

Iran Is not the Problem – the U.S. Is

Kirby's remarks on U.S. unwillingness to negotiate dim hope for JCPOA revival under new Iranian administration



Adversaries aimed for less than 20% voter turnout in presidential election: Iranian security official

Tehran – Majid Mir Ahmadi, head of Iran's Election Security Command, has revealed that certain foreign state actors launched a multifaceted campaign to undermine Iran's recent presidential election, aiming to decrease voter participation and sow discord.

Iran conducted snap presidential elections in two rounds on June 28 and July 5, with voter participation rates of 40% and 50% respectively.

In an interview with Iranian media, the security official stated, "The enemies' goal was to reduce participation in the presidential election to below 20% and declare that the system lacks legitimacy based on that." He further alleged that adversaries sought to pit supporters of different candidates against each other, claiming, "The next goal of the enemy was to incite other candidates by infiltrating election headquarters and producing content in cyberspace under the guise of supporting a candidate, with some of this production being done by the Zionist regime." ▶ Page 3

Pezeshkian's calls for deeper ties with Iraq, Pakistan

TEHRAN – Iran's president-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, has emphasized the importance of strengthening relations with both Iraq and Pakistan in separate phone calls with the leaders of both countries.

During his conversation with Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, Pezeshkian highlighted the strong bonds between Iran and Iraq, stating, "The extent of political, economic, cultural and religious ties between Iran and Iraq needs no explanation." He expressed hope that these relations "will be further deepened in the new era with the cooperation of the high officials of the two countries."

President Rashid reciprocated these sentiments, congratulating Pezeshkian on his election victory and describing the relationship between the two countries as "deep, strong, and in line with the interests of the two nations." He added that Iraq is "interested in maintaining and promoting these relations and also creating a basis for further cooperation in the new era."

In his conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pezeshkian reiterated his commitment to strengthening ties between the two nations, stating, "I express my desire to further deepen relations between the two brotherly nations."

Sharif echoed this sentiment, highlighting the positive momentum built during the late President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Pakistan, stating, ▶ Page 2

Israel assassinates former bodyguard of Hezbollah leader

An Israeli strike hit a vehicle in Syrian territory on the Damascus-Beirut highway on Tuesday, killing one of former bodyguards of Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah.

The Lebanese resistance movement issued a statement mourning Yasser Nimr Qamabsh confirming the assassination.

Israel and Hezbollah have been exchanging fire along Lebanon's southern border on an almost daily basis since October 8. That's a day after Israel launched its war of genocide on the Gaza Strip.

The exchange of fire has intensified since Israel assassinated senior Hezbollah commander Sami Taleb Abdullah. The movement has retaliated by firing hundreds of rockets into Israel.

The Israeli army said last month that it had approved plans for an attack on Lebanon, raising concerns that the regime might try to realize its recurrent threats of turning Lebanon into another Gaza.

The Hezbollah leader has already warned that "no place" in the Israeli-occupied territories would be spared from the group's weapons in the event of a full-blown war.

Israeli army struggles in northern Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Despite the intense Israeli shelling targeting the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood southwest of Gaza City since Monday afternoon, the Palestinian resistance continues to target the regime's military trying to advance towards the neighborhood under artillery cover.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, announced that its fighters managed to detonate an anti-personnel explosive device against an Israeli foot patrol unit consisting of six troops southwest of Tel al-Hawa, killing one soldier and injuring another.

To the west of Tel al-Hawa, an Israeli military vehicle was targeted with an explosive device. Another military jeep was also attacked with a Yasin 105 shell.

Using another explosive device, al-Qassam fighters targeted an Israeli Merkava 4 tank with a pre-planted ground explosive device as the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) near Tel al-Hawa. ▶ Page 5

Israeli military chief in the firing line

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israel has been utterly humiliated for its failure to anticipate and prevent the October 7 military operation carried out by the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement.

More than 1,100 people were killed and about 250 others were taken captive as the resistance group conducted the operation dubbed Al-Aqsa Storm in southern Israel.

The Israeli military has carried out an investigation into the operation in one of the locations that were attacked by Hamas.

The results of the probe in the community of Kibbutz Be'eri were presented to Israel's military Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi on Monday.

It was one of the hardest-hit locations in Hamas' military operation where fighting broke out between resistance fighters and Israeli forces.

According to Israeli media, the findings show that the military failed in its mission to stop the Hamas attack due to the overwhelming number of resistance fighters and battle sites. ▶ Page 5

Iran to launch 2 new satellites in coming weeks

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Space Organization has announced that Iran will launch two new satellites in the coming weeks.

Speaking at the first International Lithium Battery Conference on Tuesday, Hassan Salarieh said that, through the tireless efforts of Iranian youth and scientists, "Kowsar" and "Hodhod" satellites are scheduled to be launched and put into the orbit this year.

According to Salarieh, Kowsar is an observation satellite with an imaging resolution of 3.5 meters per pixel, which can be used for agricultural purposes, surveying and demarcation. The satellite has an orbital lifespan of two years.

The Hodhod satellite is planned to be used in the area of the Internet of Things, agriculture, transportation and crisis management scenarios. ▶ Page 2



Flags featuring Muharram symbols perched on street walls in Tehran, on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Ashura: an everlasting source of political inspiration

By Xavier Villar

MADRID- For Muslims worldwide, particularly Shia Muslims, the month of Muharram is one of the most intense periods in the Islamic calendar due to its profound historical significance.

During this month, Muslims from all backgrounds commemorate the martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and his companions in Karbala in the year 680 AD.

The main ceremonies on Ashura, the tenth day of Muharram, involve public expressions of mourning and a reaffirmation of ▶ Page 3

A look at the JCPOA and the Ukraine war

By Abbas Akhoundi

TEHRAN- Iran's snap elections have provided an opportunity to re-examine Iran's relationship with the European Union and the MENA region and to create the possibility of maximum convergence at the global level in the confrontation with Israel. This is a unique opportunity that will affect Iran's security and sustainable development, ensure the security of the region through Israel's political and defensive blockade in the region and the world, and reduce the threat of ISIS and Salafist groups.

The important thing is to take advantage of this situation properly. And this should be the art of Dr. Pezeshkian. The Iranian Reform Front has always been on the side of interactive relations with the world and playing a positive role in global developments. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

The Western approach is duplicity

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

In a note, Kayhan discussed the insult of the BBC Persian website and wrote: The BBC called Pezeshkian a puppet and said that when Hassan Rouhani became president with the promise of change, Germany, Italy and France, in addition to the European Union, congratulated him on his victory. The electoral strategy of Pezeshkian was similar at the same time.

However, the Western world did not react to this victory. The analysis suffused with the BBC's distortion is at a time when the post-JCPOA relations between Iran and the four Western governments came to a deadlock as a result of the West breaking the agreement. It was the United States that, after cheating and taking full concessions from the Rouhani government, resumed the process of increasing sanctions and then completely stopped the implementation of its commitments.

Three European governments said they were willing to trade limited food and medicine in exchange for buying oil, but they did not keep that promise. The approach of the West shows that they do not see a difference between the governments and their political tastes in Iran or the level of optimism and pessimism of these governments towards the West, and their diplomacy is based on duplicity, extravagance, and disloyalty.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Enmity with Iran, America's grand strategy

The track record of the 13th government shows the enormous diplomatic capacity that has been created by relying on the multi-layered diplomacy of neighbors, regional, extra-regional, regional unions and international organizations and even the continuation of the process of negotiations with the United States. Therefore, the claim of Iran's global isolation, and the need for the 14th government to reconcile with the world is far from being a logical claim because if Iran was an isolated country without global interaction, this amount of congratulatory messages would not have been sent to the president-elect.

The truth is that there is no difference between Biden and Trump and their enmity with Iran is derived from America's grand strategy. Imagining Washington's interactive approach is an unrealistic view that does not bring any results other than conditioning the economy and increasing the country's problems. The noteworthy point is that the right way is not to focus on the JCPOA and negotiate to cancel the sanctions, but to continue the path of the 13th government to neutralize the sanctions with internal capacity and active diplomacy with a global vision beyond a few Western countries.

Coordination meeting lays the foundation for presidential inauguration

TEHRAN- The coordination meeting of the International Committee of the inauguration ceremony of the new Iranian president was held under the chairmanship of the deputy speaker of parliament for executive affairs.

According to Mehr News, the central meeting of the Presidential Office, chaired by Alireza Sharifi, the deputy speaker of parliament for executive

Iran to launch 2 new satellites in coming weeks

From page 1 ▶ The Deputy Minister of Communications noted that the satellite launches will be carried out in line with the coordination and planning efforts that have been undertaken.

He attributed this advancement to the substantial government support that has propelled the country's space industry forward in recent years, transitioning it from a primarily research-focused sector to an industrial one. Salarieh emphasized that the space industry serves as a crucial client for the innovations and products developed by other industries. Additionally, he pointed out that commercializing space-related technologies and applying them to other sectors, such as the automotive industry, could significantly address various national concerns and needs.

Salarieh noted that the space industry has experienced a significant positive leap in recent years, thanks to the government's support for developing indigenous space technology. This

Jam-e-Jam: America, an enmity with two masks

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam discussed the enmity of the American Democratic and Republican parties with Iran. It wrote: Considering the holding of the 2024 presidential elections in the United States, a significant part of experts in the media was revolving around which thinking and approach in Tehran and Washington will push bilateral relations towards improvement or increasing tension.

The 45-year history of Iran has shown that the American Democrats and Republicans have tactical differences in the confrontation with Iran, but their unchanging strategy is nothing but weakening and defeating the Iranian nation.

Now, considering the beginning of a new era in the executive field of the country and coming to office of the 14th government, it is obvious that some inside and outside the country are trying to make predictions about the possibility of solving the issues between the two countries, and also about the possibility of the next president of the White House being a Democrat or a Republican. But as experience shows, there is no difference between any of them in confrontation and enmity with the Iranian nation.

Hamshahri: Moving towards the management of tensions

In a conversation with Amir Ali Abolfath, an expert on American issues, Hamshahri dealt with the possible developments in the relations between Iran and the United States. The paper said: Although the results of the presidential elections in Iran are known, the United States still insists on continuing its hostile approach towards Tehran.

In Iran-U.S. relations, everything is not related to Iran. It is the United States that has sanctioned Iran and must decide whether it wants to "remove, suspend or intensify" the sanctions, an issue that will determine the course of the upcoming developments. It seems that both sides will move in the direction of managing tensions, an approach that will neither worsen the relationship nor reduce the problems between them.

The important point here is that to speculate about the future of relations in this area, we must first wait for the establishment of the new government, both in Iran and in the United States. After the establishment of the government, the determination of the political-security team of the governments is also of special importance. It should be kept in mind that even if the Biden administration stays in power, changes in the political-security team of the White House are not unlikely.

affairs, was held with the presence of senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidential Office to coordinate the inauguration ceremony of the president.

At the end of this coordination meeting, necessary arrangements were made to invite parliamentary and governmental officials from neighboring countries.

support has facilitated the sector's transition from a research-oriented focus to an industrial one. He detailed that during this transformative period, many previously unfinished projects were completed. "With a series of successful research and operational launches, Iran has now established the capability to launch and place satellites into orbits up to 750 kilometers in altitude. This achievement is expected to further accelerate the growth and development of the country's space industry in the years to come," he added.

Salarieh stressed the importance of continuing to focus on the space industry, noting that its growth could be a driving force for development and for attracting and retaining skilled specialists across various fields and industries.

Iran is among the 10 countries with the know-how of space technology and is the 11th country in the world in terms of space science and the leading country in the region.

Pezeshkian calls for deeper ties with Iraq, Pakistan

From page 1 ▶ stating, "The agreements between the two countries... paved the way for a mutually beneficial partnership." He further emphasized Pakistan's commitment to "developing all-out ties with Iran" and discussed ways to enhance cooperation "particularly in trade, commerce & investment, and foster a stronger partnership for regional stability."

He concluded by stating, "As brothers and neighbors, our two countries have a shared vision for building a better future together for our people."

Iran, which shares its longest borders with Iraq and Pakistan, has been adamant about



advancing cooperation with the two countries, particularly in trade and security.

It signed security pacts with both states during the Raisi administration in order to tackle terrorist groups funded by extra-

regional forces.

Pezeshkian, who won Iran's July 5 runoff elections with 53.7 percent of the vote, has vowed to continue the late Raisi's path, who emphasized the strengthening of ties with neighboring and

regional countries. Additionally, the elected candidate pledged to enhance cooperation with Russia and Turkey during separate phone calls on Monday.

The president-elect has also addressed Resistance forces in recent days, indicating that he plans to continue the previous administration's support for freedom fighters in the region.

In his letter to Hezbollah's secretary-general, Pezeshkian vowed Iran would continue to back the Resistance, dashing Zionist hopes for a diminished emphasis on resistance groups with a reformist Iranian government in office.

Pezeshkian holds meeting with senior officials



TEHRAN- Masoud Pezeshkian, the newly elected president of Iran, separately met with several senior officials of the country on Tuesday discuss a number of state matters.

He met with the chief of the Judiciary, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), and the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, emphasizing the necessity of cooperation between the internal institutions and the 14th government.

According to Mehr News, Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, the chief justice, in a meeting this morning with the president-elect, while congratulating Masoud Pezeshkian, underlined the full readiness of the Judiciary to assist the government in the areas of implementation and the realization of social justice.

Mohseni-Ejei added, "The Judiciary is ready to cooperate with the 14th government in the framework of implementing the goals of the Second Step of the Revolution Statement, accomplishing the communicated general policies, and the convergence of powers to expand social justice."

In another meeting, Peyman Jebeli, the head of the IRIB, also met the president-elect and emphasized the necessity of the organization's transparent, responsible reporting to the society and playing a role in the proper communication of the people's demands,

requests and criticisms to the government.

Ali Akbar Ahmadian, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, emphasized in a meeting with Pezeshkian the readiness for interagency cooperation in political and security affairs with the government.

Ahmadian pointed out, "We will use all the capacities of the National Security Council Secretariat in political, security and economic affairs to cooperate with the 14th government."

The president-elect also thanked the head of the Judiciary, the IRIB chief, and the secretary of the National Security Council, emphasizing efforts to foster cooperation among institutions to solve corruption, security and economic problems, and to pursue the demands of the people in the country.

Azerbaijan is expected to reopen embassy in Tehran soon

TEHRAN - The Assistant Minister and Director General of Eurasia at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran is expected to reopen within the next 15 to 20 days.

Mojtaba Demirchi-Lou, Assistant Minister and Director General of Eurasia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, confirmed the imminent reopening of the Azerbaijani embassy in Tehran.

Demirchi-Lou stated, "The embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Iran will reopen in the coming days, and their

ambassador will commence duties. We expect this to happen within the next 15 to 20 days."

He noted that the new Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan has not yet been appointed, explaining, "The process of appointing an ambassador is lengthy.

The government must first be established, after which an ambassador can be designated."

Highlighting the historical, cultural, religious, ethnic, and regional ties between Iran and the countries of the Caucasus, Demirchi-Lou remarked,

"Naturally, any government in Iran or the Caucasus is keen on fostering friendly relations."

The foreign ministry official expressed optimism about the future, stating, "We expect the 14th administration to pay special attention to this region, and we foresee a bright outlook for the development of relations."

Azerbaijan's relations with Iran were strained in January last year following an attack on the country's embassy in Tehran, which prompted Baku to close it and evacuate staff over what it called a "terrorist act."

"Personal and family-related problems" were the attack's motivation, according to an early Iranian inquiry.

The Republic of Azerbaijan's foreign ministry spokesperson, Ayhan Hajizadeh, announced on May that a new location for the country's embassy in Tehran has been determined.

Hajizadeh stated that over the past few months, through ongoing contacts and negotiations between the relevant authorities and institutions of Azerbaijan and Iran, the expectations of Azerbaijan were conveyed.

Reviewing Iran's relations with the EU and MENA:

A look at the JCPOA and the Ukraine war

From page 1 ▶ This stance was also repeated with great frequency in Dr. Pezeshkian's speeches. Now is the time to take a practical step. Nabila Massrali, the spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union, extended congratulations to Pezeshkian, saying the EU stands ready to engage with his administration.

The reality is that relations between Iran and the West cooled after the withdrawal of the United States under the presidency of Trump from the JCPOA, and bitter events were witnessed in the follow-up of bilateral and multilateral interaction. Although it was expected that with Biden's arrival, new blood would be pumped into the veins of the JCPOA, but this did not happen, and this historic opportunity was wasted. Now is not the time to judge the perpetrators of this opportunism from both sides. However, in any case, the detrimental consequences of security as well as its economic and communication losses cannot be ignored. With the arrival of Biden at the end of the twelfth administration, constructive negotiations took place and it was expected that the JCPOA would be revived. Mr. Rouhani postponed the signing of the agreement to the 13th government. Apparently, this was done out of respect for the next government and perhaps in coordination with other high-ranked officials. However, from the national interests' approach, in my view, this was not the right thing to do, and he should have personally taken the risk of doing so and finished the job. From a legal point of view, he was president and his signature was valid until August 3, 2021, and he had to fulfill his duty.

In any case, despite the fact that Trump's relations with the European Union were strained, and there was an opportunity to

separate Europe from the United States in relation to Iran, the relations between Iran and Europe were not managed and turned into confrontation, coldness and bitterness. Iran now has ample evidence of European disloyalty, especially with regard to the JCPOA, and Europeans blame Iran for some issues, especially in relation to the war in Ukraine. Undoubtedly, the Iranian nation cannot forget the losses it suffered from the Europeans in the difficult circumstances of the Corona outbreak. In this conflicting context, the ineffective and costly cooperation of Iran and Russia in the war in Ukraine may have been the strategic mistake of Iran's foreign policy in recent times. In any case, at a time when the European Union was at war with Russia, this low-weight partnership between Iran and Russia only entailed losses for Iran and did not benefit and mobilized the EU against Iran.

In this bitter atmosphere of relations, Israel was the final winner by securitizing relations between Iran and the countries of the region. It was able to normalize its relations with a number of southern Persian Gulf states and enter into semi-secret negotiations with Saudi Arabia, which seems to have made great progress before Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. Now, it seems that at the end of the Biden term, the cessation of the war in Ukraine and the impossibility of victory of one over the other, the brutal acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing committed by Israel in Gaza and the West Bank, which affected the public conscience of the world and mobilized the world's including EU's public opinion against it, and the events that took place in the International Criminal Court, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and its consequences in the Islamic world, and the early elections in Iran have all presented new factors. All the

factors affecting global politics in this region have been changed and a real re-reading has been provided. The important thing is to identify opportunities and use them in a timely manner.

Iran should welcome the EU's proposal to start a period of constructive and rapid negotiations on the development of relations, the revival of the JCPOA, the Ukraine issue, and regional security. In any case, it is unrealistic to think that we can exclude the world's major powers, including China, Russia, the European Union, and the United States, from regional security negotiations. This policy has failed in the past four decades and must be overcome. The big problem in this regard, apart from the impossibility of ignoring the interests of the global power poles in the region, is the definite and indispensable desire of the countries of the region to engage them in the security of the region. Moreover, what is the benefit of not participating in them? As a rule, when they are partners, they will support the agreements, and when they are not, they will sabotage them. The countries of the region have also welcomed the arrival of Mr. Pezeshkian. This kind of attention should also be made the most of it. It is time for Iran to at least take the lead in a non-aggression pact and, beyond that, the establishment of a regional security order in cooperation with the global power poles. As a rule, one of the goals of this order should be to confront the genocide and end the apartheid system in Israel and to support the political rights of the Palestinians throughout the land of Palestine, from the sea to the river, based on their national will.

*Abbas Akhundi is the former minister of roads and urban development of Iran

Iran is not the problem – the U.S. is

Kirby's remarks on U.S. unwillingness to negotiate dim hope for JCPOA revival under new Iranian administration

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The Biden administration is not ready to resume talks with Iran to revive the JCPOA under the new Iranian president, the White House national security council spokesman said during a press conference on Monday.

When asked if Washington is ready to resume talks with Iran to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the election of a new Iranian President, who appears to be more in favor of engaging in negotiations with the West compared to his conservative predecessors, John Kirby replied with a blunt “no”. When asked to speak louder, Kirby added that Iran’s support for Resistance groups in West Asia and its alleged – and rejected – supply of drones to Russia to be used in the Ukraine war means the U.S. cannot resume talks with Iran to revive to the JCPOA, a deal that solely focuses on Iran’s nuclear program and promises to remove sanctions against Tehran if it limits its nuclear activities.

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 by Iran and the 5+1 group of countries namely the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China, and Russia. The deal was scrapped in 2018 by Donald Trump’s administration which reinstated sanctions against Iran under a “maximum pressure campaign”. Joe Biden criticized Trump for the move during his presidential campaign, saying he would begin talks with Tehran to revive the nuclear pact. Several rounds of talks were held after Biden’s victory. The deal, though, is just about dying.

Why is the JCOPA still on life support?

Various groups tend to assign blame to different actors for the current state of the JCPOA. Some argue that Iran bears more responsibility compared to the U.S., including one of the West Asian



country’s two primary political factions, the reformists. The recently elected president of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, is commonly associated with this faction, although he has stated that he does not adhere to any particular political group.

Pezeshkian was endorsed by reformist figures who previously supported Hassan Rouhani in his successful 2013 presidential bid – which ultimately led to the inking of the JCPOA.

Appearing often besides Pezeshkian during his campaign was Mohammad Javad Zarif, Rouhani’s foreign minister. Zarif staked his career on the JCPOA and faced backlash when Donald Trump left it in shambles in 2018. In his remarks during his three years of absence from Iran’s government, the former top diplomat often criticized his conservative rivals for “squandering” opportunities to revive the deal.

When away from the foreign ministry, Zarif mocked Iranian officials for awaiting the “harsh winter” to see the West budge – referencing a controversial prediction by an Iranian expert who said a few months after the commencement of Raisi’s administration that Russia’s war in Ukraine would force the West to go easy on Iran due to a sudden shortage of gas triggered by the ban of Russian energy products in Europe.

Zarif repeated his accusations when he appeared on national TV as Pezeshkian’s advisor during a political roundtable in June. He said a law adopted by parliament in 2020 which ordered the government and nuclear officials to scale back on Iran’s JCPOA commitments made it impossible to revive the deal. “One force that tried to hinder the revival of the JCPOA was Israel which assassinated [top nuclear scientist] Martyr Fakhri Zadeh. The other [force] was The Strategic Action Plan,” he said adding that during the final six months of Rouhani’s presidency, Iran had several chances to reinvigorate the 2015 deal, but these efforts were thwarted by the conservative-dominated parliament.

With the victory of Pezeshkian in the presidential elections, which many had not foreseen, some analysts saw a glimmer of hope for the U.S. to rejoin the JCPOA. Paul R. Pillar, a 28-year CIA veteran, was one of these people.

“The ball for any future engagement is now in the West’s court and especially the United States,” he wrote for an American think tank specializing in U.S. foreign policy. “In the wake of Pezeshkian’s unexpected election, the United States now has an opportunity to react in a constructive way and advance the cause of greater stability in the Middle East.”

Iran was never the problem

Kirby’s simple “no” aligns more with the perspective of analysts and officials holding views vastly different than reformists. This group believes the JCPOA is already dead and that Washington is uninterested in reviving it, no matter what it says.

“During the beginning days of Biden’s time in office Wendy Sherman, who was the Chief U.S. nuclear negotiator, told American lawmakers that the JCPOA cannot be revived in its initial form as ‘the facts on the ground have changed.’ Biden does not want to revive the JCPOA. He wants Iran to make other compromises and who takes office in Iran will not change that,” Mahdi Khanalazadeh, a political expert and university professor told the Tehran Times.

Khanalazadeh expressed his belief that the JCPOA was intended to address not only Iran’s nuclear program but also its regional and military policies since the very beginning. “Obama was planning to ink second and third JCPOAs after 2015. Trump did not have the patience for that and wanted new limitations on Iran’s capabilities sooner.”

The expert explained that a comprehensive agreement akin to the JCPOA is unlikely to be achieved between Iran and the United States. Rather, he suggested that the two nations should concentrate on addressing individual and distinct matters, like how they agreed to swap prisoners in 2023. “I believe there are numerous complexities and challenges in the bilateral relationship that would hinder the successful negotiation and implementation of another such deal. We saw how the JCPOA failed. I think Tehran and Washington should work on specific cases that are points of contention until they can gradually move towards a reconciliation throughout the years.”

Adversaries aimed for less than 20% voter turnout in presidential election: Iranian security official



From Page 1 ▶ Ahmad also outlined attempts to disrupt the election infrastructure. He stated, “Through various actions, they tried to hire individuals with criminal backgrounds and force them to disrupt election infrastructure

and fiber optic networks.” He added that security forces preemptively arrested a significant number of individuals suspected of planning disruptions before they could act, citing only one incident in which security guards protecting ballot boxes in Sistan and Baluchestan province were attacked.

Two soldiers lost their lives during an attack on a vehicle transporting ballot boxes in the Jakigoor rural district of Rask County on June 28. Eight terrorists involved in the attack were arrested before voting for the second round of the presidential race had commenced.

Ahmad also revealed that a final stage of the hostile campaign focused on spreading allegations of fraud, a tactic he said mirrors the events of the

2009 presidential election in Iran. He asserted, “The final stage was to raise the issue of fraud and repeat the bitter experience we had in 2009.” He ultimately noted that these efforts were thwarted by intelligence agencies, armed forces, and the alertness of the Iranian people.

The 2009 post-election unrest erupted following allegations of electoral fraud made by ex-president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s rivals, Mirhossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi. The authorities vehemently rejected the claims as unfounded. Subsequently, the defeated candidates mobilized their supporters to call for a new election, leading to escalating protests that eventually turned violent and resulted in deadly riots.

Ashura: an everlasting source of political inspiration

From Page 1 ▶ the principles exemplified by Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in their stand against the corrupt Umayyad ruler of the time, Yazid.

One of the most common manifestations of this mourning is the *taziyeh*. This term denotes expressions of “sympathy,” “mourning,” and “consolation,” and can be understood as an Islamic drama that, through performances, poetic recitations, and songs, recounts the greatest tragedy of all time.

While the spiritual aspect of Muharram is significant, the political aspect should not be overlooked. Despite being a historical event, the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) functions as an ontological paradigm of the struggle against oppression and the suffering caused by it.

The division between oppressors and oppressed, known as *mostakberin* and *mostazafin* in Quranic language, represents the Islamic ontological division of the world. Simultaneously, it serves as a political division that publicly distinguishes between friends and foes.

The enemies are characterized by a complete absence of justice, making them antithetical to any form of

political articulation based on Islam.

In this context, it is important to recall that in the Quranic chapter *al-Qasas*, there is an unequivocal preferential option for the oppressed. This preferential option for the oppressed is reflected in the identification of God Himself with the *mostazafin*.

In onto-political terms, it can be said that the events of Karbala represent a significant episode in the perennial struggle against the category of *taghut*. *Taghut*, derived from the Arabic verb *tagha*, means to dominate or transgress the limits.

The Quran repeatedly warns against those who “transgress the bounds of justice by dominating and oppressing others.”

The Quran also recounts the story of Moses and Pharaoh, where Pharaoh’s name transcends that of an individual, becoming a symbolic reference to any form of domination that violates the principles of equity.

The paradigm of Karbala, therefore, represents an ongoing political struggle against oppression, injustice, and domination. Moreover, a connection can be established between Imam Hussain (AS), the *mostazafin*, and the need to articulate a response that allows for a different way of being in the world, distinct

from the hegemonic one.

On the other hand, this hegemonic way of being in the world is connected to Yazid, the tyrant who ordered the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS); to the *mostakberin*; to the archetypal figure of Pharaoh; to the category of *taghut*; and ultimately to the epistemological domination characteristic of the West.

During the events of 15 Khordad in 1963 – which corresponds to June 5, 1963, in the Gregorian calendar – the founder of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeini, employed this same political-ontological paradigm by comparing the Shah to Yazid.

The political use of the Karbala paradigm reemerged in a speech given by Imam Khomeini in 1979, months before his triumphant return to Iran after years in exile.

In a speech titled “The Fortieth Day After Ashura,” Imam Khomeini established a connection between the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution and the martyrs of Karbala.

“It is as if the blood of our martyrs continues the bloodshed of the martyrs of Karbala, and as if the commemoration of our brothers echoes the commemoration of those brave souls who fell in Karbala. Just as their pure blood put an end to the tyrannical rule of Yazid, the blood

of our martyrs has shattered the tyrannical monarchy of the Pahlavi dynasty,” he said.

This speech exemplified the importance of Karbala, the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS), and the observance of Muharram as political archetypes in the struggle against oppression.

It also underscored the Islamic genealogy of this struggle. As previously noted, this struggle is intricately linked to resistance against oppression and, more broadly, is centered around the constant pursuit of justice.

The use of the Karbala paradigm by Imam Khomeini and his followers highlights the relevance and continuity of the ontological division between the oppressed and oppressors.

This political articulation centered around the Karbala paradigm is further elucidated by Imam Khomeini’s explicit rejection of the concept of *intizar*, which can be translated as quietism.

Intizar posits that every government is illegitimate in the absence of the twelfth Imam, yet it suggests that any government is better than no government at all.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Jamaican coach Little optimistic about Taftian’s performance in Paris

TEHRAN – Jamaican coach Gregory Little is optimistic about performance of Iranian sprinter Hassan Taftian in the 2024 Olympic Games.

Taftian is aiming to make his mark at the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Two-time Olympian (2016, 2020) Taftian is determined to reach new heights this time around, despite the fierce competition he’ll face in the men’s 100 meters.

Guiding Taftian in his quest for Olympic glory is Little. The 41-year-old coach, known for his expertise in sprinting techniques, believes that the athlete has what it takes to succeed. In an exclusive interview with Tehran Times, Little sheds light on Taftian’s training progress and his Olympic aspirations.

How is Hassan doing with just 20 days left before the Olympics?

Gregory Little: At this moment, Hassan is about 90% ready. We’re focusing on the final 10% to refine the technical aspects of his race.

Given Hassan’s previous Olympic experiences, which was not so successful, what are your expectations for him in Paris?

– If Hassan performs his race plan properly, he has a good chance of making the semi-finals and hopefully even the finals.

How has Hassan progressed since he began training under your leadership?

– Since joining me, Hassan has shown more consistency in his performances on the European circuit. He’s also qualified for all major championships as Iran’s representative.

Do you believe this progress is enough for him to reach the Olympic finals?

– Absolutely. Making the finals is our primary goal.

What, in your opinion, does Hassan need to become a medal contender at the Olympics?

– More financial support is crucial. This would allow for better training equipment, address medical needs, and ensure my continuous presence as his coach.

You weren’t with Hassan during the Asian Games last year, and he wasn’t able to secure a medal. How much of a difference could your presence make on race day?

– My presence could definitely lead to a better outcome. I can make adjustments during his warm-up, finalize the race plan, and provide real-time support.

Hassan is now 30 years old. How long do you think he can compete at an Olympic level?

– With a healthy season and a stronger support system, Hassan can be a factor even in the next Olympics.

Based on your experience, what advice would you give Hassan to succeed in Paris?

– Believe in himself, execute his race plan flawlessly, and most importantly, enjoy the competition.

Amin Hazbani parts company with Al Sadd

TEHRAN – Iranian international defender Amin Hazbavi parted ways with Qatari club Al Sadd.

The 21-year-old defender joined Al Sadd from Foolad last year on a three-year deal but the Qatari club has announced that it has parted company with the Iranian player.

Hazbavi has been linked with a move to an Iranian and an Emirati football team.

He has played for Iran U-20 and U-23 football teams.

Three Iranian athletes banned for doping

TEHRAN – Powerlifter Omid Najafi, Para powerlifter Mohammadamin Zahir and wrestler Amirali Faridi Asadi have been banned for a

period of three years following Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs).

Iran National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) has confirmed that the athletes have been tested positive for a banned substance.

As a result of their violation, the athletes will be ineligible for competition and other sporting activities for a period of three years from the date of the Provisional Suspension.

Najafi is banned from April 8, 2024 to April 8, 2027. Zahir will be ineligible from April 6, 2024 to April 6, 2027. Faridi Asadi has been also banned from June 2, 2024 to June 2, 2027.

Persepolis eye Mohamed Benyettou

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team have reportedly set their sight on signing Algerian forward Mohamed Benyettou.

Benyettou plays for Qatari club Al-Wakrah since 2019.

The 34-year-old striker has played 103 matches for Al-Wakrah and scored 51 goals.

The Iranian club has been reportedly linked with Syrian forward Omar Al Somah.

The Iran league title holders will lead by Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido.

Persepolis will have to participate in the 2024–25 AFC Champions League Elite.

Kayaalp not eligible for 2024 Olympics

TEHRAN – Turkish Greco-Roman wrestler R?za Kayaalp will not participate in the 2024 Olympic Games after he tested positive for prohibited substance.

He won silver at the 2016 Summer Olympics and won bronze medals at the 2012 and 2020 Summer Olympics.

Kayaalp was a rival of Iranian wrestler Amin Mirzazadeh in the 2024 Olympics to be held in Paris.

Hamza Bak?r will compete in Paris instead of Kayaalp.

Iran advance to 2024 CAFA U20 Championship final

TEHRAN – Iran were held to a 1-1 draw by Uzbekistan on Tuesday and secured their spot in the final of the 2024 CAFA U20 Championship.

Ali Hassani was on target for Iran in the match.

Iran went down to 10 men in the match after Esmail Gholizadeg was shown a red card in the 71st minute.

Iran, who had defeated Turkmenistan 3-0 in their first match, qualified for the final as Group B winners. Kyrgyzstan hosts the tournament from July 5 to 12.

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

Taremi arrives in Milan to undergo medical exam

TEHRAN – Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi arrived in Milan, Italy on Tuesday to undergo medical examination.

Taremi parted company with Porto after four years.

He scored 64 goals in 122 matches in 64 matches.

The Iranian forward has reached an agreement with Italian giant Inter Milan.

The Nerazzurri had already shown an interest in signing Taremi last summer. However, they balked at Porto’s asking price for the striker.

Tehran to host intl. poultry, livestock exhibit during July 20-23



By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran's Third International Exhibition of Poultry, Livestock and Related Industries (IRAN PLEX 2024) will be held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during July 20-23.

This exhibition, with the presence of domestic and foreign companies from all over the world, provides an opportunity for those active in livestock, poultry and related industries to learn about the latest achievements and technologies in this field.

In this exhibition, a wide range of products and services related to this industry, including livestock and poultry feed, equipment and machinery, dairy products, medicine and vaccine, packaging and processing, and financial and banking services will be displayed.

During a press conference held about this exhibition at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Tuesday, Salar Rezaei, the organizer of the exhibition, said that this year's exhibition will be held in 12 halls.

Foreign companies present in the exhibition

are mostly from Europe, he added.

Addressing the same press conference, Majid Movafeg Ghadiri, the chairman of Iran's Livestock, Poultry and Aquatic Feed Industries Association, said: "Exhibitions can play a good role to get out of the current situation.

This year's slogan is animal feed and sustainable guidance."

He said, "This year, the exhibition has three different sections. We tried to have operational approaches in different axes and take serious measures in equipping as much as possible, using artificial intelligence and updating technology in the field of production in the exhibition", adding that "We have several different panels and round tables that will be held with the presence of deputy ministers and officials of the country."

"This year, we will have the unveiling of the competitiveness promotion system in the aquatic industry. We will unveil the 5-year animal feed program", Ghadiri further informed.

He also announced that 39 ambassadors and 11 trade delegations from neighboring countries will attend Iran's Third International Exhibition of Poultry, Livestock and Related Industries.

"China, Türkiye and Russia have pavilions in the exhibition. Selling goods in Russia has certain procedures and the goods must be registered there.

At the exhibition, we will have a training workshop in the direction of goods registry, and the Russians will have an active presence", he added.

IAC offering \$800m of airport development projects to investors

TEHRAN - The head of Iran Airports Company (IAC) has said 200 investment projects worth 400 trillion rials (about \$800 million) have been defined for the country's airports and are ready to be presented to interested investors.

Speaking in a press conference on Tuesday, Reza Nakhjavani said a comprehensive roadmap has been compiled for the development of the country's airports, IRNA reported.

Referring to the plans for the development of Mehrabad Airport as the hub of domestic flights in the country, Nakhjavani said: "In the Seventh National Development Plan, it was proposed to transfer the maximum number of flights from this airport to Imam Khomeini Airport, but the proposal was rejected by a decisive vote of 95 percent of the parliament members."

"Currently, the primary studies on the development of this airport (Mehrabad) with an area of 120,000 square meters have been completed, and the estimated budget for completing the project is 300 trillion rials

(about \$600 million)," he said.

According to Nakhjavani, the mentioned will be provided from the IAC internal resources and the company doesn't need government funding.

"Now the country's airports are in favorable conditions and even if domestic flights increase, we will be able to provide optimal services," the official added.

Tehran Imam Khomeini International Airport of Tehran (IKA) is a primary international airport in the capital of Iran.

It is located in the southwest of Tehran and serves all international flights that arrive in Tehran.

The runway and departure terminal of IKA is the first thing that most of the foreign tourists see coming to Iran.

Mehrabad International Airport is an airport serving Tehran, the capital city of Iran. Prior to the construction of the larger Imam Khomeini International Airport in 2007, Mehrabad was Tehran's primary airport for both international and domestic traffic, but now serves only domestic flights.

3,000 EV charging points to be set up across Iran by March 2025

TEHRAN - Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi said 3,000 charging points will be established for electric vehicles (EVs) across the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, IRIB reported.

Speaking in a ceremony held on the occasion of National Auto Industry Day, Aliabadi said: "We need to move towards making electric cars; currently, 120 million liters of gasoline are consumed throughout the country, of which we need to import seven million liters, therefore, making electric vehicles is a solution to overcome the imbalance in gasoline supply and demand."

"The most important components of an electric car include the battery, engine, gearbox, and control system, which can be domestically made, but the priority is to start with the battery and save energy," he explained. Mentioning the significance of the auto industry in the world, the minister said: "In 2023, the world auto industry

revenue total 3,350 billion dollars, which makes this industry the first in generating income in the world."

According to the official, Iran's total income from the automobile industry was 8.40 quadrillion rials (about \$16.8 billion), which means the sector gained as much as half of the country's budget.

The official noted that the country's 37 automakers managed to produce 1.335 million vehicles in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) making the country the world's 16th automaker.

The Industry Ministry has targeted the production of 1.7 million cars for the current calendar year, Aliabadi said.

"Iran's rank in car production increased from 18th to 16th during 2021-2023, and if production remains constant this year, we will reach 15th rank," he said. According to Aliabadi, 900,000 people are currently working in this sector, which accounts for 12 percent of the country's added value.

Back in February, the Manager of the electric vehicle project of the Industry Ministry Hasan Karimi-Sanjari said Iran's public transportation fleet was going to receive 2,500 electric vehicles.

Referring to a plan for the import of electric cars to the country, Karimi-Sanjari said: "It is expected that 2,500 electric vehicles will be added to the public transport fleet." Later in May, the director of the customs office of Qeshm Free Zone Organization (QFZO) announced that the first shipment of imported hybrid cars arrived on Iran's Qeshm Island.

Speaking to reporters, Amir Ali Davood stated that all the imported vehicles were brand new models, adding that some of the imported cars (including Toyota Corolla, different models of Mercedes-Benz, Toyota SHR, Toyota Camry, Lexus (UX) and 18 models of vans) will be used in the public transportation fleet.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's oil production to reach 4m bpd

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has said the country plans to increase its daily crude production to 4.0 million barrels per day (bpd) by late March 2025 and the preparations for the mentioned increase are currently underway, IRNA reported.

According to the minister, the 13th government administration started the movement to increase the country's oil output with the aim of boosting the country's economic growth to 8.0 percent.

Oji said that the late President Ebrahim Raisi administration has already managed to increase oil production from 2.2 to 3.6 million bpd and is now planning to increase the daily output to 4.0 million barrels by the end of the current Iranian year, which falls on March 20, 2025.

The administration also increased the annual gas production by 53 million cubic meters, which marked a 5.0 percent growth, he added.

Oji emphasized that the export value of Iran's oil, gas condensates, and other petroleum and petrochemical products increased



from \$10.8 billion in 2018 to \$36 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2024). In other words, the country's oil revenue has grown 3.5 times.

Gas extraction from the South Pars gas field, which is shared with Qatar, has increased as well, he said, adding that Iran's extraction is 75 to 100 million cubic meters higher.

According to the minister, Iran's annual petrochemical production has now reached 100 million metric tons following a 10-percent growth.

Earlier this month, Oji said that Iran is currently exporting crude oil to 17

countries, including some in Europe.

Iran will not face any problem in exporting oil no matter who comes to power in the U.S., Oji stressed.

Speaking at a ceremony on July 3, he stated that good investment has been made in the past three years in the oil industry.

He went on to say that Iran's oil exports rose from 182 million barrels in 2019 to 565 million barrels last year. Iran has risen to become the fourth largest oil exporter within the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) due to a surge in oil production and sales.

Iran's oil and gas condensate exports have now reached their highest level since 2018, when the United States withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal and introduced tough economic sanctions against the country, targeting its oil sales in particular, according to a report by Vortexa, which provides data on the global energy sector. The report emphasized that Iran's oil and gas condensate exports now account for 9% of OPEC's total crude oil and gas condensate exports.

Iran exported 1.56 million barrels of oil per day from January to May of this year, 250,000 bpd more than Kuwait and Nigeria. This has elevated Iran's ranking to the fourth spot among OPEC's largest crude oil exporters.

Despite Western sanctions, Iran managed to increase its crude oil and gas exports to 1.7 million bpd in May, the highest level in the past five years.

The report cited the rise in Chinese oil demand and the expansion of Iran's oil tanker fleet as the main factors contributing to the surge in Iran's oil exports.

Kharg island's NGL project enjoys 75% progress



TEHRAN- As announced by a local official, NGL project, in Kharg island in the Persian Gulf, which is being built with the aim of reducing the gas emissions in this island to zero has achieved 75 percent physical progress.

Mohammad Reza Dashtizadeh, the governor of Kharg, said that this project is being implemented with an investment of 350 million euros by the

private sector.

He added that with the launch of the NGL project, Kharg island will generate 500 million euros in annual income for the country.

Dashtizadeh further said that 100 percent of the employees and engineers in this project are Iranian and 80 percent of the employees are from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, where Kharg island is located. Kharg Island is a continental island in the Persian Gulf south of Iran. The island is located 25 km (16 mi) off the coast of Iran and 483 km (300 mi) northwest of the Strait of Hormuz.

Administered by the adjacent coastal Boushehr Province, Kharg Island provides a seaport for the export of oil and extends Iranian territorial sea claims into the Persian Gulf oil fields.

Due to its close distance to oilfield regions, its good offshore position, and suitable depth

for gigantic oil vessel berthing, Kharg Island oil terminal has been recognized as one of the country's most suitable places for crude oil export and loading sites.

In last December, the head of Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC) said the crude oil storage capacity of Kharg Oil Terminal is going to increase by two million barrels.

"With the completion of the repairs of tanks 25 and 26, two million barrels will be added to the storage capacity of this terminal," Abbas Gharibi said on the sidelines of a visit to the terminal.

Having modern infrastructures including wharves, loading arms, flow pipelines, storage tanks and measurement systems, this strategic terminal plays a significant role in the country's oil industry in terms of crude oil storage and export and helping to complete the oil and gas value chain, the official said.

Annual car output to reach 1.7m by next March

TEHRAN- Iran's industry minister Abbas Aliabadi says car output in the country will reach 1.7 million units in the current calendar year which ends on March 20, 2025.

Aliabadi said on Monday that Iranian automotive companies had produced a total of 1.335 million cars in the calendar year to March 2024.

He said the steady rise in domestic car manufacturing has allowed Iran to move up to 16th from 18th in

two years in the global ranking of countries based on the number of cars produced annually.

The minister said Iran will become the 15th largest car producer in the world if production targets are met this year. He said that the number of jobs in the Iranian car manufacturing sector has reached 0.9 million, adding that the sector is currently responsible for 12% of the economic added value in the country. Iran has relied on

increased domestic manufacturing of cars instead of imports to meet a growing demand in the country amid sanctions that have caused a change in import priorities.

However, last year, authorities began to relax some of the restrictions imposed on car imports since 2020 in an effort to ease soaring car prices in the market.

The rise in car output has also enabled domestic carmakers to

diversify their models and to speed up their electrification plans.

Aliabadi said electrification will be the ultimate solution to Iran's growing gasoline use problem which he said has exceeded 120 million liters per day. He said that some 3,000 new charging points for electric cars will be available across Iran by the end of current calendar year.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

TEDPIX falls 4,200 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 4,278 points to 2,217,020 on Tuesday, which is the fourth day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

In late January, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) stressed the need for diverse financing tools in the country, noting that such tools are currently being provided by the stock market.



Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of Butterfly, Gate, Globe, Check, Ball Valve for Belal Project, Tender No. 970042

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Butterfly, Gate, Globe, Check, Ball Valve for Belal Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 21 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Ms. Mahabadpour with Tel: +9821-82841057 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Israeli military chief in the firing line

Results of probe into Hamas' October 7 military operation could lead to Herzi Halevi's dismissal

From page 1 ▶ The probe admits that some captives fell victim to friendly fire.

It said an Israeli tank fired two shells on a house where Hamas was holding 14 captives.

The investigation acknowledged one of them was killed by shrapnel and the others lost their lives in the intense fire-fight between Israeli troops and Hamas fighters. It did not say how many of them were harmed by the tank fire.

Previous reports have suggested that the Israeli friendly fire had killed some captives during the October 7 attack.

The investigation, which is set to be officially released on Thursday, is seeking to find out why Israel's military was so unprepared for the Hamas operation despite a reported warning a year before.

The al-Aqsa Storm caught Israel off guard and shook the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the core.

The operation shattered the myth of Israel's invincibility and shed light on the fact that the regime can collapse like a house of cards.

The Hamas attack was in fact like an earthquake that rocked the Israeli establishment.

In April, the Israeli military intelligence chief, became the first



senior figure to step down over the October 7 Hamas attack.

been killed at the hands of the regime forces.

The Israeli army officially acknowledges its failure to stop Operation al-Aqsa Storm.

A probe found Israeli friendly fire killed captives during Hamas' military operation on October 7.

Major General Aharon Haliva, who had served 38 years in the Israeli army, took responsibility for failing to prevent the al-Aqsa Storm in his resignation letter.

Monday's probe could exert pressure on Israel as it officially acknowledges that captives have

This could also lead to growing calls for the resignation of high-ranking officials within the Israeli army including general Haliva.

The Netanyahu regime is currently under immense domestic pressure to reach a ceasefire with Hamas and end the Gaza

war.

Over the past months, Israelis have held protests calling for the release of captives, new elections and Netanyahu's resignation.

Dozens of the captives are currently held in Gaza following a swap deal between Israel and Hamas in November.

Netanyahu who declared war on Gaza following the al-Aqsa Storm operation has vowed to achieve total victory over Hamas, destroy the resistance group and secure the release of the captives.

But he has so far failed to deliver on his promises.

Opposition leader Avigdor Lieberman said in June that the Netanyahu cabinet has received "complete humiliation" instead of "complete victory" in Gaza.

Divisions have also widened between the army and Netanyahu over failing to eliminate Hamas.

Such deep rifts within the Israeli establishment indicate that the Palestinian resistance has the upper hand in the Gaza battlefield although the Netanyahu regime has massacred more than 38,000 Palestinians in the past nine months.

Israeli army struggles in northern Gaza

Israeli media report "difficult" security incidents

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Despite the intense Israeli shelling targeting the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood southwest of Gaza City since Monday afternoon, the Palestinian resistance continues to target the regime's military trying to advance towards the neighborhood under artillery cover.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, announced that its fighters managed to detonate an anti-personnel explosive device against an Israeli foot patrol unit consisting of six troops southwest of Tel al-Hawa, killing one soldier and injuring another.

To the west of Tel al-Hawa, an Israeli military vehicle was targeted with an explosive device. Another military jeep was also attacked with a Yasin 105 shell.

Using another explosive device, al-Qassam fighters targeted an Israeli military vehicle at the 17th roundabout west of Tel al-Hawa, as well as an Israeli D9 bulldozer on Rasheed Street.

Furthermore, the armed wing of Hamas targeted an Israeli Merkava 4 tank with a pre-planted ground explosive device as the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) near Tel al-Hawa.

The armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), the al-Quds Brigades, announced the detonation of two IOF military vehicles with pre-planted ground explosives on the

outskirts of Tel al-Hawa.

The al-Quds Brigades also targeted the IOF with mortar shells as the Israeli army struggles to advance in the neighborhood.

The al-Mujahideen Brigades, the military wing of the Palestinian Mujahideen Movement, reported that its fighters were also confronting the IOF in Tel al-Hawa.

Israeli media reported four "difficult" security incidents faced by the regime's army in the neighborhood.

Elsewhere, using 114mm Grad rockets, the al-Qassam Brigades targeted the IOF stationed in Netzarim.

Also, in Netzarim, the al-Quds Brigades targeted an Israeli occupation command center with mortar shells.

The Al-Qassam Brigades published footage on social media outlets of their fighters targeting Israeli troops' positions with rockets.

Israeli media sources reported the landings of Israeli military helicopters at the Netzarim, believed to be for evacuating casualties. Israeli media also stated that three soldiers wounded in Gaza were evacuated.

Meanwhile, reporters on the ground have said the IOF withdrew from al-Daraj and Shujaiya neighborhoods near Gaza City, while resistance continues to target its forces with shells and rockets.

Lancet study: Gaza death toll could be over 186,000

The British medical journal, The Lancet, issued a harrowing warning that the true death toll of the Gaza conflict could be over 186,000, accounting for 8% of Gaza's population.

The current official death toll stands at about 38,200, according to Gazan government sources.

However, The Lancet's recent report published Friday and titled "Counting the Dead in Gaza: Difficult but Essential," suggests this figure is a significant underestimate.

The true number likely includes thousands still trapped under rubble and those who have succumbed to the secondary effects of the conflict, such as malnutrition, disease, and lack of medical care.

A major contributor to the extensive loss of life is the 14,000 bombs, each weighing 2,000 pounds, supplied by the US to Israel. These bombs have not only caused immediate casualties but have also devastated Gaza's infrastructure, exacerbating conditions that lead to additional deaths, according to Anadolu.

The destruction of healthcare facilities, food distribution networks, and sanitation systems has left the population in a perilous state.

The Lancet highlights the difficulty in collecting accurate data due to the widespread destruction.

"The number of reported deaths is likely an underestimate. The non-governmental organization Airwars undertakes detailed as-

sessments of incidents in the Gaza Strip and often finds that not all names of identifiable victims are included in the Ministry's list. Furthermore, the UN estimates that, by Feb. 29, 2024, 35% of buildings in the Gaza Strip had been destroyed, so the number of bodies still buried in the rubble is likely substantial, with estimates of more than 10,000," it said.

The report warned: "The total death toll is expected to be large given the intensity of this conflict; destroyed health-care infrastructure; severe shortages of food, water, and shelter; the population's inability to flee to safe places; and the loss of funding to UN-RWA, one of the very few humanitarian organizations still active in the Gaza Strip."

WORLD HEADLINES

Hezbollah releases drone footage of Israeli military bases in occupied Golan

Lebanon's Hezbollah published an almost 10-minute video on Tuesday showing footage of 17 military sites in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights which it said had been gathered by the resistance movement's surveillance aircraft.

The video is the second episode in a series intended to show how far Hezbollah's surveillance of Israel has reached as tensions mount over Israel's genocidal war against Gaza and over frequent exchanges of fire across Lebanon's border with Israel.

Hezbollah published a more than nine-minute video in June of surveillance footage of sensitive military sites in Israel, including the city of Haifa's airport and sea ports.

UN experts: Gaza children dying in Israeli "targeted starvation campaign"

United Nations rights experts on Tuesday accused Israel of carrying out a "targeted starvation campaign" that has resulted in the deaths of children in Gaza.

"We declare that Israel's intentional and targeted starvation campaign against the Palestinian people is a form of genocidal violence and has resulted in famine across all of Gaza," 10 independent United Nations experts said in a statement.

The UN has not officially declared a famine in the Gaza Strip, but the experts, including UN special rapporteur on the right to food Michael Fakhri, insisted there was no denying there were famine conditions in the Palestinian territory.

"Thirty-four Palestinians have died from malnutrition since 7 October, the majority being children," said the experts, who were appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, but who do not speak on behalf of the United Nations.

Israeli captive begs for ceasefire

The family of an Israeli captive permits the publication of a video from January in which the soldier, Daniel Gilboa, 19, says she has been abandoned by the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and begs to be brought home.

While the existence of the video was reported at the time it was released, most Israeli media outlets did not publish it, according to the Times of Israel.

Gilboa's mother, Orly Gilboa, told the Kan public broadcaster that the family decided to permit publication of the clip in the hope it would show the importance of the renewed talks for a captive-truce deal.

The captive admits that Israeli strikes against Gaza may lead to her death.

"I am under bombardment and fire 24 hours a day and I am very afraid for my life," Gilboa said. "Your bombs nearly killed me on one occasion."

She added, "Why should I as a soldier... feel that I have been abandoned and thrown away?"

"Get over yourselves dear government and start doing your job as is necessary. Bring us home alive," the captive soldier said.

Brazil ratifies free trade deal with Palestine

Brazil has officially enacted a long-awaited free trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority, a move aimed at showing solidarity

with the Palestinian people amid the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza.

"The agreement is a concrete contribution to an economically viable Palestinian state," Brazil's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, Al Mayadeen reported.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced the ratification during his speech at the 64th Mercosur summit in Paraguay on Monday, expressing regret that the agreement took place while Palestinians are going through "a completely irrational war."

"We are proud to be the first country in the bloc to ratify the free trade agreement with Palestine. But I cannot help regret that this occurs in a context in which the Palestinian people are suffering as a result of a completely irrational war," Lula stressed.

Brazil recognized a Palestinian state in 2010 and hosts a Palestinian embassy in its capital.

Russia commends strategic partnership with India

Russian President Vladimir Putin believes that Moscow and New Delhi maintain a privileged strategic partnership.

"Our countries have enjoyed decades of a good friendship," Putin said at talks with visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Kremlin. "Today, our relations have the nature of a privileged strategic partnership," he added, Tass news agency reported.

The Russian leader expressed satisfaction with growing trade between the two countries which he said saw a 66% increase last year "and rose by another 20% in the first quarter of this year."

Putin once again congratulated Modi on his re-election as Indian premier as he noted that Modi had arrived in Russia for his first official foreign visit after he was sworn in for another term at the helm of the government following the Indian general election last month.

Leading House Democrat urges Biden to end presidential bid

Joe Biden's position among congressional Democrats eroded further on Monday when an influential House committee member lent his voice to calls for him to end his presidential campaign following last month's spectacular debate failure, the Guardian reported.

Adam Smith, the ranking Democrat on the armed services committee in the House of Representatives, issued the plea just hours after the president emphatically rejected calls for him to step aside in a letter to the party's congressional contingent.

Biden had also expressed determination to continue in an unscheduled phone interview with the MSNBC politics show Morning Joe.

But in a clear sign such messaging may be falling on deaf ears, Smith suggested that sentiments of voters that he was too old to be an effective candidate and then president for the next four years was clear from opinion polls.

"The president's performance in the debate was alarming to watch and the American people have made it clear they no longer see him as a credible candidate to serve four more years as president," Smith, a congressman from Washington state, said in a statement.

"Since the debate, the president has not seriously addressed these concerns."

He said the president should stand aside "as soon as possible," though he qualified it by saying he would support him "unreservedly" if he insisted on remaining as the nominee.

Smith joins the ranks of five Democratic members of Congress who publicly demanded Biden's withdrawal last week. He was among at least four others who spoke in favor of it privately in a virtual meeting on Sunday with Ha-keem Jeffries, the party's leader in the House.

Armenian diplomats visit Sacred Defense Museum

TEHRAN - A delegation of young diplomats from Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has visited the National Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Sacred Defense in Tehran.

The tour was held as part of a mission to help strengthen political relations and cultural ties between the two countries, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

During their visit, the Armenian delegation paid their respects at the museum's Memorial of Unknown Martyrs and the revered founder of the Islamic Revolution, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The group also paid tribute to the Christian martyrs of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Moreover, they toured the museum's seven halls, gaining insight into the events leading up to the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the imposed war, and the subsequent advancements.

The head of the delegation highlighted the historical connections between Armenia and

Iran, expressing gratitude to the museum officials, the report said.

The epic-scale museum does bargain something different in modern Iranian history where wreckages of rockets, tanks, rifles, vessels, mortars, radars, air defense systems, grounded jets, military supplies, and artillery pieces among others, have been put on view.

The museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. One of the highlights is a recreation of the liberation of Khorramshahr via video projections.

The was launched on the order of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein nearly 19 months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Among many border cities directly involved in the 1980-1988 war, Khorramshahr is highly honored as a symbol of resistance during the war against Iraqi invaders.

Lorestan seeks Iran medicinal plants capital label

TEHRAN - The head of Lorestan's directorate for Agriculture Jihad has announced the province's strong commitment to becoming Iran's capital for medicinal plants.

"We are vigorously pursuing the plan to transform Lorestan into the herbal medicine capital," Seyyed Emad Shahrokhi said on Monday, emphasizing the importance of expanding medicinal plant cultivation, ILNA reported.

Highlighting that their primary objectives in the agricultural sector are production and employment, Shahrokhi noted, "One of the significant achievements in production is the purchase of 4,700 tons of rapeseed from the province's farmers, a substantial increase compared to last year."

He stressed the strict measures against illegal land use changes in agricultural areas, noting that judicial authorities will take serious action against officials who neglect to

address such violations.

Shahrokhi added that significant steps are being taken to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants in the province's villages, including the organization of informational and educational classes.

Lorestan, with its unique geographical position at the heart of the Zagros mountain range, is considered a remarkable research hub for medicinal plants, housing many of the region's valuable plant species.

The province boasts a unique and diverse flora, with both tropical and cold regions, which has led to the proliferation of numerous medicinal plants. Additionally, Lorestan's climatic diversity makes it one of the rare regions in the country, contributing to its rich variety of medicinal plants. According to available data, over 120 plant species with significant medicinal properties have been identified in Lorestan.

Qazvin upgrades services for summer guests

TEHRAN - Qazvin province is gearing up for a busy summer season, offering hundreds of beds across various accommodation facilities.

A local official in charge of tourism, speaking on Tuesday announced that Qazvin boasts 2,300 beds across various accommodations, including hotels, hotel apartments, traditional hotels, and eco-lodges, ready to welcome tourists during the peak of summer.

"Provincial executive travel services committee has been preparing to host summer tourists since late May," said Nader Mohammadi, adding that coordination meetings with a number of local departments have been held, alongside continuous supervisory visits to tourism facilities to ensure quality services.

14 eco-lodges, he further elaborated, are ready to serve tourists, with an additional 35 accommodations in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals and infrastructure to attract more visitors.

"While most eco-lodges are located in the Alamut region," Mohammadi outlined. "They

also operate in other areas such as Takestan and Tarom."

Mohammadi emphasized that, in line with directives from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the province has prioritized the improvement of touristic facilities to provide travelers with satisfactory services.

Moreover, the official highlighted efforts to organize one-day tours through local travel agencies, which is expected to boost tourism and support the local economy.

Mohammadi pointed out the province's rural and natural attractions, including Alamut, Tarom, and Barajin, noting their unique and pristine qualities. With appropriate investment and infrastructure development, he continued, these areas could become significant tourist destinations.

In his final words, the official mentioned that strategic plans for geographically distributing tourism services, particularly in rural areas, are in place, with an eye toward expanding tourism services across the province.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Galápagos Islands

The Galapagos Islands area, which is situated in the Pacific Ocean some 1,000 km from the Ecuadorian coast, is sometimes referred to as a unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.

The UNESCO-designated archipelago and

its immense marine reserve is known as the unique 'living museum and showcase of evolution'.

Its geographical location at the confluence of three ocean currents makes it one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world.

Yazd welcomes intl. tourists for religious observances

TEHRAN - Yazd is set to welcome international tourists to its renowned Muharram mourning ceremonies through specially organized tours.

In a bid to highlight the importance of intangible heritage and demystify the philosophy of Imam Hussain's (AS) uprising, Yazd held a coordination meeting on Tuesday to organize special tours dedicated to international visitors, CHTN reported.

The meeting brought together officials from various executive bodies and active members of religious and spiritual tourism sectors to foster closer collaboration, the report said.

The aim of launching such tours is to facilitate the presence of foreign tourists in religious sites across the province.

According to the provincial officials, the Muharram tours will include necessary explanations about Imam Hussain's uprising against injustice and oppression.



On the other hand, they are aimed to promote intangible heritage, and counter Islamophobia.

This initiative began in Yazd more than ten years ago and has been well-received by foreign tourists over the years.

Despite the hot summer weather, this year Yazd is expecting a number of overseas tourist groups to participate in Muharram ceremonies.

As revealed by the tour organizers, efforts are being made to ensure that visiting tourists can attend these events during their stay in the province.

In the coming days, Yazd will also introduce its tourism and cultural capacities by organizing activities such as attending the Tasu'a and Ashura ceremonies, participating in the preparation and distribution of Nazri (re-

ligious food offerings), showcasing nationally registered mourning rituals and intangible heritage, and distributing cultural gifts.

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

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

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

Excavations shed new light on Isfahan's ancient craftsmanship and trade

TEHRAN - Archaeological digs conducted on accidentally-discovered ruins in Isfahan have revealed hidden layers of ancient craftsmanship and trade in the renowned Iranian city which was once the capital of Persia in the Saffavid era.

In a recent interview with ISNA, archaeologist Ali Shojai Isfahani, who led the excavations, elaborated on the findings: "Our studies, conducted in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Art, reveal that this site was once a major marketplace for production and distribution, with origins predating the Saffavid and even Mongol eras. Various sections dedicated to the production of pottery, glass, metal, and decorative items were active here."

So far, two archaeological seasons have been completed and the third has just commenced on the ruins, located at Kamar-Zarrin Pasagway adjacent to the UNESCO-registered Jameh Mosque of Isfahan.

Over two excavation seasons, the team has unearthed significant evidence spanning various historical periods, indicating the passageway's long-standing importance in the heart of Isfahan's historical fabric.

According to Shojai Isfahani, the initial excavations have yielded architectural remnants and movable artifacts from diverse Islamic periods, dating from the 9th and 10th centuries to the Qajar and early Pahlavi eras. "These discoveries have confirmed the long-held belief that this passageway was a bustling production and trade hub."

The presence of raw materials, finished products, and production waste all point to a lively production environment in the heart of Isfahan, near the Jameh Mosque, which dates back to the same period. The current findings are particularly significant given Isfahan's continued reputation as a city of craftsmanship, highlighting the historical continuity of artisanal production.

Notably, the intact architectural remains present a unique opportunity for preservation and public display. Plans are underway to develop a preservation and display strategy in



collaboration with colleagues from the University of Art and other experts.

Breaking with traditional archaeological practices, the team allowed public access to the site, even permitting photography. This openness not only engaged the public but also helped raise public awareness of preserving cultural heritage.

Shojai Isfahani said that his team provided opportunities for interested people to observe the excavation scene in a controlled way. He emphasized the dual objectives behind their approach to the excavations. First, they aimed to raise public awareness and sensitivity toward the passageway. Second, they sought to demystify the process of archaeological studies for the public, dispelling the common misconception that archaeologists may be treasure hunters.

Shojai Isfahani underscored the responsibility of scholars and locals alike to preserve and study these artifacts, which testify to Isfahan's magnificent past. "The excavations at Kamar-Zarrin have demonstrated that beneath the modern layers of Isfahan, there lies a wealth of historical evidence."

Furthermore, archaeologist Aqil Aqili provided additional context to ISNA, highlighting the likelihood of extensive historical layers in Isfahan, particularly given the city's geographic centrality and the presence of the Zayandeh-Rud River. He speculated that significant pre-Islamic artifacts might be buried beneath layers of alluvial deposits and mud, underscoring the importance of continued excavations.

Aqili stressed that ongoing archaeological work is crucial to unearthing the region's rich

history and cultural identity.

Isfahan, once the nucleus of international trade and diplomacy in Iran, stands today as one of Iran's premier tourist destinations for compelling reasons.

In 1587, Shah Abbas the Great ascended to rule over Persia's Saffavid dynasty and hand-picked Isfahan as the pinnacle of his reign, endeavoring to surpass all other cities. His era witnessed an unparalleled transformation, marked by the construction of an impressive array of palaces, mosques, gardens, and bridges.

Subsequent rulers under Shah Abbas continued the city's embellishment. Isfahan, then inhabited by 600,000 people, boasted an astounding 162 mosques, 48 colleges, 273 public baths, and an impressive count of 1,802 caravanserais—sprawling courtyards flanked by structures, serving as medieval hubs offering respite for travelers, their camels, and accommodations.

The city's allure lies in its plethora of architectural marvels—unrivaled Islamic structures, vibrant bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined avenues. Isfahan beckons explorers to wander its labyrinthine bazaars, luxuriate in its serene gardens, and engage with its warm-hearted populace. Notably, it is revered not only for its wealth of historical bridges but also for the life-sustaining Zayandeh Rud River, a source of original beauty and fertility for the city.

The expansive Imam Square, renowned as Naghsh-e Jahan Square (meaning "Image of the World"), stands as one of the world's largest squares (500m by 160m) and an exquisite embodiment of urban design. Erected in the early 17th century, this UNESCO-recognized square hosts Isfahan's most captivating landmarks.

Such a warm development led to the creation of a motto: "Isfahan nesfe Jahan"—"Isfahan is half the world." This poetic adage alludes to the belief that witnessing Isfahan equates to experiencing half the globe.

Maku Free Zone eyes tourism surge with new reforms

TEHRAN - Maku Free Zone could host loads of international tourists annually if relevant laws are properly enforced and tourism infrastructure is strengthened, said the free zone's CEO.

In an interview with CHTN, Hossein Garousi highlighted Maku Free Zone's strategic location as a gateway to Europe.

"Each year, numerous travelers cross the Bazargan border into Turkey and other countries, and vice versa, many tourists enter Iran through this border," he stated.

Garousi pointed out the diverse tourism opportunities in Maku Free Zone, citing attractions such as the UNESCO world heritage sites of Saint Thaddeus Monastery and Dzordzor Chapel.

The region, the CEO added, also boasts natural attractions like the Soraya Springs and hot springs, and hosts annual sports events like

paragliding and fishing competitions.

The CEO further highlighted the presence of the largest modern orchard in the Middle East, covering 209 hectares with pistachio and walnut trees, which could boost agricultural tourism in the region.

Despite these assets, Gerousi highlighted that administrative bureaucracy hinders progress.

"We currently have two upscale hotels in the free zone," he explained. "But hotel equipment often remains stuck in customs for over seven or eight months, delaying projects."

According to the law, the CEO underscored, equipment should enter free zones without paying duties, but enforcement issues persist.

Garousi highlighted that more than 7,000 foreign Christians visit Saint Thaddeus Monastery and Dzordzor Chapel annually, even though suitable accommodations are lack-

ing. "Imagine the potential increase in tourist numbers if proper infrastructure were in place," he said.

The 13th government has invested some \$15 million in Maku Free Zone's tourism sector, the CEO brought to light.

Key projects include the construction of a zip line and a tourist resort village, the establishment of an eco-lodge, the completion of the first phase of the Iranian Park recreational and entertainment center, and the development of the Sam recreational, tourist, and sports complex featuring a cable car, ski resort, and four-star hotel on the Qare Khach tourism route.

These initiatives, if successfully implemented, could transform Maku Free Trade Zone into a premier tourism destination, driving both economic growth and employment, he wended up.

Iran urges SCO to foster green development for environmental co-op

TEHRAN –Ali Salajeqeh, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), has announced that utilizing the potential of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) members is essential for fostering green development in the region and establishing a global role model for environmental cooperation.

"The Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting provides an opportunity to develop effective and proper measures for addressing common and regional challenges and preserve the environment and green development," IRNA quoted Salajeqeh as saying.

He made the remarks while delivering a speech at the Green Development Forum of the SCO, held in Qingdao, China, from July 8 to 9.

Population growth, industrialization, and other issues such as migration, diverse infectious diseases, water scarcity, increase in greenhouse gases, global warming, as well as the melting of polar ice are among current global challenges, he said.

These issues have more or less disrupted the balance of ecosystems and posed risks to biodiversity, food security, human health, and the environment which must be taken into account when formulating policies, establishing and prioritizing goals, and adopting strategies, the official stressed.

He went on to say although it is difficult to establish a balance between environmental measures and other development



goals, including poverty alleviation and economic growth, to ensure balanced progress prioritizing one aspect of development and goals over others should be avoided.

"Developing countries should make sure of their social and economic growth as their top priority because the fight against poverty, the development of health and the provision of housing and energy for a significant part of the developing world is still considered a basic priority."

As an independent and responsible country, Iran has always highlighted the importance of protecting the environment and has placed this important task at the forefront of its policies, strategies, and development plans, Salajeqeh noted.

However, unjust and unilateral sanctions against Iran have resulted in numerous consequences like environmental destruction and lowered the level of balanced development.

Nevertheless, Iranian youth in knowledge-based companies

have tried to solve these environmental problems by focusing on research, development, and innovation, as well as relying on their knowledge and expertise, he further noted.

The official also expressed Iran's readiness to share its achievements and expertise with other SCO member countries and enhance cooperation with them to improve the regional environmental status.

Green Development Forum

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

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

More than 350 participants, from China and other nations, were expected to attend the event to share their insights on

advancing green development.

In addition to delivering a speech, Salajeqeh was scheduled to hold a meeting with Chinese Minister of Ecology and Environment, Huang Runqiu. He will also meet with environment ministers of the participating countries, as well as the secretary general of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), dolat.ir reported.

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

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

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

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

University of Tehran inks MOUs with Russian, Malaysian universities

TEHRAN –The University of Tehran has signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with HSE University of Russia, and MAHSA University of Malaysia to boost science diplomacy and enhance academic cooperation.

These MOUs were signed on the sidelines of the visit by representatives from 12 countries including Malaysia, China, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen, and Venezuela to the University of Tehran on July 8 and 9.

President of the University of Tehran, Seyyed Mohammad Moqimi signed an MOU with Nikita Anisimov, rector of HSE University.

The agreement focuses on boosting academic and cultural collaborations including sharing expertise, exchanging students, and conducting joint scientific research as well as educational programs.

It also includes sharing experiences among staff, conducting joint publications, and holding collaborative educational, cultural, and scientific events.

Malaysia's Ambassador to Iran Khairi Bin Omar signed the MOU as the representative of MAHSA University.

The agreement aims to facilitate academic visits for faculty members and researchers



attending conferences and seminars, academic exchanges and publications, as well as joint research activities.

Facilitating study opportunities for students and graduates including internships; and conducting joint courses are among other parts of the agreement.

University of Tehran rankings

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

The University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Tarbiat Modares University ranked first to third, respectively.

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

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

A total of 29 Iranian universities are mentioned in the overall table; the University of Tehran ranked 601-800.

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

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) were among the top 10 institutions in West Asia.

They ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

The Research ranking of the University of Tehran was 290, in the world.

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

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'Further measures required to preserve forests'

Iran's forest area is approximately 12 million hectares with 0.2 hectares per capita, which is one quarter of the world average, so attention to preserve the forest areas must be four times the global attention.

Unfortunately, forests have been taken for granted in the country, as 2 million hectares of the northern forests has been depleted since 1330s (1950s), thus no serious protection measures have been taken.

حفظ جنگل ها نیازمند اقدامات بیشتر

بر اساس آخرین آمار موسسه تحقیقات جنگل ها و مراتع، وسعت رویشگاه های جنگلی ایران حدود ۱۲ میلیون هکتار و سرانه هر ایرانی از جنگل، کمتر از دو هکتار است که یک چهارم سرانه جهانی می شود بنابراین باید توجه ما به حفظ رویشگاه های جنگلی، ۴ برابر توجه جهانی باشد.

حدود ۱.۶ میلیون هکتار از جنگل های شمال کشور باقی مانده است که این رقم در دهه ۳۰ حدود ۳.۵ میلیون هکتار بود یعنی در این مدت حدود دو میلیون هکتار عرصه جنگلی را از دست داده ایم، البته نیمی از ۱.۶ میلیون هکتار موجود نیز تا حدود زیادی تخریب شده است.

Tehran to host intl. tech Olympics

TEHRAN –Tehran will play host to the international technology Olympics which is scheduled to be held from October 22 to 28.

Elite students from Iran and other countries will participate in competitions covering various fields of advanced and emerging technologies, IRNA reported.

The international technology Olympics will be held in five different fields including artificial intelligence, cyber security, programming, robotics, and drones.

Each of these competitions consists of several leagues, covering different specialized areas within the field.

Competitive sections, specialized bootcamps, job and employment centers, and specialized stages are among the main parts of the international event.

The event serves as a platform to identify the best technological talents in the country and take advantage of them in important projects of the country.

Iran ranks 75 in technology, innovation

According to a report in December 2023, Iran was ranked 75 among 185 countries by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

UNCTAD categorized 17 types of technologies as frontier technologies including artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, big data, 5G, 3D printing, robotics, drone technology, solar photovoltaic, concentrated solar power, biofuels, biogas and biomass, wind energy, green hydrogen, electric vehicles, nanotechnology and gene editing.

The global trend in the next few years will be knowledge-oriented, and education is considered a key element to promote innovation and alignment with trends, especially concerning rapid developments in the field of information technology.

In this report, the structure of the Readiness for Frontiers Technologies Index, the comparison of countries' performance at both global and regional levels, and Iran's position in the Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index were prepared in three parts in 2022.

The Readiness for Frontiers Technologies Index ranked countries in the world according to their ability to use, adopt, and adapt frontier technologies.

In this index, technological capacities related to physical investment, human capital, and technological efforts were considered and included national capacities to exploit, accept, and adapt to these technologies.

The aforementioned capacities, taking into account the five sub-indices of the development of information and communication technology, the number of Internet users and download speed (skills), the expected academic years of highly educated workers (research and development activities (num-



ber of publications and patents), industrial activity with High technology and export of digital services and access to financing was measured by the ratio of domestic credit to the private sector.

According to this report, Iran ranked 75th among 158 countries in the index of readiness for advanced technologies in 2022, compared to Turkey (ranked 53), and Saudi Arabia (ranked 47).

Examining the sub-indices of readiness for frontier technologies in 2022 showed that Iran's situation was relatively better in the research and development sub-index (35th in the world) and relatively worse in the industrial activities sub-index (118th in the world).

In other sub-indices such as financial sub-indices (rank 62), skills sub-index (rank 74), and in the sub-index of the establishment of information and communication technology (ranked 78), the country had almost a middle position among countries.

In the research and development sub-index, although Iran's rank improved by 5 places, its growth has been insignificant and it reached the 40th rank in the world in 2008 to the 35th rank in 2022.

In the sub-index of the establishment of information and communication technology, Iran ranked 10th in West Asia and 78th in the world.

The trend of Iran's rank in this sub-index decreased from 2008 to 2015; it dropped from the 104th rank in 2008 to the 126th rank in 2015.

But since 2016, Iran's ranking in this sub-index has improved and it was promoted from 126th in the world in 2008 to 78th in 2022.

In the sub-index of skills, Iran ranked 8th in West Asia and 74th in the world.

The trend of Iran's ranking in this sub-index improved from 104th in the world in 2008 to 74th rank in 2021.

In the research and development sub-index, Iran ranked fifth in West Asia and 35th in the world.

In the industrial activity sub-index, Iran ranked 12th in West Asia and 108th in the world. It slightly improved from 132nd in 2008 to 118th in 2022.

In the financing sub-index, Iran ranked 10th in West Asia and 62nd in the world.

UNDP provides Iran with autoclaves for medical waste management

TEHRAN - In a significant move to strengthen Iran's national healthcare waste management capabilities, the United Nations Development Programme has installed seven autoclaves in five provinces to safely manage the medical waste in the country.

The recent acquisition of high-tech autoclaves has marked a significant step forward. These advanced machines, capable of using high-pressure steam to sterilize and shred medical waste, were introduced amidst the soaring demand for safe waste disposal methods heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At that time, traditional chemical-based methods started to phase out in favor of more sustainable, effective technologies. According to the national health protocols, a staggering number of 120 autoclaves were deemed necessary to safely manage the medical waste in the country.

To date, with the support from UNDP as the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund grant, seven autoclaves have been acquired. The autoclaves were strategically installed across the country in hospitals in Fars, East Azarbaijan, Kordestan, Khuzestan, and Teh-

ran provinces. These facilities were chosen to ensure a broad geographical distribution benefiting both rural and urban populations.

Partnerships have been vital in this endeavor. A collaborative network including the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) and several top universities including Shahid Beheshti in Tehran, as well as Ahvaz, Kordestan, Shiraz, and Tabriz Universities, has been integral to ensuring due acquisition accompanied by adequate training and support, guaranteeing sustainable use of the autoclaves. As the next steps, detailed guides on the operation and maintenance of these machines will be distributed ensuring long-term and successful utilization.

The result can be transformative. By implementing these advanced machines, the national health system can significantly enhance its capacity to manage medical waste. This development helps to control the spread of infectious diseases, especially critical during pandemic surges, and aligns with international environmental standards, marking a leap toward more sustainable healthcare practices.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Why should a human being boast? His beginning is a sticky embryo, and his end a terrible corpse. He can neither secure his subsistence, nor ward off death.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:43 Dawn: 3:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:58 (tomorrow)

Powerful street art campaign spotlighting Israel's war on Gaza

Street artists worldwide are showing solidarity with photojournalists who are risking their lives covering Israel's war on Gaza.

Shepard Fairey is among the dozens of artists who've joined the Unmute Gaza project that is amplifying the work of local photojournalists on the ground amid Israel's continued ban on international media from entering the territory according to Yahoo! News.

Fairey and others have recreated some of the harrowing images emerging from Gaza as paintings and sketches, with a mute symbol in the middle.

The artworks are downloadable for free from the project's website. People are urged to print them out and paste them on walls in their own cities and towns to raise awareness of the conflict.

Images that were taken by Belal Khaled were reimaged by street artist Ernest Zacharevic and are now on display in Penang, Malaysia.

"By creating artworks based on the images of these professional photojournalists, we wish to build a bridge between our community of artists and those facing death every second in Gaza," the Unmute Gaza collective, whose members are donating their time and resources freely, wrote on Instagram.

It's "a simple way to support while showing the truth of what is happening," it added.

Fairey was compelled to join the initiative "because I'm a pacifist," he wrote on his website.

"I was inspired to work from Belal Khaled's photo of a young boy who is crying out in pain from his injuries as blood runs down his face," he said. "An image like this (and thousands of others) can strip away the superficial overlay of country, ethnicity, and religion and illuminate the basic human suffering that is happening in Gaza."

The campaign went public in November 2023 when Unmute Gaza members unfurled banners featuring Spanish street artist Escif's

recreations of photos that were taken by Khaled and Mahmoud Bassam from the third floor of the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

The stunt temporarily forced the museum to close its entrance, HyperAllergic reported at the time. Since then, artists' reworked images have appeared in 80 cities across 29 countries — from Bogota, Colombia to Bristol, England.

Unmute Gaza members unfurled banners in the Guggenheim Museum in New York to draw attention to their campaign.

Last week, environmental activist organization Greenpeace joined Unmute Gaza to unfurl a gigantic banner featuring Fairey's interpretation of Khaled's image on Madrid's Reina Sofia Museum, the home of Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" painting which shows the horrors of the Nazi German bombing campaign on the Spanish town of the same name.

Picasso's haunting painting is "a symbol of the suffering of civilians in war," Greenpeace executive director Eva Saldaña said in a statement sent to HuffPost.

Unmute Gaza teamed up with Greenpeace to unfurl a gigantic banner on the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid, Spain.

"There is no better place to denounce what is happening in Gaza, to reconnect with our humanity in order to put life before everything else, to demand respect for current international law and to call for a ceasefire through the work of two great artists," Saldaña added.

Israel launched its war on Gaza in response to Hamas' surprise Oct. 7 attack.

Israel's retaliation has, to date, killed more than 25,000 Palestinians.

Some 85% of the territory's 2.3 million residents have been forced from their homes.

Pablo Picasso's "Guernica" depicts the horrors of the Nazi German bombing of the northern Spanish town of the same name.

Cartoon of Day



Repeated Displacement in Gaza

Cartoonist: Ahmad Rahma from Turkey

Tehran museum hosting exhibition on Palestine

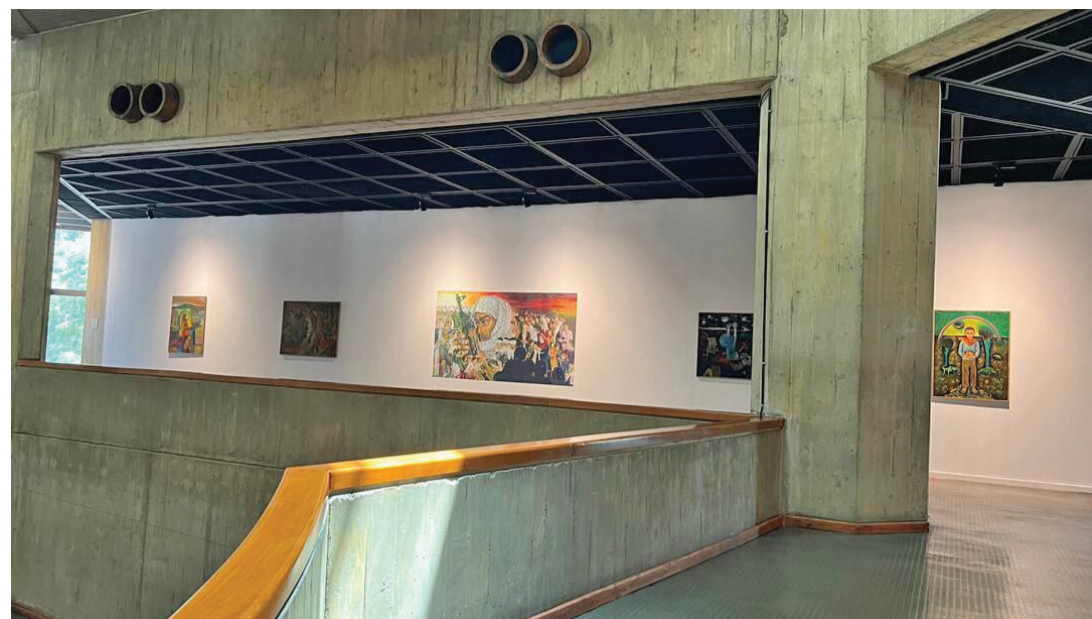
TEHRAN- A selection of artworks by Iranian, Palestinian, and international artists, titled "A Carving on Stone", is on display at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, focusing on the theme of Palestine.

The exhibition, curated by Mohammadreza Vahidzadeh, a renowned art critic and researcher, features a collection of artworks from the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art's own collection, Saba Cultural and Art Institute, the Cultural and Artistic Institution of Ravayat-e Fat'h, and personal collections, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The exhibition presents works by artists with diverse styles and techniques from different eras, showcasing their masterpieces created in the aftermath of the Gaza genocide by the Israeli army after October 7, the report added.

The show also features contemporary artworks by prominent artists such as Banksy, Ai Weiwei, Mike Pare, Samia Halaby, and Maisara Baroud.

The exhibition also includes over 100 artworks by prominent Iranian



artists, including Habibollah Sadeqi, Kazem Chalipaa, Iraj Eskandari, Hossein Khosrojerdi, Nasser Palangi, Gholamali Taheri, Mostafa Goudarzi, Morteza Asadi, Abdolhamid Qadirian, Ahmad Esfandiari, Mohammad Ali Tarqijah, Habibollah Ayatollahi, Ali Vazirian, and Mostafa Naderlou.

The exhibition will continue until September 8.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, more than 38,000 Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched its military offensive on October 7.

Half of Gaza's buildings, including hospitals and homes, and hundreds of sites of cultural and religious significance, have been damaged or destroyed during the nine-month Israel's war on Gaza.

Satellite imagery analysis reveals that around 50 percent of the total structures in Gaza and approximately 62 percent of all homes have been damaged or destroyed.

The catastrophic damage has left more than a million Palestinians without homes and nearly 2.3 million residents displaced, facing acute shortages of food, clean water, and medical services.

"The Role of Friendship" festival to expand Iran-Russia artistic cultural relations



TEHRAN- An international art festival titled "The Role of Friendship" will be held next month to expand the artistic cultural relations between Iran and Russia.

Organized in memory of the Russian painter Sergey Andriaka who passed away in May, the festival will serve as a bridge between the two rich and ancient cultures, ISNA reported.

It will provide an opportunity for the artists of the two nations to share their views and interpretations of each other's culture and civilization through the universal language of art.

The festival has announced the call for

submission of artworks, paintings and photos, and the enthusiasts can register and submit their works to the festival website at lirusart.ru.

The festival jury will select 100 works by Iranian artists and 100 works by Russian artists and the winners will be awarded cash and non-cash rewards. All the 200 works will be showcased in exhibitions held in Iran and Russia.

The event is organized by the Embassy of Iran in Moscow, in cooperation with the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriaka in Moscow, which will host the Iranian and Russian artworks from August 10.

After the exhibition is over in Russia, the works will be showcased at an exhibition in Tehran to Iranian audience.

Sergey Andriaka (1958-2024) was a watercolor artist. He is known as one of the leading masters of modern watercolor painting.

The artist began creative activity with oil paints, gouache and tempera. He was engaged in mosaics, stained-glass windows,

etching, and signature on porcelain and enamel. His acquaintance with the cultural heritage of Western Europe has played just as important a role.

However, his favorite technique was always watercolor painting.

Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriaka was founded in 2002. It is the first institution in Russia that provides educational program "Painting and Fine Arts".

Along with learning thoroughly the art of drawing and painting, which is essential for every professional artist, students try different techniques and types of fine art including watercolor, tempera and oil painting, pastel, etchings, monumental painting, stained glass, Roman and Florentine mosaic, sgraffito, sculpture, ceramics, pottery, porcelain modeling, porcelain and ceramics painting, enamel miniatures, jewelry, book illustrations, etc.

The academy has many exhibition spaces as well as one of the few Museums of Watercolor in Russia. The former presents the visitor a unique collection of masterpieces, watercolors, drawings, book illustrations made by Russian and European artists.

Ashura art festival to be held in Tehran's Azadi Tower

TEHRAN- An art festival dedicated to Ashura-themed works will be inaugurated in Azadi Tower Cultural and Artistic Complex in Tehran on Thursday.

The exhibition, featuring 56 posters and organized by the Visual Arts Department of Iran's Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization, will showcase artistic works related to Ashura in Café Gallery, Mirror Hall, and Nations' Hall, IRNA

reported on Tuesday.

In addition, an Ashura photography exhibition, jointly organized by the Artistic Department of Tehran Municipality, will display 80 frames of Iranian mourning rituals and customs, the report added.

The painting exhibition will feature ten masterpieces from Azadi Tower's visual arts collection, while an infographic

exhibition will introduce the Martyrs of Karbala in a conceptual manner.

The opening ceremony will include theatrical performances, outdoor plays, traditional music, Ashura recitation, art workshops, mourning procession, and more.

The event aims to spread and develop Ashura culture and emphasizes artistic expression.

It is one of the most important features of this event to focus on the significance and philosophy of the Ashura event.

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.

Art Garden Pavilion to screen, review George Miller's "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga"

TEHRAN-The 2024 Australian movie "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" directed and produced by George Miller will be screened and reviewed at Art Garden Pavilion (Kushk Art Garden) in Tehran on Wednesday.

The event is the second session of Art and Speech Club, which is held every month at the Kushk Art Garden, ILNA reported.

A post-apocalyptic action film, "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" is the fifth installment in Miller's "Mad Max" franchise, and the first not focused on series protagonist Max Rockatansky, instead acting as both a spin-off prequel to "Mad Max: Fury Road" (2015) and an origin story for the "Fury Road"

character Furiosa, portrayed by Anya Taylor-Joy and Ayla Browne in the prequel.

Set 15 to 20 years before the events of "Fury Road," the film follows the title character's life for over a decade, from her kidnapping by the forces of warlord Dementus (Chris Hemsworth) to her ascension to the rank of Imperator. Tom Burke also stars as Praetorian Jack, a military commander who befriends Furiosa.

Several "Fury Road" cast members return in supporting roles, including John Howard, Nathan Jones, and Angus Sampson reprising their characters.

Upon its release, the film received positive reviews

from critics, who praised the story, action sequences and performances (particularly Taylor-Joy and Hemsworth).

The Art Garden Pavilion as a center for screening, introducing, promoting and teaching art, is an environment for holding conferences, music concerts and exhibitions. The architecture of Art Garden Pavilion is designed based on the pavilions of Iranian gardens.

The use of Safavid-style architecture, a dome roof with colored windows, pools resembling Fin Bathroom in Kashan, and Qajar-style stucco and mirror work have created an environment for the artists and art lovers to gather there.



The film screening will start at 5 p.m. on July 10 at the Art Garden Pavilion, situated on Abbasabad hills, Haghani Expressway.