forces of killing four men as they were being released at the Kerem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing from Israel into Gaza.

The rights group described the incident as a “field execution” adding the four Palestinians had helped guard humanitarian aid entering the besieged coastal enclave.

“The bodies of one of the men was recovered yesterday and the rest this morning, and pictures taken show that their hands were bound, and there was evidence of torture on their bodies,” the organization said.

Lavrov: Election campaign in U.S. a pitiful sight

The course of the election campaign in the United States is a pitiful sight, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

“Seriously speaking, of course, it's a pitiful sight. And if the system of so-called American democracy produces such results or such a course of the election campaign, everyone could draw their own conclusions about how it's all orchestrated, how it's arranged,” he said answering a question from VGTRK journalist Pavel Zarubin, according to Tass news agency.

On June 27, the first televised debate was held by the incumbent and former US presidents - Joe Biden and Donald Trump - in Atlanta (Georgia).

Trump and Biden missed no opportunity to smear each other at the debate by trading terrible insults ahead of the November presidential election.

The Republican and Democratic nominees exposed the scandals involving each other and their families.

Biden brought Trump's alleged affair with adult film star Stormy Daniels to light.

Trump also attacked Biden's son, Hunter, over criminal cases he has been embroiled in.

UN rapporteur: Ceasefire should be imposed on Israel

The UN special rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, said Palestinians in Gaza have been “trapped in a hell without comparison” since October 8.

“There is no way they can be safe in Gaza. It is shocking to me that there is even a resolution of the UN Security Council ordering a ceasefire and it is still not in place,” Francesca Albanese, told Al Jazeera from Catania, Italy.

“There is no other way to stop this carnage in Gaza other than enforcing a ceasefire [on Israel],” she added.

Francesca Albanese added that people are horrified with what is happening in Gaza and distressed because politicians fail to respond to their demands for action against Israel.

Save the Children: Kids in Gaza killed in most horrific ways

A spokeswoman for Save the Children told Al Jazeera that Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip were continuing to kill and maim children.

“There's no place in Gaza that can offer respite to civilians, including children, and there is no place in Gaza that is safe,” Alexandra Saieh said from Washington, DC.

“We are continuing to see children being killed in the most horrific ways imaginable. We've seen children - in the last few weeks and over the course of the last nine months - dismembered, their limbs are ripped off of them by explosive weapons, they are being crushed by falling rubble... it is just relentless.”

Saieh noted that Save the Children estimates that more than 20,000 children in Gaza are unaccounted for.

“This includes children who are separated

Ansarullah war games amid Israel's warmongering

Large-scale offensive and defensive maneuvers held in Yemen

From page 1 ▶ The maneuver involved a diverse array of military units, showcasing the integration of drone forces, artillery, snipers, anti-armor units, infantry, armored vehicles, and engineering units.

The operational theater was divided into distinct roles for offense and defense, emphasizing the importance of command and control structures, as well as the smooth coordination among various specialized units.

At the outset of the exercise, Yemeni forces simulated an aggressive assault on virtual Israeli and British enemy encampments.

Drones played a pivotal role in the initial phase, targeting surveillance installations with precision strikes using 120mm shells.

Concurrently, other aerial assets engaged enemy vehicles both inside and outside the camps, effectively neutralizing their operational readiness and disrupting surveillance capabilities.

The systematic targeting of mock enemy command centers would further compound their disarray, resulting in a loss of control and coordination among enemy ranks, the generals said.

Transitioning into subsequent phases, artillery units intensified their bombardment, focusing on enemy command and control facilities and artillery emplacements.

Hezbollah fires dozens of rockets at Israeli strategic base

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has targeted a strategic Israeli base on the northern side of the occupied territories with dozens of rockets, as tensions continue to escalate between the two sides across the border.

In a statement on Sunday, Hezbollah said it had fired 60 Katyusha rockets at the Jebel Al-Marq region, where the Meron Air Base is located, adding that the missiles have directly hit the Meron surveillance base, according to Press TV.

The Lebanese resistance group went on to say that the attack led to the destruction of part of the base's equipment and a fire inside it.

Hezbollah further noted that the attack was carried out in support of the Palestin-

The strategic targeting not only deprived the enemy's ability to support their troops but also inflicted substantial damage on their defensive capabilities within the simulated theater of operations.

The maneuver also highlighted the expertise of Yemeni sniper units, who targeted surveillance cameras positioned on top of structures, further crippling any reconnaissance efforts and maintaining continuous pressure on the assumed adversary.

This phase underscored the Yemeni forces' “agility and adaptability in conducting simultaneous offensive operations”.

As the maneuver progressed, specialized anti-armor units (RPG shooters) utilized secret underground tunnels to emerge near the enemy's fortified positions. Their coordinated assaults on the camp's defensive fortifications and remaining enemy assets inside buildings were crucial in achieving decisive tactical victories.

The success of the offensive phase culminated in the complete destruction of designated targets within the simulated Israeli camp.

This included the neutralization of enemy vehicles, command centers, and defensive structures, effectively showcasing the Yemeni forces' proficiency in conducting coord-

inians in Gaza and in response to the Israeli assassination of one of its members, Meitham Mustafa al-Attar, in Lebanon's Bekaa region a day earlier.

Israeli media outlets also reported that 60 missiles and rockets were launched from Lebanon towards the Meron Air Base in the Upper Galilee region.

The latest development came a day after Hezbollah fighters conducted new operations against major military installations in the occupied territories, injuring at least two Israeli soldiers.

The resistance group said the rocket attacks came in retaliation for the Israeli military's attacks on the southern Lebanese villages of Yohmor, Arnoun al-Shaqif and Kfar Tebnit.

inated military operations.

Following the offensive phase, the maneuver seamlessly transitioned into a defensive phase. Yemeni forces swiftly assumed defensive postures to safeguard their controlled territories against simulated enemy counterattacks.

The defensive strategy involved strategic positioning, camouflage techniques, and ambush tactics to lure and neutralize the advancing enemy forces.

Throughout the exercise, the Yemeni military demonstrated not only its operational prowess but also its ability to adapt to dynamic battlefield conditions.

The integration of air, ground, and specialized forces underscored Yemen's commitment to enhancing its defensive capabilities and readiness to respond effectively to potential threats.

The “Devastating Storm Maneuver” served as a comprehensive showcase of Yemen's military capabilities, strategic planning, and operational readiness.

According to the military organizers, it exemplified Yemeni forces' proficiency in conducting complex military operations and highlighted their commitment to defending national sovereignty and security amidst challenging geopolitical landscapes.

The Israeli regime has repeatedly attacked southern Lebanon since October 7, when it launched a genocidal war on Gaza.

In retaliation, Hezbollah has launched near-daily rocket attacks on Israeli positions.

The fighting has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands from the northern part of the occupied territories, amid rocket fire and shelling carried out by Hezbollah and allied Palestinian groups.

Hezbollah has vowed to maintain its retaliatory strikes as long as the Israeli regime continues its Gaza war, which has killed more than 38,100 Palestinians.

Hezbollah has already fought off two Israeli wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. The resistance forced the regime to retreat in both conflicts.

Tehran conference to explore ancient Persia in Median, Achaemenid eras



TEHRAN - The National Library and Archives of Iran is set to host a conference on ancient Persia during the Median and Achaemenid periods.

According to organizers, the national conference titled "Persian World in the Median and Achaemenid Period" will be held on July 11.

34 Iranologists have been invited to present their research and insights on Iran's rich history and culture during these ancient periods.

Masoud Mirzaei, Mostafa Dehpahlavan, Shahin Ariamanesh, Zhaleh Amouzgar, Hekmatollah Molasalehi, and Mohammad Rahim Rezaeezadeh are among the prominent speakers.

Their presentations will delve into various aspects of the Median and Achaemenid eras, offering a comprehensive exploration of the Persian world's influence and legacy.

The event is intended to be a significant occasion for both academics and enthusiasts of Iranian history, providing an in-depth understanding of two pivotal periods in Iran's

past.

Media, an ancient country of northwestern Iran, generally corresponding to the modern regions of Azarbaijan, Kordestan, and parts of Kermanshah.

Media first appears in the texts of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (858-824 BC), in which peoples of the land of "Mada" are recorded. The inhabitants came to be known as Medes.

According to Britannica, since no Median written documents of any kind have ever been uncovered, their spiritual and economic life is also a matter of conjecture.

With the victory in 550 of the Persian chief Cyrus II the Great over his suzerain, Astyages of Media, the Medes were made subject to the Persians. In the new Achaemenid Empire, they retained a prominent position; in honor and war they stood next to the Persians, and their court ceremonial was adopted by the new sovereigns, who in the summer months resided in Ecbatana.

In the modern era, the Achaemenid Empire is recognized for its successful model of centralized bureaucratic administration, its multicultural policy, the construction of complex infrastructure such as road systems and an organized postal system, the use of official languages across its territories, and the development of civil services, including the establishment of a large, professional army. Its advancements inspired the governance styles of many later empires.

Last day of second Persian month registers as Ecotourism Day

TEHRAN - Aimed at recognizing a vibrant branch of the tourism industry, the very last day of Ordibehesht, (coinciding with May, 21), has been named as National Ecotourism Day.

"I congratulate all my hardworking colleagues and activists in the ecotourism community on the designation of 31 of Ordibehesht as Ecotourism Day in the calendar of the country," the tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami posted on X on Sunday.

"May, 21 is the International Cultural Diversity Day," the minister also wrote in his social media page. "The ethnics are our national identity."

Home to diverse natural landscapes and cultural heritage gems, Iran has already taken steps to promote ecotourism that focuses on minimizing the negative impact of conventional tourism on the environment in a sustainable approach.

Eco-lodges play a significant role in the tourism industry by offering travelers a sustainable and immersive experience in nature. As concerns about environmental

conservation and responsible travel continue to grow, eco-lodges have become increasingly popular among eco-conscious tourists.

One key aspect of eco-lodges is their ability to attract travelers who are seeking authentic and environmentally friendly experiences.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the economic potential of ecotourism and sustainable travel.

Governments, tourism boards, and conservation organizations are increasingly supporting the development of eco-lodges as a means to promote sustainable tourism and preserve natural resources.

Overall, eco-lodges occupy a unique position in the tourism industry, offering travelers an alternative to conventional accommodations while promoting environmental conservation and supporting local communities. As the demand for sustainable travel continues to rise, eco-lodges are likely to play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of tourism.

Mahabad Paleolithic sites undergo field survey

TEHRAN - An archaeological survey of Paleolithic sites has begun in northern Mahabad, aiming to uncover and study the earliest traces of human habitation in the area.

Speaking to IRNA on Saturday, a local official in charge of cultural heritage stated that the project is being conducted in collaboration with a team of experts led by Rahmat Naderi.

"The survey will focus on excavating and studying the Paleolithic sites within the county," Vahed Jolayi further elaborated.

Previous studies on the Paleolithic sites within the county were sporadic, focusing on areas such as Shiwatoo along the Mahabad-Pasveh road, according to the official.

However, this current excavation, he added, will be more comprehensive, covering all northern regions of Mahabad and Dasht-e Shahr Viran.

In this investigation, areas with artifacts

from the Stone Age are being explored and documented, Jolayi brought to light.

"From the engravings on the Stone Age tools, we can deduce the thoughts, beliefs, rituals, and biological aspects of the inhabitants of this region," he stated, adding that these are ancient and unparalleled identities of the people who have lived in this land for millennia.

In his final words, Jolayi explained that the Paleolithic period is the oldest prehistoric era, marking the time when humans first used handmade stone tools.

Mahabad, situated in West Azarbaijan, boasts 92 nationally registered historical sites, including Mahabad Dam, Sahooolan Cave, Kani Barazan Wetland, Mirza Rasul Bathhouse and Museum, and the Jame Mosque, all of which are significant historical landmarks and tourist attractions across the county.

Echoes of Karbala: Glimpses of Muharram mourning rituals

TEHRAN - Every Muharram, hundreds of foreign nationals flock to Iran to experience its profound mourning traditions firsthand despite the language barrier.

Throughout the first ten days of the lunar month, numerous mourning rituals pay tribute to Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions, martyred in the tragic Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. Celebrated with exceptional grandeur, these rituals hold a revered place in the hearts of the Iranian people. Each unique ritual conveys profound messages of sacrifice, justice, and devotion.

The zenith of Muharram observances is Ashura, the tenth day of the lunar month, marked by large gatherings at mosques and religious centers.

Below is a selection of Muharram rituals:

Ta'zieh

One of the notable Muharram rituals is Ta'zieh, now a UNESCO-listed element, where participants reenact the tragic events of Karbala, expressing their grief and devotion



through mournful chants and chest-beating rituals.

Inscribed on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010, Ta'zieh is a dramatic portrayal of the events of Ashura, drawing locals and tourists alike.

Ta'zieh holds a significant place in Iranian culture, with its solemn performances evoking deep emotions and reflections on the sacrifice of Imam Hussain and his companions. Through elaborate costumes, music, and storytelling, Ta'zieh brings to life the bravery and tragedy of Karbala, allowing spectators to immerse themselves in the historical narrative and spiritual significance of Muharram.

Nakhl Gardani

Nakhl Gardani, where devotees carry symbolic structures resembling Imam Hussain's coffin, is accompanied by rhythmic chants and solemn hymns, embodying the enduring legacy of martyrdom in Shia Islam.

Nakhl, meaning "palm tree" in Persian, serves as a symbol of Imam Hussain's coffin, embodying the tragic events of Karbala.

Historians suggest that the ritual derives its name from the tradition of carrying Imam Hussain's body on palm leaves to his final resting place. This ritual is predominantly observed in regions like central Yazd province.

The Nakhl itself is a massive wooden structure resembling a leafy palm tree adorned with intricate decorations, including mirrors, knots, and flowers, often prepared days in advance. During the ceremony, strong men lift and carry the bulky Nakhl in a procession reminiscent of a funeral march while mourners beat their chests and recite heartfelt elegies.



Mash'al Gardani

Mash'al Gardani, a stirring ritual observed in various cities like Tehran and Qom, envelops you in a mesmerizing display of light and sound. Men carry torches mounted on a structure, spinning them overhead in a rhythmic dance of flames while chanting elegies and beating their chests.

Against the backdrop of the night sky, the swirling flames illuminate the darkness, symbolizing the enduring flame of Imam Hussain's legacy and the community's unwavering commitment to justice and righteousness.

Shah Hussain Gouyan

In the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan, particularly in Tabriz, the ritual of Shah Hussain Gouyan (meaning "calling King Hussein") emerges as a deeply ingrained Muharram tradition. Men, holding long sticks, line up in orderly queues, their hands placed on the backs of those before them, moving in a slow, rhythmic march.

With each step, they take their sticks from their heads to their feet, chanting the name of Imam Hussein (AS).

This procession, reminiscent of a military parade, symbolizes the readiness of mourners to stand alongside the Imam in the battle of Karbala.



Karbzani

In Gilan province, northern Iran, you'll encounter the tradition of Karbzani, a heartfelt tribute to Imam Hussain during Muharram. Mourners gather in an orderly procession, each carrying a pair of cylindrical wooden instruments known as "karb" in the local Gilaki language. Instead of traditional chest-beating, these mourners strike the karbs together, producing a somber melody evocative of sorrow and lamentation.

Karbzani is a powerful expression of allegiance to the Imam, resonating deeply within the local communities and recognized as an integral part of Iran's intangible cultural heritage.

Tasht-Gozari

The Tasht-Gozari ritual, which translates to "laying a wash-tub," symbolizes the vital significance of water, reminiscent of the water blockade faced by the third Shia Imam and his followers in the Battle of Karbala. The ceremony, part of the broader mourning traditions observed during the lunar month of

Muharram, commences following the noon prayers and continues until the call to Maghrib prayers, drawing participation from various mourning groups from different neighborhoods. Tasht-Gozari is not only a remembrance of the sacrifices made by Imam Hussein (AS) but also serves as a reminder of the principles of justice, equality, and sacrifice he stood for.

Gel Mali

Gel Mali, a unique ritual practiced in Lorestan province, offers a deep expression of grief and mourning for Imam Hussein.

Participants rub mud and dust on their heads and bodies, symbolizing desperation and sorrow for the loss of a loved one.

As sermons and chanting commence, the rhythmic chest-beating intensifies, echoing the collective anguish and lamentation of the community.

The ritual, held in main squares like Khorramabad, embodies the deep emotional connection and reverence for Imam Hussain's sacrifice, inviting you to witness the profound expressions of devotion and solidarity among the faithful.

Nazri

Nazri, a generous tradition rooted in Persian culture, offers visitors a taste of hospitality and devotion during Muharram. As you walk through the streets, you'll encounter stalls offering sweet drinks, fresh tea, and local dishes, all provided free of charge as a pledge to the martyred Imam.

This act of giving reflects the belief that sharing food in honor of Ashura martyrs carries healing blessings, inviting you to partake in the communal spirit of compassion and generosity.

Among the dishes served, Khoresh Qey-meh, a hearty stew of cooked lamb with split peas and rice, stands out as a symbol of nourishment and solidarity during this solemn month.

Sham-e Ghariban

Sham-e Ghariban, an evocative ritual observed in the evening and night of Ashura, immerses you in a solemn atmosphere of remembrance and mourning.

As candles flicker in the darkness, people gather to lament the plight of orphan children whose tents were set ablaze by their enemies, leaving them forsaken and alone.

Burning a tent on the 10th day of mourning symbolizes this tragic event, while lighting candles in the moonlight highlights the community's solidarity and compassion.



Sham-e Ghariban invites passersby to reflect on the resilience and courage of those who endured hardship and persecution for the sake of truth and righteousness.

In addition, there are many other rituals observed across the country to cherish and preserve the legacy of Imam Hussain (AS).

Sistan-Baluchestan unveils artisanal innovations

TEHRAN - In a significant move to boost the local handicraft industry, Sistan-Baluchestan has launched some innovative products earlier this month.

"The new products include a wooden and carpeted lamp, a miniature electric guitar, leather shoes, and embroidered women's clothing," said a local official in charge of women's affairs.

In an interview with IRNA on Sunday, Zahra Ebrahimi highlighted the strategic importance of leveraging technology and innovation in the province's universities to promote the handicraft sector.

The focus, she added, is on blending traditional designs with market-oriented creativity and innovation, thereby fostering a culture of innovation and skill development.

Ebrahimi outlined that the innovative approach involves creating opportunities for showcasing and investing in locally produced

items, fostering synergy through shared resources, and enhancing the collaboration between public and private sectors to meet technological needs.

The official pointed to the pivotal role of creative handicraft centers in commercializing and economically elevating the handicraft sector within the business chain, adding that: "These centers serve as hubs for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and collaboration among planners, investors, and producers."

She described handicrafts as a tangible and valuable cultural treasure, representing the heartbeat of the community, its identity, and a driving force for the economy.

The strategic planning and focus in this area could yield significant benefits for employment and economic growth, according to Ebrahimi.

"Comprehensive planning and cohesive efforts are essential to produce and promote

innovative products," the official stated, highlighting that the province has made substantial progress, achieving national and international recognition in handicrafts field.

In her final words, Ebrahimi emphasized that handicrafts act as a bridge between the economy and culture, promoting employment, economic development, along with the rich heritage of the province and the nation.

Sistan-Baluchestan, located in southeastern Iran, is renowned for its rich and diverse cultural heritage, especially its traditional handicrafts.

One of the most notable crafts from this region is needlework, often depicting floral and geometric patterns. This craft is predominantly practiced by women and holds significant cultural importance, often passed down through generations.

Head of DOE to attend Green Development Forum 2024

TEHRAN – Ali Salajeqeh, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), will attend the Green Development Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which is scheduled to be held in Qingdao, China, from July 8 to 9.

Founded in 2000, the forum is sponsored by the Development Research Center (CDRF), a national, public, and non-profit institution directly under the General Office of the State Council's Republic of China.



They will share their insights on advancing green development.

During the forum, Salajeqeh is scheduled to deliver a speech and hold a meeting with Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, Huang Runqiu.

He will also meet with environment ministers of the participating countries, as well as the secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), dotat.ir reported.

The grand event will consist of one main forum and three parallel sub-forums: Year of Ecology of the SCO 2024, Technological Innovation for Green and High-Quality Development, and Climate Action for Green and Low-Carbon Transition.

It is the first high-level event among SCO member countries with a focus on green development, holding great importance for deepening exchanges and cooperation among Central Asian countries and jointly building a green Belt and Road Initiative.

According to Chinadaily report, the initiative of building a green development partnership within the SCO to promote sustainable development will be launched to drive deeper cooperation among SCO countries in green energy, green industries, climate change mitigation, and environmental conservation and to consolidate consensus on green development in the region.

On the sidelines of the forum, several exhibitions and on-site research visits will be set up to showcase the achievements in green, low-carbon, and high-quality development.

Iran, China agree on joint environmental working group

In March, Iran and China agreed to boost cooperation in areas related to the environment by forming a joint working group.

Salajeqeh, in a meeting with Runqiu, highlighted the need to exchange information on environmental protection, IRNA reported.

During the meeting which was held on March 17, the two sides also decided to organize meetings in order to share experiences in this regard.

Salajeqeh referred to China's valuable experiences in managing water resources, combating deforestation, and dealing with climate change, calling for the use of joint capacities to solve environmental problems.

The Chinese official for his part touched on the agreement signed by the two countries in 2012 and said bilateral cooperation has been very positive, laying the ground for future meetings.

This year's theme is 'Joining hands in green development, together promoting harmony between man and nature'.

This year, it will be held under the theme of 'Joining hands in green development, together promoting harmony between man and nature', Chinadaily reported.

More than 350 participants, from China and other nations, are expected to attend the event.

Muharram unites people from different backgrounds

TEHRAN – Once again the Iranian nation is overwhelmed by the month of Muharram. Black banners and draperies are seen all over the country.

People in dark dresses attend mourning congregations.

Traditionally, Iranians hold mourning rituals during the first ten days of Muharram – the first month of the Islamic calendar – to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions in the battle of Karbala in 680.

Muharram, as a time of intense grief and mourning, is also an opportunity for people to practice cooperation.

It is a good reason for people to gather for a common purpose and to cooperate with each other to hold rituals in a proper way.

People commemorate Imam Hussain (AS) in chorus attending mosques and other religious places like hussainiyas.

Sorrowful and poetic recitations and eulogies are chanted in memory of the 10th of Muharram, Ashura,

the day Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred. There are also chest-beating ceremonies.

During Muharram, some people provide free meals, called nazri, which are distributed mainly among the poor. Taking part in

the process of cooking and distributing nazri amongst neighbors and relatives is considered a good deed.

Although some benevolent persons prefer to order nazri to be cooked by restaurants or catering companies, it is still a great opportunity for relatives and neighbors to come together in a place to distribute it.

Almost nobody mourns during Muharram individually. The month is an occasion for all to show reunion of the society, cherish religious values, and remind each other of the importance of social unity. Muharram is a month that unites people from different sects, religions, and backgrounds.

VP highlights synergy for flourishing traditional medicine

TEHRAN –The vice president for science, technology, and knowledge-based economy has highlighted the importance of synergy with government bodies to enhance traditional medicine capabilities.

Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi also stressed the importance of developing technologies related to medicinal plants and traditional medicine in the country, IRNA reported.

Despite existing capacities in medicinal plants and traditional medicine, these fields have not progressed noticeably, the official noted.

Firouzabadi went on to say that the national document for the development of tradi-

tional medicine has not achieved the expected level of success yet.

The field of traditional medicine can bring many opportunities for the country, he added.

"The establishment of educational and research institutions can serve as a means to address setbacks and facilitate the implementation of strategic plans in the area of medicinal plants and traditional medicine."

Medicinal plants

More than 300 medicines are made out of 1,200 medicinal plants in the country.

The production of medicines from plants in

the country dates back to 1980.

About 4,400 natural products and over 2,000 traditional products are being supplied by domestic companies to the market.

So far, about 30,000 plant species have been identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species which is more than the whole of species found in Europe.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilogram.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Climate change impact on Iran doubles world average'

The effects of climate change on Iran has more than doubled on average compared to other parts of the world, while southern provinces of the country are more likely to bear the consequences, secretary of environmental policy at the center for strategic studies affiliated to the presidential office has said.

"The Hoomand-Absard station in Damavand county in north-east of Tehran experienced a temperature increase of 2.7 °C over the past 50 years, while over the past 100 years, the temperature rise was about 0.76 °C," ISNA quoted Mohammad Darvish as saying on Tuesday.

Climate change impact is increasing in southern part of the country, among which Yazd province's condition has raised concern.

تغییرات اقلیمی در ایران دو تا سه برابر جهان

محمد درویش، دبیر سیاست محیط زیست مرکز بررسی های استراتژیک نهاد ریاست جمهوری گفته، ایران با تأثیرات تغییر اقلیمی دو تا سه برابر بیشتر از تأثیرات ایجاد شده در کره زمین روبرو شده است.

محمد درویش، در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایسنا با اشاره به گزارش های منتشر شده توسط سازمان هواشناسی، وزارت نیرو و سازمان آب، اظهار کرد: ایستگاه هومند آسرد در دامنه های کوه دماوند طی نیم قرن اخیر افزایش دمایی حدود ۲.۷ درجه سلیسیوس را نشان می دهد و این مسئله در حالی رخ داده است که در ۱۰۰ سال گذشته، حدود ۰.۷۶ درجه سلیسیوس افزایش دما داشته ایم.

وی اضافه کرد: هر چقدر به شهرهای جنوبی تر کشورمان نزدیک می شویم، تغییرات اقلیمی هم بیشتر می شود به طوری که از این میان یزد وضعیت نگران کننده ای دارد.

Iran ranks first among Islamic nations in Leiden ranking 2024

TEHRAN –Leiden University ranking system 2024 has included 46 Iranian universities among the top 1,506 universities worldwide, ranking the country first among Islamic nations in terms of the number of universities.

A total of 146 universities from Islamic countries are included in this year's ranking.

Turkey with 40, Saudi Arabia with 16, Egypt with 15, and Pakistan with 13 universities are placed second and fifth.

The Leiden Ranking provides indicators of scientific impact, collaboration, open-access publishing, and gender diversity.

The Leiden Ranking is based on publications in the Web of Science database produced by Clarivate.

The most up-to-date statistics made available in the Leiden Ranking are based on publications in the period 2019–2022, but statistics are also provided for earlier periods.

Web of Science includes a number of citation indices. The Leiden Ranking uses the Science Citation Index Expanded, the Social Sciences Citation Index, and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index.

Only publications of the Web of Science document types articles and reviews are taken into account. The Leiden Ranking does not consider book publications, publications in conference proceedings, and publications in journals not indexed in the above-mentioned citation indices of the Web of Science.

Citations are counted until the end of 2023 in the calculation of the above indicators. Author self-citations are excluded.

Recent rankings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951- 1000) were other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These institutions' rankings in West Asia were as follows.

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

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

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

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

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

A total of 435 Iranian institutions were among 11,989 institutions ranked in Webometrics world ranking 2024.

Tehran University was the top among Iranian institutions. Its ranking had improved from 305 in 2023 to 285 in 2024, Mehr news agency reported.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (445), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science (606), Sharif University of Technology (639), Amirkabir University of Technology (792), Iran Science and Technology (890), Isfahan University of Medical Sciences (920), Iran Medical Sciences University (940), Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (940), and Shahid Beheshti University (967) ranked second to tenth, respectively, in the country.

According to this year's ranking, 338 other institutions have been ranked between 4,000 to 31,000.

According to the results of the 2023-2024 edition of the University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP), 71 Iranian institutions were included in the ranking compared to 64 institutions in the 2022-2023 edition.

URAP World Ranking is based on six academic performance indicators including number of articles, citations, total document, scientific productivity, research impact, and international collaboration.

In the academic performance ranking of 71 universities in Iran, Tehran University was ranked first nationally with a global rank of 231, IRNA reported.

Tehran University of Medical Science (277), and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science (436) were ranked second and third, respectively.

In the 2023 edition of URAP, the University of Tehran was ranked first nationally with a global rank of 231.

Golestan University of Medical Science (1307), University of Hormozgan, Amol University of Special Modern Technologies, Vali-e-Asr University of Rafsanjan, Ilam University, University of Science and Technology of Mazandaran are institutions that have recently been ranked among the best in the world in the 2023-2024 edition.

In December 2023, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) released a report, ranking 115 governmental and 17 non-governmental universities according to six indices.

Education counts for 30 percent, Research counts for 25 percent, Technology and Innovation counts for 20 percent, International Outlook counts for 10 percent, and Social Services, Infrastructure, and Facilities counts for 5 percent, ISNA quoted the ISC head Ahmad Fazelzadeh as saying.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One can purchase the world with contentment and live in happiness with benevolence.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:24 Dawn: 3:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:53 (tomorrow)

Tazieh performances to go on stage at Tehran's Art Bureau

TEHRAN- Iran's Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization in Tehran is playing host to performances of tazieh, Iranian passion play, during the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram.

During the Muharram rituals, millions of Muslims commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (S).

Directed by Aboulfazel Mirza-Ahmadi, the group begin their performances every night at 5 p.m. for ten nights.

The group is scheduled to perform "Shah Cheragh (AS) Tazieh", "Hazrat Muslim (AS) Tazieh", and "Hurr ibn Riahi Tazieh" among others.

"Shah Cheragh (AS) Tazieh" is about the martyrdom of Hazrat Ahmad ibn Musa (AS) who, along with his brothers, including Seyyed Alaeddin Hossein (AS), embarks on a journey to visit their brother, Imam Reza (AS), in the Khorasan region.

However, Fars ruler Qotlogh Khan is assigned by Abbasid caliph Mamun the task of stopping them. They all are killed in an intense battle with the ruler's men.

"Hazrat Muslim (AS) Tazieh" portrays the journey of Muslim ibn Aqil al-Hashimi (AS), the messenger of Imam Hussein (AS), to Kufa a few days before the Ashura uprising that led to the martyrdom of the Imam and his companions in 680.

"Hurr ibn Riahi Tazieh" is about Hurr ibn Riahi, one of Yazid's commanders, who joined the troops of Imam Hussein (AS) on the eve of Ashura.

"Ali al-Akbar (AS) Tazieh" and "Abbas ibn Ali (AS) Tazieh" are also among the highlights of the performances.

"Ali al-Akbar (AS) Tazieh" tells the story of Ali al-Akbar, the son of Imam Hussein (AS), who displayed unwavering bravery and selflessness during the Battle of Karbala, ultimately giving his life while fighting alongside his family

against the forces of Yazid's army.

"Abbas ibn Ali (AS) Tazieh" is about Abbas (AS), the brother of Imam Hussein (AS), who was a key figure in the Battle of Ashura, serving as commander and standard-bearer of Imam Hussein (AS)'s caravan. He was renowned for his virtues, including dignity, bravery, generosity, and obedience to the infallible Imam.

In Karbala, he played a crucial role as water-supplier for his brother's army, earning him the nickname Saqqa (the water-supplier). Despite facing challenges, he successfully brought water for the family and companions of Imam Hussein (AS) on multiple occasions. On the Day of Ashura, he attempted to fetch water from the Euphrates once more, but was martyred after being shot in the leather pouch and having his hands cut off by Yazid's army.

The Iranian passion play tazieh was registered on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in November 2010.

Tazieh represents religious events, historical and mythical stories and folk tales. Each performance has the four components of poetry, music, song and motion.

However, stories about the uprising of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions against the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE are more highly regarded by tazieh troupes and audiences.

Performers are always male, and female roles are played by men, most of whom are amateurs who gain their living through other means but perform for spiritual rewards.

It is a kind of drama that depicts the event of Ashura and is performed in Mahur, Chargah, and Shur Baghdad radifs of Iranian music.

It is based on the Ashura culture and the brave war and martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS). It is a religious play dated back to 9th-century dynamites and Buyids.

However, Tazieh performance began during the Safavid era (1501-1736) and flourished during the Qajar era.

Cartoon of Day



Gaza
Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Iranian photographers win 23 awards at Tajikistan's Pamir International Salon of Photography



From left: "Outside" by Mehdi Zavvar Bagheban, "Tehran" by Amin Behjat, and "Sorrow and Woe" by Mohammad Reza Pourian

TEHRAN-Iranian photographers have won 23 medals and honorable mentions from the 4th Pamir International Salon of Photography in Tajikistan.

All the winning works from Iran and around the world are on display at an online gallery at the event website at Pamirexhibition.com.

The event consisted of six sections, including Open Monochrome, Open Color, Portrait, Landscape, Nature, and World in Focus, Honaronline reported.

In the Open Monochrome section, Amin Behjat won the gold medal for his photo "Tehran" and Mehdi Ashnadost won the silver medal for "Dream".

Mirali Parandak also won the FIAP (International Federation of Photographic Art) Ribbon in the section for "Hole".

In the Portrait section, Mohammad Reza Pourian won the gold medal for "Sorrow and Woe" and Mehdi Zavvar Bagheban took the silver medal for "Outside".

Mohammad Reza Pourian also grabbed the silver medal for his photo titled "Colorful" in the Open Color section.

Mohammadreza Masoumi, Erfan Savadi, Kiarang Alaei, Amir Hossein Abazarian, Naser Khastar, Mahdi Zabolabbasi, Sanaz Fard Esfahani, Yasin Ghasemi Bojd, Seyed Mehdi Khamesi Hamaneh, Amin Behjat, Mohammad Reza Pourian, Faraz Ahanin, Mehdi Ashnadost, and Seyed Mojtaba Sadighi received honorable mentions in various sections.

Iranian photographer Asghar Sameti was in the jury along with jurors from Serbia and Turkiye. They selected winners for a total of 124 awards for the event.

The Pamir Mountains are a mountain range in Central Asia, at the junction of the Himalayas with the Tian Shan, Karakoram, Kunlun, Hindu Kush, Suleman and Hindu Raj ranges. They are among the world's highest mountains. The Pamir Mountains lie mostly in the Gorno-Badakhshan province of Tajikistan.

Anahid Abad serving in jury of Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival

TEHRAN-Iranian-Armenian film director Anahid Abad is serving as a juror in the 21st Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, launched in Armenian on July 7.

Abad, 61, was born in Tehran. She received her primary and secondary education in Tehran. She pursued her university education in the field of Armenian language and literature. She took a film production course at the Islamic Center of Film Production, after which she began her cinematic career as a programmer and assistant director, collaborating with several Iranian directors such as Ali Reza Davoodnejad, Ahmed Reza Darvish, Homayoun Asadian, Varouj Karim Masihi, and Kamal Tabrizi. Later, she directed her own film.

Her 2017 drama "Yeve" was selected to represent Armenia at the 90th Academy Awards in the best foreign-language film category. The film was a joint production of Iran and Armenia. It was co-produced by Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation and the National Cinema Center of Armenia.

"Yeve" won the best film award at the Golden



Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival in 2018. It also won the best film award at the Arpa International Film Festival in Los Angeles in the same year.

In this year's edition of Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival, a short documentary by an Iranian filmmaker is present in the Regional Panorama section.

An Iran-Germany joint production, "Khabur" is directed and produced by Nafiseh Fathollahzadeh.

Running for 30 minutes, the flick was made in 2023.

"Khabur" is the longest tributary of the Euphrates, a transboundary river crossing the border between Turkey and Northeastern Syria. Climate crisis, prolonged drought periods, the ongoing war, embargo, water policies, and dam building across the border by the Turkish state are among the reasons contributing to the drying up of the Khabur River and the water crisis in the region.

Years of passion and love for cinema resulted in the establishment of Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival in 2004.

The film festival's name refers to the apricot, a fruit native to Armenia. A popular symbol of the country, the warm color of the apricot is even found on the tricolored Armenian national flag.

Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival carries the theme: "Crossroads of Cultures and Civilizations".

The 21st Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival will run until July 14.

"The Recipe for Hope" at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of British writer Fiona Valpy's "The Recipe for Hope" has recently been published by Qoqnu Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Fariba Bordbar.

"The Recipe for Hope" is a heartwarming novel about Evie, a woman who escapes her troubles by fleeing to a remote cottage in the South of France.

Evie is running away from the impending divorce, the loss of her baby, and the painful memories associated with Christmas. She hopes to find solace in the

peaceful countryside, but instead, she is awakened by the sounds of roosters crowing at dawn and barn owls hooting at night.

Despite the initial chaos, Evie finds inspiration in the beauty of her surroundings and the warm community that surrounds her. She begins to rediscover her passion for cooking with the help of her French grandmother's recipe book. As she delves into the world of cuisine, she also starts to confront her past and learn to heal.

As Evie settles into her new life, she meets Doctor Didier, a handsome and charming neighbor who works late nights in his garage.

While their relationship starts as a friendship, it soon develops into something more. But just as things are looking up, Evie's past comes back to haunt her, threatening to disrupt her newfound happiness.

The story culminates on Christmas Day, which Evie had initially planned to spend alone. However, Didier surprises her with a romantic Not-Christmas feast for two, which becomes a turning point in their relationship.

Through this culinary journey, Evie learns that sometimes it takes a cancelled Christmas to find true love and happiness. With its warm characters, stunning French

setting, and mouth-watering recipes, "The Recipe for Hope" is a feel-good novel that will leave readers feeling uplifted and inspired.

Fiona Valpy is a renowned author, boasting an impressive track record of success with over a million copies sold worldwide and translations in more than twenty languages. Her literary prowess is fueled by her fascination with the stories of remarkable women, particularly during World War II. Her meticulous research skills transport readers to a bygone era, infusing her writing with a vivid sense of time and place.

International association releases report on cultural community's stance against Israeli genocide

An Istanbul-based international association has released a report outlining the cultural and artistic community's stance against Israel's onslaught against Palestinians.

Titled Cultural and Artistic Community's Stance Against Genocidal Israel (World and Turkiye), it was introduced by the Academics and Authors Association of Islamic Countries (AYBIR) at an event in the Turkish metropolis, Anadolu Agency reported.

A panel addressing the cultural and artistic community's reaction to the Israeli genocide was held on Wednesday as part of the event, which was attended by many prominent names from the art and culture world.

Speaking at the panel, Palestinian-Dutch film director Hany Abu-Assad said he faced many difficulties before the Israel-Hamas war broke out on Oct. 7 last year but was allowed to work in

Hollywood because he was not seen as a threat.

"As it turns out, the Zionists believed they could manage the situation. But after Oct. 7, they realized that the Palestinian cause was not a lost cause, not a dead cause, and still had living elements," said Abu-Assad.

"From the moment they felt that the intifada (Palestinian uprising) was not just rhetoric but a continuing, living and bloody resistance, they decided to stop all the work I was doing in Hollywood. They said, 'No Palestinian can talk about Palestine in Hollywood anymore'. At first, I was indeed worried. But it is foreseen that Oct. 7 will turn into a revolutionary reality, much like the French Revolution. Maybe not immediately today, but in the coming decades," he noted.

In his opening speech at the event, the report's author, Associate Professor Mustafa Aslan from Sakarya University, said that many members of

the cultural and artistic community had faced sanctions for criticizing Israel.

"In the report, we tried to address how artists working in four main art fields, both in the world and in Turkiye, criticized or could not criticize Israel's genocidal stance," Aslan said. "We brought together works in the fields of literature, music, cinema and other arts".

AYBIR's president, Fatih Savasan, highlighted that there was a serious reaction against Israel in the art community worldwide.

"The cultural and artistic community does not need any reminders to react to what is happening in Gaza, because they know that everything did not start on Oct. 7," said Savasan.

Translator and activist Aycin Kantoglu said: "Zionism's hand has now reached children. There was an old saying, 'The knife has reached the bone.'"