

Exclusive

My Message to the New World

By Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian



I wish to emphasize that my administration will be guided by the commitment to preserving Iran's national dignity and international stature under all circumstances.

TEHRAN – On May 19, 2024, the untimely passing of President Ebrahim Raisi – a deeply respected and dedicated public servant – in a tragic helicopter crash precipitated early elections in Iran, marking a pivotal moment in our nation's history.

Amidst war and turbulence in our region, Iran's political system demonstrated remarkable stability by conducting elections in a competitive, peaceful, and orderly manner, dispelling insinuations made by some "Iran experts" in certain governments. This stability, and the dignified manner in which the elections were conducted, underscore the discernment of our Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the dedication of our people to democratic transition of power even in the face of adversity.

I ran for office on a platform of reform, fostering national unity, and constructive engagement with the world, ultimately earning the trust of my compatriots at the ballot box, including those young women and men dissatisfied with the overall state of affairs. I deeply value

their trust and am fully committed to cultivating consensus, both domestically and internationally, to uphold the promises I made during my campaign.

I wish to emphasize that my administration will be guided by the commitment to preserving Iran's national dignity and international stature under all circumstances. Iran's foreign policy is founded on the principles of "dignity, wisdom, and prudence", with the formulation and execution of this state-policy being the responsibility of the president and the government. I intend to leverage all authority granted to my office to pursue this overarching objective. ▶ Page 2

Iran's support for Palestine to continue until 'liberation of Al-Quds': Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – In a letter to the Head of Hamas' political bureau Ismail Haniyeh, Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian thanked the Palestinian leader for his earlier felicitations, declaring that his country will continue to back Palestine until its liberation from Zionist occupiers.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, adhering to principles and lofty goals of the Islamic Revolution and within the framework of the ideals of the late Imam Khomeini as well as guidelines by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, considers it as its human and Islamic duty to support the Palestinian nation and its struggle against the occupation and apartheid of the Zionist regime", the president-elect said in a Wednesday message. He also vowed "comprehensive support for the oppressed people of Palestine until all their aspirations and rights are realized and Al-Quds is liberated."

The message came in response to a letter by Haniyeh, who had congratulated Pezeshkian on his victory in Iran's snap presidential election. The Hamas chief had told the president-elect that the people of Palestine have trust in Iran's ability to help with the "unity of the Islamic Ummah."

Pezeshkian also sent a letter to Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah this week, announcing that Iran is resolute in its support for Resistance forces in the region.

Iranian commander reaffirms 'strategic support' for Resistance groups

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian military official has emphasized Iran's unwavering commitment to supporting regional Resistance movements in their struggle against Israel.

Brigadier General Esmail Qa'ani, commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), articulated this stance during his visit to Resistance fronts in the region on Thursday.

During his tour, General Qa'ani met with senior Resistance leaders and officials, reiterating Iran's strategic and enduring policy of support, particularly towards Palestine and the resilient population of Gaza. He emphasized that this policy is unanimously endorsed by all sectors of Iran's Islamic establishment and enjoys widespread backing from the Iranian populace.

The Resistance leaders expressed their gratitude to the Islamic Republic for its comprehensive support.

This visit follows a previous meeting in Tehran last May, where Qa'ani and top Resistance officials discussed the current political, social, and military conditions in the Gaza Strip. The region has been under severe Israeli military aggression since October, following a retaliatory operation by Gaza's Resistance groups, known as al-Aqsa Storm. ▶ Page 3

Iran presents five proposals at Green Development Forum

TEHRAN – Hasan Akbari, the deputy head of the Department of Environment, presented five proposals for the preservation of biodiversity at the Green Development Forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which was held in Qingdao, China, from July 8 to 9.

"Iran is open to exchange experiences and expertise with member states of the SCO in management of protected areas and the restoration of endangered species through bilateral or multilateral cooperation," IRNA quoted Akbari as saying.

The second proposal entails each member state focusing on a specific challenge regarding the protection of biodiversity, such as the restoration of endangered species, invasive species control, and fire management. ▶ Page 7



Iran-Russia cooperation will continue to grow: Putin

TEHRAN – Russia's willingness to promote mutual cooperation with Iran is unwavering, declared Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting with Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf on the sidelines of the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum.

"We seek to further expand bilateral relations between Moscow and Tehran in various spheres, and our cooperation will continue to grow," the Russian president said in St. Petersburg on Thursday. ▶ Page 3

Send-off held for Iranian Paris-bound athletes

TEHRAN – Sports officials and families came together on Thursday to send off a group of the Iranian athletes that will compete in the 2024 Olympic Games.

A send-off event was held at the Olympic Hotel's Abgineh Hall.

Sports minister Kioumars Hashemi and head of Iran's National Olympic Committee Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa attended the event.

Iran's 40-athlete team (29 male, 11 female) are ready to compete in 13 different sports in Paris.

Neda Shahsavari and Mahdi Olfati have been chosen to carry Iran's flag at the Opening Ceremony of the Games.

The 2024 Olympic Games will be held from July 26 to Aug. 11 in Paris. A total of 10,500 athletes from around the world are expected to compete in 329 events across 32 sports.

TEHRAN PAPERS

Prospects for Chabahar project

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

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed the challenges of the recent agreement between India and Iran and wrote: For India, Chabahar can be an opportunity to evade the economic pressures of the United States, while for Iran, any foreign investment to counter the sanctions is welcomed. One of the main obstacles is the U.S. sanctions against Iran, including Iran's blacklisting by the FATF and Iran's lack of access to the SWIFT international electronic payments system. Iran's president-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, pointed out these issues, but his ability to solve them is still uncertain. On the other hand, the United States is trying to undermine China's international transportation project that expands to Central Asia, Russia, and European countries through Pakistan, and supports initiatives that start from India and extend from Iran and Central Asia to Europe. For this reason, the United States may ignore any economic gains Iran makes from Chabahar.

Jam-e-Jam: The need to continue the 3 successful strategies of the 13th government

In an article, Jam-e-Jam addressed the need to continue the successful strategies of the 13th government and said: In the first strategy, the 13th government has provided infrastructure to establish relations with neighbors, which can work for the 14th government. The second strategy was balancing the foreign policy and using the existing global capacities. By becoming a member of Shanghai [Cooperation Organization] and BRICS and having economic exchanges with countries that oppose Western sanctions, Iran was able to overcome the isolation they had created for us. The third strategy is to increase the economic cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With this strategy, the embassies had a mission to introduce the economic capabilities of our country to other countries and also gain a good understanding of the economic capabilities of other countries. Therefore, according to the fact that Pezeshkian has raised the slogan of establishing relations with all countries, to realize his slogans, he can use the appropriate strategy that the 13th government has implemented.

Siasat-e-Rooz: No change in the U.S. approach

In a situation where the West has failed

in implementing the scenario of sanctioning Iran's elections, a series of positions have been put forward by American statesmen regarding negotiations with Iran, and it was shown that they are far from any meaningful diplomatic solution. Several points of the Americans' positions can be evaluated. First of all, the emphasis of some presidential candidates on solving the country's problems outside the borders and lifting the sanctions seems to have created the illusion of Iran's need to negotiate with Western countries. Therefore, their claims that they do not want to negotiate without changing Iran's behavior can be seen as the result of these positions. Second, the American authorities' emphasis on nuclear, missile, drone, and regional issues shows that there has been no change in the Americans' approach to the goals of the negotiations, and they all seek to remove all these capabilities and even Iran from the regional equations. Thirdly, it should be noted that the claim of the Americans that they do not want to negotiate is more of a forced thing than a voluntary thing. Due to its elections, the U.S. cannot officially enter into negotiations, and the claim of unwillingness is just a form of deception of public opinion and disturbing the mental relaxation of Iranians.

Shargh: Israel's focus on the strategy of the 14th government

In an interview with Mashaallah Shamsolvaezin, a senior analyst of regional issues, Shargh discussed the foreign policy of the 14th government regarding Palestine and Lebanon and said: First, we need to see what Israel's reaction is to the reformers' regaining power and Dr. Pezeshkian coming to office. This issue depends on where Iran's behavior and decisions will reach in the Middle East region, especially focusing on Palestine and Lebanon. On the other hand, it should also be considered that the Israelis are waiting for the Islamic Republic of Iran to enter a new chapter of negotiations with Europe and the United States of America for an agreement and JCPOA. What is certain is that if the de-escalation foreign policy of Pezeshkian is realized, it can reduce the intense fear of Israelis towards Hamas and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and in this situation, Tel Aviv will have no choice but to change its policy towards Tehran because Israel will finally conclude that with the political dynamics inside Iran, there is no way for them to change the Middle East policy.

Iran rebuts U.S. allegations at UN Security Council over Yemen conflict

TEHRAN – Amir Saeed Iravani, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has strongly refuted claims made by the U.S. representative during a Security Council meeting regarding the situation in Yemen.

The U.S. accused Iran of supplying weapons to the Yemeni Resistance movement, Ansarullah, a charge Iravani dismissed as baseless and politically motivated.

In a detailed letter addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the President of the Security Council, Pedro Comissário Afonso, Iravani expressed deep regret over the dissemination of what he termed as falsehoods aimed at advancing narrow political interests and unjustly legitimizing such claims. This rebuttal was in response to statements made by the U.S. representative during a public session of the Security Council on May 13, 2024, under the agenda item "The Situation in the Middle East."

Iravani criticized the U.S. for perpetuating these accusations without credible evidence, emphasizing that Iran's stance on the Yemen conflict has been consistently misrepresented. He underscored Iran's commitment to supporting a peaceful resolution in Yemen and denounced the politicization of the Security Council platform to propagate misinformation.

The full text of Iravani's letter is as follows:

In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

Excellency,

I wish to respond to yet another allegation made by the representative of the United States against my Country in the UN Security Council's open briefing on the situation in Yemen held on 13 May 2024 under the agenda item of "the situation in the Middle East" (S/2024/9623).

It is regrettable that, once again, the U.S. representative used the Security Council's platform to advance its short-sighted political interests and to justify and legitimize the US's ongoing illegal actions and military aggression against Yemen's sovereignty and territorial integrity by spreading lies and misinformation about the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the situation in Yemen.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally rejects these unfounded allegations.

Similarly, Iran rejects the identical allegations made against itself by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France during the Security Council briefing held on 14 April 2024 on the same agenda item (S/2024/9602).

In the letters dated 15 January, 19 February, and 18 March 2024, (S/2024/64- S/2024/175-S/2024/244), the Islamic Republic of Iran has made it clear that it is committed to the Security Council's relevant resolutions on the situation in Yemen and has not engaged in activities in contravention of these resolutions.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

My message to the new world

From page 1 ▶ With this in mind, my administration will pursue an opportunity-driven policy by creating balance in relations with all countries, consistent with our national interests, economic development, and requirements of regional and global peace and security. Accordingly, we will welcome sincere efforts to alleviate tensions and will reciprocate good-faith with good-faith.

Under my administration, we will prioritize strengthening relations with our neighbors. We will champion the establishment of a "strong region" rather than one where a single country pursues hegemony and dominance over the others. I firmly believe that neighboring and brotherly nations should not waste their valuable resources on erosive competitions, arms races, or the unwarranted containment of each other. Instead, we will aim to create an environment where our resources can be devoted to the progress and development of the region for the benefit of all.

We look forward to cooperating with Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and regional organizations to deepen our economic ties, bolster trade relations, promote joint-venture investment, tackle common challenges, and move towards establishing a regional framework for dialogue, confidence building and development. Our region has been plagued for too long by war, sectarian conflicts, terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, water scarcity, refugee crises, environmental degradation, and foreign interference. It is time to tackle these common challenges for the benefit of future generations. Cooperation for regional development and prosperity will be the guiding principle of our foreign policy.

"China and Russia have consistently stood by us during challenging times. We deeply value this friendship."

As nations endowed with abundant resources and shared traditions rooted in peaceful Islamic teachings, we must unite and rely on the power of logic rather than the logic of power. By leveraging our normative influence, we can play a crucial role in the emerging post-polar global order by promoting peace, creating a calm environment conducive to sustainable development, fostering dialogue, and dispelling Islamophobia. Iran is prepared to play its fair share in this regard.

In 1979, following the Revolution, the newly established Islamic Republic of Iran, motivated by respect for international law and fundamental human rights, severed ties with two apartheid regimes, Israel and South Africa. Israel remains an apartheid

regime to this day, now adding "genocide" to a record already marred by occupation, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, settlement-building, nuclear weapons possession, illegal annexation, and aggression against its neighbors.

"As a first measure, my administration will urge our neighboring Arab countries to collaborate and utilize all political and diplomatic leverages to prioritize achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza aiming to stop the massacre and prevent the broadening of the conflict."

As a first measure, my administration will urge our neighboring Arab countries to collaborate and utilize all political and diplomatic leverages to prioritize achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza aiming to stop the massacre and prevent the broadening of the conflict. We must then diligently work to end the prolonged occupation that has devastated the lives of four generations of Palestinians. In this context, I want to emphasize that all states have a binding duty under the 1948 Genocide Convention to take measures to prevent genocide; not to reward it through normalization of relations with the perpetrators.

Today, it seems that many young people in Western countries have recognized the validity of our decades-long stance on the Israeli regime. I would like to take this opportunity to tell this brave generation that we regard the allegations of antisemitism against Iran for its principled stance on the Palestinian issue as not only patently false but also as an insult to our culture, beliefs, and core values. Rest assured that these accusations are as absurd as the unjust claims of antisemitism directed at you while you protest on university campuses to defend the Palestinians' right to life.

China and Russia have consistently stood by us during challenging times. We deeply value this friendship. Our 25-year roadmap with China represents a significant milestone towards establishing a mutually beneficial "comprehensive strategic partnership," and we look forward to collaborating more extensively with Beijing as we advance towards a new global order. In 2023, China played a pivotal role in facilitating the normalization of our relations with Saudi Arabia, showcasing its constructive vision and forward-thinking approach to international affairs.

Russia is a valued strategic ally and neighbor to Iran and my administration will remain

committed to expanding and enhancing our cooperation. We strive for peace for the people of Russia and Ukraine, and my government will stand prepared to actively support initiatives aimed at achieving this objective. I will continue to prioritize bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Russia, particularly within frameworks such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Eurasia Economic Union.

Recognizing that the global landscape has evolved beyond traditional dynamics, my administration is committed to fostering mutually beneficial relations with emerging international players in the Global South, especially with African nations. We will strive to enhance our collaborative efforts and strengthen our partnerships for the mutual benefit of all involved.

Iran's relations with Latin America are well-established and will be closely maintained and deepened to foster development, dialogue and cooperation in all fields. There is significantly more potential for cooperation between Iran and the countries of Latin America than what is currently being realized, and we look forward to further strengthening our ties.

Iran's relations with Europe have known its ups and downs. After the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) in May 2018, European countries made eleven commitments to Iran to try to salvage the agreement and mitigate the impact of the United States' unlawful and unilateral sanctions on our economy. These commitments involved ensuring effective banking transactions, effective protection of companies from U.S. sanctions, and the promotion of investments in Iran. European countries have reneged on all these commitments, yet unreasonably expect Iran to unilaterally fulfill all its obligations under the JCPOA.

Despite these missteps, I look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with European countries to set our relations on the right path, based on principles of mutual respect and equal footing. European countries should realize that Iranians are a proud people whose rights and dignity can no longer be overlooked. There are numerous areas of cooperation that Iran and Europe can explore once European powers come to terms with this reality and set aside self-arrogated moral supremacy coupled with manufactured crises that have plagued our relations for so long. Opportunities for collaboration include economic and technological cooperation, energy security, transit routes, environment, as well as combating terrorism and drug trafficking, refugee crises, and other fields, all of which could be pursued to the benefit of our nations.

The United States also needs to recognize the reality and understand, once and for all, that Iran does not—and will not—

respond to pressure. We entered the JCPOA in 2015 in good faith and fully met our obligations. But the United States unlawfully withdrew from the agreement motivated by purely domestic quarrels and vengeance, inflicting hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to our economy, and causing untold suffering, death and destruction on the Iranian people—particularly during the Covid pandemic—through the imposition of extraterritorial unilateral sanctions. The U.S. deliberately chose to escalate hostilities by waging not only an economic war against Iran but also engaging in state terrorism by assassinating General Qassem Soleimani, a global anti-terrorism hero known for his success in saving the people of our region from the scourge of ISIS and other ferocious terrorist groups. Today, the world is witnessing the harmful consequences of that choice.

The U.S. and its Western allies, not only missed a historic opportunity to reduce and manage tensions in the region and the world, but also seriously undermined the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) by showing that the costs of adhering to the tenets of the non-proliferation regime could outweigh the benefits it may offer. Indeed, the U.S. and its Western allies have abused the non-proliferation regime to fabricate a crisis regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear program – openly contradicting their own intelligence assessment – and use it to maintain sustained pressure on our people, while they have actively contributed to and continue to support the nuclear weapons of Israel, an apartheid regime, a compulsive aggressor and a non-NPT member and a known possessor of illegal nuclear arsenal.

I wish to emphasize that Iran's defense doctrine does not include nuclear weapons and urge the United States to learn from past miscalculations and adjust its policy accordingly. Decision-makers in Washington need to recognize that a policy that consists of pitting regional countries against each other has not succeeded and will not succeed in the future. They need to come to terms with this reality and avoid exacerbating current tensions.

"The Iranian people have entrusted me with a strong mandate to vigorously pursue constructive engagement on the international stage."

The Iranian people have entrusted me with a strong mandate to vigorously pursue constructive engagement on the international stage while insisting on our rights, our dignity and our deserved role in the region and the world. I extend an open invitation to those willing to join us in this historic endeavor.

Police report arrest of terrorist group in Southern Iranian province

TEHRAN – The Bushehr Province Police Command, through its public relations office, has announced the arrest of a group responsible for a series of vandalism and arson incidents across the province.

Brigadier General Heydar Soosani detailed the crimes, which included the destruction and burning of billboards promoting the Leader's call for public participation in the presidential elections, as well as graffiti in various locations. These actions had raised significant concerns among the local

community, officials, and security agencies.

In response, the Bushehr police formed a specialized operational and technical team comprising experienced experts. By leveraging a network of informants, expanding intelligence efforts, reviewing CCTV footage, and employing technical measures, the police identified the ringleader of the group.

Brigadier General Soosani explained that, following judicial approval, the suspect was captured in a surprise operation and brought

to police headquarters for interrogation and technical investigation.

The Bushehr Police Commander reported that all members of the group were apprehended in a complex operation. Confronted with evidence, they confessed to their plans. The arrested individuals admitted they had intended to attack and throw Molotov cocktails at a police headquarters in northern Bushehr Province. Their capture prevented the execution of this plan, effectively thwarting their conspiracy.

Iran-Russia cooperation will continue to grow: Putin

From Page 1 ▶ Putin expressed satisfaction with Iran's recent inclusion in the BRICS group of emerging economies, stating, "Russia has wholeheartedly supported the Islamic Republic's membership."

Iran officially joined BRICS at the beginning of this year, following its acceptance as a full member alongside Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia.

The BRICS group, initially comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, now represents approximately 40% of the global population and a quarter of the world's gross domestic product (GDP). Iran was one of many countries that sought membership in BRICS and submitted a formal application to join the organization.

"I am hopeful and have no doubt that relations between Iran and the Russian Federation will be developing," Putin stated, referring to the upcoming Iranian administration led by President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian. "We will be boosting our ties, just as we did under the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raeisi."

To underscore this commitment, Putin announced, "Chairman of Russia's State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin will head a delegation to Iran to take part in Pezeshkian's swearing-in ceremony, which is set to take place on July 30."

Before his negotiations with Putin, Qalibaf had a meeting with Volodin, during which both sides exchanged views on a range of issues on mutual ties, as well as regional and international developments.

'Geopolitical change to borders Iran's redline'

In another meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum, Qalibaf told the Vice President of the National Assembly of Armenia that Iran will not tolerate any changes in its borders. "Our



red line is any border change in Iran's neighborhood and we have emphasized this many times," he said.

Ruben Rubinyan, for his part, offered condolences over the passing of the late President Ebrahim Raisi and thanked Iran for aiding Armenia in guarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity. "I thank you, the authorities and the people of Iran for supporting Armenia regarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our country. Iran's position on the issue of Armenia is based on inviolable principles."

Baku, which has been locked in a tussle with Yerevan over territorial issues for the past decades, said after the conclusion of its last war with Armenia in 2023, that it plans to construct a corridor to connect mainland Azerbaijan to the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The proposed corridor named "Zangezur" would encroach on Armenia's territory and cut the country's historical borders with Iran. Tehran has warned Azeri officials multiple times against plans to invade and occupy Armenia's territory, saying it does not allow any geopolitical changes in the region.

'BRICS should boost move towards de-dollarization'

During his speech at the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, Qalibaf called for BRICS member countries to prioritize de-dollarization and strengthen multilateral cooperation, highlighting the

group's potential to counter U.S. influence.

The parliament speaker emphasized the importance of the group in the face of a "world system that has not been able to take fruitful measures in the field of resolving regional and international disputes."

"The current world system has not been able to take fruitful measures in the field of resolving regional and international disputes, ending wars, conflicts, and inequalities," he stated. "Based on this, new collective economic and political capacities are being formed within the framework of multilateral organizations which intends to spread global governance based on the principle of multilateralism."

Qalibaf specifically pointed to the "important measures" of de-dollarization and the use of alternative currencies for trade within BRICS. "This will cut off one of the main levers of U.S. pressure on emerging economies," he asserted, citing the recent financial agreement between Iran and Russia as a successful example of de-dollarization in bilateral relations.

The Iranian official also advocated for the development of trade corridors and the expansion of cooperation in financial transfer processes within the group. "Expanding cooperation in determining money transfer processes between member countries as well as developing trade corri-

dors for the transfer of goods and services of BRICS members are among the important capacities that must be pursued and activated by the member assemblies. The four main axes of transit, energy, trade, and banking are among the most important issues of cooperation among BRICS members. The Iranian parliament and the new government of Iran are fully prepared to cooperate with their partners in all these areas."

Iran, Russia collaborate on 15 cooperation documents

The chief of the Russian Federation Council emphasized the coordination of 15 commercial cooperation documents between Iran and Russia in a meeting with the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament.

According to Fars News, Valentina Matviyenko, the chairman of the Central Council of the Russian Federation, met with Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, on the sidelines of the BRICS summit and emphasized the great potential of Iran and Russia in trade exchanges based on strategic documents between the two countries.

Qalibaf stated, "BRICS alongside bilateral relations between Iran and Russia has regional and international implications for both countries. The presidency of Russia at the BRICS summit provides a suitable opportunity for bilateral relations, especially in the economic, security, social, cultural, transit, energy, and trade sectors."

Valentina Matviyenko also emphasized the importance of coordination between the institutions of the two countries to increase cooperation and implement strategic commercial documents.

Following Iran's official membership in the BRICS international group in 2024, the head of the Iranian Parliament departed to Russia to participate in the parliamentary summit of this group and met with other officials of the BRICS member countries.

Iranian commander reaffirms 'strategic support' for Resistance groups

From Page 1 ▶ This visit follows a previous meeting in Tehran last May, where Qa'ani and top Resistance officials discussed the current political, social, and military conditions in the Gaza Strip. The region has been under severe Israeli military aggression since October, following a retaliatory operation by Gaza's Resistance groups, known as al-Aqsa Storm.

Despite a UN Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire, Israel's on-

going 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.

The conflict in Gaza has inflicted devastating losses, with Israeli actions since October 7 leading to the deaths of at least 38,345 Palestinians, primarily women and children, and injuring 88,295 others.

Despite the heavy toll, Gaza's Resistance groups have vowed to continue defending the territory, asserting their determination to maintain their presence and influence in the region.

General Qa'ani's visit underscores Iran's persistent and strategic support for the Palestinian cause and its broader commitment to Resistance movements against Israeli actions.

Zarif to lead transitional council responsible for evaluating government candidates

TEHRAN – Iran's President-elect, Masoud Pezeshkian, has appointed former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as the head of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations for the transition period in his first presidential decree.

The council, comprised of experts and advisors, will focus on assessing potential candidates for key cabinet positions and ensuring a seamless handover of leadership.

In a message on his X account, Zarif said

Pezeshkian has yet to choose candidates for any vice-presidency or ministerial positions.

"So far, no candidate for any position, including first vice president, has even been considered," the former top diplomat announced. "The review process will start after receiving proposals from NGOs, scientific associations, trade associations, and the private sector."

The council is reportedly set to convene meetings with various stakeholders on Saturday to conduct thorough evaluations of poten-

tial candidates.

Pezeshkian's office had earlier issued a call for input on cabinet members, inviting a wide range of social groups and political parties to participate in the process.

Zarif was one of the most prominent reformist figures backing Pezeshkian during his presidential campaign. The former foreign minister became a household name after he brokered the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015.

Iran strikes back at NATO, rejects provision of weapons to Russia

TEHRAN – The spokesman of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has rejected a claim brought against Tehran in the final statement of NATO's 75th-anniversary summit, which accuses the West Asian country of military assistance to Russia in the Ukraine war.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the claims made in the final statement of the NATO summit in Washington, regarding Iran's military assistance to Russia in the Ukraine war, as completely baseless and politically

motivated," Nasser Kanaani said in a statement released on Friday.

The Ukraine war was a key focus of NATO's three-day summit in Washington, D.C., which concluded on July 11.

Kanaani added that the situation in Ukraine is a direct result of the provocative actions of the NATO alliance which is spearheaded by the United States. "As we have announced time and again, any attempt to link the war in Ukraine to the bilateral cooperation between

the Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia is an act with only biased political motivations, aimed at legitimizing the interference and continuing the Western arms supply to Ukraine," the spokesman added.

The Russia-Ukraine war began with Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022. Western states arming Kyiv in the war have been accusing Iran of providing drones to Moscow in the course of the war, a claim they have never provided evidence for.

Former Inter coach Stramaccioni praises Taremi

TEHRAN – Former Inter coach Andrea Stramaccioni feels Mehdi Taremi can make the difference under Simone Inzaghi this season.

Stramaccioni is the first Italian tactician to coach in the Iranian league. He led Esteghlal in 2019 but left the team after said that the Iranian club had failed to meet their financial commitment.

Iran international Taremi is ready to sign a two-year contract with the defending Serie A champions, completing a free transfer from Porto. His contract with the Portuguese side expired on June 30.

Stramaccioni spoke about the experienced striker during an interview with La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"Iranian footballers usually have strong personality and, Taremi has always settled well at new clubs. I've never coached him, but I know him well. He is a hard worker and he's always had the right attitude inside the dressing room," he said.

"Inter are ahead because of their solidity and the project's continuity," insisted Stramaccioni.

"Aside from Atalanta and Roma, all other top sides have changed coaches. This will give more enthusiasm, but they'll need more time to adapt."

Taremi has already arrived in Milan and is expected to undergo the second part of medical tests by the weekend before signing his contract with the Nerazzurri.

"I remember that he was not a starter at Porto when he arrived, but thanks to his performances, he convinced Conceicao to give him playing time," continued Stramaccioni.

"Simone Inzaghi can entirely focus on him during the pre-season with Thuram and Lautaro, who will arrive after international tournaments later on.

"Taremi is an experienced striker who can score many goals. He fills the box and is a complete forward with physical strength and strong on aerial duels. He will be a valuable alternative to Lautaro and Thuram, who dominated the last season. Marotta and Ausilio completed an important signing, especially because he joined on a free transfer."

Taremi spent four seasons at Porto scoring 91 goals in 182 appearances. He is the third-highest goal-scorer for the Iran national team, having found the net 50 times in 85 appearances at an international level.

Mehdi Tartar named Gol Gohar coach: IPL

TEHRAN – Mehdi Tartar was appointed as new head coach of Gol Gohar football club on Thursday.

The 51-year-old coach replaced Greek coach Marinou Ouzounidis in the Sirjan-based club.

Gol Gohar finished in ninth place in the Iran Professional League (IPL)'s 16-team table under the leadership of the Greek trainer.

Tatar led Malavan last season and the Anzali-based team finished in sixth place in 2023-24 IPL.

Australian forward Maclaren on Persepolis' radar

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club has reportedly set its sight on signing Australian international forward Jamie Maclaren.

The 30-year-old striker has most recently played for Australian team Melbourne City.

Maclaren is a member of Australia national team and has scored 11 goals in 32 matches for Socceroos.

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

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

Iran lose to Uzbekistan at China women's futsal tournament

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Uzbekistan 7-5 at the 2024 CFA International Women's Futsal Tournament on Friday.

The tournament is being held in Lanzhou, China from July 12 to 15.

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

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

Iran unchanged at world beach soccer ranking

TEHRAN – The leaders in the men's and women's National teams ranking have remained the same in the most recent update as Brazil and Spain remain in pole positions.

Team Melli remained unchanged in fifth place in the ranking.

In the men's division, Belarus, Colombia, Tahiti and Argentina have all gained one place in the updated men's ranking. Belarus now sit in 7th place in the ranking, whilst Colombia, Tahiti and Argentina make up 12th to 14th positions.

There were no changes in the women's ranking this time as Spain remain at the helm of the ranking.

Mehdi Taremi undergoes Inter medical

TEHRAN – Iran international Mehdi Taremi has completed his medical with Inter ahead of a free transfer to the Stadio Meazza.

Taremi is ready to sign a two-year contract with Serie A champions Inter after completing his medical on Friday morning.

The 31-year-old had undergone the first part of medical checks a few months ago after agreeing to personal terms with the Nerazzurri.

The ex-Porto striker signed autographs for a few fans outside the CONI building in Milan before completing the second part of medical checks.

Sepahan complete signing of Amin Hazbavi

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club have completed the signing of Iranian international defender Amin Hazbavi.

Hazbavi has penned a three-year deal with Sepahan.

The 21-year-old defender has recently parted company with Qatari club Al Sadd after one season.

Hazbavi has played for Iran U20 and U23 football teams.

Danial Esmailifar signs for Tractor

TEHRAN – Tractor football club completed the signing of Persepolis right back Danial Esmailifar.

The 31-year-old player has joined the Tabriz-based football team on a one-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

Persepolis midfielder Mehdi Torabi had joined Tractor on Wednesday.

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.

ICCIMA calls for attracting foreign investment in renewables sector



TEHRAN – The members of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Energy Committee have called for attracting foreign investment to develop the country's renewable power plants.

During a meeting held earlier this week, the members of the mentioned committee emphasized that it is possible to use the capacities of foreign investors with proper planning to develop the country's renewable sector, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"We must prepare a development roadmap for the country's renewable energy industry [and to this end] we need joint investment," a committee member said in the meeting.

The development of renewable power plants in Iran has accelerated since the current government administration took office in August 2021.

The Energy Ministry in the 13th government has defined new investment packages and strategies to attract more capital to fund new renewable projects across the country.

According to energy experts, such investment models in the 13th government have been a good incentive for investing in this sector.

The mentioned measures led to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants exceeding 1,000 megawatts, which is a very good figure.

The electricity generated by renewable

sources increased by 28 percent in the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (ended on June 20) compared to the same month last year.

Renewable sources generated more than 230 million kilowatt hours of electricity, an increase of 21 percent in comparison with a month earlier.

Wind power plants held the lion's share of the rise in the production of electricity by renewable sources.

The installed capacity of electricity generation by renewables is around 1.2 gigawatts.

Based on the Energy Ministry data, renewables, currently, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity.

Of the country's total renewable capacity, 44 percent is the share of solar power plants while the share of wind farms stands at 40 percent and small-scaled hydropower plants generate 13 percent of the total renewable capacity.

The head of the Nomads Affairs Organization of Iran said in June that more than 20,000 solar panel sets have been distributed among the country's nomadic households over the past 2.5 years, IRNA reported.

According to Shayan Naderi, the number of solar panel sets provided to nomadic households across the country increased from 700 sets in August 2021 when the current government took office has reached 20,480 sets.

Knowledge-based and indigenized technologies are used in carrying out this project. The government pays 90 percent of the costs of each system. Solar panels are used to easily provide electricity in far-off places. It is not only clean but also cheap and limitless.

Fishery export up over 30% in a quarter on year



TEHRAN- As announced by the director general of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Quality Improvement, Processing, and Aquatic Market, the value of Iran's fishery export increased by over 30 percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Abbas Mokhtari said that the country exported 73,369 tons of fishery valued at \$121.4 million in the first quarter of this year, while the figure was 52,282 tons worth \$93.1 million in the same time span of the past year.

The official also announced that the quarterly fishery export indicates over 40 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

As previously announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran's fishery exports in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) increased by three percent and exceeded \$310 million.

The IRICA said the weight of exported fishery products in the last Iranian fiscal year was 149,000 metric tons, which shows a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

During the last Iranian fiscal year, shrimp exports also reached \$98.5 million, accounting for 32 percent of the total export value among Iran's fishery products.

Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and China were the main destinations for Iran's exported shrimp during the mentioned period, showing a decrease of 26 percent in terms of value compared to the previous year.

According to the report, fisheries exports account for less than 70 percent of Iran's to-

tal exports, with the UAE, China, Russia, and Iraq being the largest markets for Iran's fishery products.

Iran imported 24,000 metric tons of fishery products worth \$72 million last year, indicating an increase of 121 percent in terms of weight and an increase of 113 percent in terms of value.

The growth and development of Iran's aquaculture industry has reached the point where the country has become a model for the countries of the region and the world.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) believes that Iran plays a responsible and central role in the fishing and aquaculture industry in the region, and for this reason, it can be considered a model for the countries of the region.

Now the world markets have become the target of the export of the country's fishery products, so that, the value of fishery exports also increased by 67 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1400 compared to the preceding year.

In addition to the executive role of the IFO, the role of research and knowledge-based activities in this field is very important, and the entry of young specialists and knowledge-based experts in various sectors of the fishery industry has made the sanctions ineffective.

In mid-April, the Head of Shrimp and Marine Aquatic Affairs of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Ghabad Mokarami said the country's fishery production is expected to reach 206,000 tons in the next two years.

"If we double the number of breeding pools in the next two years, we will reach more than 206,000 tons of fishery production, which is a significant number," Mokarami said.

In early April, a cooperation agreement was signed between 12 companies and groups of stakeholders in the field of fish farming to create a value chain for caged fish farming in the Caspian Sea region in northern Iran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's oil production rises 1.4m bpd in about 2.5 years

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji says the country's oil production has increased from 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2021, when the current government took office, to 3.6 million bpd in the current year, IRIB reported.

"Every 100,000 barrels [per day] of increase in oil production generates 2.8 billion dollars of revenues annually, so the more the country's oil production and refining capacity increases, the more the country's economic power and foreign exchange resources would be," Oji told the press.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of the cabinet meeting, Oji added that relying on domestic capabilities has marked tremendous changes in the oil industry, adding rising oil production success has been achieved during an era of harsh sanctions.

According to the official, the oil industry should be persistent in achieving its target of increasing oil production to 4.0 million bpd at the end of the current Iranian



calendar year (late March 2025).

Increasing oil production is a desirable solution for boosting government revenues and preventing budget deficit, the Minister of Petroleum said, adding Iran sits atop more than 153 billion barrels of liquid hydrocarbon reserves, so the more the oil production and refining capacity be increased, the more the country's economic power and foreign exchange resources will increase.

Referring to rising road trips in summer and managing gasoline storage, he said that the Petroleum Ministry had taken successful non-price initiatives,

which has led to managing gasoline consumption.

Last week, Oji said the country plans to increase its daily crude production to 4.0 million bpd by late March 2025 and the preparations for the mentioned increase are currently underway.

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

Oji said that the late President Ebrahim Raisi administration increased the annual gas pro-

duction by 53 million cubic meters, which marked a 5.0 percent growth, he added.

The minister emphasized that the export value of Iran's oil, gas condensates, and other petroleum and petrochemical products increased from \$10.8 billion in 2018 to \$36 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19, 2024). In other words, the country's oil revenue has grown 3.5 times.

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

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

Earlier this month, Oji said that Iran is currently exporting crude oil to 17 countries, including some in Europe.

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

PMO indigenizes knowledge for production of 700 port-related items

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said that the organization has managed to indigenize the knowledge for the production of 700 different port-related equipment items.

Aliakbar Safaei told IRNA that since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic, the country has taken several significant measures to cut reliance on foreign sources to meet the needs for equipment and machinery.

"Only in port equipment, 700 types of parts have been made, which are being used by the fleet," Safaei said.

As an example, he mentioned the new hyper-suction dredger which is being built by knowledge-based companies in Iran Marine Industrial Company (Sadra).

Safaei said earlier this week that over the past few years the organization has attracted nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference on Wednesday, the official 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.

"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," he 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.

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.

POGC begins drilling 35 new infill wells in South Pars

TEHRAN – Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) has started a project to spud 35 new wells in the South Pars gas field to enhance and maintain gas production in the massive joint field.

According to POGC, the operation was officially started on Tuesday in a ceremony attended by the head of POGC as the main contractor and the head of Petro Iran Company as the subcontractor of the project, Shana reported.

Executive operation of drilling the mentioned wells was kicked off at the position of the SPD12B platform of the giant gas field.

The contract for the mentioned project was signed in November 2023, between the National Iranian Oil Company and POGC.

POGC has also inked several contracts with domestic companies to conduct the drilling operations in the form

of four project packages.

Pasargad, Petropars, Petrolran and Shomal Drilling companies are the sub-contractors of the drilling project.

The duration of the project contract will be three years and the in-

vestment required to implement this project is estimated at \$1.2 billion.

The megaprojects will not only help develop the country's gas industry and economy, but also create job opportunities and promote domestic capabilities.

According to the NIOC Head Mohsen Khojasteh Mehr, similar contracts will be awarded to qualified Iranian companies in the near future.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Call for Tender 2nd Announcement for the Purchase of Butterfly, Gate, Globe, Check, Ball Valve for Belal Project, Tender No. 970042

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

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

From hubris to humiliation: Israeli army acknowledges October 7 failures

Israelis dismiss army's report on Operation Al-Aqsa Storm as a "deception"

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The results of the Israeli army's first investigation into failures during the surprise military operation by the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement on October 7 have led to widespread criticism and embarrassment for the regime.

In a report published on Thursday, the army acknowledged a string of errors in its response to Operation Al-Aqsa Storm including slow response times and disorganization.

More than 1,100 people were killed and about 250 others were taken captive when Hamas carried out the operation in southern Israel.

The report focuses on the community of Kibbutz Be'eri which saw one of the highest-profile confrontations between Israelis and Palestinian resistance fighters during Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. It referred to delays of several hours in the arrival of Israeli troops saying they waited outside the kibbutz into the afternoon, not understanding the severity of the situation.

The army is accused of killing more than a dozen Israelis by friendly fire amid clashes with Hamas fighters.

An Israeli tank fired two shells on a house where 13 captives were being held in Kibbutz Be'eri.

The Israeli army report claims that none of the captives was harmed by the tank fire.

It, however, says two Israelis were hit by shrapnel outside the house and one of them lost his life.

The Israeli army accuses Hamas of killing the captives without providing any evidence to back up the claim.



Residents of Kibbutz Be'eri have raised serious doubts about the veracity of the report.

A resident whose family members were killed on October 7, called the report a "deception."

"I don't believe the report, and I don't believe anything about it," Meir Zarbiv added, according to the Associated Press.

Zarbiv lashed out at the Israeli army for its ill-preparedness in the face of Hamas' operation.

"I just don't believe what happened here. I have no explanation. Where was the army?"

The Israeli military spokesman has also admitted that the regime's troops had been overwhelmed by Hamas fighters.

"The army failed in its mission to protect the residents of Kibbutz Be'eri. It is painful and difficult for me to say that," Daniel Hagari said.

Several Israeli military commanders have so far taken responsibility for the regime's fiasco on October 7.

The Israeli military intelligence chief became the first senior figure to resign amid the repercussions of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Major General Aharon Haliva,

who had served 38 years in the Israeli army, stepped down in April saying in a statement, "The intelligence division under my command did not live up to the task we were entrusted with. I have carried that black day with me ever since."

October 7 was really a "black day" for Israel because Hamas shattered the image of Israel's invincibility and humiliated the regime.

The Hamas operation was followed by Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza.

The Israeli army has been bombing Gaza for more than nine months. The regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has butchered more than 38,300 Palestinians in Gaza but it has failed to bring the Palestinian resistance to its knees.

Presently, Hamas has the upper hand in the Gaza battlefield as it continues to deal crushing blows to Israeli forces.

Israel's inability to defeat Hamas has led to deep divisions within the Israeli establishment.

Although the Israeli army has launched multiple investigations into its failures to anticipate and

prevent the Hamas' operation, Netanyahu has rejected repeated calls for an official state probe.

This is because the Israeli premier believes the continuation of the Gaza war offers him a lifeline. If the war ended, Netanyahu would be held accountable for failing to avert Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Netanyahu reiterated on Thursday that he will continue the war until Israel achieves its war objectives.

Since the start of the war, achieving "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group have been Netanyahu's main objectives.

But his dreams have remained elusive.

Over the past months, Israeli officials and public have called on Netanyahu to reach a deal with Hamas to secure the release of the remaining captives.

More than 100 captives were released following a November ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. Dozens of the captives are believed to have died during Israeli strikes in Gaza. Netanyahu is now rejecting growing calls to sign a truce agreement with Hamas in a bid to free the remaining captives.

Israel failed to prevent the Hamas' October 7 attack. It has also been incapable of eliminating Hamas. The Netanyahu regime can prolong the war as long as the United States provides it with unwavering military and political support.

The Israeli army's total fatalities since the launch of the Gaza onslaught have topped 680.

Undoubtedly, more Israeli soldiers will lose their lives if the war drags on for much longer.

"Very tragic scenes" in northern Gaza

Dead bodies left "in alleys" as Israeli forces retreat

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Gaza's civil defense has said that scores of bodies are scattered in alleys and inside destroyed houses in areas of Gaza City and its suburbs where the Israeli military has retreated.

Reports say to the east of Gaza City in the Shejaiya neighborhood, residents were returning mostly on foot to a man-made disaster after Israeli forces withdrew.

Mahmoud Basal, the spokesperson for the civil defense, said "once the Israeli occupation forces withdrew from Shejaiya neighborhood, civil defense crews, with local residents, managed to recover about 60 dead bodies up to now."

On July 10, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) said that it ended its invasion of the neighborhood, leaving behind a trail of destruction. Many residents in Shejaiya have been classified as "missing" by the Gaza health ministry.

For two weeks, the IOF pounded Shejaiya neighborhood but faced a steadfast resistance and was caught in many ambushes.

The ground invasion, heavily supported by

warplanes and combat drones saw the neighborhood cut off from the rest of the Gaza Strip. It has now emerged the IOF also bulldozed Shejaiya's largest cemetery.

Palestinians returning on foot, wooden carts or bicycles, carrying basic belongings, passed the remains of burnt-out and completely torn Israeli armored vehicles and tanks.

It is yet another indication that the IOF is incapable of defeating the Palestinian resistance who published a video on Thursday showing a command center intact with operatives in touch with fighters on the ground preparing an ambush against the IOF.

While the Palestinian resistance has been attacking Israeli military targets, the IOF appears to have razed everything and killed everyone within sight.

"We have returned to Shejaiya after 15 days. You can see the destruction. They spared nothing, even trees, there was a lot of greenery in this area. What is the guilt of stones and trees? And what is my guilt as a civilian?" resident Hatem Tayeh told Reuters.

"There are bodies of civilian people. What is the guilt of the civilian? Who are you fighting?"

Gaza City and its suburbs were largely razed to the ground in late 2023 after the IOF declared victory over Hamas.

Since then, the Israeli military has regularly invaded and pounded the north of Gaza in a clear indication of its inability to eliminate the Palestinian resistance.

Critics have accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his inner circle, of regularly ordering bombardment on the northern region of the Gaza Strip with such intensity in a bid to derail negotiations on reaching a ceasefire deal.

Experts say this is particularly true when talks to end the Gaza genocide are close to an agreement.

"We will die but not leave to the south. We have tolerated starvation and bombs for nine months and we are ready to die as martyrs here," Mohammad Ali told Reuters.

"The occupation (Israel) bombs Gaza City as if the war was restarting. We hope there will be a ceasefire soon, but if not then is God's will." Ali added.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Hell on Earth: Uncovered accounts of brutal torture by Israel against Palestinian detainees

Xavier Villar

MADRID- Recently, several media outlets have exposed new accounts of brutality by the Zionist regime against Palestinians. In recent weeks, the Zionist colonial regime released 55 Palestinian prisoners who were detained in Gaza during the genocidal operation initiated by Israel months ago.

The released prisoners have described the horrific torture and harsh conditions they endured in colonial prisons. "Tortured, beaten and subjected to verbal and physical abuse; only God knows. Please, free them and take them out of that hell," stated Faraj al-Samouni, a Palestinian prisoner released from Zionist regime's prisons on Monday, July 1.

Since the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in 1967, torture as well as cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of Palestinian prisoners have been widely employed and constitute a fundamental part of the official policy of the Israeli army and its security apparatuses. Although the methods and intensity of torture have varied over time, this practice has been systematic and legitimized by Israel's judicial system and government, reflecting the complexity of all colonial institutions in the erasure of the native Palestinian presence.

Since at least 1967, the Israeli General Security Service (Shin Bet) has employed both physical and psychological torture against Palestinian prisoners without legal justification.

This was made possible by Israel's designation of the Palestinian territories as 'exceptional' circumstances, which allowed for systematic torture of Palestinians.

In Palestine, there is a popular saying: "In every Palestinian home, you will find a prisoner or a former prisoner." This statement sadly reflects a palpable reality.

Palestinian human rights organizations have documented that approximately one in five Palestinians has been arrested and prosecuted in Israeli military courts since the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Hezbollah hits Israeli military sites

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement said it has targeted the Israeli military forces and equipment.

The group announced carrying out two such operations in a statement on Friday, Press TV reported.

Describing the first strike, Hezbollah said, "The fighters of the Islamic Resistance targeted espionage equipment in the newly-established center for war and reconnaissance crews in the Metulla settlement with guided missiles, hitting and destroying them directly."

The second one saw the fighters "targeting a group of enemy soldiers while they were carrying out fortification and construction works around the Hanita site with rockets."

The statement said the strikes took place "in support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and support of their brave and honorable resistance."

Israel's cabinet extends mandatory military service

Israel's cabinet approved on Friday putting to vote the extension of the mandatory service time for soldiers to 36 months, a total of three years, Israeli media reported on Friday morning.

If the decision receives final approval, it will be in place for the next eight years. Another vote at the next cabinet meeting will take place on Sunday.

The approval came days after war minister Yoav Gallant's harsh criticism, in which he accused cabinet members of getting involved in the issue for political reasons.

Following the announcement, the Movement for Quality Government in Israel condemned the decision to extend the military service to 36 months while over 60,00 yeshiva students continue to benefit from illegal exemption from conscription, according to a statement the organization released on Friday.

Earlier this month Gallant said the Israeli army needs 10,000 more soldiers immediately amid the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

Police attack pro-Palestine protesters in Montreal

Canadian police clashed with pro-Palestinian protesters in Montreal.

Protesters held a rally on Thursday to express solidarity with Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip amid Israel's genocidal war in the territory.

Police officers used pepper spray and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators.

Olmert warns of intl. arrest warrants for Israeli leaders

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned on Friday that Israeli leaders could face international prosecution and arrest warrants for crimes committed against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

In an article published by the Israeli daily Haaretz, Olmert said Israel would have no defense when accused of committing crimes against Palestinians in the West Bank.

"I issue this warning because if we continue to reconcile with crimes against the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria (West Bank),

serious and painful sanctions will be levied against Israel, and we won't have a good defense," he said.

"Everyone knows about the reports on the settlers – who attack, loot, destroy, ruin, burn and kill innocent people – and also attack Israeli soldiers who are unwilling to lend a hand to their crimes," he added.

He warned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying: "The day is drawing near when arrest warrants will be issued against you for the crimes being carried out every day in Judea and Samaria by Israel, with the support of its government, while you intentionally turn a blind eye to it."

He also warned war minister Yoav Gallant, and said: "There will also be an arrest warrant (for Gallant). He is responsible for security; he can act and struggle against the reckless policies of Netanyahu and Smotrich."

Imran Khan's party wins reserved seats in Pakistan's parliament

Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled on Friday that jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party was eligible for over 20 extra reserved seats in parliament, ramping up pressure on the country's weak coalition government, Reuters reported.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party candidates contested the Feb. 8 election as independents after it was barred from the polls. They won the most seats but the election commission said independents were ineligible for the grant of 70 reserved seats, meant for political parties only.

The commission had ordered the reserved seats instead to be distributed among other parties, mostly to those in the ruling coalition.

"As a political party, the PTI is entitled to its reserved seats," said Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa while reading out the order, which was supported by eight judges and opposed by five of the 13-member full court bench.

The granting of 23 reserved seats does not affect the parliamentary majority of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition government, Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar told reporters after the decision.

The ruling coalition still has well over 200 members of the 336-member lower house of parliament. Khan's party strength stood at 84 before the decision, and is expected to rise to over 100.

US to resume shipments of 500lb bombs to Israel

The United States will resume shipments of 500lb bombs to Israel, a US official told the BBC.

A joint shipment of 2,000lb and 500lb bombs had been paused since May because of White House concerns over the use of the munitions in the crowded city of Rafah and other parts of Gaza.

The US has now clarified that the 500lb bombs had only been held up because they were "co-mingled" in the same shipment as the 2000lb bombs. The lower-impact 500lb bombs will now be "moving forward as part of the usual process".

The planned resumption of bomb shipments comes as Israel presses ahead with military operations throughout the Gaza Strip. On Wednesday, it dropped leaflets instructing "everyone" in Gaza City to go south to shelters in the Deir al-Balah area, warning that Gaza City remained a "dangerous combat zone".

The US is accused of complicity in Israel's genocidal war on Gaza over its continued military support for the regime.

Hegmataneh may gain UNESCO World Heritage status

TEHRAN – Hegmataneh, a treasured ancient Iranian city and its cultural landscape, could soon win World Heritage status during a UNESCO session, which will start in New Delhi on July 21.

The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be attended by over 2,500 delegates, including representatives from State Parties, advisory bodies, senior diplomats, heritage experts, scholars, and researchers from 195 countries, sources said.

The World Heritage Committee comprises representatives from 21 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (1972), elected by the General Assembly of UNESCO. The current members of the committee, elected during the 24th General Assembly of UNESCO in November 2023, are Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Türkiye, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zambia.

Hegmataneh, aka Ecbatana in Western sources, is universally well-known for being the site where the Median Dynasty was established. Following the Medes, this city also served as the capital of the Achaemenid Empire. During subsequent periods, including the Seleucid, Parthian, Sassanid, and Islamic



Golden rhyton of ram's head, discovered in Ecbatana, kept at the Reza Abbasi Museum in Tehran.

eras, Hegmataneh continued to be an important city.

Hegmataneh is located in the suburban area of modern Hamadan, encompassing 50 acres of the city.

This invaluable historical site holds great archaeological significance, with parts of it yet to be excavated. The area contains historical remains dating back to the Medes, Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid, and various Islamic dynasties such as the Buyids.

Most of the remains belong to the Parthian era. The site features a variety of Parthian urban architectural systems that are considered masterpieces of their time, showcasing the exceptional talent of their creators.

Kish pushes to boost off-season tourism with increased flights

TEHRAN – In a bid to invigorate summer tourism, the Kish Free Zone Organization is partnering with private tour operators to significantly increase the number of flights to the island, according to a local official.

The CEO of the Kish Free Zone Organization, in an interview with IRNA on Thursday, discussed a recent joint meeting held with hoteliers and private tour operators aiming to attract more visitors during the hot season.

"The Kish Free Zone Organization, along with tour operators and charter companies, is committed to increasing flights during the summer season and the summer festivals," Rahim Sarhangi pinpointed.

In the meeting, Sarhangi noted, various strategies to develop and overcome barriers to tourism in Kish were discussed.

The CEO highlighted that facilitating tourist travel, particularly for the "Let's go to the Kish" festival, was one of the key topics.

Sarhangi identified the shortage of flights as a national issue and noted that both the public and private sectors in Kish are working together to address this challenge by increasing the number of flights to the island.

"Any airline that increases its flights to the island during the summer will be supported by the organization in the second half of the year [high season]," he stated.

The official emphasized that Kish Island is considered a major tourism hub in the country, with its economic vitality dependent on tourist arrivals.

Given the limited access routes to Kish and the fact that 94% of tourists arrive by air, a comprehensive effort to increase flights is essential, the CEO continued.

Sarhangi praised the cooperation between the private and public sectors in the region, concluding that everyone is working towards making Kish Island's tourism vibrant and dynamic.

Kish Island, nestled in the Persian Gulf and part of Iran's Hormozgan province, is celebrated as a prime destination for travelers seeking a blend of natural beauty and modern amenities.

Its allure lies in pristine beaches with turquoise waters, making it a haven for water sports and relaxation alike. Beyond its shores, Kish boasts cultural landmarks such as the Greek Ship, a poignant reminder of its maritime history, and the ancient underground city of Kariz, showcasing traditional Persian architecture.

Modern infrastructure, including an international airport and a range of accommodations from luxury resorts to budget-friendly options, ensures a comfortable stay for all travelers.

Alborz puts sports events front and center in tourism agenda

TEHRAN – Measures are in place to draw sports tourists with leveraging provincial capacities to the fullest extent, said Alborz's official in charge of tourism.

"We're ramping up every effort to utilize the full capacity of the province in arranging sports events on both national and international scales," Rahim Khaki noted in a meeting with provincial auto racing activists on Tuesday.

With over 70% of the national potential in auto racing, Alborz is poised to become a hub for sports-oriented events, Khaki highlighted, emphasizing the prominence of auto racing in boosting tourism across the province.

The director-general emphasized the necessity of governmental and administrative support in facilitating these events. "The Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Alborz province will play a key role in paving the way for arranging such incidents," he added.

Khaki further elaborated that sports tour-

ism could significantly enhance the provincial tourism economy.

"This underscores the importance of developing infrastructure and organizing auto racing events in collaboration with local organizations," he wended up.

Sports tourism is a rapidly growing segment of the global tourism industry, encompassing travel for the purpose of participating in or viewing sports events.

This niche market includes a wide range of activities, from international sporting events like the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup to local and regional competitions.

Sports tourism generates substantial revenue for host destinations through spending on accommodation, food, transportation, and entertainment. It also creates jobs and stimulates investment in infrastructure. Hosting sports events provides opportunities for local residents to engage in and benefit from tourism activities.

Fathabad Garden: Kerman's overlooked Qajar masterpiece

TEHRAN – Nestled in the arid expanse of Kerman province, Fathabad Garden, also known as Bag-e Biglarbeigi, stands as a stunning testament to the grandeur of Persian garden design.

The stunning vast garden is a relic of the Qajar dynasty and is often overshadowed by the more famous Shahzadeh Garden of Mahan. However, Fathabad Garden's historical significance and unique charm make it a must-visit destination for those exploring the rich cultural heritage of Iran.

Located in the Ekhtiarabad district, Fathabad Garden is part of the larger concept of the Persian Garden, which is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Persian gardens are renowned for their ingenious blend of natural beauty and architectural elegance, designed to provide a sense of paradise on Earth. And according to many sightseers and experts, Fathabad Garden is a perfect embodiment of this tradition.

According to Visit Iran, the garden's construction began in 1803 under the order of Fazlali Khan Biglarbeigi, the ruler of Kerman during the reign of Mohammad Shah Qajar. The project took five years to complete, with the garden finally opening in 1808. During its early years, Fazlali Khan cultivated pistachios on the surrounding land and processed them within various parts of the garden. This integration of agriculture and leisure is a hallmark of Persian garden design, emphasizing both utility and aesthetic pleasure.

Throughout the 19th century, Fathabad Garden served as a venue for ceremonies and a retreat for the rulers of Kerman, known as Nosrat ol-Mamalek I



The main pavilion of Fathabad

The stunning vast garden is a relic of the Qajar dynasty and is often overshadowed by the more famous Shahzadeh Garden of Mahan.

and II. However, the garden fell into neglect during the Pahlavi era. In 1973, the garden, then owned by Rostam Khan Amiri, was endowed but received little attention, leading to further decline. The drying up of the garden's qanat, an ancient underground water channel, marked a significant loss of its former glory.

In 2014, a comprehensive restoration project was initiated to revive Fathabad Garden. By 2015, the garden was reopened to the public and restored to its former splendor. Today, it serves as a vibrant cultural hub, featuring handicrafts exhibitions, syrup shops, tearooms, herbal cultivation and sales, religious and symbolic festivals, restaurants, gazebos, and more.

Covering an expansive thirteen hectares, Fathabad Garden once thrived on the water supplied by its qanat. This ancient irrigation system fed small rivers on either side of the Chaharbagh before flowing into a central pool, or Howz, in front of the pavilion. Although the pool, measuring sixty by six meters, is now empty, it still reflects the grandeur of the main pavilion.

Garden, an architectural marvel, is constructed from cob bricks, clay mortar, and plaster. Located at the northern end of the garden, it features two floors with elegant arches on either side. The pavilion's design incorporates stucco decorations on the doorways and arches, embodying the aesthetic sensibilities of the Qajar period. Inside, the pavilion houses the Hokkam Museum, which displays photographs and biographies of Kerman's past rulers, providing visitors with a rich historical context.

One of the pavilion's most intriguing features is its entry gateway, which includes round holes fitted with convex lenses. These lenses were designed to reflect light into the entrance at night, creating a mesmerizing play of illumination. The gateway also bears Nastaliq calligraphy and religious motifs, with an inscription dating back to 1802, likely marking the garden's construction date.

A highlight within the pavilion is the Painting Room, once the office of Kerman's rulers. This room is adorned with intricate paintings and murals, some of which originally contained gold. Unfortunately, parts of these murals were damaged by thieves seeking to steal the gold. Today, these valuable artworks are protected by glass to preserve their beauty and historical integrity.

Beyond the pavilion, the garden features a Miansara, a pathway flanked by rooms leading from the entrance to the private chambers.

This pathway underscores the garden's design, blending utility with aesthetic appeal. Another significant structure is the Chahar Fasl (Four Seasons) Pavilion, located thirty meters from the main pavilion. This building, with its brickwork, stucco, dome, and columned iwans, is now used for various ceremonies, continuing the garden's tradition as a place of celebration and social gathering.

For history enthusiasts, architecture aficionados, or the ones simply seeking a tranquil escape, Fathabad Garden promises an enriching experience that celebrates the legacy of Persian garden artistry and the enduring spirit of Kerman.

Pakistani consul-general visits Nader Shah mausoleum

TEHRAN – On Thursday, Muhammad Shahryar, the consul-general of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Mashhad, along with his accompanying delegation, visited the Nader Shah mausoleum in the northeastern Iranian metropolis.

During the visit, they were introduced to the historical background and cultural features of Naderi's cultural-historical complex, which embraces the tomb of Nader Shah Afshar, who was the founder of the Afsharid dynasty of Iran and one of the most powerful rulers in Iranian history.

Furthermore, the delegation paid a visit to the tomb of Colonel Mohammad Taqi-Khan Pessian (1892 - 1921), paying their respects to that fighter pilot and warlord who formed and led the short-lived Autonomous Government of Khorasan in 1921.

Additionally, the visit highlighted the cultural and historical ties between the two countries, CHTN reported.

It was noted that the interconnected political and historical events within the geopolitical landscapes of Iran and Pakistan serve to strengthen the bonds between the two



nations, the report said.

Their visit also included a tour of an exhibition of traditional Iranian arts.

Furthermore, the Pakistani diplomat left a note in the guestbook of the cultural complex.

Napoleon of Persia!

Born Nader Qoli Beg, Nader created an Iranian empire that stretched from the Indus River to the Caucasus Mountains. He is widely considered one of the most powerful rulers in the history of the nation.

He assumed power when a period of chaos overwhelmed Iran.

Hundreds of tourists settle in Damghan's ecolodges during spring

TEHRAN – Damghan county ecolodges have played hostess to hundreds of domestic and overseas tourists since the very first day of this Persian year (started on March 20).

"More than 1200 tourists have stayed in ecolodges across the county," Damghan's official in charge of tourism told Mehr News Agency, highlighting that tens of the travelers were international guests, hailing from different nations such as France, Italia, and Netherlands, to name a few.

12 ecolodges, Mojtaba Akbarpour explained, are active within Damghan, and three other amenities are expected to open doors before this Persian year is out.

The official also stated that ecolodges are being established with the aim of strengthening hospitality infrastructure, reviving local culture, customs, and traditions, boosting the local economy, and

acquainting tourists with lesser-known historical and natural attractions in rural areas.

"The revival of ecolodges in line with local characteristics in this area leads to increased employment, prevents migration, and encourages villagers to continue living in the village," he further noted.

Abundant with remnants of the past caravanserais, strongholds, brick towers, edifices, and places of worship, Damghan can hardly be overlooked by a cultural tourist.

Situated some 350 km east of Tehran, Damghan has long been a giant hub for the culmination of pistachio sometimes referred to as "happy nuts" because they look like they're smiling.

Narratives say the city's name is derived from 'Moghan', which in Persian refers to practitioners of 'magos', or magic, and includes astrology, alchemy, and other forms of

esoteric knowledge. In fact, the city was initially called 'Dah Moghan', meaning ten magi, which ultimately evolved to its current name Damghan.

For history buffs and researchers, Damghan is a gateway to Hecatompylos, which was the site of the Parthian capital during the ascendancy of the Arsacid of Media dynasty after the capture of the city by Alexander the Great.

Moreover, it was an important trading post of the Silk Roads, on the way from Merv to the Mediterranean coast, according to the book International Dictionary of Historic Places.

Damghan's travel destinations include Tepe Hesar, old city Fortification, Tarikhaneh Mosque, Seljuk-era architectural gems, Chehel-Dokhtaran, Ismaili fortresses, Cheshmeh-Ali, along with some natural gems.

UN General Assembly adopts Decade on Combating SDSs resolution

TEHRAN –The General Assembly has adopted a draft resolution called 'United Nations Decade (2025-2034) on Combating Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs)'; the 11th resolution on addressing SDSs since 2016.

In September 2023, the 6th UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) approved a resolution adopted at the international summit on dealing with sand and dust storms which was held in Tehran.

The draft resolution was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly by the Group of 77, which includes 134 developing countries, IRNA reported.

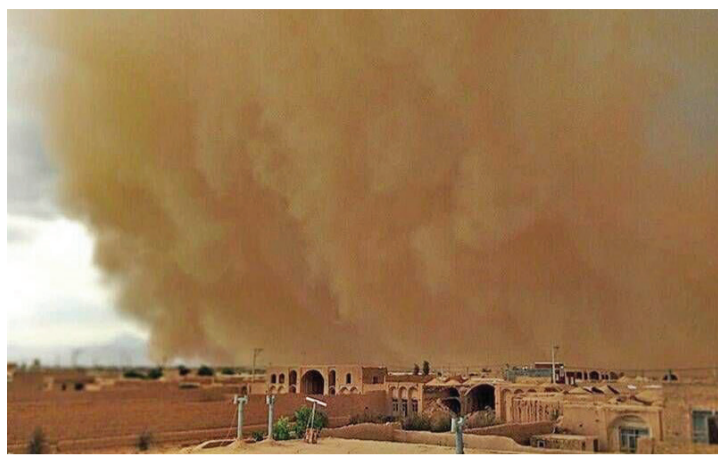
Iran, on behalf of the Group of 77, held negotiations about the resolution till they finally came to a conclusion.

On July 10, the assembly dedicated a 10-year period (from 2025 to 2034) to the fight against the sand and dust storms (SDSs) phenomena.

The Assembly invited the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to plan and organize the activities of the Decade at the global, regional, and country levels.

It also stressed that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the resolution should be met from voluntary contributions, including from the private sector.

The resolution has referred to dust and sand storms as serious global concerns that impose sig-



nificant social, economic, health, and environmental consequences on the residents of affected countries.

On July 10, the assembly dedicated a 10-year period (from 2025 to 2034) to the fight against sand and dust storms.

They increasingly threaten the achievement of 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and the resolution therefore aims to enhance international and regional cooperation to prevent, halt, and mitigate their effects.

The resolution aims to address SDSs and foster regional and international cooperation to mitigate the negative effects of SDSs, particularly in vulnerable countries.

In 2029, the resolution and its implementation will be reviewed and revised based on the Secretary General of the UN's present report.

UNEA-6

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

The Tehran conference was a turning point in making serious decisions for implementing sub-regional programs in West Asia and Central Asia.

Climate change with all its dimensions and consequences has caused serious challenges to life on the earth.

One of the consequences of climate change, which has increased in intensity and occurrence, is the phenomenon of SDSs with severe harm to the world's biological and economic resources.

According to surveys, 150 countries are affected by SDSs, and most of these countries are located in Africa and Asia.

Two out of the seven main sources of dust production in the world are located in Asia, with the Great African Sahara being the first one.

The studies by Iran show that the dust centers in West and Central Asia are more than 3.3 million square kilometers.

Considering the social, economic, health, and environmental effects and consequences of this phenomenon, it is necessary to adopt international, regional, and sub-regional solutions with the participation of all countries affected by this phenomenon and the international organizations' support, to take more seriously actions to tackle this challenge.

Special budget allocated to support most-cited scientists

TEHRAN – A sum of one trillion rials (around \$1.7 million) has been allocated to supporting one percent most-cited scientists nationally and globally in the current Iranian year that started on March 19.

One of the main objectives of the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi in science and technology was scientific progress and developing plans to achieve the goal, IRNA quoted Peyman Salehi, deputy science minister, as saying.

The official highlighted that one of the fundamental strategies to develop scientific authority is the recognition and support of individuals active in the field of science.

Therefore, the issue was put on the agenda and a draft plan was prepared and approved on June 24, 2023, he added.

900 Iranians among 1% most-cited researchers

"A total of 938 Iranian researchers have been recognized among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers in 2023," the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Institute said.

"The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology represents 40 percent, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education accounts for 48 percent of the most-cited Iranian researchers," ISNA quoted



Ahmad Fazlizadaeh as saying.

In 2023, 938 top researchers affiliated with Iranian organizations were identified, which marked a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

Over the past decade, the number of highly-cited researchers in the country has been growing. Medicine and Health with a 33 percent share, Multidisciplinary with 23 percent, Engineering with 20.5 percent, Basic Sciences with 12 percent, Agriculture and Environment with 10 percent, and Social and Human Sciences with 1.7 percent held the highest shares of the most-cited researchers, respectively.

One of ISC's main responsibilities is to introduce highly-cited researchers and to provide the possibility to identify and introduce elite researchers and scholars.

That is why scientific elites are the most

important factor in the growth and development of scientific systems, and the number of institutions and highly-cited researchers is one of the criteria of scientific authority in the world.

The ISC Institute extracted and monitored the latest list of the world's top 1 percent most-cited Iranian researchers in 22 science subject areas based on the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database.

In 2023, the University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares University and Amirkabir University of Technology from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences from the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education had the highest number of one percent researchers.

Based on 22 subject areas, 23 percent of these researchers belonged to the field of Clinical Medicine.

The field of multi-disciplinary subjects with 22.6 percent and engineering with 19 percent, were ranked second and third in terms of having the greatest number of highly-cited Iranian researchers. These three fields accounted for about 65 percent of all highly-cited researchers in Iran.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Salt particles raising from Lake Urmia contained by 80%'

Salt particles raising from the catchment basin of Lake Urmia has been contained by nearly 80%. Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the provincial department for the Lake Urmia restoration program has said.

In cooperation with the Forests, Range and Watershed Management Organization, some saplings and shrubs have been planted to slow down the wind since past three years, which cost 600 billion rials (nearly \$14 million).

The major salt particle hotspots in the province include Jabal Kandi village, Saporghan, Urmia, Choopanloo and Miandoab.

کنترل ۸۰ درصد ریزگردهای نمکی دریاچه ارومیه

مدیر دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی گفت: نزدیک به ۸۰ درصد از ریزگردهای نمکی حوضه آبریز دریاچه ارومیه کنترل شده است.

فرهاد سرخوش در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار افزود: خارج از بستر دریاچه ارومیه و در حوضه آبریز با همکاری منابع طبیعی و کاشت نهال و درختچه‌ها ریزگردهای نمکی کنترل می‌شود که از سال ۹۳ تا ۹۶ در این راستا ۶۰ میلیارد تومان هزینه شده است.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: کانون بحرانی ریزگردها در استان شامل منطقه جبل کندی در ۴۵ کیلومتری ارومیه، منطقه سیورغان ارومیه، چوپان لوسلماس، و میانداوب است که با نهال کاری تا حدود زیادی از این ریزگردها مهار شده‌اند.

Iran presents five proposals at Green Development Forum

From page 1 ▶ It requests each member state to be a pioneer in solving environment-related challenges and share their experiences and knowledge with other members in upcoming meetings.

The third proposal requires the SCO to facilitate the exchange of endangered species across their distribution range in/ among member states as a way to boost their population and prevent the loss of genetic diversity.

Establishing a biodiversity protection committee under the supervision of the SCO and holding expert meetings; developing action plans to prevent species extinction; as well as addressing the main challenges of biodiversity protection; promoting and encouraging member states to exchange knowledge, especially in using high-tech strategies for the protection and monitoring of biodiversity were the fourth and fifth methods outlined by Akbari.

The Iranian official went on to elaborate on Iran's biodiversity and taken measures to conserve the environment.

"There are 209 species of mammals, 563 species of birds, 275 species of reptiles, 23 species of amphibians, 320 species of freshwater fish, and 807 species of marine fish, about 20 percent of them are native, and 8600 plant species, with 1727 species endemic, registered in the country," he noted.

Caspian Hyrcanian forests and Persian Gulf coral reefs in Iran feature a wide range of ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity.

Wetlands in Iran are of global importance for hosting migratory birds; the central steppes are home to the endangered Asiatic cheetah; the Alborz and Zagros ranges are also important national biodiversity centers that form part of two global biodiversity hotspots, that is the Caucasus and Irano-Anatolian hotspots, Akbari stated.

Unfortunately, the official added, Iran's valuable biodiversity, the same as other countries, faces serious threats such as land-use change, drought, fire, agricultural activities, overgrazing, invasive non-native species, deforestation, pests, wildlife trafficking, wildlife diseases, and climate change. The non-green development has led to habitat fragmentation and significant genetic reduction, Akbari highlighted.

According to Article 50 of the Constitution, environmental protection is deemed a public duty in order to safeguard the quality of life for both the present and future generations, and any activities that cause irreparable damage to the environment are prohibited.

The Law on Protection and Improvement of the Environment and the Law on Hunting and Fishing deal with environment and biodiversity issues, and the use and protection of genetic resources.

The laws have determined and defined four types of protected areas, including national parks, national natural monuments, and wildlife sanctuaries, the official stressed.

To address these threats, Iran has managed about 12 percent of the country's land, equal to 19.5 million hectares, in the form of protected



Hassan Akbari (3rd from right) is among the officials who delivered a speech at the Green Development Forum.

areas to minimize land-use change.

Moreover, over the past 10 years, the budget allocated to biodiversity protection has increased by 30 percent annually.

Out of 324 protected areas in Iran, a comprehensive conservation plan has been developed for 230 areas which is being implemented.

Furthermore, the Department of Environment has developed action plans for the conservation of 25 endangered species which are being implemented in the country.

The restoration of endangered animal species such as the Persian yellow deer, jebeer gazelle, the Persian zebra, and the Asiatic cheetah by increasing their population through habitat protection are among the country's successful measures in recent years.

Iran joined the international census of wintering water birds as the first West Asian country at the same time as European countries in 1976.

Encompassing numerous wetlands, reservoirs, and diverse water bodies, Iran welcomes millions of migratory birds every year. It is a wintering home for more than 1.8 million birds which is equivalent to more than five percent of the world's migratory birds.

Akbari underscored that public education, increasing public participation, and community involvement in the preservation of the environment, especially biodiversity, as well as the engagement of the private sector in protecting habitats and biodiversity preservation, are other parts of successful measures of Iran.

For example, public participation was employed to manage 260,000 hectares of mountainous lands in the form of five private reserves. Consequently, the population of key wildlife species has increased more than three-fold in a 10-year period.

Ali Salajeqeh, the head of the Department of Environment (DOE), led the Iranian delegation to the Green Development Forum.

During the two-day event, Salajeqeh also delivered a speech and announced that utilizing the potential of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) members is essential for fostering green development in the region and establishing a global role model for environmental cooperation.

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



Second round of Konkur held across country

The second round of the Iranian annual university entrance exam, known as Konkur, was held on Thursday and Friday.

More than 984,000 individuals sat for the multiple-choice exam to get the best results possible as the seats at tuition-free public universities are limited. Women constituted 63 percent of the contestants.



Tehrantimes79

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JULY 13, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Like your body your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:15 Evening: 19:42 Dawn: 3:16(tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:59 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

A collection of paintings by Shirin Moayya is currently on view in an exhibition at Baa Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Illusion" will run until July 26 at the gallery located at No. 1, Nastaran Alley, Nakhli St., Artesh Boulevard.

on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

A collection of paintings by Reza Hosseini is

The exhibit named "Untitled" will be running until July 29 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 5, Bahrami alley, Mashahir Street, Qaem Maqam Farahani Avenue.



Riscree 29 Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Atieh Attarzadeh.

The exhibition named "The Wound You Inherit From The Earth" will be running until August 2 at the gallery located at 31 Aqabozorgi St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

Paintings by Ghazaleh Aqarazi, Linda Ahani and Mojdeh Navai are on view in an exhibition at O Gallery.

Paintings by Ghazaleh

The exhibit titled "3 On 3" will continue until July 23 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Shahin St., Sanai St.



Paintings by Sara Parnianpour are currently on view in an exhibition at Aria Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Endurance" will be running until July 21 at the gallery located at No. 10 Zarrin Alley, near Beheshti St., Vali-e Asr Ave.

Asma Mirzahakim are displaying their latest paintings in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

Javad Akbarzadeh, Maral Heidari, Helia Malek Mohammadi and

The exhibition titles "Fact" will be running until July 17 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

An exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Mojtaba Amini, Zahra Jafarpour, Ali Manouchehri, Shima Rastin and several others is currently underway at Sharif Gallery.

Entitled "Affirm the Break", the exhibit will be running until July 19 at the gallery that can be found at 11 Mahruzadeh Alley, Shariati Ave. near Quds Square.

Kavin Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Saeed Ahmadzadeh, Salman Bahramnejad and Mehdi Movahedi.

The exhibit will be running until July 19 at the gallery located at No.24, Pesian St. Zaferanieh Neighborhood.



Paintings by Mohammad Hassan Nikbakht are on display in an exhibition at Doost Gallery.

Entitled "The Zen Garden", the exhibit will be running until August 6 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 4, 4th St. off Eshqyar St., Khorramshahr Ave.



Paintings by Mojtaba Hejazi are on display in an exhibition at Baam Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until July 23 at the gallery, which can be found at No.16, 19th Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



Belarus holds 33rd Slavic Bazaar Festival to promote peace

VITEBSK, Belarus- The Slavic Bazaar held its 33rd festival in the Belarusian city of Vitebsk on Thursday evening.

The festival was opened by President Alexander Lukashenko, who called Vitebsk the capital of the Belarusian culture, Tehran Times correspondent in Vitebsk reported.

The event will last for a few days.

The Slavic Bazaar is intended to promote the "dialogue of culture, peace and understanding" through art from different countries.

Zimbabwe was the special guest of the festival.

Throughout the festival Belarus tries to make other countries familiar about its culture and traditions.

On Friday, culture ministers from the countries member to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) also held a meeting on the sidelines of the event to highlight cultural peculiarities of their respective countries.



Tehran's ambassador to Minsk represented Iran at the SCO meeting.

Ambassador Alireza Sane'ei, addressing the conference on Friday, said as the SCO countries enjoy rich civilization, they can also play important roles in the areas of culture and art to send

the message of "peace and unity" to all countries in the world.

The ambassador also said the Islamic Republic of Iran hopes that by next year when Belarus will hold its 34th festival "the war in the region has come to an end". The ambassador was openly referring to the war between

Russia and Ukraine. Historically, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine are called three "Slavic Sisters". Sane'ei also said Iran welcomes the full membership of Belarus in the SCO which will help to develop the bloc both "qualitatively and quantitatively".

Iranian New Wave cinema to be reviewed at 72nd Melbourne International Film Festival

TEHRAN-The 72nd Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), to be held from August 8 to 25 in Australia, has dedicated a special section to the Iranian classic films.

Titled "Iranian New Wave: 1962-79", the program includes short and feature films as well as animations made by well-known Iranian directors, who had a great influence on the film industry of the country, ISNA reported.

Iranian Cinema Before the Revolution, 1925-1979, a landmark retrospective held last year at The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, was an eye-opener that traced a national cinema still largely unknown to a wide international audience.

Thanks to the availability of new restorations and rare archival film prints, an immensely creative period was revisited in splendid detail, revealing the roots of a rich and visionary cinematic tradition.

While the New York program featured over five decades of Iranian cinema encompassing the avant-garde and the popular, this selection for the Melbourne International Film Festival, focuses on works associated with Cinema-ye Motafavet, or the Iranian New Wave.

Cinema-ye Motafavet was a grassroots movement in Iranian documentary, fiction and animation cinema during the 1960s and 70s that, thanks to close collaboration among filmmakers and talents from the worlds of literature, music, visual arts and theatre, achieved a glorious coherence, unique in the cinema of the Middle East. Dealing with themes of alienation, anxiety and repression, Cinema-ye Motafavet revealed the contradictions of Iranian life with haunting clarity.

This program starts with the unparalleled story of a private film company, the Golestan Film Unit, which, in between producing industrial documentaries, supported the production of the first new wave documentary masterpiece, "The House is Black" (1962), by poet Forough Farrokhzad, as well as the movement's first fiction milestone, Ebrahim Golestan's "Brick and Mirror" (1964). Farrokhzad and Golestan also collaborated on "A Fire" (1961), the first in a series of commissioned films in Iran that wryly subverted the notion of commissioned cinema.

"The House Is Black", set in a leper colony in north-west Iran, is the only film directed by Farrokhzad before her premature death at the age of 32. It was her poetry to talk about seclusion and pain, and is now considered one of the greatest documentaries ever made.

The increasing popularity of Iranian cinema was not overlooked by the state, which began to support it through institutions such as the National Television, Centre for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (Kanoon), and the Ministry of Culture.

It was in that context that Dariush Mehrjui's "The Cow" (1969) - a major hit at both Cannes and Venice festivals - was born and stunned audiences, followed by Sohrab Shahid Saless's brilliantly austere "A Simple



Event" (1973).

Made clandestinely with little money and a skeleton crew, Sohrab Shahid Saless's 1973 debut feature, "A Simple Event," is a quietly, mysteriously simmering masterpiece.

It follows a few days in the life of a young boy living beside the Caspian Sea.

Remarkably, Shahid Saless inspires viewers to respond emotionally to characters seemingly devoid of any feeling themselves; the simple event of the film's title refers, perhaps, to a sudden and tragic death, or perhaps instead to the mundane sounds of dogs barking and crickets chirping.

"The Cow," the 1969 milestone of the Iranian New Wave portrays, with heartbreaking intensity, the themes of solitude and obsession in the story of a poor villager whose only source of joy and livelihood is his cow.

When the cow of a villager (unforgettably played by Ezzatollah Entezami) is mysteriously killed one night, the metamorphosis begins. Based on short stories by psychiatrist Gholam-Hossein Sa'edi, "The Cow" was smuggled to the Venice Film Festival in defiance of an export ban, where it was almost immediately and internationally recognized as a masterpiece.

The film came under the spotlight more than a decade later, when Imam Khomeini hailed it as an example of "good cinema", as opposed to the many "corrupting films" of the Pahlavi era.

In an Iranian paradox, while the state supported modernist cinema, it also held it back through censorship.

"The Cow" and the short gem "The Night It Rained" (1967), by Karman Shirdel, fell victim to this suppression. Similarly affected were films from a very popular middle-of-the-road movement that stood between the New Wave and the mainstream, including "The Deer" (1974), the brevity of which bordered on militant cinema. Banned after one screening, the censor forced the film's director Masoud Kimiai to shoot a new ending. Both endings will be shown in this program.

Through the lens of cinema, years before

the revolution swept across the country, discontent and angst were presaged in films such as "Tranquility in the Presence of Others" (Nasser Taghavi, 1969), "The Stranger and the Fog" (Bahram Beyzai, 1974), "Dead End" (Parviz Sayyad, 1977) and "The Tall Shadows of Wind" (Bahman Farmanara, 1979).

The "Iranian New Wave: 1962-79" section at the upcoming MIFF also comprises two sub-sections namely "Kanoon: From Didactic to Poetic, 1974-77" and "Golden Age of Iranian Animation, 1965-77".

A suite of films produced by Kanoon, the celebrated agency that brought culture and literacy to children and young adults in Iran, will be presented at the "Kanoon: From Didactic to Poetic, 1974-77".

The series starts with Abbas Kiarostami's short films about education and educators. Originally titled "Teachers: A Few Sketches and Memories" and commissioned by the Ministry of Education, "Tribute to the Teachers" is a series of nuanced, touching interviews with schoolteachers. "Two Solutions for One Problem" is a charming slapstick about tolerance and civility.

In "Solution No. 1," a driver has to deal with a flat tire on top of the Alborz Mountain.

Amir Naderi, who collaborated with Kiarostami as a screenwriter, made his second Kanoon film, "Waiting" (1974) about a southern boy who falls for a girl, though he's only seen her hands. Showing Naderi at the peak of his purely visual storytelling, this nearly silent film shows how the former photographer used his keen visual aesthetic to tell impressionistic stories of repression and rebellion.

The "Golden Age of Iranian Animation, 1965-77" is a showcase of Iranian animation in a variety of styles and themes, from the early efforts of Western-educated filmmakers like Nosrat Karimi to award-winning shorts produced by Kanoon.

This program reveals two divergent aesthetic tendencies in this period of the 1970s: one inspired by medieval Persian miniature painting and other classic artforms, evident in the work of Karimi (who studied at FAMU in Prague) and Ali Akbar Sadeghi; and the other projecting a more modernist spirit, as seen in the experimental figurative work of Farshid Mesghali.

Films in this package include "Malek Jamshid" (Nosrat Karimi, 1965), "Grey City" (Farshid Mesghali, 1972), "Malek Black Bird" (Mor-teza Momayez, 1973), "Atal Matal" (Norroddin Zarrin-Kelk, 1974), "Rook" (Ali Akbar Sadeghi, 1974), "I Am the One Who" (Ali Akbar Sadeghi, 1974), "The Mad, Mad, Mad World" (Norroddin Zarrin-Kelk, 1975), "Malak Khorshid" (Ali Akbar Sadeghi, 1975), and "Better, Comfier" (Farshid Mesghali, 1977).

Established in 1952, the Melbourne International Film Festival is one of the oldest film festivals in the world.

The festival offers several sections dedicated to international films.