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Demonization of Campus Protestors

Director of U.S. National Intelligence accused Iran of interfering in student protests supporting Gaza

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State troopers arrest a man at a pro-Palestinian protest at the University of Texas Monday April 29, 2024.

Syria welcomes Iran's new president, emphasizes strong ties amidst regional challenges

TEHRAN – Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian held a series of phone conversations on Tuesday with leaders of key regional players, including Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev.

During his conversation with the Syrian President, Pezeshkian discussed strengthening bilateral relations and implementing existing agreements between the two countries, highlighting Iran's continued support for Syria and the Resistance against regional hegemonic forces.

Assad, for his part, emphasized the importance of the deep and loyal ties between Iran and Syria, which he said are rooted in a shared commitment to resisting colonial ambitions and external interference in the region.

In addition to his conversation with Assad, Pezeshkian also spoke with Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan, reiterating his commitment to existing bilateral agreements and agreeing to meet at a future date. Pashinyan congratulated Pezeshkian on his election victory and wished him a successful tenure. ▶ Page 2

PMO attracts nearly \$1.7b of investment in ports, maritime sector

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference on Wednesday, Ali-Akbar Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned sectors, IRNA reported.

"The attraction of this amount of private sector investment is significant compared to the total budget of the government in the sea and port sectors," Safaei said.

According to the official, regarding the foreign investment, PMO has signed contracts with five countries including India which has so far invested \$120 million in the port sector and \$250 million in the rail, roads and infrastructure sector.

Referring to the growth of maritime trade in the country, Safaei continued: "Maritime trade increased from 215 million tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (2022-2023) to 237 million tons last year (ended on March 19, 2024)."

"In the first quarter of the current year, 60 million tons of maritime trade was recorded, which shows a 10 percent growth compared to the same period last year, and even a 70 percent growth was recorded in some ports of the Caspian Sea," he added. ▶ Page 4

Iran leads call for recognition of Zionism as racism at UN

TEHRAN – Iran has spearheaded a joint statement on behalf of multiple nations, calling for the recognition of Zionism as a form of racism, citing systematic human rights violations against Palestinians by the Israeli regime.

The statement was delivered by Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Ali Bahraini, during the 56th Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on Tuesday. Addressing the session, which included the UN special rapporteur on racism, Bahraini represented a coalition of Islamic and independent nations.

Bahraini's speech called for the revival of UN Resolution 3379, which historically defined Zionism as a form of racism. The ambassador emphasized that Israel's ongoing and systematic violations against Palestinians warrant such recognition.

The joint statement also referenced a 2017 report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), which labeled Israel as an "apartheid regime." This report underscored the international legal principle prohibiting racial discrimination and apartheid. ▶ Page 2

Hezbollah rattles Israelis with more drone footage

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- For the second time in less than a month, the military media of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has released aerial surveillance footage of sensitive Israeli military sites.

Using the same drone as the aircraft that penetrated Israeli airspace and shot footage over Haifa, this time Hezbollah used the Hodhod drone to showcase a ten-minute reconnaissance video of intelligence bases, command centers, and camps belonging to the Israeli army in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

The footage, released by the Lebanese resistance features high-resolution footage of electronic surveillance stations in the occupied Golan. These outposts, include sites such as Shlagim West, Shlagim East, Astra, Avital, and Tel Faher.

They are all believed to be involved in long-range eavesdropping, guidance, monitoring, electronic warfare, jamming, and deception operations. ▶ Page 5

Bibi on pins and needles

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The thought of potential arrest upon an order by the International Criminal Court (ICC) has made Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu break out in a cold sweat.

ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant on May 20 for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.

If the ICC finally decides to issue the arrest warrants more than 120 countries that have signed the Rome Statute are obliged to detain the Israeli prime minister and war minister and then transfer them to The Hague.

The EU foreign policy chief has already reminded the states which are parties to the Rome Statute that they must implement the court's rulings.

"The mandate of the ICC, as an independent international institution, is to prosecute the most serious crimes under international law. All States that have ratified the ICC statutes are bound to execute the court's decisions," Josep Borrell wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter, back in May. ▶ Page 5

World Population Day: data collection key for solving problems

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN – Observed on July 11, World Population Day focuses on population challenges. This year, it highlights the importance of population data gathering in understanding problems, developing solutions, and making progress.

Over the past three decades, societies around the world have made remarkable progress in improving population data gathering, analysis, and use.

New population figures, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, gender, and other factors, now reflect the diversity of the societies more accurately. ▶ Page 7



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Pakistan Envoy to Tehran Times: Cooperation will continue to grow under President-elect Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, Muhammad Mudassar Tipu, visited the Tehran Times headquarters on Wednesday to explore potential collaborations. He met with the publication's CEO and Editor-in-Chief and participated in an interview with a Tehran Times correspondent.

During the interview, Ambassador Tipu expressed his confidence in the strong relationship between Iran and Pakistan, stating his belief that cooperation will continue to grow under the leadership of Iran's newly elected President, Masoud Pezeshkian. ▶ Page 2

Iran's chess player Movahed wins Baku Open 2024

TEHRAN – Iranian chess player Sina Movahed claimed the title of the Baku Open 2024.

Movahed scored 7/9 at Group A and won the tournament due to better tie-break score.

Indian players Abhimanyu Puranik and Aditya Mittal secured second and third place, respectively. Movahed became the youngest country's chess grandmaster.

The total prize fund of the tournament was US\$ 50000. The top three prizes were \$12000 + Cup, \$8000 and \$6000 each.

The Baku Open 2024 Chess Festival dedicated to the 100th anniversary of FIDE. The festival started from June 28 in Baku Sport Hall.

The program of the festival included competitions in two sections (A and B), 9-round Swiss tournaments with classical time control. Group A was open to players with FIDE Elo above 2100 (Women - above 1800), Group B was open for young players with FIDE Elo and born in 2012 and later.

TEHRAN PAPERS

American goals for negotiations with Iran

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

In a note, Kayhan addressed the goals of the Americans about negotiations with Iran and wrote: The main problem is that America does not see the issue of interaction with Iran in the sense of peaceful resolution of points of difference, rather, it uses negotiation and agreement as a tool to disarm and empty Iran's power sources. As it implemented part of this goal in the JCPOA. The American statesmen stated that the development of the liberal order required a change in the Iranian government, and based on that, they started the Great Middle East plan and extensive intervention in the region. But the reality showed that they were not able to change the Islamic Republic and they are not. For those who think that sanctions can be reduced by playing in the American engagement strategy, it is necessary to firstly pay attention to the nature of this strategy and its function, and secondly, to review the operational goals of the U.S. engagement strategy towards the Islamic Republic. It is important that America's desire to negotiate with Iran will not provide a reduction in sanctions or an opening in economic conditions, but are steps to drain Iran's power resources and inflict a final military blow.

Iran: The ostentatious projection of Americans

This newspaper wrote about the interventionist and projective statements of American officials regarding Iran's foreign policy: The spokesman of the National Security Council of the White House said that they are not ready to resume nuclear negotiations with Iran. U.S. government officials claimed in their statements that the president has no authority in Iran's diplomacy. But they had different approaches to foreign policy especially in the way of interaction with Western countries to the decisions of the presidents of our country in different eras. Despite this and contrary to the propaganda of the Western media, it must be said that during the election debates, the president-elect emphasized the serious determination of his government to communicate and interact with all the countries of the world, both Eastern and Western powers. But what was more important in his view in the field of diplomacy was putting the three principles of honor, wisdom, and expediency in priority as the fixed principles of foreign policy. The principles that block the imaginations of American statesmen regarding the failure of the Iranian government.

Sharh: Waiting for re-opening

Iranian Army chief celebrates naval self-sufficiency milestone

TEHRAN – Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander of the Iranian Army, has praised the country's young experts for significant military advancements, declaring the Navy's self-sufficiency in global navigation.

During a visit to an exhibition in Sirjan showcasing the Iranian Navy's technological and scientific achievements, General Mousavi highlighted the success resulting from collaboration between universities, research institutions, and the Navy.

"In this exhibition, we witness the Navy's logistical and support requirements for oceanic missions being met through cooperation, achieving feats once deemed impossible," Mousavi stated. "We have not only fulfilled our seafaring needs but also gained additional capabilities through elite collaboration, ensuring superior performance in oceanic operations."

General Mousavi emphasized that similar progress has been made across all military fields in Iran. Iranian officials reaffirmed the nation's commitment to enhancing its defense and deterrence capabilities, including missile power, which remain non-negotiable.

In recent years, Iran's Navy has achieved self-reliance in manufacturing surface and sub-surface vessels and has increased its presence

In an interview with Alireza Rastin, an expert on West Asian issues, Shargh investigated the requirements for improving relations between Iran and Arab countries in the Pezeshkian government. It wrote: In addition to Masoud Pezeshkian's repeated promises to revive the JCPOA and negotiate with the West, he focused on improving and promoting relations with Iran's neighbors. International and regional experts believe that the new government may adopt a more pragmatic approach to its foreign policy, especially in reducing tensions with the member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and improving economic and diplomatic relations. Despite some security challenges, there are many opportunities to strengthen economic cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia and other member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, and with the lifting of Tehran's economic sanctions, the doors will be opened to new investments and wider commercial cooperation. The member countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council are also looking to diversify their economy away from oil and may consider Iran as a strategic partner for the development of new sectors.

Jam-e-Jam: Tarnishing and polarization is the way of enemies in sowing despair

The authoritative presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the West Asia region and its decisive role in regional equations is not at all pleasing to the enemies of the Iranian nation. Because they have come to the fact that the political activism of the Islamic Republic has an influential role in changing the new world order and our country is one of the claimant powers in this regard. Therefore, it is not without reason that the enemies want to deliberately ignore the achievements and strengths in various fields of science, industry, defense, and international standing by spreading false news and tarnishing the situation. By spreading this poisoned thought that the policies and strategies of the system are responsible for the aggravation of problems, they want to become the basis for the emergence of differences and polarization in the country. For this reason, increasing a sense of hope and strengthening public trust in all layers of society is very important and necessary and helps to revive the country's social capital. Restoring trust will promise a bright future to the nation and increase their national pride, sense of patriotism, and self-confidence so that they can remove the problems with a general determination.

in international waters to safeguard maritime routes and ensure the security of merchant vessels and tankers.

Amid tensions heightened by foreign intervention in the region, the Islamic Republic is increasing its naval presence in the high seas.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, noted in August 2023 that the Navy's operations in distant waters, such as the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, enhance national security.

Marking a historic milestone, Iran's 86th naval flotilla, comprising the Dena and Makran warships, embarked on a global voyage in September 2022. Departing from Bandar Abbas on September 20, 2022, the flotilla concluded its 236-day journey by anchoring at Oman's Salalah harbor. Covering a total distance of 63,000 kilometers, the fleet crossed the equator four times during its remarkable expedition.

Dena is a Mowj-class destroyer that joined the Iranian Navy in June 2021. The military vessel is equipped with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes and naval cannons.

Makran is a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons. The warship can carry five helicopters and is employed for providing logistical support for combat warships.

According to a statement released by the base, the anti-Iran terrorists were ambushed and destroyed, resulting in casualties and the seizure of their equipment.

The IRGC base issued a stern warning, emphasizing that any threat to the security and territorial integrity of Iran will be met with a decisive and firm response.

IRGC thwarts terrorist infiltration in northwestern Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) forces have successfully neutralized an armed terrorist team attempting to infiltrate Iran from its northwestern border.

The operation, carried out by the IRGC's Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada Base early Tuesday morning, prevented the group from entering Iranian territory.

Pakistan Envoy to Tehran Times:

Cooperation will continue to grow under President-elect Pezeshkian

From Page 1 ▶ He emphasized the significance of the recent call between Pezeshkian and Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, which occurred just a few days after the Iranian politician emerged victorious in the July 5 elections, highlighting it as a testament to the depth of the bilateral ties.

The full text of the interview is available below:

1. The last time we spoke to you was during the administration of the late President Raisi. Now we have a new president-elect who spoke to Pakistan's Prime Minister shortly after his victory in the July 5 elections. What are your predictions for the future of bilateral relations between the two countries under the new leadership in Iran?

Iran has a very promising future. As you know, honorable Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is deeply interested in strengthening and widening Pakistan's relations with Iran. He very warmly welcomed President Raisi during his visit to Pakistan and both of them vowed to deepen ties between the two nations. Right after Dr. Pezeshkian took office, there was a phone call between him and Prime Minister Sharif. The fact that the call was one of the first between Dr. Pezeshkian and a foreign leader demonstrates the commitment of both sides to reinforce these critically important ties. The leadership in the two countries is planning to increase the volume of trade and also promote people-to-people ties, as well as solidify diplomatic relations. So, I think relations between Iran and Pakistan will be further expanded in the future.

2. President Raisi's visit to Pakistan in April was one of his last foreign visits which took place around a month before his tragic passing. President Raisi and Prime Minister Sharif signed a cooperation roadmap during the trip. Please tell us what concrete steps have been taken so far and what potential benefits you see for Iran-Pakistan relations stemming from this roadmap.

The bureaucracies take time. The road map needs time for implementation but what's most important is political and strategic commitment and the views



of the leaders. The views of honorable Prime Minister Sharif are very clear, and so are the views of the Iranian leadership. We signed almost 8 agreements and MOUs which were in wide-ranging areas including economy, security, trade, and health. I think that in the next couple of months and years, you will see very concrete development happening. As you know, in the early hours of Wednesday the 11th Joint Border Trade Committee meeting between Iran and Pakistan concluded in the city of Zahedan. One of the key elements of the meeting was that governments should improve facilities at the border so that trade can improve. Besides such joint committees, concentrated consultations are taking place between the two states on a host of affairs among political, economic, and military leaders. These are all signs that we are making very good progress.

3. Pakistan maintains its right to energy exchange with Iran despite U.S. opposition to the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project. What concrete plans does Pakistan have to overcome this opposition and implement the project?

It's very important to recognize that Pakistan is a sovereign state and will take every decision in its own interest. We hold great significance to our bilateral ties with Iran as you are aware. On the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, we are

having constructive negotiations. We are exchanging views and trying to examine different modalities. So, I am hopeful that there will be an outcome soon.

4. Despite strong political and economic ties, social and cultural exchange between Iran and Pakistan remains limited. What strategies do you recommend to bridge this gap and foster greater understanding between the two nations?

This is precisely something I care a lot about. I think the bigger responsibility lies on us government officials. Of course, academia and universities also share the responsibility. We should focus on how we can bring our people together particularly considering the fact that we have very deep historical ties. I tried to uphold part of my responsibilities today by coming here and talking to the leadership of the Tehran Times. We had vast discussions and tried to understand each other. So, part of the deal is increasing interaction between the two sides.

Another area which is very important is tourism. We have a huge potential in this regard as our countries are very blessed. Pakistan is a very beautiful country, and so is Iran. We are both rich in history and culture. What we need to do as governments is to inspire and educate people about the

strengths of both countries. We should also tell them more about history and how we have made great contributions to each other's well-being.

5. What is your assessment of the current situation in Afghanistan? How can collaboration between Iran and Pakistan contribute to stability there?

Both Iran and Pakistan seek to promote stability in the region and promote peace and development in Afghanistan. I have to say that based on our mutual objectives, Tehran and Islamabad are constructively engaged on Afghanistan and consult on issues related to stability there.

6. What is Pakistan's position on the latest Israeli war in Gaza? What actions, if any, has Pakistan taken to help the Palestinian people?

We have given humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza and at the same time showed strong diplomatic support coming out in all international forums to back the Palestinians. We have repeatedly asked that international law be respected and expressed our position that the war should come to an end. We have also engaged with Iran on this matter numerous times. Pakistan has serious concerns about the situation in Gaza and will try to help resolve the issue for peace and stability in the region.

Iran will not hesitate to engage in fight for other Muslims: Senior commander

TEHRAN– The Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps announced that IRGC will not hesitate to enter war in support of Muslims if needed.

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks on Wednesday, during a ceremony commemorating the martyrs of the Ramazan garrison, which was an IRGC base during an Iraq-Iraq war

"Operation True Promise showed that Iran takes action when needed. We won't sit idly by and watch others act. If needed, we will support [Resistance] and enter war," he stated.

Operation True Promise was carried out in

April in response to the Zionist regime's attack on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, demonstrating Iran's red lines for its enemies.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salami emphasized the active role of Martyr Soleimani in establishing peace and regional security and pointed out, "Martyr Qassem Soleimani labored from street to street and alley to alley to liberate oppressed Muslim nations, and the shedding of the blood of Martyr Abu Mahdi with Martyr Soleimani shows that Islam does not recognize borders when it comes to defending the oppressed."

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani was Iran's anti-terror icon who spearheaded the



fight against Daesh terrorists in Iraq and Syria during the 2010s. He was assassinated during a U.S. drone attack on Baghdad airport in 2020.

Syria welcomes Iran's new president, emphasizes strong ties amidst regional challenges

From page 1 ▶ Finally, Pezeshkian spoke with Azerbaijani President Aliyev, thanking him for his congratulations and expressing his desire to develop relations between the two countries in all spheres. Aliyev, in turn, congratulated Pezeshkian on his victory and invited him to visit Azerbaijan, an invitation which Pezeshkian accepted. Both leaders

emphasized the importance of continuing to develop Azerbaijani-Iranian relations, rooted in shared cultural and religious bonds.

Pezeshkian was elected the new Iranian president after he managed to win both rounds of Iran's snap presidential elections held on June 28 and July 5. He will be suc-

ceeding the late President Ebrahim Raisi, who lost his life during a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran on May 19.

A member of the Iranian Parliament's presiding board announced on Wednesday that the swearing-in ceremony for the President-elect will be held on Tuesday, July 30.

Iran leads call for recognition of Zionism as racism at UN

From page 1 ▶ The statement concluded with a strong appeal to the international community, urging decisive action against Israeli entities responsible for crimes against humanity.

The conflict in Gaza has in-

fllicted devastating losses, with Israeli actions since October 7 leading to the deaths of at least 38,295 Palestinians, primarily women and children, and injuring 88,241 others.

Despite a UN Security Council

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

Over nine months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in

ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has highlighted the dire and chaotic conditions in Gaza, describing the situation as "total lawlessness."

Demonization of campus protestors

Director of U.S. National Intelligence accused Iran of interfering in student protests supporting Gaza

Sadeqh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN- With the U.S. public debate replete with pro-Palestine sentiments, the American government seems to have found a new way to quash dissenting views: Linking protests to foreign governments.

In an official statement on July 9, Director of U.S. National Intelligence Avril Haines leveled accusations against Iran of instigating protests inside the U.S. regarding the Israeli genocide in the Gaza Strip.

"Iran is becoming increasingly aggressive in their foreign influence efforts, seeking to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions, as we have seen them do in the past, including in prior election cycles," Haines said in the statement, adding, "They continue to adapt their cyber and influence activities, using social media platforms and issuing threats. It is likely they will continue to rely on their intelligence services in these efforts, as well as Iran-based online influencers, to promote their narratives."

It then alleged, "In recent weeks, Iranian government actors have sought to opportunistically take advantage of ongoing protests regarding the war in Gaza, using a playbook we've seen other actors use over the years. We have observed actors tied to Iran's government posing as activists online, seeking to encourage protests, and even providing financial support to protesters."

To begin with, the top intelligence



official of the U.S. offered no evidence for her accusations. These kinds of unfounded allegations are neither new nor surprising given the U.S. track record of projecting its malign activities on the Iranian government.

In recent months, university campuses across the United States and the rest of the world have witnessed a wave of protests demanding an immediate halt to U.S. backing for Israel's aggression against civilians in the besieged Palestinian enclave. In some cases, police violently cracked down on protesters while in some other cases negotiated agreements put an end to protests.

Despite the protests subsiding in recent months, high-level efforts to dismantle the student-led movement have intensified as evidenced by Haines' move to begin publishing statements against the so-called Iranian influence activities. The statement said Haines will be publishing "regular updates" ahead of the Presidential and congressional

elections this year. Interestingly, they started off with the targeting of the student movement defending the Palestinians' plight, indicating the urgency of the matter for the corridors of power in Washington.

This is while the protests in the U.S. have begun in prestigious university campuses where people with high education credentials led the demonstrations. Haines' statement gives the impression that the protests erupted among plebs where a foreign country can easily swindle them into staking their future careers on defending Palestine. Students and professors taking part in the protests faced dire employment threats from pro-Israel circles of financial and political powers.

The pro-Palestine protests are in the U.S. intelligence community's crosshairs at a time when the U.S. government has a dark history of fomenting unrest and instability in other countries, including most recently in Iran.

In the fall of 2022, a wave of unrest swept Iran following the

death of a young Iranian girl who died a few days after collapsing in a police station. Iranian officials quickly moved to address the demands of early protesters including by forming a fact-finding committee that probed the matter thoroughly. The U.S. and its allies moved to turn Iran's protests into violent riots by pledging support for the "protestors." This support was by no means confined to political and diplomatic statements. It included material support as evidenced by the U.S. government's move to authorize the use of Starlink satellite internet in Iran. This was a flagrant violation of Iran's sovereignty that elicited no criticism from Washington's allies.

In comparison, Iran never intervened in U.S. internal affairs. The only thing Iran did was voice political support for protesters which is a common practice in the world. When pro-freedom protests erupt in a country, other nations cherishing freedom often praise those protests.

To accuse Iran of fomenting protests on university campuses not only defies reason but also amounts to insulting those vigilant professors and students who stood for justice and globally cherished values. The United States should listen to the voice of reason and stop militarily supporting Israel in its genocidal campaign against the defenseless Palestinians whose plight awakened the conscience of numerous officials inside the Biden administration and led them to resign.

Iran's support for Resistance will continue to grow under any leadership: Hezbollah chief

TEHRAN - Iran's support for Resistance groups in the region will continue unabated regardless of the ideological currents within the country's leadership, said Hezbollah's Secretary-General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah during a speech on Wednesday.

Speaking at a memorial ceremony for a top Lebanese commander on Wednesday, Nasrallah extended his congratulations to the Iranian people and officials for successfully conducting the presidential elections in two stages and within a short period, despite the tragic incident of the helicopter crash that claimed the life of President Ebrahim Raisi.

The Hezbollah chief pointed to President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian's response to his earlier letter, pointing out that the Iranian politician's remarks showed he plans to continue backing the Resistance. "To all those who were delighted in the region and were waiting, the message of the elected president of Iran was clear and definite, and that the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on its own ideology, religion, and principles, supports the oppressed



and oppressed nations and the resistance front," he remarked. "Whoever becomes the president of Iran, support for the resistance front is pursued with every ideological current, and this support increases in each period."

Highlighting the significance of the presidential debates in Iran, Nasrallah urged a comparison with the debates held between former U.S. President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden. He praised the scientific and valuable nature of

Iran's debates, underscoring their importance in shaping public opinion and fostering informed decision-making.

====Hezbollah won't cease attacks on Israel until war ends

Nasrallah also spoke extensively on the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza. He began by slamming the global silence and inaction against Israel's crimes against the Palestinians: "If the majority of the world stays silent about supporting Gaza and favors

'Israel, it doesn't make the regime's actions right or morally justifiable."

He extended his condolences to the families of Gaza martyrs, praising their sacrifice: "We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the families of the martyrs for their loved ones attaining a high rank and a noble outcome, and we offer our deepest condolences for their loss."

He described the martyrs of the Al-Aqsa Storm operation as embodiments of sacrifice: "The martyrs of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm exemplify the highest and clearest form of sacrifice for the sake of God. They are martyred in a battle of undeniable truth, where there is no room for doubt."

Nasrallah emphasized Hezbollah's unwavering commitment to the fight against Israel: "Hezbollah fighters always compete to be on the frontlines of the battle against the Israeli enemy."

He further clarified the objectives of the Lebanese group's operation: "Hezbollah's border battle is aimed at draining the Israeli enemy's capabilities and pressing the entity into stopping the war on Gaza."

Ghalibaf visits Russia for BRICS meeting



TEHRAN- The speaker of the Parliament left Tehran for St. Petersburg, Russia, to attend the BRICS general assembly as the head of the Iranian parliamentary delegation.

According to Mehr News, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the speaker of Iran's Parliament, departed to St. Petersburg, Russia, on Wednesday to attend the meeting of the BRICS parliamentary heads on the topic of "the role of Parliaments in strengthening multilateralism for fair global development and security."

Seyyed Shamsuddin Hosseini, the head of the parliamentary economic committee, Ebrahim Rezaei, the head of the Iran-Russia parliamentary friendship group, Seyyed Ruhollah Mousavi, the parliamentary representative of Lourdegan and Khanmirza, Shahin Jahanigiri, the parliamentary representative of Orumiyeh, and Mehdi Safari, economic advisor and the deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy, will accompany the speaker of the Parliament. This is the first presence of a senior

Iranian official in the BRICS international assembly after Iran's official membership acceptance.

BRICS is an international group led by emerging economic powers including China, India, Russia, Brazil, and South Africa, which, due to having about half of the world's population and about 40% of the world's economic capacity, human resources, and energy, have a high potential to influence the global economy.

The BRICS summit in Johannesburg was held at the beginning of September 2023, and the membership of five countries- the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Ethiopia- was accepted. These countries became official members of this group from the beginning of the year 2024.

Iran interested in friendly with Russia, official says

TEHRAN - Mikhail Degtyarev, Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation, says that Iran and DPRK football teams have requested to play Russia in friendly matches.

FIFA and UEFA have suspended the Russian national team from participating in tournaments under their auspices.

Degtyarev said that the Iranian federation has shown interest in playing a warm-up match with the them.

"Iran and the DPR Korea wanted to play with us. Everyone wants to meet Russia, we are open to true sports cooperation and friendship and invite everyone. Russia has never conducted any political or national discrimination, and this will not happen in the future. Not at the level of state institutions, not at the level of sports federations, not at the level of non-profit organizations. This is not our method," Degtyarev told Match TV.

Iran and DPR Korea are drawn in Group A of the Asia's 2026 World Cup qualifiers.

Mehdi Torabi joins Tractor: IPL

TEHRAN - Persepolis iconic midfielder Mehdi Torabi officially joined Tractor football team on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old player has joined the Tabriz-based football team on a two-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

Persepolis right back Danial Esmaelifar has also reached an agreement to join Tractor.

Media reports suggest that Tractor will also complete the signing of Persepolis goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand in the coming days.

Iran's national football team's former head coach Dragan Skocic was named as the new coach of Tractor football club on Tuesday.

Tractor football team have not won Iran league's title so far and look forward to bringing an end to their title drought in Iran Professional League (IPL).

PGPL to kick off on Aug. 15

TEHRAN - The 24th edition of the Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) will kick off on Aug. 15.

The draw ceremony for the new season will be held on July 23.

The Persian Gulf Professional League is the highest division of professional football in the west Asian country. It is the top-level football league in Iran since its foundation in 2001.

Since 2013, the league comprises 16 teams. The winners along with the Hazfi Cup champions automatically qualify for the AFC Champions League Elite group stages. The third of the Persian Gulf Pro League is qualified for the AFC Champions League Elite Play-off round.

The bottom two teams in the league are relegated to Azadegan League.

Persepolis are the most successful club with ninth titles in 23 editions.

Dragan Skocic named Tractor coach: PGPL

TEHRAN - Former Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic took charge of Tractor football club.

The 56-year-old coach has most recently worked as head coach of Croatia U21 football team.

The Croat has previously worked in four Iranian clubs, namely Malavan, Foolad, Khooneh be Khooneh and Sanat Naft.

Skocic was named as Iran national football team head coach in 2020 as replacement for Belgian coach Marc Wilmots and under his leadership, Team Melli qualified for the 2022 World Cup as the winners of Group A by collecting 25 points out of 10 matches.

The Iranian football federation sacked the coach and Carlos Queiroz was re-appointed as Iran coach and led the team in Qatar, where Team Melli failed to book their place in next round.

Tractor football team have not won Iran league so far and look forward to bring an end to their title drought in Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL).

Orenburg complete signing of Iran's Saharkhizan

TEHRAN - Russian football club Orenburg completed signing of Iranian forward Saied Saharkhizan.

The Gol Gohar striker scored eight goals in 28 matches in the 2023-24 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Iranian midfielder Mohammad Ghorbani has previously joined the Russian team.

Saharkhizan had previously been linked with Iranian teams Esteghlal and Persepolis.

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

Iraqi defender Akam Hashim linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN - Iraqi international defender Akam Hashim has been reportedly linked with a move to Iran's Persepolis.

The 25-year-old defender currently plays for Erbil and he has confirmed that Persepolis is going to sign him in an interview with kurdistan24.net.

Persepolis will most likely part ways with Qatari defender Abdelkarim Hassan and media reports suggest that they are going to sign Hashim.

The Iran league title holders will be led by Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido in the new season.

Persepolis will participate in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

Taremi to complete final Inter medicals on Friday

TEHRAN - Iranian international forward Mehdi Taremi has gone initial medicals on his move to Inter Milan.

The Iranian's transfer to the Nerazzurri has been in the works for months.

And now, Taremi has arrived in Milan, where he will finish up the final details of his move.

Taremi, 31, is joining as a free agent that will take place on Friday.

Then, Taremi will be ready to sign his contract. He should officially become an Inter player in time to be a part of the Nerazzurri's training camp, which kicks off this weekend.

Reports indicate that Taremi will sign a two-year contract with Inter until the end of June 2026. This will have the option of a further season.

Persepolis set sight on Demirspor winger Mohammadi

TEHRAN - Persepolis football club have set their sight on signing Adana Demirspor winger Milad Mohammadi.

Mohammadi has one year remaining on his current deal with the Turkish football club.

Persepolis will most likely part company with Qatari defender Abdelkarim Hassan and media reports suggest that the team want to sign Mohammadi.

Milad's brother Mehrdad plays in Persepolis' archrival Esteghlal.

The Iran league title holders will be led by Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido in the new season.

Persepolis will participate in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

PMO attracts nearly \$1.7b of investment in ports, maritime sector



From page 1 ▶ Back in November 2023, Safaei said his organization was going to attract 1.0 quadrillion rials (about \$2 billion) of investment in the country's ports to develop maritime economy.

Speaking in a televised interview, the official said 470 trillion rials (about \$924 million) of the mentioned figure was going to be invested by the private sector and the rest would be supplied by PMO.

"In order to realize the general development policies of the maritime sector, we need

an integrated, coordinated and agile management at the highest level," Safaei said.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in the course of five years.

NIGC pays \$138m to encourage investment in development of renewable powerplants



TEHRAN- National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has paid 80 trillion rials (about \$138 million) to support and encourage investment making in development of renewable power plants in the country since the current government took office in August 2021, the company's managing director announced.

Majid Chegeni said that of the mentioned figure, 25 trillion rials (about \$431 million) was expended in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022), and 30 trillion rials (about \$51.7 million) was paid in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022-March 2023).

The official also announced that the current year's national budget has allocated 30 trillion rials (about \$51.7 million) for the development of renewable powerplants, adding that based on the data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), over 18 trillion rials (about \$31 million) has been paid for 57 renewable powerplants in the current Iranian calendar month (began on June 21).

Referring to Iran's suitable condition for generating solar energy and the 28 percent rise in renewable electricity generation, Chegeni said that using renewable energies is a sustainable solution to the country's power supply.

NIGC's managing director has previously emphasized that diversification of a country's power generation is essential to improving economic growth, reaching power security, and decreasing environmental hazards.

TEDPIX falls 7,800 points on Wednesday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 7,814 points to 2,209,202 on Wednesday, which is the fifth 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.

"To reduce the speculative and profit-seeking activities of dealers in the country, financing tools should be diversified," Mohammad Shirijian said.

"The capital market is an institution that directs capital to production in an efficient manner. Now, to accelerate the process of resource transfer and high productivity, the financing should be directed to the enterprises," the official explained.

Iranian Capital market with a history of

over 50 years is one of the oldest markets in the world and the oldest in the region. The Securities and Exchange Organization of Iran (SEO) is the sole regulatory and supervisory authority to the capital market in Iran.

Iran's capital market has companies from a wide range of industries, including automotive, telecommunications, agriculture, petrochemical, mining, steel iron, copper, banking and insurance, banking and others.

The Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) is Iran's largest stock exchange, which first opened in 1967. The TSE is based in Tehran. TSE, which is a founding member of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges, has been one of the world's best performing stock exchanges in the years 2002 through 2013. TSE is an emerging or "frontier" market.

Since 1995, TSE has been a full member of the World Federation of Exchanges. Since July 2010 the TSE is a member of the International Options Market Association.

The SEO has been, ever since it was established, trying to create a safe, secure, fair, and transparent market for the entire participants and investors. This market is enjoying diversity, integrity, depth, and width, among other attributes, to stand as one of the high-yielding markets in the world. Also, Iran is blessed with high diversity of natural resources, while allocating them to the producers efficiently. Thanks to all these inimitable features, this capital market, industries, and businesses will flourish even more and more.

'Malaysia's Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority willing for co-op with Iran'

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Malaysian Ambassador to Tehran Khairi Omar said that Malaysia's Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) looks forward to cooperate very closely with its counterpart in Iran.

He made the remarks at the "Tropical Treats" Event held at the place of the Embassy of Malaysia in Tehran on Tuesday.

The Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries. FAMA's responsibility is to improve the marketing of agro food products such as vegetables, fruits and agro-based industry products.

"Tropical Treats" Event in the embassy was participated by some representatives from the key Iranian ministries and organizations, namely, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), and the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), as well as the members of the media and food bloggers, in addition to some diplomats from other embassies in Tehran.

Malaysian Ambassador to Tehran Khairi Omar delivered speech in the event, and the following is the text of his speech.

It is my pleasure to see all of you today; from the diplomatic corps, esteemed members of the media, influential food bloggers, and key representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture Iran, the Chamber of Commerce, trade promotion organizations, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Your presence here is a testament to our growing ties and of course friendship, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

We are here to share a unique aspect of Malaysia; our tropical fruits. We are honored to present to you the jewel of Malaysian fruits, Durian also known as the king of fruits. Specifically, the acclaimed Musang King varieties with us are widely sought after for their unique taste and creamy texture. Talking about Durian, my ASEAN colleagues are very familiar with the fruit too, I am sure.



Malaysian Ambassador to Tehran Khairi Omar

This event is graciously supported by the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (FAMA) of Malaysia, an organization committed to promoting Malaysian agricultural products worldwide.

Malaysia is renowned for its rich agricultural products, and our fruit exports are a testament to the quality and acceptance of our produce. In 2023, Malaysia exported approximately 2.43 billion RM worth of tropical fruits, with durians being a significant contributor at 56% of the whole exports.

In 2022, Malaysia exported 1,880 metric tons of durians, valued at 57 million Malaysian Ringgit. Although this marked a decrease from previous years, our focus remains on expanding our market reach, particularly with initiatives to export fresh durians to new markets like China in the coming years.

FAMA plays a pivotal role in this endeavor. Established in 1965, FAMA is tasked with improving the marketing of agricultural products and ensuring that our fruits meet international standards. Through various programs and collaborations, FAMA supports farmers and exporters, enhancing their ability to compete globally. I'm happy to mention as well that FAMA looks forward to cooperate very closely with its counterpart in Iran.

As I mentioned earlier, Malaysia is also making significant strides in expanding its market reach. Efforts are underway to gain approval for exporting fresh whole durians to China, a market with a

tremendous appetite for this exotic fruit. Currently, Malaysia can export frozen durians to China, and securing approval for fresh durians will mark a significant milestone in our trade relations. At the same time, we are also looking forward to penetrating other markets in the region including Iran.

Obviously, the increasing global demand for durians, especially premium varieties like Musang King, offers substantial economic opportunities for Malaysian farmers. This demand has spurred innovations in cultivation and export strategies, supported by government initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable and profitable trade.

Our efforts are bearing fruit, quite literally. In addition to durians, Malaysia exports a variety of tropical fruits such as pineapples, mangoes, and rambutans, each offering a unique taste of its own. These fruits are not only enjoyed fresh but also find their way into various culinary creations, at least 2 of which you will have the pleasure of tasting today.

This brings me to the concept of "Durian Diplomacy." As many of you know, food is a powerful tool for building bridges among people and cultures all around the world. In recent years, Malaysia has leveraged its beloved durian as a means of enhancing diplomatic relations and fostering goodwill with other countries. The unique allure of the Musang King has opened doors and created new opportunities for enhanced dialogue and cooperation.

IRAN LIFTEX 2024 running in Tehran

TEHRAN- Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds is hosting the 13th International Exhibition of Elevators, Escalators, Elevating Conveyors and Accessories (IRAN LIFTEX 2024).

The inauguration ceremony of the four-day exhibit was participated by Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, over 135 domestic and foreign companies from various countries including

China, Germany, Turkey, and Italy are participating in this year's exhibition.

Several business delegations from Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq's Kurdistan Region and Oman are also going to visit the exhibition.

Holding B2B meetings among the members of the delegations and participants of the exhibition is also one of the programs scheduled for the exhibition.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Baradaran said over the past few years the domestic production of elevators and escalator parts has saved the country millions of dollars.

"In this exhibition domestic and foreign producers of elevators and related equipment, along with service and consulting companies, have the opportunity to display their products and services and communicate with international visitors and buyers," he said.

Iran launches petchem research, technology center in Makran coast

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaei has announced the opening of the country's fifth research and technology center for petrochemical industries in Makran Coasts, southeastern Iran.

Speaking at a conference dubbed "Technology Transfer and Local Production of Refining, Petrochemical and Gas Catalysts" in Tehran on Wednesday, Shahmirzaei said: "One of the important issues pursued in the 13th government was to avoid selling raw materials and making maximum use of national resources."

According to the official, such research and technology centers will focus on the domestic production of strategic items required by the country's petrochemical industries like catalysts.

Emphasizing the key role of cat-

alysts in the petrochemical industry, he said: "We tried to indigenize the knowledge for production of the catalysts needed by this industry in leaps over the past few years, and by defining the mission in this field, we started our work in several different axes and determined the approaches and direction of the movements."

"Two years ago, we held the first catalyst exhibition in the petrochemical industry, and it caused the operators active in this sector to get to know each other in research institutes and universities, to exchange opinions in this field, and to realize the synergy of technical knowledge," he added.

Also speaking at the conference, Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) Jalil Salari said: "After successfully producing a great part of oil industry cat-

alysts at home, the country now enjoys the potential to export the catalysts to meet the neighboring countries' needs."

"Thirty years ago, we were in dire need of catalysts, and while under sanctions we used to refer to Indian companies to get help, but we moved forward step by step and managed to acquire the related know-how and finally used the domestically produced product successfully for the first time in isomerization unit of Arak Oil Refining Company," he said.

The official noted that by acquiring the technical knowledge of producing catalysts, the country now can export the products to other countries as well as use them overseas in oil refineries including El Palito cracking refinery in Venezuela.

The deputy minister of petroleum for refining said that the

Durian diplomacy is a testament, how something as simple as a fruit can play a significant role in fostering international relations. We are proud to use our durians as ambassadors of Malaysian culture, spreading goodwill and fostering stronger ties with nations around the globe. Indeed, this is what we are doing today.

This event is also an opportunity to strengthen our agricultural trade partnerships. We are delighted to have representatives from the key Iranian ministries and organizations, namely, the Ministry of Agriculture of Iran, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iran Chamber of Commerce, and the Trade Promotion Organization. Thank you for coming.

Your presence here underscores the strong partnership between our countries. We look forward to exploring new avenues of cooperation and mutual growth through trade opportunities in agriculture and its related fields.

To the members of the media and food bloggers, thank you for being here and for your continued support in promoting our cultural and culinary heritage. Your coverage helps us reach a wider audience and heighten greater appreciation for Malaysian products.

To colleagues and friends from the diplomatic corps, thank you for taking the time to join us tonight. Your enthusiasm and interest are vital in strengthening the bonds of friendship among all of us. I hope you leave with a deeper appreciation of the unique flavors we have shared with you.

All that said, I invite you to continue indulging in the rich and unforgettable flavors of Malaysian durian and the delightful treats prepared from durians. Taste the Musang King Durian and allow its unique flavor to transport you to the tropical landscapes of Malaysia, albeit briefly.

To end my remarks, once again, my sincere appreciation and thanks to everyone in this room particularly, the Embassy of Malaysia team for making this wonderful Tropical Treats event happen.

From page 1 ▶

Frozen with fear

Israeli media have now reported that Netanyahu has considered avoiding a stopover in Europe on his way to the US when he travels to address Congress on July 24.

The Israeli public broadcaster KAN suggested Netanyahu, known as Bibi, mulled visiting the Czech Republic and Hungary after it was understood that his plane, Wing of Zion, was unable to make a transatlantic flight while carrying a full load of passengers.

KAN said Netanyahu's office had reviewed the option of having a stopover in the two European countries, which are considered friends to Israel, and called ICC arrest requests "unacceptable".

The premier, however, has changed his mind and decided to travel directly with a limited entourage to Washington, DC, the report said.

Gaza genocide

The ICC is not the only international organization that has accused Israel of perpetrating war crimes.

The Netanyahu regime stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice.

The ICJ found in January that there was a risk of violation of



the rights of the Palestinian people to protection from genocide.

It ordered Israel to "take all measures within its power" to desist from killing Palestinians in contravention of the genocide convention, to prevent and punish the incitement of genocide, and to facilitate provision of "urgent basic services".

The top UN court also issued a ruling in May calling on Israel to end its operation in the Gaza Strip's southernmost city of Rafah.

But Israel has turned a blind eye to the court's rulings and continued its brutal massacres

in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has slaughtered about 38,300 people in Gaza since declaring war on the territory on October 7.

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, more than 88,000 others have also been wounded during Israeli strikes over the past nine months.

Nonetheless, 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 Lancet's report published Friday said the official figure re-

leased by health officials in Gaza is a significant underestimate.

It cites 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.

Isolated more than ever

Israel's brutal massacres in the Gaza Strip have deepened its international isolation as the Netanyahu regime rejects calls to bring an end to the onslaught in the besieged Palestinian territory.

The United States, which is Israel's main ally, has also made public critical remarks about the regime's carnage in Gaza. However, Washington's criticism is aimed at appeasing domestic opposition to Israel's atrocities ahead of the November presidential election.

The KAN report signals that Netanyahu behaves like a cat on hot bricks even when he considers visiting countries that are ranked among Israel's friends.

Netanyahu only feels safe if he directly travels to the United States where he is set to meet with President Joe Biden.

Biden plans to role out the red carpet for Bibi while he has the blood of Palestinians on his hands over Washington's support for the Israeli regime's barbarism in Gaza.

WORLD HEADLINES

Israeli military orders evacuation of Gaza City

The Israeli military urged all Palestinians to leave Gaza City and head south on Wednesday, pressing ahead with a fresh offensive across the north, south and center of the territory.

The stepped-up military activity came as U.S., Egyptian and Qatari mediators were meeting with Israeli officials in the Qatari capital, Doha, for talks trying to push through a ceasefire deal with the Hamas resistance movement.

AP: UAE deported student who shouted 'Free Palestine' at NYU Abu Dhabi graduation

At the graduation ceremony of New York University Abu Dhabi this May, a student wearing the traditional Palestinian black-and-white keffiyeh scarf shouted "Free Palestine!" as he crossed the stage to receive his diploma, witnesses have told The Associated Press. Days later, he reportedly was deported from the United Arab Emirates.

Jacqueline Hennecke, an NYU Abu Dhabi alumna who graduated in May, told the AP that the university sent an email prior to graduation banning all "cultural attire" at the commencement - including scarves.

The student who disregarded the order and yelled "Free Palestine!" on stage was taken into police custody prior to his deportation, according to the American Association of University Professors, which supports free speech and academic freedom efforts.

The university "has been unable to protect students, staff and faculty from being taken into custody and interrogated at government security offices and has failed to prevent the deportation of one academic staff member and a graduate student," a statement from the organization said.

Amnesty: European governments suppress peaceful protests

The right to peaceful assembly in Europe is facing severe and systematic challenges as governments increasingly "stigmatize, criminalize, and crack down" on protesters, according to a new report by Amnesty International on Wednesday.

The report highlights a disturbing pattern of repressive laws, excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests, and invasive surveillance tactics across the continent, Anadolu reported.

"Amnesty's research paints a deeply disturbing picture of a Europe-wide onslaught against the right to protest," said Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's secretary-general.

"Across the continent, authorities are vilifying, impeding, deterring, and unlawfully punishing people who peacefully protest," she added.

The report documents a range of abusive practices in 21 European countries, including Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Serbia, and Switzerland.

These practices include the use of less-lethal weapons by police, resulting in serious injuries such as broken bones, dislocated limbs, and severe head trauma.

Israel ignores war crimes against Palestinians

An investigation by Israeli human rights group Yesh Din has found that of 573 cases of wrongdoing by the Israeli military in Gaza over the past decade, only one case led to a prosecution.

The rights group, which operates in the occupied West Bank, said it examined the results of Israeli military law enforcement related to three

military operations in Gaza over the past 10 years. The lack of prosecutions points to a system of military law enforcement that is "evading properly investigating suspect war crimes".

"Although Israel prides itself on its law enforcement system and presents it as functioning, there is considerable doubt whether the system has the ability or willingness to conduct thorough and effective investigations regarding serious suspicions of violations of the laws of war during the war in Gaza," the group added.

Spain's opposition accuses government of 'hypocrisy' over arms sales to Israel

Spain's left-wing opposition Podemos party accused the government of hypocrisy regarding arms sales to Israel.

Deliberating on a report by the Delas Center for Peace Studies that examined arms exports to Israel in 2022-23, the party's leader Ione Belarra argued that arms exports to Israel from Spain since October 7, 2023, reached €1.27 billion (\$1.37 billion).

These facts contradict Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's and Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares' claims that no arms sales to Israel have occurred since the beginning of Israeli army attacks on the Gaza Strip last October, she added, Anadolu reported.

In her comments on social media, Belarra said, "I have no words to describe the shame I feel about the hypocrisy of the Spanish Government."

First Democratic senator challenges Biden candidacy

The first Democratic senator has publicly questioned President Joe Biden's election chances, after seven Congress members broke cover and urged the 81-year-old to step aside.

Senator Michael Bennet told CNN he expected the president to lose to Donald Trump by a "landslide", but stopped short of telling him to end his candidacy.

Bennet said the question of whether to carry on in the race was "something for the president to consider". But he said Trump was "on track, I think, to win this election and maybe win it by a landslide".

Questions have been raised about Biden's fitness for office after a stumbling presidential debate performance against Trump late last month.

The president insists he can beat his adversary, and continues to hold support among key allies after congressional Democrats met to debate his leadership on Tuesday.

Mikie Sherrill is the seventh House Democrat who has publicly called on Biden not to run for re-election, saying the stakes were "too high".

She joined other dissenting voices in Congress that include Adam Smith, who told the BBC earlier this week that the party needed to install a "stronger messenger" as its candidate.

Yemen strikes vessels linked to U.S., Israel

The spokesman for the Yemeni Armed Forces said the country's naval forces and missile units carried out three operations against vessels linked to the US and Israel off the nation's coast, in solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing Israeli onslaught on Gaza.

Speaking at a televised press briefing broadcast live from the Yemeni capital city of Sana'a on Tuesday night, Brigadier General Yahya Saree said the country's forces targeted the American Maersk Sentosa container ship in the Arabian Sea with several ballistic and winged missiles, Press TV reported.

Saree added that Yemeni naval units targeted the Marathopolis ship in the Arabian Sea, and the MSC Patnaree ship in the Gulf of Aden with a number of drones.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Hezbollah rattles Israelis with more drone footage

Lebanese resistance captures sensitive military sites over occupied Golan Heights

From page 1 ▶ Additionally, the video reveals strategic reconnaissance stations in the Golan Heights, operated by the Israeli military's Unit 8200, Unit 9900, and the Electronic Warfare Unit.

Experts say these bases serve critical roles in communication, data exchange, and security, along with facilities for securing and preparing the bases and the occupied border lines.

Moreover, the footage highlights key Israeli military bases and new points established since October 7, 2023, as well as the Yoav Battalion's artillery base and missile unit for the Galilee and the Golan.

The scenes also feature barracks housing the command headquarters of the Israeli military's 71st Armored Battalion and Brigade 74th Armored Battalion, and Alik barracks with the command headquarters of the 188th Barak Armored Brigade.

The video further reveals Keila barracks used as a training camp for ground units in the occupied Golan, Gamla barracks, a training camp for ground forces and a position for the 7th Armored Battalion, as well as the Yarden barracks.

The video also shows other key Israeli military camps, bases and stations.

It concludes with the phrase "to be continued," followed by further aerial reconnaissance scenes from the Israeli cities of Safed and Tiberias, which analysts say will be published next.

Previously, Hezbollah had published nearly 10 minutes of footage on June 18, showing aerial reconnaissance from Kiryat Shmona near Lebanon and all the way to the port of Haifa and beyond.

Five days later, Hezbollah's war media published a video titled "To whom it may concern," revealing vital Israeli targets, which the Lebanese resistance said is known only to the Israeli security apparatus.

Hebrew media reacted to the latest footage with Israeli Channel 12 saying Hezbollah "is also waging psychological warfare alongside the war in the North".

Israeli media noted that the video includes "high-quality aerial footage of various locations in the north," as Hezbollah's reconnaissance drone filmed "dozens of sensitive areas and facilities in Israel, specifically in the north, within 10 minutes."

In a notable comment, Israeli media described the video as a "new disturbing revelation from Hezbollah, as it is documentation for Israeli eyes," showcasing very strategic locations.

Israeli media added that Hezbollah "published maps and photos of military bases it attacked over the past 9 months in the Golan," confirming that "it has larger capabilities," and that it "can move swarms of aircraft, and will do so if a full-scale war breaks out".

An expert on security affairs told the regime's Channel 12 that "the Hodhod's video is another type of battle showing the extent of Hezbollah's capabilities," pointing out that the occupation "has a problem in intercepting Hezbollah's aircraft."

Another pundit on Israeli media asked "How many additional F-35 aircraft do we need to buy to be able to stop Hezbollah aircraft?"

Among the other remarks, the military affairs commentator for the Walla Hebrew news website scrutinized the Israeli Air Force, saying "where was it?".

but the situation is that the brutality of the occupying Zionist forces against the Palestinians is still going on. On the other hand, Lebanon's Hezbollah has inflicted massive financial and military losses on the usurping Zionist army and the US government's policy is to call for a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible to avoid a major war with Lebanon at same time. The US government is trying to eliminate the Islamic resistance movement Hezbollah in Lebanon. The US government and the despotic Zionist government of Israel could not eliminate Hamas in Gaza. However, some political observers here say that the US government thinks that the leadership of Hamas can be persuaded because Hamas trusts the governments of countries such as Qatar and Egypt. What has happened is that both governments are allies of the United States. Recently, the American government told the Qatari government that if Hamas does not accept the ceasefire agreement, then the leadership of Hamas should be expelled from Qatar or their leaders should be arrested and handed over to the United States. Hezbollah has done the most damage to Israel in the war since October 8th and so far. However, the question now is whether war will be imposed on Lebanon. What is the

US government's plan? In order to find the answer, the report of a research institute of the occupying Zionist regime states that Israel should not go to war against Hezbollah. A leading research institute of the occupying Zionist government of Israel, the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) said the Hezbollah resistance movement is capable of inflicting heavy blows on the Zionist government because of its large military arsenal and advanced cyber systems. The INSS also highlighted that the war could last for months and that Israel is unable to protect its civilians and critical infrastructure due to a lack of air defense weapons. The report recommends that the Zionist government not fully engage with Hezbollah as long as its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip continues. It also urged Israel to implement a lasting ceasefire in Gaza as an alternative to war with Hezbollah. Tensions are high after Israel announced operational plans to attack Lebanon. The two sides have been exchanging fire since last October, when Israel launched a genocidal war on Gaza.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Medical history museum to be established in Lorestan

TEHRAN – A special museum dedicated to medical history will be set up within Shohada-ye Ashayer Hospital, which is located in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province.

Dr. Bahram Delfan, who presides over Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, on Tuesday announced that the Health Museum of this province will soon be established at Shohada-ye Ashayer Hospital, CHTN reported.

He made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the Clinical Skills Center of Lorestan University of Medical Sciences, saying: “This museum will be set up in the old building of the Clinical Skills Center (located within Shohada-ye Ashayer Hospital).”

He said every field of science has a brilliant

history that is very important to understand. “In this regard, historical medical equipment and the evolutionary process of these devices will be on display at the museum.”

He mentioned that medical equipment has been in use in this province for approximately 70 years, which will be showcased for students and faculty members.

A museum of medical history serves as a fascinating window into the evolution of medical science and technology. For museum-goers, it offers a unique opportunity to witness the remarkable advancements in healthcare that have shaped modern medicine. Exhibits often include historical medical instruments, early surgical tools, antique pharmaceutical equipment, and detailed displays of past medical practices.

From tradition to modernity: Ilam's embossed kilims

TEHRAN – Historically, Ilam has been renowned for its Kilim production, a craft that dates back centuries. However, the embossed kilims (locally named Gilim-e Naqsh Barjasteh) represent a relatively recent development in the region's artisanal landscape.

This innovative style was pioneered by a skilled weaver named Sahar Chalengar. Through her ingenuity, Chalengar introduced an embossed motif into the traditional Kilim by integrating carpet knots into the weaving process. Her unique approach quickly gained popularity, revolutionizing the craft and spreading across Ilam province.

The creation of embossed kilims involves a distinctive technique that sets them apart from traditional Kilims.

The background of these Kilims is woven using a conventional method known locally as “Sufi Bafi.” The motifs, however, are crafted using Turkish carpet knots, which naturally make them stand out in relief against the flat background. This embossing effect adds a three-dimensional quality to the Kilims, enhancing their visual and tactile appeal.

The primary materials used in embossed kilims are wool, cotton, and sometimes silk yarn. These materials are sourced from local cattle farmers, ensuring a close connection between the weavers and their environment. Wool is used both in its natural color and dyed with natural and chemical pigments. The dyeing process often involves the use of white alum to stabilize the colors, ensuring they remain vibrant and long-lasting.

The process of making an embossed kilim begins with the installation of the loom. While both vertical and horizontal looms can be used, vertical looms are now more commonly chosen. The Kilims are woven based on symmetrical patterns, and unlike simple Kilims, they allow for the inclusion of curvilinear motifs. These motifs include traditional



designs such as “Lachak – Toranj” (paisley), “Goldani” (vase), “Gol-e Farang” (rose flower), “Naghsheh Ghalat,” “Botehee” (bush), “Mehrabi,” and various floral, animal, and figurative motifs.

The aesthetic appeal of embossed kilims is further enhanced by the use of bright and vibrant colors. Shades like cream, red, light blue, white, green, pink, and orange dominate the palette, with darker colors such as brown, black, or blue used sparingly to accentuate the brightness of the primary colors. This careful balance of hues adds to the dynamic and striking appearance of the Kilims.

The value of embossed kilims can be increased by combining different motifs or experimenting with various materials. This adaptability has helped the craft flourish in several cities within Ilam province, including Ilam, Dehloran, Shiravan, Darreh Shahr, Mehran, and Abdanan.

Each Kilim not only serves as a beautiful piece of art but also as a cultural artifact that reflects the rich history and evolving artistry of the region.

In conclusion, embossed kilims from Ilam are a remarkable fusion of tradition and innovation. They represent the skill and creativity of Ilam's weavers, who continue to honor their heritage while embracing new techniques and styles. These Kilims are more than just decorative items; they are a vibrant expression of the cultural identity and artistic legacy of Ilam province.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Mesa Verde National Park

A great concentration of ancestral Pueblo Indian dwellings, built from the 6th to the 12th century, can be found on the Mesa Verde plateau in southwest Colorado at an altitude of more than 2,600 m.

The UNESCO-designated property is a remarkably well-preserved prehistoric settlement landscape of the Ancestral Puebloan culture, which lasted for almost nine hundred years from c. 450 to 1300. This plateau in southwest Colorado, which sits at an altitude of more than 2,600 meters, contains a great concentration of spectacular Pueblo Indian dwellings, including well-known cliff dwellings. This rich landscape provides a remarkable archaeological laboratory for enhancing our understanding of the Ancestral Puebloan people.

Some 600 cliff dwellings built of sandstone and mud mortar have been recorded within Mesa Verde National Park – including the famous multi-story Cliff Palace, Balcony House, and Square Tower House – and an additional 4,300 archaeological sites have

been discovered. The cliff dwelling sites range in size from small storage structures to large villages of 50 to 200 rooms. Many other archaeological sites, such as pit-house settlements and masonry-walled villages of varying size and complexity, are distributed over the mesas. Non-habitation sites include farming terraces and check dams, field houses, reservoirs and ditches, shrines and ceremonial features, as well as rock art. Mesa Verde represents a significant and living link between the Puebloan Peoples' past and their present way of life.

According to the UN cultural body, Mesa Verde National Park is authentic in terms of its forms and designs, materials and substance, location and setting, and spirit. Large portions of the sandstone and mud-mortar multi-story buildings have survived intact in form and materials, a tribute to the engineering skills of these early peoples as well as the dry environment of the mesa's alcoves.

(Source: UNESCO)

Intangible cultural heritage ever-living soul of nations, deputy minister says

TEHRAN – Iran's deputy tourism minister Ali Darabi has said intangible cultural heritage is the ever-living soul of various cultures worldwide.

“It is one of the pillars for achieving sustainable progress in our identity-rich communities today,” said Darabi who doubles as the chairman of the governing council of the Regional Research Center for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Western and Central Asia.

Darabi made these remarks at the opening of the sixth regular meeting of the Governing Council of the Regional Research Center for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Western and Central Asia.

Rosanna Giannandre, Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO Cluster office in Tehran, along with representatives and experts from the member states attended the event, which was held on Tuesday at Laleh Hotel in Tehran.

“Today we are honored to hold the sixth meeting of the Governing Council of the Intangible Heritage Center in Tehran following the implementation of our commitments in the fifth council and in the third and fourth executive



boards, with the presence of you esteemed country representatives and distinguished experts in this center,” Darabi said.

He added: Intangible cultural heritage is the ever-living soul of the cultures of nations, which is one of the pillars for achieving sustainable progress in our identity-rich communities today because this aspect of heritage affirms the wisdom and thought of humanity from the distant past of global history.

The five manifestations of intangible heritage are indeed a treasure trove of the most encompassing cultural and identity expressions of nations that can-

not be conveyed in this limited time from the lived experiences of thousands of years of human interaction with planet Earth in its resilience and flexibility in transferring it to the present generation, the official explained.

Referring to the holding of this meeting simultaneously with the (holy) month of Muharram and the commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his loyal companions, Darabi said: “We Iranians wear black clothes and hold mourning ceremonies to revisit the ideals and messages of the everlasting movement of Karbala and to mourn Imam Hussein (peace be

upon him) and his companions, which is considered a symbol of intangible heritage.”

He continued: “In this meeting, which has gathered to effectively and efficiently safeguard based on the legal documents of the 2003 convention, we will review the performance of the Intangible Heritage Center in Tehran, which has been realized under the supervision of the executive board and in cooperation with member countries, and we will present new programs that are needed by the countries of the Western and Central Asian region today.”

Darabi concluded his remarks by expressing hope that the outcome of this meeting, like previous ones, will bring useful solutions and effective achievements for the Regional Research Center for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Western and Central Asia in line with existing regulations.

Isfahan tourism must align with global standards, provincial tourism chief says

TEHRAN – On Wednesday, Isfahan's tourism chief Amir Karamzadeh emphasized the need for the province's tourism sector to comply with global standards.

“Today, more than ever, we need a serious assessment of Isfahan's tourism in both governmental and private sectors. In this regard, I believe that research projects can be a solution.”

He made remarks at the fourth meeting of his directorate officials with the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, adding “One of the most important indicators for understanding

the tourism industry is that we always face reality in tourism; therefore, tourism activists must always be realistic.”

He continued, “I believe that the most important duty of the Chamber of Commerce, as an entity of the private sector, is to always demand from the government.

“Unfortunately, we see that the private sector in Isfahan's tourism is not acting as efficiently as it should. Therefore, I believe that with proper advocacy, Isfahan's tourism must align with global standards.”

Isfahan was once a crossroads of interna-

tional trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The ancient city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into “half the world”; meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world.

Discover the heart of ancient Persia through its mythological creatures

TEHRAN – The realm of ancient Persian mythology is full of vibrant tales of mythological creatures that reflect glimpses of civilization's core values, fears, and hopes.

Those tales, top examples of which can be traced in Ferdowsi's Shahnameh (the epic Book of Kings), offer captivating glimpses into the timeless battle between good and evil, order and chaos.

These mythological creatures, from the benevolent Gavaevodata to the fearsome Azhi Dahaka, offer a profound understanding of the human condition through the lens of Persian culture.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, a mythology lover, or a curious traveler, exploring the tales of these twelve ancient Persian creatures promises an unforgettable adventure into the heart of a civilization where legends still come alive.

Here is a brief introduction to twelve remarkable creatures that stand as guardians, villains, and enigmatic figures, each with a unique story to tell.

Gavaevodata: a primordial bull

Begin your exploration with Gavaevodata, the primordial bull, a symbol of the high-value Persians placed on animals.

Created by the supreme deity Ahura Mazda, Gavaevodata was the first unique entity on earth, embodying the essence of life and fertility. This majestic bull signifies the dawn of creation and the interconnectedness of all living beings.

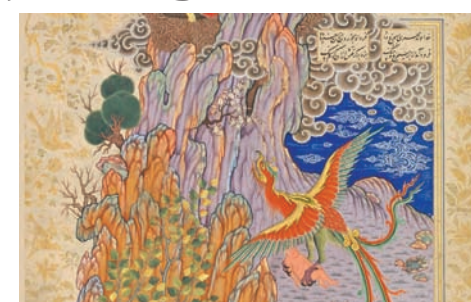
Simurgh: a wise giant bird

Next, ascend to the heights of the Alburz Mountains, home to Simurgh, the legendary giant bird. With the head of a dog, the body of a peacock, and the claws of a lion, Simurgh is a paragon of wisdom and rebirth.

This majestic creature, living for 1,700 years before rising from its ashes, inspires tales of renewal and eternal wisdom, much like the later Phoenix.

Huma bird: an eternal blessing

Soar across the skies with the Huma bird, a later incarnation of Simurgh. This mythical



A folio of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh (the Book of Kings)

bird never lands, blessing anyone upon whom its shadow falls with lifelong happiness. The Huma bird's story is one of hope and divine favor, promising joy and prosperity to those fortunate enough to encounter it.

Chamrosh and Kamak: guardians and destroyers

Encounter the duality of Chamrosh and Kamak, two colossal birds embodying the forces of good and evil. Chamrosh, with its eagle wings and dog's body, protects the land, scattering seeds to ensure prosperity and defend against invaders. In stark contrast, Kamak, a harbinger of destruction, brings drought and prey on the people and their livestock, illustrating the perpetual struggle between benevolence and malevolence.

Al: a nocturnal predator

Delve into the darker side of Persian mythology with the Al, a terrifying nocturnal predator.

Depicted as an old woman with sharp teeth and talons, the Al preys on newborns and pregnant women, embodying the fears of vulnerability and loss. This creature's sinister presence serves as a reminder of the ever-present dangers lurking in the shadows.

Manticore: an invincible man-eater

Face the fearsome Manticore, a creature with the head of a man, the body of a lion, and the tail of a scorpion. Known for its invincibility and swift movements, the Manticore strikes terror into the hearts of those it encounters.

Its legend speaks of the mysteries and per-

ils that lie beyond the known world, challenging the bravest of souls.

Peri: playful spirits

Peris were enchanting winged creatures known for their playful yet sometimes helpful nature. These tiny spirits, believed to atone for past sins, are neither wholly good nor evil.

Their whimsical presence adds a touch of magic and mischief to Persian folklore, embodying the unpredictable twists of fate.

Suroosh and Daena: guardians of the afterlife

Journey to the Chinvat Bridge, where Suroosh, the angel of protection, and Daena, the Holy Maiden of conscience, assist the newly deceased in crossing from life to death.

These benevolent figures symbolize the support and guidance provided to souls navigating the afterlife, ensuring a just passage to their final destination.

Jinn: enigmatic entities

Venture into the realm of the Jinn, supernatural entities inhabiting lonely places outside towns. These neutral spirits, neither immortal nor human, possess the power to influence human thought and action.

The Jinn's elusive nature and unpredictability reflect the complexities and mysteries of the world around us.

Azhi Dahaka: a three-headed dragon

Confront Azhi Dahaka, the formidable three-headed dragon created by Angra Mainyu to spread chaos and disorder. With a thousand senses, Azhi Dahaka embodies the ultimate evil, aware of every threat and perpetually seeking to disrupt the balance. This dragon's tale highlights the eternal battle between light and darkness, order and chaos.

Iran to mark intl. day of combatting SDSs

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment will play host to an event on July 12 to mark the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms aiming to raise awareness and enhance resilience against SDSs as a global concern.

Sand and dust storms present a formidable and widespread challenge to achieving sustainable development in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

They have become a serious global concern in recent decades due to their significant impacts on the environment, health, agriculture, livelihoods, and socio-economic well-being.

Recognizing that sand and dust storms and their negative impacts at different scales are issues of international concern, at Iran's initiative, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed July 12 as the International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms.

Foreign ambassadors and representatives of international organizations in departments of environment will participate in the event, IRNA quoted Ali-Mohammad Tahmasbi-Birgani, director of the national headquarters for combatting sand and dust storms, as saying.

In the Iranian year 1397 (2018-2019), the national headquarters took action to identify the internal and external sources of SDSs and subsequently implemented action plans including the assessment of dust damage,



es, establishment of notification guidelines, and other software tasks.

In 2022, Iran started consulting neighboring countries, and the head of the Department of Environment paid visits to Iraq, Syria, Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE.

In July 2022, Tehran played host to a conference of ministers and officials from 11 countries, aiming to boost cooperation for resolving extant environmental problems, especially sand and dust storms.

Environment ministers of Iraq, Armenia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Syria, and Qatar, as well as deputy ministers of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan along with delegations from Turkey and Uzbekistan, participated in the event which was held with the theme of "Environmental Cooperation for a Better Future."

Late President Ebrahim Raisi proposed the creation of a regional fund to deal with SDSs which was submitted to the

etary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, IRNA reported.

The UNEA-6 Assembly had 19 resolutions and two decisions under discussion, which covered a wide range of issues, including circular economy; effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions towards climate justice; solar radiation modification; sound management of chemicals and waste, and sand and dust storms.

The United Nations General Assembly, stressed the need for cooperation at the global and regional levels, with a view to preventing, managing, and mitigating the effects of sand and dust storms through the enhancement of early warning systems and the sharing of climate and weather information to forecast sand and dust storms.

The General Assembly affirmed that resilient action to combat and reduce sand and dust storms requires a better understanding of the severe multidimensional impacts of sand and dust storms, including the deterioration of the health, well-being and livelihood of people, increased desertification and land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and land productivity, threatening food security, and their impact on sustainable economic growth.

United Nations later.

The International Conference on SDSs was held in Tehran on September 9-10, 2023, representatives of some 50 countries and 15 international organizations attended the conference.

The event was a further step towards the implementation of the environmental protection policies of Iran.

Moreover, the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) approved a resolution adopted at the international summit on dealing with sand and dust storms.

The UNEA-6 was held from February 26 to March 1 at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is the world's highest decision-making body on the environment.

A total of 180 countries attended the UNEA-6 meeting with a focus on how multilateralism can help tackle the triple plan-

National center for artificial intelligence inaugurated

TEHRAN –The National Artificial Intelligence was inaugurated on Wednesday in a ceremony attended by Acting President Mohammad Mokhber.

On December 3, 2023, the late President Ebrahim Raisi issued an executive order for the establishment of the 'National Steering Committee and the National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Center', Mehr news agency reported.

Accordingly, the science and technology headquarters was assigned to compile the document in cooperation with the ministries and executive bodies by utilizing the resources and expertise of universities and research institutes.

Creating a complete and stable chain of ideas to market in AI, benefiting from AI for the economic progress of the country, planning to achieve a leading and sustainable position among the countries of the world, as well as identifying and nurturing talents in the field of AI are among the most important tasks of the national AI center, IRNA reported.

"Iran ranks 17th in artificial intelligence in terms of scientific production and publication of articles in the world, while ranks 78th in terms of its application in the world," Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, Vice President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-based



Economy, said.

Plans to develop AI

The Vice Presidency has prepared three comprehensive plans to develop artificial intelligence in different sectors.

Currently, artificial intelligence is the first priority for the development of technology and is pursued with three programs, IRNA quoted Firouzabadi as saying

Artificial intelligence is a comprehensive technology and affects all other areas of technology, he highlighted.

"The plans in the field of artificial intelligence include scientific development programs that are mostly pursued in universities. The second plan is technology development programs that are pursued in companies that work in the field of artificial intelligence. And the third plan is the creation of a national technology hub in the field of ar-

tificial intelligence."

Iran to become a leading country in AI

In January 2022, Shahram Moein, head of the innovation and development center of artificial intelligence at the Research Institute of Information and Communication Technology, said, "Iran will be placed among the top 10 countries in artificial intelligence (AI) by 2032 based on the national document on artificial intelligence strategy."

The study of the national artificial intelligence development roadmap started two years ago at the Research Institute of Information and Communication Technology and was officially completed by the end of November 2021.

"To draft this document, strategic documents of 23 countries in the field of artificial intelligence were evaluated so that areas such as environment, health, transportation, online education, energy, robotics, industry, agriculture, and security development are among the priority areas of AI.

Among the goals of this document are 80 percent of research to meet the needs of the country, the use of 45 percent of artificial intelligence in industries, \$8 billion investment in artificial intelligence, and a 12 percent share of AI in the GDP," he explained.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Green taxes not used for environment

While the Municipality of Tehran receives green taxes paid by pollutant industries, the money is not used for developing the environment or improving the industries. The DOE is trying to revise the law and receive green taxes to use it toward eradicating air and water pollution, wastewater treatment and environmental issues, along with technology and industries improvement. There are rules which obliges the waste management affairs of the DOE to make the manufacturing and import industries pay taxes and spend the taxes on waste management and recycling.

عوارض آلودگی صرف ارتقای محیط زیست نمی شود

عوارض اخذ شده از صنایع آلوده در محل خودش و با هدف رفع چالش محیط زیست هزینه نمی شود. در سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در تلاش برای بازنگری این قانون هستیم تا زمینه ای فراهم شود عوارض آلودگی به حساب صندوق ملی محیط زیست وارد و صرف حل مسایل زیست محیطی شود و بتوانیم به صنایع برای ارتقای فناوری و تصفیه پساب ها کمک کنیم. البته قوانین خوبی در زمینه مدیریت پسماند تصویب شده است که سازمان محیط زیست را مکلف کرده تا از صنایع تولیدی و وارداتی درصدی را به عنوان مالیات اخذ و به صندوق ملی محیط زیست واریز کند تا صرف هزینه پسماند و بازیافت شود.

World Population Day: understanding problems, developing solutions

From page 1 ▶ These advancements have significantly enhanced the delivery of health care globally, leading to substantial improvements in sexual and reproductive health and the ability to exercise rights and choices.

Increasingly, new technologies are enabling more detailed and timely measurement of people's experiences than ever before.

However, the most marginalized communities remain underrepresented in data, profoundly affecting their lives and well-being.

World Population Day 2024 is a moment to ask who is still going uncounted and why – and what this costs individuals, societies, and our global efforts to leave no one behind.

It is also a moment for all of us to commit to doing more to ensure that our data systems capture the full range of human diversity so that everyone is seen, can exercise their human rights, and can reach their full potential.

To realize the rights and choices of those on the margins of our societies, we must count them – because everyone counts. Our rich human tapestry is only as strong as its weakest thread. When data and other systems work for those on the margins, they work for everyone. This is how we accelerate progress for all.

Population policies

The National Population Day is annually observed on May 19 to mark the date the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, announced general policies on population as per the Constitution.

Underscoring the significant role of the population in national authority, general population policies were announced to compensate for the decrease in population growth and fertility rate over the past years (ended on March 19).

Keeping in mind the positive role of the population in the development of the country, it is necessary to make comprehensive plans for the economic, social, and cultural

growth of the country in accordance with the population policies, the leader said.

It is also necessary to share the task among the relevant institutions and government bodies to take the necessary measures with accuracy, and strength, and then report the results of continuous monitoring of the implementation of policies.

Ten years following the announcement of these policies, the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi was successful in implementing them with the approval and enforcement of the Law on Family and Youth Support.

According to statistics, with the formation of the National Population Headquarters, holding continuous meetings, and following up on the actions, the law was implemented successfully in the past 30 months.

The law has tried to prevent the population decline by considering a series of incentives for families.

The incentives include providing families with plots of land free of charge, free insurance coverage, loans for house construction and childbearing, and building more infertility treatment centers.

According to the health ministry, since the implementation of the law, the number of births among mothers aged 20 to 24 has notably increased.

The rate of mothers giving birth to three children increased from 16 percent in the Iranian year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020) to 18.97 percent in 1402 (March 2023 –March 2024) and even the fourth childbirth increased from 5 percent to about 7 percent.

The health ministry's responsibilities in the field of health and education are well-defined and it has successfully implemented more than 95 percent of its tasks in the youth law.

Population is one of the important and key points in the 7th national development plan (2023-2027).

'Creativity for all Children' aims to improve lives of vulnerable children

TEHRAN –The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Panter Group have signed a three-year partnership agreement titled 'Creativity for All Children' to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and adolescence in Iran.

The agreement was signed on July 8 by UNICEF Iran representative, Robin Nandy, and Founder of the Panter Group, Mehrdad Aalipour Herisi, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on July 9.

The partnership provides financial support to UNICEF programs. As per this partnership, the Panter Group will donate part of the proceeds from the sale of its selected products to UNICEF.

"UNICEF highly appreciates the support of Panter Group to enable investments in priorities for children of Iran, such as healthcare, nutrition, social protection, clean water, and education," said Nandy.

He went on to say, "We look forward to more such partnerships with the private sector to join forces and leverage the strengths of the corporate sector for the benefit of children in Iran.

UNICEF stands ready to support companies to achieve both their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and business objectives."

Aalipour Herisi, for his part, said, "In line with our strategy of building a value-creating brand, we go beyond profit and aim to be a beneficial company.

This can be achieved through fulfilling our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and exchange of knowledge and expertise with reputable organizations such as UNICEF."

He further noted, "Panter is excited to join UNICEF in helping children in Iran to live their dreams with smiles lighting up their faces."

UNICEF has been supporting Government Ministries and partners in their work for Iran's children since the early 1950s, initially assisting in the vaccination of children against tuberculosis and equipping the coun-

try's first pasteurized milk factory.

Later UNICEF's focus shifted to supporting children's health programs in Iran, such as promoting breastfeeding, vaccination, and preventing diarrhea.

The current country program between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNICEF, from 2023 to 2027, is focused on the following areas: Health and Nutrition, Education and Adolescent Empowerment, Child Protection, Social Policy, Emergency, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as the climate change.

Panter Entrepreneurship Group, as a knowledge-based, innovative, and nano-technology-oriented company in the field of stationery strives to apply the "Brandpreneurship" model to develop a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in Iran.

On the basis of the idea of entrepreneurial management, Panter makes efforts to maintain its place as a respected and major brand at national and international levels.

Training sessions on child rights

In the last week of May, the Vice Presidency (VP) for Science, Technology and Knowledge-based Economy and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized a training session for VP directors on child rights, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on June 3.

A total of 18 VP directors and experts specialized in the fields of innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), knowledge-based economy, and cultural technologies attended the one-day training.

During the session, the participants gain insight into Results Based Management (RBM) and UNICEF's Innovation Strategy.

The session also covered government sectoral accountabilities, in developing national plans that contribute to the identification and addressing of the child rights deprivations in the country



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JULY 11, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The weakest person is he who is unable to secure a friend for himself, and weaker than him is he who loses his friend.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon: 12:10 Evening: 19:43 Dawn: 3:15 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:58 (tomorrow)

Films shot during Gazan war screened at Amman Festival

A collection of 22 short films shot during the Gazan war are being screened at the Amman International Film Festival in Jordan.

The collection, called "From Ground Zero", is a project curated by the renowned Palestinian director Rashid Masharawi, who wanted to give filmmakers in Gaza an opportunity to tell their stories since the current war broke out last October, Al-Fanar Media reported.

"From Ground Zero" was initially accepted to be screened at the Cannes Film Festival before organizers recanted, saying they wanted to keep politics out of this year's event. Masharawi then organized a separate protest screening outside the festival grounds. He put up a tent, a reference to the tents in which hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians live, and wearing a keffiyeh necktie, screened the films.

In Amman, Masharawi introduced a film from the collection, a documentary called "No", by Hana Eleiwa, which, despite the difficulty of producing films during a war, is nevertheless a story of peace and hope.

The fifth edition of the Amman International Film Festival opened on July 4 at the Al-Husseini Cultural Center in Amman. With the theme "Our Stories, Our Narratives", the festival aims to bring the voices of Arab filmmakers to the world.

The opening ceremony dispensed with the usual trappings of a red carpet and ceremonial music. Instead, it adopted a more solemn tone, beginning with a minute silence for the victims in Palestine.

In her opening speech, Princess Rym Ali, the founder and president of the festival, said: "Despite the ongoing suffering and massacres in Palestine, Sudan and other places, we have held on to the festival as a space to support cinema, as art is a life-sustaining system. ... Let us tell our stories to the world. There is no more important time than now to share our diverse stories as we witness the distortion of narratives and high disinformation."

Film director Lina Soualem introduced her

feature-length documentary "Bye Bye Tiberias", which follows the story of her Palestinian mother, the actress Hiam Abbass. The film is an intimate story about the women in Abbass's family and her return to the Palestinian village she left as a young woman to pursue a creative career that led her to Europe. Now an international star, Abbass is known for roles in films including Steven Spielberg's "Munich" and "Blade Runner 2049". Her most recent success has been playing Marcia Roy, wife of the media mogul Logan Roy in the HBO series "Succession".

The festival features 52 films from 28 countries, with a mix of Arab and international narratives and documentaries, as well as short films from the Arab world. Twelve films will have their Arab premieres and two will have their world premieres.

Commenting on the film selection, Areeb Zuaier, the festival's head of programming, said: "In light of current events, choosing to remain silent is not an option. We must tell, we must share our narrative. Our program will not only tell profound stories but will also illuminate lived experiences drawn from authentic personal journeys. This year, we have exercised heightened selectivity. Our aim, however, remains for the festival's theme to resonate deeply while offering the people of Jordan the opportunity to enjoy the largest number of films on the big screen."

As well as the screenings, the festival includes a number of talks and master classes featuring prominent actors, filmmakers and industry professionals. Fashion designer Alana Hadid and producer Mounir Atallah will discuss their venture, Watermelon Pictures, a U.S.-based film production and distribution company aimed at empowering marginalized voices. Their talk will examine the role of creative industries in combating cultural distortion, forming effective collaborations, and influencing social change.

The festival continues through July 11 at various venues in the Abdali Boulevard district of Amman.

"The Last Temptation" to represent Iran at LA Shorts International Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short film "The Last Temptation" written and directed by Ali Saadatmand will be shown in the On-Demand section of the 28th LA Shorts International Film Festival, to be held in Los Angeles, California, from July 17 to 28.

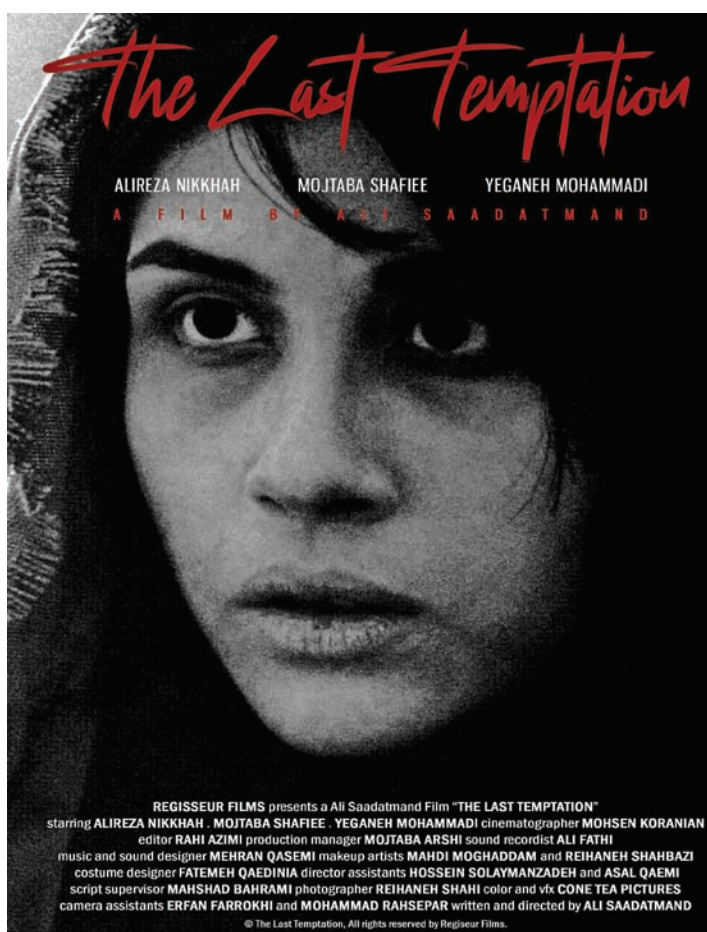
A production of 2024, the 19-minute drama is the only film from Iran among the 36 movies in the lineup, ILNA reported.

The other competitors in the section are from the U.S., the UK, India, Germany, Australia, Puerto Rico, Canada, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Denmark, Mexico, China, Croatia, Jordan, Italy, and Japan.

In "The Last Temptation," a man finds himself trapped in the world of Faust, where he must confront his deepest nightmares and desires. He meets devil and a pale girl in this world, and to set the girl free, he must make a choice and do sacrifice.

The cast includes Alireza Nikkhah, Mojtaba Shafiee, and Yeganeh Mohammadi.

LA Shorts International Film



Festival ranks among the most prestigious and largest international short film festivals in the world.

It is accredited by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences OSCAR, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts BAFTA, the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (ACCT), the Canadian Screen Awards, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences of Spain (Goya Awards).

Now in its 28th year, LA Shorts is the longest-running short film festival in Los Angeles. The festival screens over 350 films and attracts over 10,000 attendees each year including Hollywood industry professionals and emerging independent filmmakers.

The film programming screens all genres from a wide spectrum of categories with high to low-budget films 40 minutes or under.

Fajr Intl. Film Festival invites global filmmakers to submit works



TEHRAN- The 43rd edition of Fajr International Film Festival has announced a call for entries, aiming to identify and promote valuable cinematic works from Iran and around the world.

Ira Levin's "Veronica's Room" to be staged in Tehran

TEHRAN-Divar Art Home in Tehran will host the play "Veronica's Room" written by Ira Levin from July 15.

Elena Omidi is the director of the play and also acts in her work along with Negar Babai, Mehrshad Amini, and Seyed Ali Jadda, Mehr reported.

In this chilling mystery thriller, a young woman finds herself trapped in a terrifying situation, persuaded to impersonate the long-dead daughter of an elderly couple.

The play explores the thin line between fantasy and reality,

madness and murder.

Students Susan and Larry find themselves as guests enticed to the Brabissant mansion by its dissolute caretakers, the lonely Mackeys. Struck by Susan's strong resemblance to Veronica Brabissant, the long-dead daughter of the family for whom they work, the older couple gradually induce her to impersonate Veronica briefly to solace the only living Brabissant, her addled sister who believes Veronica remains alive. Dressed in Veronica's clothes, Susan finds herself locked in

the role and locked in Veronica's room. Or is she Veronica, in 1935, pretending to be an imaginary Susan?

Ira Levin (1929-2007) was an American novelist, playwright, and songwriter.

His works include the novels "Rosemary's Baby" (1967), "The Stepford Wives" (1972), "This Perfect Day" (1970), "The Boys from Brazil" (1976), and "Sliver" (1991) and the play "Deathtrap" (1978).

Many of his novels and plays have been adapted into films. He received the Prometheus Hall of

ers, aiming to support and showcase their work.

In addition to the competitive sections, the festival will also feature a non-competitive section showcasing selected Iranian and international films that have been showcased at other international festivals.

Furthermore, the festival will include side events such as the award for Best Interfaith Film, Resistance Award, retrospective screenings of films from other countries, and a film market.

The 43rd edition of Fajr International Film Festival will be held in Tehran from January 31 to February 10, 2025.

Fame Award and several Edgar Awards.

Levin's best-known novel is "Rosemary's Baby," a horror story of modern-day Satanism and other occultisms, set in Manhattan's Upper West Side.

In 1968, it was adapted as a film written and directed by Roman Polanski. It starred Mia Farrow and John Cassavetes.

"Veronica's Room" will remain on stage until July 31 at Divar Art Home, located at No. 72, Sepand St., Nejatollahi St.

"The Last Bear" appears at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of British children's literature author Hannah Gold's "The Last Bear" has recently been published by Milkan Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Amin Purhassan.

"The Last Bear" is a heartwarming and moving story about a young girl named April who goes on a journey to a remote Arctic island with her father for six months of scientific research. However, when she arrives, she discovers that the island is not as barren as she expected, and she meets a starving and lonely polar bear who has wandered away from its family.

Despite the danger and isolation, April forms a strong bond with the bear and becomes determined to save it.

As April cares for the bear in secret, she realizes that it is a symbol of the devastating impact of global warming on the Arctic ecosystem. She sees firsthand the effects of climate change and feels frustrated and powerless to stop it.

However, she decides to take matters into her own hands and embarks on a quest to get the bear to safety, facing many challenges along the way.

Throughout her journey, April learns valuable lessons about courage, perseverance,



and the importance of taking small actions to make a big difference. Her story is not only a powerful exploration of environmental themes but also a celebration of the special connection between children and the natural world. The author beautifully evokes the Arctic setting and captures the magic of April's friendship with the bear, highlighting the deep instinct that exists between children and nature.

The story is also a powerful reminder that even small actions can make a big difference, and that children have the power to effect change.

April's story will inspire young readers to take action and make a positive impact on the

planet's future.

With its gentle message of hope and empowerment, "The Last Bear" is a must-read for children who care about climate change and want to make a difference.

Hannah Gold is a British author known for her poignant and powerful debut novel, "The Last Bear".

Born and raised in the UK, Gold developed a passion for storytelling and the natural world from a young age.

She studied English Literature at university and went on to work as a freelance writer and editor, refining her craft.

Gold's experiences as a writer-in-residence at the UK's National Trust allowed her to immerse herself in nature, drawing inspiration from the landscapes and wildlife that feature in her work.

Gold's writing has been praised for its lyrical prose, vivid descriptions of nature, and nuanced exploration of complex themes.

Her characters are well-developed and relatable, making it easy for readers to become invested in their stories.

With "The Last Bear", Gold has established herself as a rising star in children's literature, using her platform to raise awareness about environmental issues.

Cartoon of Day



Palestinians in Gaza

Cartoonist: Mohammad Sabaaneh from Palestine