

# TEHRAN TIMES

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# Unbreakable Bonds

**Pezeshkian affirms support for Resistance in letter to Hezbollah chief**

► Page 2

## Backing Lebanon against threats a principle for Iran: spox

TEHRAN – During a press conference on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson reiterated Tehran's unwavering support for Lebanon in the face of potential threats, particularly from Israel.

Nasser Kanaani emphasized that any violation against Lebanon would only escalate tensions in the region, warning against the repercussions of "adventurous actions" by the Zionists.

Kanaani highlighted Iran's steadfast commitment to supporting Lebanon, stating, "Experience has shown that Lebanon is strong in defending its security. [nonetheless] Iran considers supporting Lebanon a principle."

The reaffirmation comes after recent remarks made by Kamaal Kharrazi, an advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, who warned of Iran's direct response in case of an Israeli attack on Hezbollah.

"There would be a chance of expansion of the war to the whole region, in which all countries including Iran would become engaged. ► Page 3



## Carry forward 'Shanghai Spirit', Open up a new chapter of cooperation

By Cong Peiwu

Chinese Ambassador to Iran

TEHRAN- Since I arrived in Iran nearly two months ago, I have often heard Iranian friends talk about their expectations for Iran to expand international cooperation under the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). On July 4, the 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State was held in Astana. During the summit, President Xi Jinping had in-depth exchange of views with leaders of participating countries on deepening cooperation across the board under the new circumstances and on major international and regional issues of the day, and planned for the future development of the SCO.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that, the SCO has withstood the test of the changing international landscape, the root cause of which lies in the fact that SCO members remain committed to the fine tradition of solidarity and coordination, the way of cooperation featuring equality and mutual benefit, the value pursuit on fairness and justice, and the broad-mindedness of inclusiveness and mutual learning. We should stay true to the original aspiration, continue to uphold the "Shanghai Spirit", help each other on their respective path to success, jointly maintain the development direction of the SCO. ► Page 4

## Palestinians flee amid heavy Israeli attack on Gaza City

Thousands of Palestinians fled large areas of southwest Gaza City when Israeli forces early Monday morning unexpectedly intruded for the first time in over three months and opened heavy fire targeting roads, homes, and residential buildings, resulting in dozens of casualties. The Israeli forces' incursion prompted a mass exodus of thousands of Palestinians to the city's northwestern neighborhoods, Anadolu reported.

Reports say Israeli military vehicles entered the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood, the industrial area, the university zones, and the southern outskirts of the Rimal under heavy fire from fighter jets and artillery. Massive explosions and continuous air and heavy artillery bombardment targeted eastern, central, and western Gaza City overnight and into Monday morning.

This was the first large-scale military offensive since the Israeli army's attack near Al-Shifa Hospital and its surroundings at the end of March. Palestinian medical sources reported that the Israeli airstrikes targeted residential buildings, roads, and apartments, resulting in dozens of casualties in various parts of Gaza City.

Due to the intensified bombardment, rescue and medical teams have been unable to move to help the injured or retrieve the dead.

Witnesses also reported that Israeli forces heavily used smoke and gas bombs in different areas of Gaza City, particularly in the new incursion areas. ► Page 5

## Israeli army losses rise amid Gaza genocide

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Israeli occupation forces (IOF), on Monday, acknowledged the injury of an officer from Battalion 82, Sa'ar Migolan, who is in a critical condition during a battle in northern Gaza.

The latest announcement comes as the genocidal Israeli war on Gaza entered its tenth month.

On Sunday, during intense fighting in southern Gaza, the IOF acknowledged the injury of the commander of Battalion 52, noting that he holds the rank of colonel.

The IOF also admitted the death of an officer, who served as a company commander in the 601 Engineering Battalion, stating that he died during battles in southern Gaza.

With the officer's death, the number of casualties in the Israeli army's battles in Gaza rises to more than 680 officers and soldiers since October 7, 2023, in addition to around 4,100 others injured to varying degrees, as reported by Israeli media under the "permission to publish" clause. ► Page 5

## Smotrich living in cloud cuckoo land

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Rifts between the Israeli cabinet and anti-war protesters are considerably widening.

Israelis have taken part in a weeklong protest campaign calling for a ceasefire with Hamas and the release of captives.

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

In addition to a truce deal, the demonstrators want snap elections and the resignation of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The protest movement comes as Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza entered its tenth month on Sunday.

The Netanyahu regime launched war on Gaza after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation dubbed al-Aqsa Storm in southern Israel on October 7.

Over 1,100 Israelis and foreigners were killed in the operation and about 250 people were taken captive. ► Page 5

## 'They stripped me naked and beat me': Hamid Nouri recounts 1,680 days of hell in Swedish prison

TEHRAN – Hamid Nouri, an Iranian man recently released from Swedish jail after over 4.5 years of illegal detention, has shared his harrowing account of the mistreatment he endured behind bars.

In an interview with Daneshjoo news agency, Nouri described a brutal reality of physical and psychological torture, highlighting the callous indifference of his captors.

"In prison, I was beaten and subjected to psychological torture," Nouri revealed. "One day, three large-framed male guards along with a woman came to my cell, stripped me naked, and severely beat me for 20 to 30 minutes." He reported this incident to the Swedish judge during one of his hearings, but his pleas were met with complete disregard. ► Page 2



## Iranian court examines U.S. role in 1980s diver massacre

TEHRAN – An Iranian court has initiated legal proceedings against the United States for its role in the massacre of 42 Iranian divers during the Iran-Iraq War.

The families of the victims filed the lawsuit, pointing out that the U.S. provided crucial support to the Iraqi Baath regime, ultimately leading to their loved ones' deaths.

The first hearing took place on Monday, with the 55th Branch of the Tehran Court of Justice presiding over the case. The lawsuit centers around Operation Karbala 4, a 1986 Iranian military operation aimed at repelling Iraqi forces. The operation required Iranian fighters to cross the border river of Arvand. ► Page 3

## Iran's quarterly exports to Iraq up 27% on year

TEHRAN – Iran exported \$3.0 billion worth of commodities to Iraq during the first three months of the current Iranian year (March 20-June 20), registering a 27 percent rise compared to the previous year's corresponding period, the caretaker of Iran's Commercial Consultancy Office in Baghdad said.

Farzad Piltan, also an advisor to the head of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said in an interview with IRNA on Sunday that the main exported goods included natural gas, fresh apples, iron, and steel ingots.

Tile and ceramics, watermelons, evaporative coolers, tomatoes, home appliances, gas turbines, PE compounds, hot-rolled bars, clinker, infant formula, and ice cream were among other exported commodities to Iraq, Piltan added. ► Page 4

## TEHRAN PAPERS

Europe congratulates  
President-elect Pezeshkian

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

In a note, Arman-e-Emrooz investigated the congratulations of the European Union on the election of Masoud Pezeshkian and the message of this union. It wrote: Upon the election of Pezeshkian, we may see changes in the strict foreign policy and a new stage of diplomatic interaction with the West. But it has to be seen what the European Union means by the message of "following the policy of critical engagement" in this direction. The main component of the EU's "critical engagement policy" is the use of sanctions or so-called restrictive measures. The distinction between "sanctions and restrictive measures" is also important. In this context, sanctions are only one aspect of the EU's dual approach to critical engagement. Another aspect of this policy includes dialogue on human rights and political issues. However, it seems that at the current time, sanctions have become the most prominent and perhaps the only active element of this strategy toward Iran. Pezeshkian has said that he is determined to pursue the policy of international interaction and improve relations with the West to end the sanctions. His goal is to strengthen relations with most governments around the world.

## Sazandegi: Is Iran's economy reformable without lifting the sanctions?

In a commentary, Sazandegi discussed the effects of sanctions on Iran's economy and the challenges facing the 14th government and wrote: Masoud Pezeshkian did not make any promises during the election campaign, but emphasizing the lifting of sanctions and reducing inflation were promises that he insisted on many times.

The promise of trying to lift the sanctions is important because less than a year is left until the expiration date of UN Security Council Resolution 2231. A resolution that was approved after the signing of the JCPOA, and based on it all 6 previous harsh resolutions against Iran were canceled. This issue is happening while the American elections are coming up and concerns have been raised for Donald Trump's administration and his anti-Iranian cabinet. Undoubtedly, economic sanctions have been one of the key factors that have affected the performance of Iran's economy in recent years. Economists say that it is impossible to imagine the growth of the economy without removing the economic sanctions, and as Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized in the economic debates, we have no chance to grow despite the sanctions.

## American human rights a source of shame: official

TEHRAN- The head of the National Security Commission of the Parliament declared the double standards of the Americans in human rights issues as a disgrace for the United States in the world.

According to ISNA, Ebrahim Azizi, the head of the National Security Committee of the Iranian Parliament, in a meeting on the examination of Western human rights, pointed out, "Today, America and the West, as claimants of human rights, are complicit in the killing of millions of people in the world."

Referring to the torture of prisoners and protesting people in America, he called

## Pezeshkian resignation from Parliament not needed: MP

TEHRAN- The spokesman of the presiding board of the parliament said that with the election of Masoud Pezeshkian as the president and the holding of the inauguration ceremony in August, there is no longer a need for symbolic resignation from the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

In recent days, some individuals had stated that before the inauguration of the president, a session to review the resignation of Masoud Pezeshkian from the parliament should be held. Alireza Salimi, a member of the presiding board of the parliament, rejected that and

## Donya-e-Eqtasad: The regional policy of the 14th government

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed the current status and position of Iran and the future diplomacy of the Pezeshkian government and wrote: With the slogan of de-escalation of tension and improvement of relations with neighbors, the victory of Masoud Pezeshkian has made the change or continuation of the neighborhood and regional policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran a topic of question for the media and foreign policy analysts these days. The Middle East is currently in a state of uncertainty. This means that the processes of de-escalation of tension between most of its actors have been launched and are being strengthened. Also, there are open issues and cases that, if not resolved, can destroy all efforts. The status of Iran's nuclear case and the defense pact between Saudi Arabia and the United States should be added to this list, which adds to the uncertainty even more. In this challenging situation, the foreign policy of the 14th government should be able to utilize the most emerging opportunities and neutralize and manage threats in the right direction. It is with such measures that it is possible to provide a suitable acting basis for Iran's regional position in the Middle East.

## Javan: The saboteurs have heard the message of Iran's elections!

In the weeks leading up to the presidential elections in Iran, Persian-language channels did their best to boycott the elections in Iran. However, it did not turn out as they imagined. They carried out two vulgar special operations. First, cyber-attacks on virtual activists who were advertising for their candidate, second, appearing in front of polling stations abroad and insulting voters. Since 2022, saboteur media have been talking about the imminent change of the political system of Iran, but it was the Islamic Republic that was able to establish its power, sovereignty, and authority. According to them, the people of Iran are only saboteurs, and tens of millions of people participating in the elections are no longer considered as people. but the final shot to the saboteurs in the matter of the recent elections was shot by an expert who participated in one of the discussions of BBC Persian, who said: "If we accept this assumption that the system guarantees its stability with more participation, this has happened." 50% participation was able to put such pressure on the anti-revolutionaries and a message of authority was sent to them from Iran.

Western human rights as a shameful example and emphasized that, "today we should not allow the Americans to take a human rights stance against Iran."

The chairman of the National Security Committee, emphasizing the crimes of the Americans in the region and the support for the Zionist regime in the massacre of the people of Gaza, stated that the establishment of a human rights committee in the Islamic Consultative Assembly can be useful in a more serious examination of human rights issues and understanding the weaknesses of Western human rights.

explained the issue.

The procedure regarding the election of the Leader and also Hashemi Rafsanjani as the president did not involve raising the issue of resignation in the parliament.

Also, after the people's vote and the inauguration ceremony, there is no longer need to raise the issue of symbolic resignation in the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Masoud Pezeshkian, the representative of the people of Tabriz in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, was elected as the president in the nationwide elections on July 5th.

Pezeshkian affirms support for Resistance in letter to Hezbollah chief

## Unbreakable bonds

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian who won the July 5 presidential elections has addressed Hezbollah's secretary-general in a letter, reiterating Iran's support for Resistance forces in the region.

In the letter released on Monday, Pezeshkian thanked Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah for his earlier congratulatory message, stating that Iran will continue to support the Axis of Resistance like it always has.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the resistance of the people in the region against the illegitimate Zionist regime.

The support for resistance is rooted in the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the ideals of Imam Khomeini, and the guidance of the esteemed Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and will continue with strength," he wrote.

Pezeshkian said he is confident in the capabilities of



the Resistance in countering the Israeli regime. "I am confident that the resistance movements in the region will not allow this regime to continue its warmongering and criminal policies against the oppressed people of Palestine and other nations in the region."

The president-elect concluded his remarks by wishing for the happiness and progress of the people of Lebanon, as well as God's assistance for Resistance fighters across the region.

Pezeshkian's letter to Nasrallah arrives amidst the backdrop of impending Israeli threats to invade Lebanon. The regime is

pressuring Hezbollah forces and the Lebanese people in southern Lebanon to move at least 10 kilometers away from the border with the occupied territories. The demand comes in response to Hezbollah's ongoing support for Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, which has seen the resistance group launch attacks on Israeli military positions over the past nine months.

However, Hezbollah has refused this demand, saying it will not vacate the border area, nor will it cease its attack against Israel until the regime's brutal war in Gaza comes to an end.

In recent weeks, multiple

Iranian officials have stated that Tehran will support Hezbollah in every way possible if the regime decides to initiate an attack on the Arab country. Warnings were issued by advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Kamal Kharazi, as well as high-ranking Army and IRGC officials.

Certain analysts in Israel and Zionist circles in the West had hoped that a reformist candidate's win in Iran's recent snap presidential elections could result in reduced backing for Resistance groups.

This optimism stemmed from leaked documents and audio recordings revealing past statements by some reformist figures suggesting that Iran should lessen its support for Resistance forces to smooth the path toward reconciliation with Washington.

Pezeshkian's letter to Hezbollah's chief dashed those hopes, as the incoming president appears to be maintaining his earlier stance that Iran's backing of the Resistance is essential and advantageous.

## Senior commander praises technological advancements in Iran's Army Aviation

TEHRAN – Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari, Commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force, highlighted the advanced capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army Aviation, declaring it a "strategic unit" at the forefront of technology.

Speaking at a ceremony on Monday honoring the martyrs of Iran's Army Aviation, General Heidari noted the significant improvements in the unit's weapons and equipment since the 1980s Iran-Iraq war.

"The Army Aviation now boasts cutting-edge technology, with weapons and specialized equipment far surpassing those of the Iran-Iraq war era," General Heidari stated.

He continued: "Today, Army Aviation is at the forefront of technology. All of our aircraft now have night navigation and flight capabilities, which we lacked during the Iran-Iraq war."

General Heidari also emphasized the unit's enhanced offensive capabilities and the ongoing efforts to mechanize its navigation systems.

The Commander of the Army's Ground Force emphasized: "Today, Army Aviation's missiles are long-range, with a reach of 20 kilometers. We have now equipped Army Aviation with strategic missiles that have a range of 200 kilometers, compared to the 3-kilometer range of our missiles during the Sacred Defense. This demonstrates a significant advancement."

He added: "Army Aviation has evolved from a tactical unit into a strategic force. We have made significant strides in mechanizing the navigation systems of our aircraft, greatly enhancing Army Aviation's offensive capabilities."

## Army Aviation to prioritize modernization, technological advancement

Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard,

Commander of the Army's Air Defense Force, announced a comprehensive plan to equip, optimize, and enhance the efficiency of the defense units' weapon systems, alongside significant upgrades to the drone capabilities of the Air Defense Force.

During a recent meeting with operational, technical, and logistical personnel at the Air Defense Force headquarters, General Sabahifard emphasized the importance of strengthening defense coverage across Iran's diverse and expansive geography.

He highlighted that the design and development of advanced defense weapon systems and equipment are key priorities for the current year.

To achieve these goals, he stressed the need to leverage all available resources, including the armed forces, defense science experts from universities, knowledge-based companies, and allied countries.

Despite facing stringent international sanctions, General Sabahifard noted that the Air Defense Force's achievements and capabilities have consistently grown and advanced.

He expressed optimism that the eventual lifting of sanctions and the exchange of technical and military knowledge would allow Iran to share its scientific and technical advancements with other nations.

Addressing the necessity of identifying threats to defense systems and critical points, General Sabahifard outlined a strategic approach to improve information-gathering systems. This approach aims to save manpower and facilitate efficient information transfer within the Air Defense Force.

He further elaborated that by conserving manpower, upgrading modern defense systems—especially in remote and difficult-



to-access areas—and providing thorough training while utilizing the expertise of defense veterans, the Air Defense Force can achieve significant milestones in enhancing its capabilities.

General Sabahifard reiterated that the ongoing efforts to equip, optimize, update, and enhance the efficiency of the defense units' weapon systems, as well as to upgrade drone capabilities in response to perceived threats, are focused on achieving self-sufficiency and reducing dependency on external sources.

This drive for localization is seen as crucial in bolstering Iran's defense infrastructure against any future challenges.

In recent years, Iranian military specialists and engineers have achieved notable advancements in producing a diverse array of domestically developed equipment, fostering self-reliance within the armed forces.

Officials from Iran affirm their commitment to enhancing the nation's military capabilities, particularly in missile technology, emphasizing their defensive nature.

Iran unequivocally states that negotiations will not affect its defense capabilities. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, consistently emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing Iran's defense capabilities.

## 'They stripped me naked and beat me': Hamid Nouri recounts 1,680 days of hell in Swedish prison

He reported this incident to the Swedish judge during one of his hearings, but his pleas were met with complete disregard.

Nouri described the deliberate deprivation of basic necessities, including the denial of a pen for two and a half years. "After persistent requests, I was finally granted a single pen that was so worn and unusable it made writing an arduous task," he stated.

For 25 months, Nouri was denied contact with his family, and even after seven months of enforced isolation, phone calls with his wife were restricted to mere ten-minute intervals.

The Iranian national was also denied medical aid when was having issues with his hearing and vision after getting beaten by Swedish guards, he said during the interview.

According to previous revelations by Nouri's lawyer, the Iranian citizen broke the record for the longest solitary confinement in Swedish history during his detention, spending 1,295 days alone in a 7-square-meter cell.

Nouri was arrested in 2019 by Swedish police upon his arrival at Stockholm Airport based on complaints filed by the Mujahideen-



e-Khalq terror organization.

The MKO is responsible for the killing of over 17,000 Iranian citizens and officials during the 1980s.

Its members now live in exile and are scattered across Western countries. It was once recognized as a terrorist group internationally, but Western states pushed for its removal from the list of terror organizations after they figured they could use the group to carry out their anti-Iran operations.

In July 2022 Nouri was sentenced to life in prison based on allegations put forth by the MKO. The terrorist group claimed the ex-judiciary official was involved in the executions of its members in the 1980s.

While the rationale behind Western criticism of Iran's execution of terrorists involved in heinous bloody attacks against its citizens remains a topic of debate, Nouri vehemently denied any involvement in the trials of MKO members, describing the accusations against him as "fabrications."

During the interview with Iranian media, Nouri also provided details on his court hearings, explaining how he was denied the right to a fair defense. "The legal process felt like a pre-written farce.

I was denied the opportunity to defend myself, and the Swedish judicial system only considered the statements of the lawyer, ignoring my own arguments. It's important to note that this lawyer was appointed by the prosecutor, who was also the complainant in my case," he revealed.

The ex-Judiciary official noted that his trial too, set a record in Swedish legal history with a total of 131 court sessions held.

Nouri was released from Swedish jail last month and was immediately brought back to Iran.

# Pezeshkian pledges enhanced cooperation in calls with Russia's Putin, Turkey's Erdogan

TEHRAN – Masoud Pezeshkian, the newly elected President of Iran, has received congratulatory phone calls from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin, signaling a continuation and potential expansion of Iran's strategic partnerships.

In his conversation with Erdogan, Pezeshkian reaffirmed the deep-rooted relationship between Iran and Turkey. Erdogan expressed Turkey's commitment to further strengthening ties in diverse fields during Pezeshkian's presidency.

Both leaders discussed mutual relations and regional and international developments. Pezeshkian's call with Putin focused on the importance of



Iran-Russia relations.

He emphasized his commitment to implementing agreements signed during the previous administration of the late Ebrahim Raisi and further expanding cooperation.

The president-elect underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration in regional and international organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and the Eurasian Economic

Union. Pezeshkian highlighted the finalization of documents for a comprehensive Iran-Russia cooperation agreement, poised for imminent signing. Putin expressed congratulations and best wishes for Pezeshkian's presidency, while both leaders agreed to establish personal contact within the year.

They also underscored the strong bilateral relationship based on good neighborliness and reaffirmed their dedication to bolstering cooperation across various sectors.

Pezeshkian emerged victorious during the runoff presidential elections held on July 5, with 53.7 percent of the vote.

## Russia ready to enhance cooperation with Iran across all sectors: Envoy

TEHRAN – Russia is looking forward to continued and growing cooperation with Iran under its new administration, according to Alexey Dedov, the Russian Ambassador to Iran.

"We congratulate the people and leadership of the Islamic Republic on the successful election," Dedov stated in an interview with TASS. "We expect that under the new cabinet, Russian-Iranian constructive cooperation will continue to grow on all tracks. The Russian side is fully ready for this," he emphasized.

Dedov noted that the recent election was conducted smoothly overall. He also mentioned that foreign dignitaries are expected to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian.

The second round of Iran's snap presidential election, necessitated by the tragic death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash, was held on July 5. Masoud Pezeshkian, a veteran parliamentarian and former health minister, emerged victorious with 53.6% of the vote, defeating principalist candidate Saeed Jalili, who

received 44.3%.

Russia's readiness to enhance cooperation with Iran spans various sectors, highlighting the strong bilateral relationship between the two nations. The new administration in Iran is expected to foster this cooperation further, building on the established foundation and addressing mutual interests.

On June 11, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to finalizing a comprehensive long-term cooperation agreement with Iran. During a press conference at the conclusion of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, Lavrov confirmed that the process is progressing as planned.

"Despite the draft text of the state cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia being fully agreed upon, it cannot yet be signed," Lavrov noted. The agreement still requires approval from the presidents of both countries. "The signing on the Iranian side necessitates completing certain legal procedures related to the contract's contents."

Lavrov emphasized that these procedures

are currently pending but assured that Moscow reaffirmed its commitment to the agreement during a meeting with Iran's interim Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani. "Signing this agreement will elevate Tehran-Moscow relations to a significantly new level," Lavrov stated.

Baqeri Kani, in an interview on June 12 on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, pointed out that Iran and Russia are neighboring countries with historical relations. "In recent years, the relations between the two countries have increased, and both countries share similar challenges and threats, promoting several opportunities for cooperation," he said.

The strategic agreement between Iran and Russia is seen as a pivotal step in strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation in various fields. The ongoing negotiations and coordination efforts underscore the importance both nations place on formalizing their strategic partnership. As the process moves forward, the anticipation is that the finalized agreement will significantly boost diplomatic and econs

## Backing Lebanon against threats a principle for Iran: spox

From Page 1 ▶ In that situation, we would have no choice, but to support Hezbollah by all means," Kharazi said during an interview with the Financial Times, adding that "the expansion of war is not in the interest of anyone — not Iran or the U.S."

Israeli officials have issued threats of a major military operation against Lebanon, warning of a return to "the stone age" unless Hezbollah and residents of southern Lebanon relocate to an area beyond the Litani River, 10 kilometers from the Lebanese border with the occupied territories. The ultimatum follows months of attacks on Israeli military positions by Hezbollah, which has vowed to continue striking Israel until the regime ends its brutal war in Gaza.

Analysts believe Israel faces several significant hurdles in launching an incursion into Lebanon, which it wouldn't be able to tackle without direct help from Washington.

### Iran's presidential elections held abroad

Kanaani also addressed several issues related to the voting procedures during the two rounds

of Iran's snap presidential elections on June 28 and July 5 outside the country, including the harassment of Iranian voters abroad by anti-Iran groups associated with Israel, monarchists, separatists, and terrorists.

"All Iranians are citizens of this country; Iranians abroad are a capital for the nation." Despite challenges faced by Iranians residing outside the country, Kanaani commended their determination to exercise their rights during the recent elections.

Commenting on Canada's refusal to facilitate elections for Iranians within its borders, Kanaani criticized the move, stating, "It is regrettable that a country which often likes to posture as a defender of human rights has deprived a large number of Iranians residing there of using their rights." He highlighted diplomatic efforts to enable Iranians in Canada to participate in the electoral process, which were unfortunately to no avail.

Regarding Washington's reaction to Iran's elections, Kanaani described it as interventionist and reflective of

hostile policies towards Iran. "We expect the United States of America to respect the democratic process in Iran. Regarding other countries, Iran's principle is interaction with the world. We believe constructive interaction can secure mutual interests. Iran continues its interactive approach with countries worldwide within its system's framework," he explained.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson reportedly told an anti-Iran media outlet based in Washington that Iran's elections are not "fair and free." The spokesperson did not specify any reason for their claim.

### Iran-U.S. diplomatic channels open

Elsewhere in his remarks, the spokesman confirmed that diplomatic channels between Iran and the United States remain open. "The diplomatic channels between Iran and the U.S. are open and the process of negotiations is in progress. Its details will be published in due time," he stated.

Kanaani also highlighted the Iranian Foreign Ministry's

commitment to protecting the nation's interests, stating that the outgoing administration, established by the late President Ebrahim Raisi, will continue to operate within designated frameworks until the end of its term.

Concerning President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian's campaign pledge to terminate sanctions, Kanaani emphasized that any agreements would require mutual cooperation. However, he affirmed Iran's commitment to safeguarding its national interests through all available means.

The diplomat underscored Iran's rational foreign policy approach, characterized by prudence and dignity, and highlighted the country's participation in multilateral mechanisms and cooperation with various countries as crucial factors in strengthening its bargaining power during diplomatic negotiations. He expressed confidence that the incoming administration will utilize all resources to achieve Iran's national interests and leverage past successes.

## Taremi posts emotional farewell to Porto fans

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi greeted Porto fans with an emotional farewell post as he prepares to finalize his transfer to Inter Milan.

The Iranian has already reached an agreement to join the Nerazzurri as a free agent several months ago.

Taremi saw out his contract with the Iberians, so he's now free to sign for the Beneamata on a Bosman deal.

"As my final season with Porto comes to an end, I would like to thank my coaches, teammates and the entire staff for their tireless work," posted Taremi on his Instagram account.

"As for the fans, you are truly special. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to wear this shirt and play for this great club.

"We spent four fantastic seasons together and it was undoubtedly the best moment of my career.

"We won and lost together. I will never forget the happy memories of winning the Primeira Liga championship and the Portuguese Cup. We did it together as one club.

"I feel fortunate to have been able to play in a stadium like the Estádio do Dragão. Your constant and unconditional support, the passion and the unforgettable atmosphere you created at every match will stay with me forever.

"Dragao will always be my home. Thank you for giving me a sense of belonging. You will always have a special place in my heart.

"I leave this club with a heavy and nostalgic heart, but also with a feeling of accomplishment for having given my all in these four years spent together.

"I will take with me many special memories and fantastic moments on and off the pitch.

"It has been a great pleasure to be part of the Porto family and I wish all the members of the club good luck for the future. I will continue to be a Porto fan forever."

The Iran international will join Inter's attacking department which includes Lautaro Martinez, Marcus Thuram and Marko Arnautovic.

## Esteghlal Khuzestan defender Roberto pens contract extension

TEHRAN – Brazilian defender Savio Roberto has penned a two-year deal extension with Esteghlal Khuzestan.

He played 13 matches for the Iranian team and scored two goals.

Roberto joined Esteghlal Khuzestan from Finnish club Vaasan Palloseura in January and helped the Blues escape relegation from Iran Professional League (IPL).

Esteghlal Khuzestan will start the 2024-25 IPL season under leadership of Montenegrin coach Miodrag Bozovic.

## Iran down Turkmenistan at 2024 CAFA U20 Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Turkmenistan 3-0 at the 2024 CAFA U20 Championship opener Sunday night.

Yousef Mazraeh, Alireza Homaeifard and Reza Ghandipour were on target for Hossein Abdi's team. The Persians will then meet Uzbekistan in Group B on Tuesday.

Group A consists of Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The 2024 CAFA U20 Championship is the upcoming 2nd edition of the Championship, the international youth football championship organized by Central Asian Football Association for the men's under-20 national teams of Central Asia. Kyrgyzstan hosts the tournament from July 5 to 12.

A total of six teams play in the tournament, with players born on or after 1 January 2004 eligible to

participate. It will be the first CAFA tournament to implement video assistant referees (VAR).

Uzbekistan are the defending champions being crowned champions of the inaugural edition.

## Iran U18 basketball fall to Turkey at 2024 Kalleh Cup

TEHRAN – Iran U18 basketball team lost to Turkey 96-93 in three-team 2024 Kalleh Cup on Sunday.

Iran had lost to Russia 81-65 on Saturday in Tehran's Azadi Hall.

The tournament is being held in Tehran from July 6 to 8.

Russia and Turkey will lock horns for title on Monday.

## Ghorbani becomes first Iranian woman to referee a men's match

TEHRAN – Mahsa Ghorbani officiated the match between Tajikistan and Afghanistan in the 2024 CAFA U20 Championship.

She is the first Iranian woman to officiate a men's football match.

Veronika Bernatskaia from Kyrgyzstan also officiated the match between Iran and Turkmenistan, where the Persians won the match 3-0.

International referee Ghorbani has previously officiated in the AFC Women's Asian Cup and 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

## Lee Do-hee to lead Iran women's volleyball team

TEHRAN – South Korean coach Lee Do-hee has reached an agreement to lead Iran's women's volleyball team.

Lee Do-hee, 56, will travel to Tehran in mid-July to finalize her deal.

She has worked as head coach in Suwon Hyundai E&C Hillstate team.

Slovenian coach Majda Leban Cicic was named Iran coach in 2016 and Italy's Alessandra Campedelli took charge of the Iranian team in 2022.

The Iran Volleyball Federation is committed to raising the level of its women's national volleyball team.

FIVB wants to help accelerate the teams' development via the revolutionary program of Volleyball Empowerment.

## Iranian-Swedish coach Asbaghi takes charge of Al Rayyan

TEHRAN – Al Rayyan Club officially announced the appointment of Iranian-Swedish coach Poya Asbaghi for the new season.

He has replaced Portuguese Leonardo Jardim.

In a statement, the club said that Asbaghi has become coach of Al Rayyan starting next season (2024-2025).

Asbaghi was the coach of Al Shamal last season, where he managed the team to ninth place in the Qatari league with 25 points.

Al Rayyan's contract with the coach comes after the club announced at the end of last month that it had terminated its contract with Portuguese coach Jardim by mutual consent.

Al Rayyan ranked second in the Qatari League club standings last season with 47 points and reached the final match in the Qatar Cup, where they lost 1-0 to Al Wakrah.

Asbaghi previously coached the Swedish clubs Dalsud between 2016 and 2017, Gefli for a few months, and Gottjöberg, which he managed for a total of 78 matches. He also coached the Swedish under-21 national team, and his last experience outside Qatar was with the English club Barnsley.

## Iranian, Chinese media forge ties in Qinghai with new plans for enhanced cooperation

Tehran – Last week, a joint meeting between Iranian and Chinese media professionals took place in Xining, the capital of Qinghai province, signaling a push for strengthening bilateral relations.

During the meeting, Xiuli Ying, Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province, emphasized the crucial role of media in fostering friendly cooperation between the two nations. She highlighted the recent expansion of ties between Iran and China, based on the "new concept of comprehensive strategic partnership." Ying was pointing to the Iran-China 25-year Cooperation

Plan signed in 2021, which aims to further the development of Iran-China relations.

The Chinese official mentioned the recent visit of Qinghai's governor to Iran, particularly to Ardebil Province, where a bilateral agreement was signed. This agreement, she said, serves as a foundation for deepening practical cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement outlines collaboration in various sectors, including Tibetan carpets, potatoes, corn oil, and crop planting. Ying also emphasized Qinghai's expertise in environmental protection and clean energy, expressing hope for

fruitful outcomes in these areas and the rapid development of the green industry.

An Iranian expert from the Center for Public and Media Diplomacy echoed the sentiment, highlighting the long history of peaceful relations between Iran and China. He underscored the cultural and social complexities shared between the two nations, often misunderstood by Western observers.

The meeting concluded with a shared understanding that media plays a vital role in promoting and expanding bilateral cooperation between Iran and China, paving the way for enhanced collaboration in diverse fields.

## 387km of rail lines inaugurated across Iran in a year

TEHRAN - The managing director of Iran's Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company (CDTIC) said some 387 kilometers of railway lines have been inaugurated across the country over the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Kheirollah Khademi, over 820 kilometers of railways are also going to be completed and put into operation in the current Iranian calendar year, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Stating that 3,081 kilometers of railway lines are currently under construction across the country, the official said: "Good measures are being followed in the country's rail corridors and we hope to achieve good results."

Khademi further noted that some 236 kilometers of freeways and 2015 kilometers of main roads were also inaugurated in the previous year.

Back in June, Head of the Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI) Majid Salehi said with the inauguration of three rail lines in the provinces of Yazd and Isfahan, the total length of rail lines inaugurated during the administration of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi reached 800 kilometers.

According to Salehi, connecting the large industrial and mineral centers to the rail lines has many advantages, adding that assuring the transportation of agricultural raw materials, reducing traffic congestion and accidents, and also reducing fuel consumption are among the important advantages of the development of the rail lines.

## Transit via Iran's roads rises 70% in 3 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The transit of commodities through the roads of Iran increased by 70 percent in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) compared to the previous year's corresponding period, according to Head of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) Darioush Amani.

Speaking in a press conference on Monday, Amani said some 4.5 million tons of goods were transited via Iran's roads in the mentioned three months, IRNA reported.

According to the official, a total of 147 million tons of goods were transited via Iranian roads in the previous year which was significantly higher than the previous years.

"Last year, 515 million tons of goods were also transported across the country, which was a 10 percent increase compared to the preceding year," he said.

The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional, and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the 13th government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors.

As stated by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

As previously announced by the Transport Ministry, 10.8 million tons of commodities

## Tehran hosting intl. exhibition of pipes, fittings, sanitary valves

TEHRAN- The 9th International Exhibition of Pipes, Fittings, Sanitary Valves, Bath, Sauna & Related Industries and Services of Iran (PIVEX) opened on Monday in Tehran.

As reported, 138 Iranian companies and 10 foreign companies from 10 countries are taking part in the four-day exhibit which is held

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

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

It was launched in a ceremony to be attended by Iran's Acting President Mohammad Mokhber, Transport Minister Bazrpash, Aide to the President of the Russian Federation Igor Levitin, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Shahin Mustafayev, Governor of Astrakhan Oblast Igor Babushkin and the ambassadors of the neighboring countries.

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

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

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

were transited through the country in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

This year, the issue of transit and playing a role in major programs such as those related to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is one of the main priorities of the Transport Ministry in developing transport relations with regional and extra-regional target countries, the deputy transport minister noted.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world, and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran, and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

at the Tehran Permanent International Fair-ground.

Companies from China, Turkey, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and Finland are showcasing their latest products and achievements in this international event.

# Carry forward 'Shanghai Spirit', Open up a new chapter of cooperation

From page 1 ► and build the organization into a reliable backbone for common prosperity and revitalization of its member states. This summit helped build more consensus, opened up a new chapter of cooperation and contributes to the security, stability, development and prosperity of all countries and to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

The number of SCO has become 10 after 23 years of its establishment. Together with its observer states and dialogue partners, the SCO "big family" are covering 26 countries on three continents around the world, the foundation for SCO cooperation has become more solid.

The SCO has become a comprehensive regional organization that covers the largest population and area in the world.

The member states have upheld the "Shanghai Spirit" of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect



for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development.

President Xi Jinping stressed that, we need to bear in mind that we live in a community with a shared future, and always uphold the Shanghai Spirit.

We need to stay firmly on the development paths that suit our respective national conditions and regional realities, and jointly build a more promising home of the SCO so that our peoples can live a peaceful, successful and happy life.

People from all walks of life

in Iran responded positively, reckoning that President Xi Jinping's statement pointed out the direction for the future development of the SCO and helped promote the building of closer SCO community with a shared future.

China and Iran are both important developing countries and both adhere to true multilateralism. Since Iran successfully joined the SCO one year ago, it has actively participated in various cooperation under the SCO framework and achieved fruitful

results.

Iran's joining to the SCO has injected new vitality into it, which is in line with the expectations of the international community and the common interests of emerging market countries and developing countries.

After the Astana summit, China will assume the rotating presidency of the SCO for 2024-2025. China stands ready to work with Iran and other SCO partners under the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind, enhance solidarity and mutual trust, build consensus on cooperation, expand cooperation across the board, actively participate in global governance, and advance the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative to contribute more SCO strength to the lasting peace and common prosperity of the world.

## Iran's quarterly exports to Iraq up 27% on year

From page 1 ► Based on the statistics released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported \$2.346 billion worth of non-oil products to Iraq in the first three months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21 to June 22, 2023), the official said.

Iran imported \$107 million worth of goods during the three months to June 20, showing a 25 percent increase compared to last year (\$85 million), according to Piltan.

Precious metals, aluminum alloys, tires, automobiles, and home appliances were among the main imported goods from Iraq during the period.

According to the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization (PBO), the Islamic Republic exports products valued at \$12 billion to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting titled "Reviewing



opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain" in early January, Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq have increased 15-fold over the past 20

years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 billion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc.

are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

## Iran-Pakistan border trade committee opens in Zahedan

TEHRAN- The 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee of Iran and Pakistan opened in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan on Monday, where the two sides pursue the increase of bilateral trade to \$10 billion per annum.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, who attends the meeting online, announced that Iranian and Pakistani delegations are scheduled to discuss the mechanism to increase mutual trade.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general in Quetta, Pakistan's consul general in Zahedan, and other senior officials of Sistan-Baluchestan province took part in the meeting.

Such joint meetings are held to pave the way for reviewing obstacles, removing barriers, and developing trade and economic relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

The two sides make the necessary coordination to help improve trade and economic ties, exchange economic delegations, organize joint exhibitions, attract bilateral investment, and establish joint industrial centers and retail markets.

The head of the Pakistani delegation to the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee said that Islamabad strongly supports the development of joint markets and investment, which can increase the level of trust between the two nations.

Irfan Javed added that Paki-

stan also calls for cooperation in the field of transportation because it can affect the livelihood of the people who are living in border regions.

The deputy coordinator of economic affairs of Sistan-Baluchestan governor's office said that Iran is keen on expanding trade exchanges with Pakistan.

Davoud Shahraiki added that the relationship between the two countries is historic and long-standing.

On June 30, Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu said that facilities at two border points between the two countries have been beefed up as part of efforts to facilitate trade and trips by passengers.

"Absolutely delighted to share that to facilitate Zaireen, business community and promote bilateral trade- immigration facilities at Taftan and Gabd border have been substantially beefed up. Now almost 4-6,000 passengers can cross both points everyday", the ambassador said on his X account.

He also said in his post on X, formerly Twitter, that relations between Iran and Pakistan "see promising future".

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to Pakistan in the first four months of 2024 has reached \$360 million, showing an 18 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

The Pakistani Ministry of Commerce's statistics show that Pa-

kistan has imported \$360 million in products from Iran in the first four months of 2024, 18 percent higher than in January-April 2023.

Pakistan's import of products from Iran in April 2024 has hit \$73.2 million, registering a 30 percent growth compared to the same month last year.

The value of Iran's exports to Pakistan totaled \$944 million in 2023, indicating a 13 percent rise compared to a year earlier.

In a meeting between the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu in Tehran in late June, the officials stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade to materialize a \$10 billion trade target.

Noting that Tehran and Islamabad can cooperate in different areas including pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, energy, auto parts, techno-engineering services, and electronics, he said that the ground is also prepared for cooperation on health tourism.

Hassanzadeh further stressed that an agreement for activating a joint trade council between the two neighboring countries is still in place.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce president said that the two countries have had many talks on the launch of a barter trade system while no practical step has been taken.

He called on the Pakistani government to ease visa requirements for Iranian businesspeople.

The Pakistani ambassador, for his part, referred to his country's agreement with the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi for increasing bilateral trade to \$10 billion, adding that Islamabad continues to pursue this agreement.

The Pakistani government has decided for the joint border customs to work round the clock, the ambassador said, adding that it would be very effective if Iran also decides to do so.

He noted that the trade balance is one of the main obstacles on the way of trade between the two neighbors, as he said Iran's exports to Pakistan stand at \$1.6 billion while Pakistan's exports to Iran are so insignificant.

He believed that the exercise of free trade rests upon win-win connections.

The ambassador added that if the Iran Chamber of Commerce recommends businesspersons to the embassy, there would be no problem with the issuance of visas for traders.

# Smotrich living in cloud cuckoo land

From page 1 ▶ It is believed that 120 captives remain in Gaza after more than 100 of them were released as part of a November ceasefire deal.

Israel has already concluded that dozens of the remaining captives are dead, and there are fears that the number will grow as the war drags on.

Most of them have lost their lives in Israeli strikes against the Gaza Strip.

Israeli protesters say the continuation of the war will endanger the lives of the captives.

They accuse Netanyahu, known as Bibi, of putting his political survival ahead of the lives of the captives.

## Bibi abandoning captives

On Sunday, protesters gathered outside Netanyahu's residence calling for a ceasefire deal with Hamas.

The protesters said they have been "held captive by Netanyahu".

They chanted, "Bibi is abandoning the hostages. We won't agree to the abandonment of the hostages".

The protests turned violent amid clashes with police.

Reports suggest several people were detained and a number of others were injured.

The mass protest movement comes against the backdrop of efforts to broker a truce mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar that gained momentum a week earlier.

## Wishful thinker



Nonetheless, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich continues to beat the drums of war.

Smotrich, who heads a pro-settler party which is part of Netanyahu's coalition, said on Monday it would be a huge mistake to stop the onslaught on Gaza.

He also wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, "Hamas is collapsing and begging for a ceasefire. This is the time to squeeze the neck until we crush and break the enemy."

He added, "To stop now, just before the end, and let them recover to fight us again is a senseless folly that will take the achievements of the war bought with much blood down the drain."

"We must continue until victory!"

His comments could be looked at from different angles.

First of all, Netanyahu has repeatedly stressed that he would

continue the Gaza war until "destroying" Hamas and achieving "total victory" over the resistance group.

It stands out a mile that Israel's decision to reach a ceasefire deal with Hamas is an admission that Netanyahu has failed to deliver on his promise.

Hence, the "victory" call made by Smotrich, could claim the lives of more Israeli forces in the Gaza battlefield.

The Israeli army's total deaths since October 7 have jumped to 680.

Likewise, the far-right minister has touched upon Israel's achievements since October 7.

Hamas has become stronger over the past months.

It has put up resistance in the battlefield and dealt crushing blows to Israeli troops.

As a result, his comments that Hamas is "collapsing and begging for a ceasefire" is a foolish delusion.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that they are Palestinian resistance fighters who have squeezed the neck of Israeli forces and crushed the bogus and apartheid regime.

Since early October, the Israeli army has butchered about 38,200 Palestinians in Gaza; many of them women and children. Israel could only call the slaughter of civilians an achievement!

Israel has been able to continue the Gaza war through the support of Western countries, in particular the United States.

The US support for ceasefire also indicates that the White House is fully aware that its protégé, Israel, is incapable of eliminating Hamas.

The Palestinian resilience has sent shockwaves not only through the United States but also Israel.

Protesters in Israel are currently concerned that they could be consumed by the flames of growing Palestinian resistance against decades-long occupation and atrocious crimes of the Zionist regime.

## Israeli army losses rise amid Gaza genocide

### Abu Ubaida: Hamas' fighting capabilities stronger than ever

From page 1 ▶ Meanwhile, the Palestinian resistance continues to defend the enclave against the invading forces, engaging in fierce clashes and carrying out a series of operations on multiple combat fronts, inflicting significant losses on the Israeli military.

The Palestinian resistance said it is confronting the IOF and executing a series of operations across Gaza, increasing the number of casualties among the Israeli army since October 7, 2023.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, announced it has targeted a Merkava 4 tank and an Israeli armored personnel carrier with Yasin 105 shells, in the Tel Sultan neighborhood in Rafah city, southern Gaza.

Additionally, the al-Qassam Brigades targeted a Merkava 4 tank with a "Shawath" improvised explosive device.

The brigades also targeted a Merkava 4 tank with a Yasin 105 shell at Baghdad Street in the Shejaiya neighborhood, east of Gaza City.

The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), the al-Quds Brigades, announced that it is engaging in fierce battles with Israeli soldiers using appropriate anti-armor and anti-tank weapons in areas west of Rafah.

The al-Quds Brigades also targeted Israeli soldiers stationed at the Rafah crossing gate with Egypt and its surroundings, as well as Israeli troops and vehicles advancing in the Shejaiya neighborhood, with mortar shells.

In a joint operation with the al-Nasser Salah al-Deen Brigades, the military wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, the armed wing of PIJ, targeted Israeli military formations at the Nahal Oz military site with a rocket barrage.

Meanwhile, the martyrs of al-Aqsa Brigades declared it was engaged in fierce battles with Israeli forces and their military vehicles using appropriate weapons on the western outskirts of Rafah.

Reuters reported that the IOF is again attacking Gaza City in what residents say is one of the heaviest attacks since October 7, in yet another sign of the Israeli military's ongoing failures in northern Gaza.

This comes as the spokesman for the al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Ubaida, said the Israeli occupation will "emerge defeated and we will reveal later how we deceived it for years".

Hamas published the video of Abu Ubaida from inside the Gaza Strip to mark nine months since the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian territory started.

In a recorded speech, Abu Ubaida, emphasized that the people of Gaza continue to be subjected to genocide as "punishment for adherence to their land and their right to resist, without food or medicine".

He added that independent opinion polls show, after months of non-stop daily Israeli bombardments and massacres, how Gazans continue to rally behind the armed resistance.

Abu Ubaida stressed that operation al-Aqsa Storm was not the beginning of history for the resistance or the occupation's aggression, but rather represented a moment of explosion against its decades-old war crimes.

He highlighted how the Palestinian resistance is still fighting fiercely for nine months and facing the occupation as "we promised on the first day of the aggression, with great combat spirit".

He said "we fight an army that uses civilians as human shields, bombards homes, desecrates hospitals, schools, mosques, churches, and historical sites."

He pointed out that all this happens in full view of the world, which "has seen through the occupation's war crimes in Gaza, the lack of any action by international organizations and the failure of alleged human rights laws."

On the battleground, Abu Ubaida stressed that the 24 brigades affiliated with Hamas's military wing fought from Beit Hanoun in the north to Rafah in the far south, presenting martyrs from soldiers and leaders from all levels, but the resistance will never surrender saying "the flag will not fall".

Abu Ubaida noted that the ongoing battle in Rafah for two months and what is happening in Shejaiya and northern Gaza and its center are the best evidence of the re-

sistance's strength and the failure of the occupation, which "continues to receive painful blows wherever it advances within the Strip."

Abu Ubaida revealed that al-Qassam Brigades managed to recruit thousands of new fighters during the war, reassuring that its human capabilities are in good shape.

He affirmed that the Gaza resistance has strengthened its defensive capabilities to confront the occupation everywhere in the besieged enclave.

Abu Ubaida pledged that south of Gaza City, will be "terrifying for the occupation, and its forces will emerge defeated from it".

In his speech, the spokesperson for the al-Qassam Brigades also addressed the Israeli public and the families of Israeli captives in Gaza, saying that "the absolute victory that [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu speaks of is a personal victory at the expense of sacrificing your sons".

He continued, in his message to the Israelis, that the fate of the captives has become a toy in Netanyahu's hands.

Abu Ubaida concluded his speech with what he described as a "salute of duty" to Hezbollah in Lebanon and to the resistance in Yemen and Iraq, affirming that these fronts united to support occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) and "the collective conscience of our nation is aligned with this resistance".

In conclusion, Abu Ubaida reassured the Palestinian people and their resistance that the battle to defend Gaza will only lead to significant transformations, affirming that the inevitable outcome of resistance will be victory and the defeat of the occupation.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Nearly 200 UNRWA employees killed in Gaza

At least 196 UNRWA workers have been killed in Gaza since the start of Israel's war, according to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini said more than 50 percent of the agency's institutions have been destroyed and more than 500 people have been killed trying to seek refuge in these UN institutions, Al Jazeera reported.

At least 16 people were killed and 75 wounded in an Israeli strike on an UNRWA-run school on Saturday in Gaza City.

### Nearly 9,600 arrested in West Bank since Oct. 7

Israeli forces arrested 30 Palestinians throughout the West Bank late on Sunday, that's according to a statement by the Commission of Detainees Affairs and Prisoners Club.

The statement said the arrests were accompanied by a campaign of fear and also destruction of Palestinian properties.

It noted that the latest arrests brought the number of Palestinians who have been detained in the West Bank since October 7 to 9,580.

Tensions have been high across the West Bank since Israel launched its genocidal war on Gaza more than nine months ago. The war has killed about 38,200 Palestinians.

The Palestinian Health Ministry says at least 570 people, including 136 children, have since been killed and more than 5,350 others injured by Israeli army fire in the West Bank.

### Palestinian child dies of malnutrition in Gaza

Medical sources announced the death of a six-year-old Palestinian child due to starvation and dehydration, bringing the number of victims of malnutrition in the Gaza Strip to 41, Wafa news agency reported.

Earlier, medical sources announced that 50 children in the northern Gaza Strip are suffering from malnutrition.

Additionally, medical sources at Kamal Adwan Hospital reported symptoms of malnutrition in more than 200 children in the Gaza Strip. They warned of a humanitarian catastrophe facing northern Gaza due to looming famine.

The residents of northern Gaza, numbering around 700,000, are suffering from severe shortages of food and vegetables due to Israel's continued closure of the border crossings and the halt of aid truck deliveries to the north. According to local officials and international organizations, this situation is bringing back the specter of famine over northern Gaza.

On May 7th, Israel's military seized control of the Rafah border crossing between Gaza and Egypt, which further exacerbated the catastrophe.

### Pyongyang: Seoul using tensions as political distraction

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, accused South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol of generating tensions on the Korean peninsula to divert attention from problems at home, state media said on Monday.

Tensions between the two Koreas are run-

ning high after Pyongyang signed a mutual defense pact with Russia and sent trash-filled balloons over to South Korea in response to South Korean activists' balloon launches with anti-North Korea leaflets, Reuters reported.

"The Yoon and his group, plunged into the worst ruling crisis, are attempting an 'emergency escape' through the platform of ever-escalating tensions," Kim Yo Jong said, according to KCNA.

She cited an online petition calling for Yoon to be impeached, with more than 1 million signatures.

Kim Yo Jong also called South's recent firing drills near the border an "inexcusable and explicit provocation".

The South Korean military has resumed live-fire artillery drills near the western maritime border in late June, the first time since 2018.

Last month, South Korea said it would suspend a military agreement signed with North Korea in 2018 aimed at easing tensions, in protest against North Korea's trash balloon launches toward the South.

### China: Ukraine ceasefire in everybody's interests

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Beijing on Monday, and the two sides exchanged in-depth views on the Ukraine crisis, Xinhua reported.

Orban briefed Xi on his recent visits to Ukraine and Russia. Xi expressed appreciation for Orban's efforts in promoting the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis and elaborated on China's relevant views and propositions.

Xi stressed that an early ceasefire and a political settlement are in the interests of all sides, adding that the priority is to cool down the situation by observing the three principles of no expansion of the battlefield, no escalation of fighting, and no fanning by any party over the flames.

Xi called on the international community to create conditions and provide support for the resumption of direct dialogue and negotiation between the two sides, saying that only if all major countries inject positive rather than negative energy, can a ceasefire in this conflict emerge as soon as possible.

### Biden declines to step aside

President Joe Biden, in a letter to congressional Democrats, stood firm against calls for him to drop his candidacy and called for an "end" to the intraparty drama that has torn apart Democrats since his dismal public debate performance, according to AP.

Biden wrote in the two-page letter that "the question of how to move forward has been well-aired for over a week now. And it's time for it to end." He stressed that the party has "one job," which is to defeat presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump in November.

### France in political limbo after shock election result

President Emmanuel Macron began efforts on Monday to extract France from political uncertainty after a left-wing coalition defeated the far-right in an election that left no group with an absolute majority, The National reported.

Macron's Ensemble bloc came second in the election, ahead of the National Rally (RN) in third, which had been tipped to govern the country for the first time.

The left won 182 seats, Macron's centrist alliance 168 and Marine Le Pen's National Rally and allies 143, interior ministry data showed.

(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com))

## North Caucasus travel agents to set sail for Iran's touristic gems



TEHRAN - In a move to boost tourism, a delegation of travel agents from the North Caucasus region of Russia will visit Iran, to attract tourists to the country.

Ten Russian travel agents have been invited to Iran to explore attractions countrywide to organize tours for the autumn and winter seasons, Mehr news agency reported on Monday.

These agents, operating in the North Caucasus, will tour Tehran, Kashan, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Qeshm from July 22 to July 29, according to the report.

Their itinerary will culminate in a business meeting at Imam Khomeini International Airport to finalize the travel plans.

This group of Russian agents is among the first to visit Iran following the visa waiver agreements. The trip is organized by an Iranian agency collaborating with the Russians.

Interest in Qeshm Island arose during the International Travel & Hospitality Show (MITT), which was held earlier this year, Mohammad Manzarnejad, who is overseeing the tour, told Mehr News Agency.

"This led to its inclusion in the tour itinerary due to favorable climate and appeal to Russian tourists," he added.

Manzarnejad pinpointed that the tourists will have a stopover in Qeshm, experiencing

ecotourism in Soheili village and exploring the Island's Geopark

The classic tourist route in Iran, he further elaborated, which includes Tehran, Kashan, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Qeshm, is among the planned destinations for tourists.

"The tour will introduce the visitors to various historical and natural sites, such as Darband, the National Museum of Iran, the historical fabric of Kashan, Naqsh-e Jahān Square, Pasargadae, and Persepolis," he brought to light.

Given Russia's cold climate, Manzarnejad noted, the warm southern regions of Iran present an attractive travel destination. With the autumn and winter seasons approaching, the initiative aims to bring more Russian tourists from the North Caucasus to Iran, he added.

"The Muslim population in the North Caucasus shares cultural and religious affinities with Iranians, seeking travel destinations that align with their beliefs and offer a different climate," said the tourism activist, adding that the recent launch of the Tehran-Grozny flight route by an Iranian airline, operating weekly on Mondays, further facilitates this exchange, with a week-long tour package already prepared to increase these visits.

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

Iranian travel agencies are now focusing on bringing tourists from the North Caucasus, leveraging the region's commercial and tourism ties with Iran and the direct flight connections that facilitate easier travel.

Shedding light on the previous findings, Qahramanian explained that the 14-hectare site was originally enclosed by a defensive wall, with an additional enclosed area in its northern corner, likely serving as a citadel and residence for the settlement's rulers.

"During the fifth season, excavations revealed that the architectural remains on the Viranshahr mound included a building with a wide iwan, measuring 12 meters in width, and a large area behind it, surrounded by a corridor," he noted, adding that this layout reflects a distinct architectural pattern seen from the Seleucid and Parthian periods, spanning from Khwarazm and Transoxiana to the Iranian Plateau and Mesopotamia, previously identified in religious or aristocratic structures.

The historical site of Viranshahr is located approximately 10 kilometers north of Faruj city in eastern North Khorasan province.

This region, housing the sources of the Atrak river, has long been of interest to human societies. The passage of one of the major east-west communication arteries through this area has further enhanced its historical and cultural significance.

through the labor and skills of enslaved Africans, whose contribution was crucial for the establishment of the facility and, more widely, for the development of the British Empire, trade, and industrialization.

The Dockyard is located on its original site and continues to be embedded in the same original setting. The buildings within were all originally built between the 18th and 19th centuries and retain their original form and design. Most of them even retain their use and function, and those that do not are used for similar and/or compatible functions. The authenticity of the property in terms of materials, craftsmanship, and design will benefit from continuous cooperation amongst conservation architects, architectural historians, and archaeologists in the conception of conservation programs, projects, and works.

(Source: UNESCO)

## Excavations resume at ancient Viranshahr

TEHRAN - The sixth season of archaeological excavations at the ancient site of Viranshahr, northeast Iran, has resumed, promising to shed new light on the region's rich history.

"Conducted by an expert team, this project continues to uncover significant architectural remains dating back to the Seleucid and Parthian periods," said a local official in charge of cultural heritage, on Sunday.

The archaeological excavations in Viranshahr, Mohammadreza Qahramanian underscored, commenced in 2019 following a memorandum of understanding between the Iranian Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism and the Louvre Museum in Paris.

The official further elaborated that the series of field surveys are led by Meysam Labaf Khaniki and Rocco Rante, and over five seasons, significant findings regarding the architectural remains of the site have been uncovered.

The Viranshahr site, he added, was first identified and introduced in 1976 during an archaeological survey of the Atrak valley, led by Roberta Venco Ricciardi from the University of Turin, Italy.

## Glimpses of World Heritage sites

### Antigua Naval Dockyard

The Antigua Naval Dockyard and its Related Archaeological Sites consist of a group of Georgian Naval structures, set within a walled enclosure, on a naturally-occurring series of deep narrow bays surrounded by highlands on which defensive fortifications were constructed.

According to UNESCO, the Dockyard and its related facilities were built at a time when European nations were battling for supremacy of the seas to obtain control over the lucrative sugar-producing islands of the Eastern Caribbean.

Antigua's location as a front-line naval dockyard facility gave the British navy a strategic advantage over its rivals at a crucial point in history.

The construction and operation of the Antigua Naval Dockyard were made possible

# Hengam Island: a must-visit of the Persian Gulf

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - Hengam Island is a fascinating destination in the Persian Gulf that promises a unique blend of natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant local culture.

Walking through Hengam, one can almost hear the echoes of the bygone eras, making it a must-visit for history enthusiasts as well.

Situated just two kilometers southeast of Qeshm Island, Hengam's strategic location has bestowed it a focal point of historical significance.

Throughout history, this island has witnessed numerous invasions and occupations, notably by the Portuguese and British during the Safavid and Qajar periods. The remnants of these colonial presences, including old fortifications, storage facilities, and the ruins of residential buildings, provide a fascinating glimpse into the island's tumultuous past.

One of the primary draws of Hengam Island is its stunning natural scenery. The island boasts pristine coral beaches that are a haven for marine life.

The crystal-clear waters around the island allow visitors to observe a variety of fish and other sea creatures directly from the shore. The island is also famous for its seasonal dolphin sightings. During certain times of the



year, playful dolphins can be seen frolicking in the waters around Hengam, offering a delightful spectacle for visitors.

For those interested in bird-watching, Hengam Island does not disappoint. It is home to numerous bird species, making it a paradise for ornithologists and nature lovers alike. Bringing along a good pair of binoculars can enhance the bird-watching experience, allowing for a closer look at the diverse avian life.

The charm of Hengam Island extends beyond its natural and historical allure. The island is inhabited by warm and hospitable locals who maintain their traditional lifestyle. Visitors can explore the island's three main villages: New Hengam (Mashi), Old Hengam, and Ghayl. Each village offers a unique perspective on the island's culture and way of

life.

Another highlight of visiting Hengam may be the opportunity to savor its local cuisine. The island is renowned for its delicious seafood, prepared using traditional recipes that have been passed down through generations. Dining in Hengam is a feast for the senses, with fresh catches from the sea cooked to perfection.

A trip to Hengam would be incomplete without a visit to its bustling traditional markets, a treasure trove of local handicrafts and souvenirs that offer everything from handmade jewelry to intricate textiles. Engaging with the local vendors is a great way to learn more about the island's culture and traditions.

For adventure seekers, Hengam Island offers plenty of exciting activities. One of the most popular is diving. The island's clear waters are ideal for both novice and experienced divers. Local instructors provide diving lessons and equipment rentals, making it easy for visitors to explore the underwater wonders of the Persian Gulf. The vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life make diving in Hengam a truly magical experience.

The small island, covering an area of more than 33 square kilometers, continues to grow in popularity as a tourist destination, efforts to preserve its unique heritage and natural beauty are more critical than ever.

## Seyyed Mosque: restoration in progress but unified efforts essential

TEHRAN - Isfahan's cultural heritage directorate has begun restoration work on the Seyyed Mosque, which is under significant stress due to landslide forces. However, unified efforts by all stakeholders are crucial to safeguard this 19th-century monument.

On Sunday, the directorate's chief, Amir Karamzadeh, detailed the scope of ongoing restoration efforts during his visit to the mosque.

Emergency repairs to the main dome structure, restoration of the intricate tile work, ceiling repairs, refurbishment of wooden decorations, and thorough cleaning of the mosque's valuable architectural embellishments are currently underway, the official explained.

These efforts are carried out by senior experienced restorers and experts under the supervision of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, he said.

"The Seyyed Mosque, spanning over 8,000 square meters, is a distinguished example of Qajar-era architecture, inspired by the grand mosques of the Safavid period, such as the Imam Mosque."

The mosque has unfortunately suffered significant damage due to a lack of regular maintenance, necessitating immediate and comprehensive restoration measures, the official said.

## Kerman to launch museum of nomadic carpets

TEHRAN - Kerman province will establish a museum of nomadic rugs and handicrafts, in collaboration with the private sector, said a local official.

"Preserving and promoting the valuable heritage of nomads in producing handwoven textiles and rugs is essential," said the local official in charge of handicrafts on Monday, adding that it can significantly impact employment, production, and trade across the province.

Saeed Shahrokhi emphasized the importance of preserving the cultural, artistic, and



Karamzadeh emphasized the collaborative nature of the project, noting that the Seyyed Mosque is not solely under the administration of the Cultural Heritage Department but is also utilized by multiple entities, including the Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization. "We expect all stakeholders to unite in their efforts to protect this historic mosque," he stated.

Additionally, Karamzadeh highlighted ongoing projects initiated last year, which include the repair of the dome's roof and reinforcement of the dome's foundations, which had suffered severe cracking. The department is actively organizing meetings with the mosque's various beneficiaries to ensure a collective approach to the conservation of this significant historical and religious monument.

Historical accounts indicate that the land for the Seyyed Mosque was purchased during

historical values of nomadic tribes amidst the evolving modern lifestyle.

The museum, he explained, aims to showcase the production process, preservation, development, and promotion of weaving techniques, as well as the designs and patterns of nomadic rugs and textiles.

The director-general further pinpointed that this initiative is being undertaken with the support of the private sector.

"The unique artistry of nomadic handwoven textiles is characterized by the diversity of weaving techniques and the beauty

## South Khorasan exports nomadic Siah-Chadors to global markets

TEHRAN - Some 70 percent of the Siah-Chadors produced by nomadic artisans in South Khorasan's Nehbandan county are now being exported to international markets.

On Monday, Hadi Shahverdi, the provincial tourism chief, announced that over the past three months, more than 2,000 square meters of these black tents, valued at 880 million tomans (some \$14,700), were produced in Nehbandan, with the majority being exported.

The Siah-Chador, or "Black Tent," is an integral part of nomadic life, traditionally wo-

ven by women from the hair of black goats. This material is not only readily available and lightweight but also waterproof, making it an ideal shelter for nomads throughout the year. Men are typically responsible for setting up these tents, which serve as homes during both summer and winter seasons.

The export markets for these distinctive tents include the Persian Gulf littoral states, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Iraq.

Shahverdi noted that Nehbandan's artisans and craftsmen are active in more than

of the designs, patterns, and colors used," Shahrokhi continued. "Kerman boasts one of the richest varieties of nomadic and tribal designs in its rugs."

The art of weaving, he highlighted, has been a longstanding tradition among nomads, with techniques passed down through generations.

Each tribe and community has infused its culture and identity into their woven handicrafts, contributing to the rich diversity of designs and colors in nomadic textiles, the official concluded.

60 workshops dedicated to the production of Siah-Chadors, directly employing 240 people and providing indirect employment for an additional 70 individuals.

Annually, Nehbandan produces approximately 6,500 square meters of Siah-Chadors, valued at over 2 billion tomans, the official added.

That thriving industry not only preserves a vital cultural heritage but also significantly contributes to the local economy by creating job opportunities and promoting traditional crafts on an international stage, he explained.

# Persian medicine casts light on healthy diet in summer

TEHRAN –Persian medicine prioritizes prevention over cure, so to stay healthy in each season, it highlights the need to be aware of what to consume and avoid; as for summer with hot and dry temperaments (Mizaj) the following tips will help you make healthier choices.

People with hot and dry temperaments are more at risk in summer. Anyway, the key to a healthy diet is to avoid foods and drinks that increase body temperature and cause dryness. These include spicy foods such as pepper, ginger, cinnamon, saffron, hot sauces, and mustard; spicy vegetables like garlic, onion, tarragon, mint, leek, watercress, and dill, as well as salt and sweet.

It is recommended to eat raw or steamed vegetables without strong spices.

Portions of salads with ingredients like lettuce, cucumber, and lemon juice are useful because they have cooling features.

Also, cut down on salt, salty foods, and snacks such as salty chips or nuts.

Most nuts have a hot and dry temperament, so eat even salt-free and sugar-free nuts in moderation.

In summer, reduce your intake of sweets, chocolates, honey, rai-



sins, and even sweet fruits such as figs, coconuts, bananas, melons, and pineapples.

## Persian medicine prioritizes prevention over cure.

Consume foods that are cooked or boiled rather than fried or roasted.

Cooling food, fruits, and drinks is the optimal choice for the summer season.

Choose fish and chicken which have cold and wet temperaments over red meat since it has

warming characteristics or Mizaj.

Blackberry and blackberry juice, raspberry, sour apple, cherry, green plump, pomegranate, dill, peach, apricot, watermelon, and grapefruit are great choices for the season, as well as cucumber, yogurt, lettuce, zucchini, coriander, and spinach are great.

Moreover, don't forget to drink adequate water and include dairy products in your diet.

As was said, Persian medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

It is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda).

The concept of the four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

Surveys show that more than 80 percent of people in the country intend to benefit from Iranian traditional medicine, ILNA quoted Nafiseh Hosseini-Yekta, the director of the health ministry's Persian medicine office, as saying On January 7.

Their interest in traditional medicine has never faded, she said, adding that traditional medicine is being taught in universities.

Traditional medicine has its roots in the culture, customs, and traditions of Iranians and has always been of interest to them, the official highlighted.

With over five hundred graduates in the field and numerous research articles that have been published, the country has been able to improve its position by being ranked fourth in the production of science in the field of traditional medicine in the world, following China, India, and the United States.

She went on to say that traditional medicine and conventional medicine are complementary. Each of these medicines has unique capabilities that can be used together.

## Dengue fever endemic in 128 countries: health official

TEHRAN – Cases of dengue fever have been so far identified in 128 countries, a sharp rise compared to 10 countries in 1960, an official with the health ministry has said.

Transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, the disease was placed among the top ten life-threatening diseases by the World Health Organization (WHO) transmitted by local carriers in 2019, ISNA quoted Shahnam Arshi as saying.

Up to 400 people are affected with dengue fever each year, he said, adding that only 20 percent of patients have symptoms and 80 percent of dengue infections have mild or no symptoms.

A significant portion of transmission occurs through individuals with asymptomatic infections.

About half of the world's population is at risk, and this number is increasing annually due to global warming, climate change, and the rise in international travel.

About 70 to 75 percent of the cases are reported in Southeast Asia. Over the past years, the disease has spread to Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Singapore, and Thailand.

Aedes aegypti is a more invasive mosquito that is more common in Iran. Due to the physiology of this mosquito, people in contaminated areas are told to wear clothes that cover most parts of their bodies in the first two hours of the morning and two hours before the evening, Arshi noted.

Transmission occurs two days before show-

ing symptoms and two days after the fever.

The disease can spread from mosquitos to humans, from humans to mosquitos, and from humans to humans through blood transfusion, organ transplant, and mother to child in pregnancy.

The lifespan of Aedes is between one to 4 weeks; they take blood meals every 1–2 hours, accounting for 40 to 50 meals throughout their lifespan.

### Training package to control dengue fever

The health ministry is planning to develop a training package to inform individuals, particularly passengers, medical staff, and journalists of the ways to prevent, or manage dengue fever.

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes, IRNA quoted Farshid Rezaei, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

It is found in tropical and subtropical climates worldwide. Despite the spread of dengue fever, there are no travel limitations. However, travelers, especially in countries such as the UAE and Thailand, should be aware of self-care tips and know how to prevent dengue fever and mosquito bites.

People in the country should also observe the essential hygiene points such as wearing clothes that cover most parts of the body, like socks, long-sleeved clothes, and long pants. Use insect repellants when traveling to the provinces at risk, which are mainly southern

cities, he highlighted.

Stating that the mortality rate for dengue fever is about 1 percent, Rezaei emphasized, "About 40 to 80 percent of patients with dengue have mild or no symptoms, by adhering to sanitation practices, dengue fever cases can be reduced by 70 percent.

Dengue virus, which is part of flaviviruses, has four serologically related but genetically distinct viruses, DENV serotype-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4.

It means that it is possible for a person to be infected with the virus 4 times. The second serotype is the dominant serotype.

Dengue virus is transmitted through the bite of Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes. These mosquitoes also transmit Zika and Chikungunya virus.

Dengue disease has different infectious phases, including the fever phase, critical phase, and recovery phase.

Since April 20 this year, 138 cases of dengue fever have been diagnosed, most of whom are from the UAE, Pakistan, and Iraq, and only seven cases were from inside the country.

These provinces that are at risk include Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Bushehr, Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan.

Dengue fever, like other infectious diseases such as corona, and malaria, can be transmitted from infected human to healthy human. Fortunately, treatment guidelines for treating the disease are available in the country.

## Rainfall increases by 19% in Sept.-July yr/yr

TEHRAN –Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2023) till July 5, precipitations have increased by 19 percent compared to the same period in the previous water year, according to Metrological Organization.

However, some parts of the country are still facing rainfall deficits.

Over the mentioned period, the total amount of precipitations reached 244.8 millimeters, while in the previous water year, the figure stood at 204.8 millimeters, indicating a three percent increase compared to the long-term average.

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

In the past year that ended on March 19, the amount of rainfall in the country decreased by 26 percent and 16 percent, respectively, compared to the long-term average, and the previous water year.

### Precipitation close to normal

In June, the head of Metrological Organization said, "After four years of consecutive low precipitations, the amount of average rainfall is getting close to normal long-term figures."

"Currently, the country is witnessing less than one millimeter, about 0.3 percent, short of long-term rainfall," IRIB quoted Sahar Tajbakhsh as saying.

According to available statistics, South Khorasan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Yazd provinces have so far received more than 30 percent of the long-term rainfall in the current water year that began on September 23, 2023), she added.

Other provinces like Ardabil, Isfahan, Ilam, North Khorasan, Khuzestan, Qom, Kordestan, Kermanshah, Golestan, and Mazandaran have experienced between 2 up to 29 percent more than normal rains.

However, East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Alborz, Bushehr, Tehran, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khorasan Razavi, Zanjan, Semnan, Fars, Qazvin, Kerman, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Gilan, Markazi, and Hormozgan provinces have received between 1 and 30 percent less rainfall than normal.

Tehran, Semnan, and Qazvin provinces have received the lowest amount of precipitation.

### El Niño-driven floods

El Niño was the primary driver of extreme rainfall in April and May that caused widespread flash flooding across Iran, as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan, doubling the chance of extreme rainfall, a new World Weather Attribution study found.

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

## Intl. exhibition on educational attractions in Iran slated for October

TEHRAN – An international exhibition on educational attractions in Iran is scheduled to be held in Tehran from October 8 to 11.

The event will provide an opportunity for universities, institutions, and Persian language teaching centers to showcase their international capabilities and academic competencies to attract international students, IRNA quoted Mohammad-Javad Salmanpour, one of the organizers of the exhibition, as saying.

For the first time, the exhibition will include 12 events. The exhibition will feature several festivals culture and art in nations, and food in nations. It will also include meetings with professors teaching the Persian language.

During the festival, international students from different universities will demonstrate their countries' culture, civilization, national and social identities as well as their scientific, economic, and cultural progress.

The main objective of the exhibition is to establish scientific authority, promote the Persian language as the language of science in the world, and enhance the attraction of international students, the official highlighted.

### Attracting 320,000 intl. students by 2026

The Ministry of Science is planning to increase the number of international students to some 320,000 from currently around 100,000 by 2026, Hashem Dadashpour, the head of the Organization of Student Affairs, said in September 2023.

"There was an increase in the number of interna-

tional students over the sixth National Development Plan (2017-2021). The seventh development plan (2022-2026) has also put increasing the figure to around 320,000 on the agenda," he explained.

"Strengthening scientific authority, developing public diplomacy, and expanding the Persian language are the three main reasons for attracting international students," Dadashpour said, IRIB reported.

He went on to say that the principle of attracting international students is a major strategy and plan for the Ministry of Science."

Dadashpour stressed that the international campus of universities is the center of attracting international students and managing their affairs, but all university vice-chancellors are responsible for international students as much as Iranian students.

He pointed out that "International students' attendance at the cultural events of the university helps Iranian students to get more familiar with them and their culture."

"Also, international students can have their own cultural and artistic organization."

The infrastructure of the university, educational and cultural planning, and the university staff should all attract students in a way that gives them a different positive view of Iran as they get back home.

The deputy head of the student affairs organization considered it important to provide suitable centers and platforms for teaching the Persian language to international students in universities.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Special clinic to relieve families during coronavirus

A special clinic will be opened for the first time in the country to provide free psychological services to families who have lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The clinic is called "Soog" (literally meaning mourn) will be inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti Educational and Medical Center in Zanjan province on Wednesday.

The outbreak of coronavirus has changed the lifestyle of many families, Ehsan Fakoor, head of the mental health department of Zanjan University of Medical Sciences said.

Sudden changes in life cause stress, while the coronavirus itself has doubled the stress due to its contagion and the number of lives it has claimed in the world to date, he regretted.

## کلینیک خاص برای افرادی که اعضای خانواده را بر اثر کرونا از دست داده‌اند

نخستین کلینیک مخصوص ارائه خدمات رایگان روان‌شناختی به خانواده‌هایی که اعضای خانواده خود را به دلیل ابتلا به کرونا از دست داده‌اند افتتاح شد.

شیوع ویروس کرونا باعث شده است تا سبک زندگی بسیاری از خانواده‌ها دچار تغییر شود. ایجاد تغییرات ناگهانی در زندگی باعث ایجاد استرس می‌شود. این در حالی است که خود ویروس کرونا به دلیل واگیردار بودن و نیز آمار فوتی‌هایی که تا به امروز در دنیا به جا گذاشته، این استرس را دوچندان کرده است.



## Clad in black during Muharram

People in dark dresses hold mourning rituals during the month of Muharram to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS). Black banners and draperies are seen all over the country.



JULY 9, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Wealth converts a strange land into homeland and poverty turns a native place into a strange land.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:44 Dawn: 3:13 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:57 (tomorrow)

## Iranian artist's photo wins at German competition



"Mirror" by Armin Amirian

TEHRAN-Iranian artist Armin Amirian is among the winners of the Munich Kammerspiele project "Off to Elsewhere" in Germany.

The Munich Kammerspiele is a state-funded German-language theater company based at the Schauspielhaus on Maximilianstrasse in the Bavarian capital.

Together with the Munich-based organization for contemporary photography Der Greif, it launched a call for submissions and received over 1,000 sensational images from 82 countries.

Amirian's photo titled "Mirror" is one of the 40 selected images to be showcased in the visual campaign of the upcoming season, from September 2024 until July 2025, IRNA reported on Monday.

Amirian, 29, is a self-taught artist who spent his childhood and teenage years experiencing different genres and mediums of art while being affected by Iran, the world, family, and culture, and continued his education in physics.

He started working professionally in the field of photography and cinema at the beginning of

his teenage years.

The role of looking got more prominent for him with the arrival of photography camera into his life.

He has contributed to more than 100 festivals and exhibitions throughout the years including "hICEstory" (2021) and a previous one named "Aar" (2018), both at Etemad Gallery in Tehran.

He's received multiple international awards such as Award of Excellence from Fletcher Art Festival (U.S. 2020), Honorable Mention Award of Yeiser Art Center (U.S. 2020), Young Author Award of the 29th Caminos de Hierro contest (Spain 2018), The Jury Prize of Fomenar (Spain 2017), Teenager of the Year of Warsaw's Graphic Biennale (2012), and two-time 1st place winner of Creative Vision section of "Iran's Image of The Year Festival" (2015, 2017).

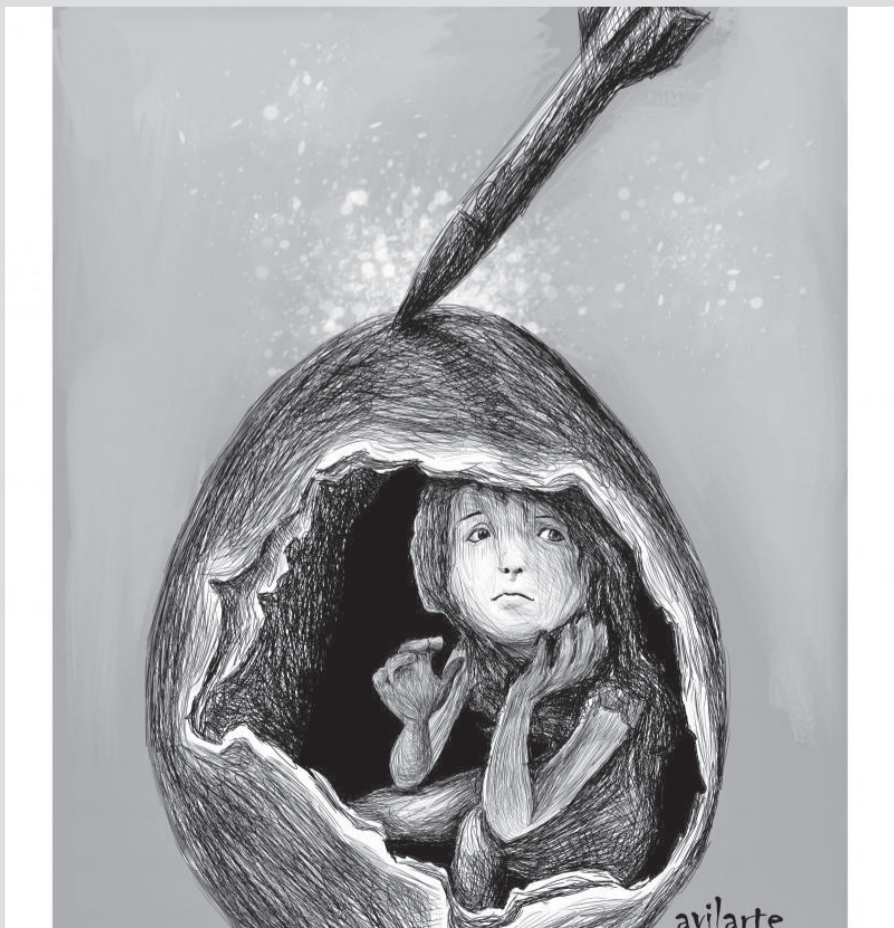
Amirian has been honored with titles and finalist nominees from art centers such as Sharjah Art Foundation (UAE 2020), Yeiser Art Center (U.S. 2020), Ooshot (France 2018), Farhang Foundation (U.S. 2017), Fletcher Art Festival (U.S. 2016, 2014), and SIENA Awards (Italy 2015).

His works have been sold at exhibitions and auctions like the Sotheby's and are available in collections and art foundations such as Ooshot Award (France), Spanish Railways Foundation, and Fletcher H. Dyer Exhibit (U.S.).

In Armin's own words, art was always what he knew could communicate with everyone.

"All I had in me as a young soul could be said only by the alphabet of art; where nothing matters but the truth and the honest feelings you place in every aspect of your creation."

## Cartoon of Day



Shelter

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

## Rudaki Open-Air Theater hosting tazieh performances in Muharram



TEHRAN- The Rudaki Open-Air Theater in Tehran is hosting performances of tazieh, a traditional Iranian passion play, starting from Sunday and continuing throughout the first ten days of the lunar month of Muharram.

This significant event marks the commemoration of the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (S), who is mourned by millions of Muslims during the Muharram rituals.

The Seyyed ush-Shohada Tazieh Group, directed by Ahmad Azizi, will perform every night at 8 p.m. for ten consecutive nights.

The group is scheduled to perform a diverse repertoire, featuring popular taziehs such as "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.

## "Cold Sigh" wins best cinematography award at Ischia Film Festival

TEHRAN-Iranian movie "Cold Sigh" written and directed by Nahid Azizi Sedigh won an award at the closing ceremony of the 22nd Ischia Film Festival in Italy, on July 6.

The best cinematography award was given to Masoud Amini Tirani for "Cold Sigh" that represented Iran in the main section of the festival, Mehr reported on Monday.

In a statement, the jury explained: "A first work with strong tones that finds its strength in a vivid photography that very well underlines the feelings of the protagonist and his conflictual relationship with his father".

A production of 2023, the 87-minute film is about Baha, a young man from a border town, who learns that his father, Bahram, has been released from prison after 20 years.

Bahram killed his wife -- Baha's mother --

having accused her of cheating on him. Baha, who has never coped with this and is still full of anger and resentment decides to go and get his father from prison himself.

Bahram and Baha begin their journey while neither of them can find the words.

Iman Sedigh, Ali Bagheri, Ahoora Bahrami, Amir Aram, Mohammad Ashkanfar, and Salar Daryamaj are in the cast.

Azizi Sedigh's first feature film, "Cold Sigh" has won several national and international awards so far. Recently, it received the Grand Prix of the 17th Cheboksary International Film Festival in Cheboksary, Russia, in May.

Earlier in April, it won three prizes at the 46th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF) in Russia.

The movie won the Best Director Award, the Audience Choice Award for the Best Film and the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) Special Mention.

Last year, the film won the Special Jury Award for Best Film in the International Competition of the Fajr Film Festival.

The Ischia Film Festival is an international film festival dedicated to film works and features, regardless of the language: fiction, documentary, and animation.

It aims at protecting the heritage and unique characteristics of the locations represented on screen, thus the competition is especially addressed to those works that highlight, through the cinematic narration, the landscape and cultural identity of the territories in which the films are shot.

## Ashura-themed painting exhibition inaugurated in Tehran

TEHRAN- A group exhibition of paintings, featuring the works of 10 visual artists with a focus on Ashura, was officially inaugurated at the Abolfazl Aali Gallery of Tehran's Art Bureau on Monday.

The exhibition, which will run until July 16, features ten paintings by prominent artists such as Morteza Asadi, Iraj Eskandari, Kazem Chalipa, Hossein Khosrojerdi, Habibollah Sadeqi, Gholamali Taheri, Abdolhamid Qadirian, Mostafa

Goudarzi, Morteza Goudarzi Dibaj, and Hossein Yaqouti, Mehr reported on Monday.

Each painting is accompanied by a poetic piece written by spiritual poets.

"The idea for this exhibition was conceived a month ago and we plan to hold five group exhibitions throughout the month of Muharram, each with a different theme and medium, Mehr quoted the curator of the exhibition Shahabeddin Shakiba

as saying.

"The selected works are from prominent artists in the field of art who have not showcased their work in a long time," he said.

Each exhibition will feature ten works and we will also produce a video clip for each piece to be shared on social media platforms, he explained.

Shakiba also noted that the exhibition combines Ashura-themed

works with modern literature, with poems chosen specifically for each artwork. Poets such as Mahmoud Habibi Kasbi, Ahmad Babai, and Abbas Sadeqi Zarin helped select the poems.

The Ashura event is one of the most dramatic historical occurrences. It marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), along with his 72 loyal companions.

## Iranian short film "CCTV" wins best film award at Italian festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film "CCTV" directed by Samira Karimi has been selected as the Best Film of the Dieciminti Film Festival (DFF), held in Italy from July 1 to 6.

A 2023 production, the film shows two high school girls who decide to erase footage from the school's CCTV cameras but end up getting locked up at school, ILNA reported.

The 10-minute flick has Parnia Larni, Parisa Habibi, Negar Taheri, Mehri Sadat AlAgha, Avishan Sedghi, and Alireza Mahabadi in the cast among others. A total of 773 short films from 64 countries across all five continents entered this year's

edition of the festival. For the Official Selection, 15 works were chosen. "CCTV" competed with films from Chile, France, the Netherlands, South Korea, Iceland, Georgia, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Ukraine, Taiwan, and Turkey.

Another 15 works were also selected for the Extralarge section, the most festival-like, which covers a segment between 10 and 15 minutes, which is the most used standard at an international level. "Witness" by Aida Tebianian was another Iranian short film that participated in this section along with movies from North Macedonia, Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, Spain, Italy,

Denmark, China, the UK, Turkey, and Norway.

Produced in 2023, "Witness," 15 minutes, is about a young girl named Shermin who wants to save her father's life, but wandering in the difficult dilemma of choosing between fear and conscience, she finally makes a difficult decision.

Dieciminti Film Festival is an international competition for short films, animations and documentaries up to 10 minutes created in 2005. Over the years it has become one of the most important festivals dedicated to short films in Italy, with over 14,000 short films from 137 different countries.