

Gone with Dark Legacy

Biden withdraws from the presidential race with Gazans' blood on his hands, leaving behind an Iran policy marred by following in Trump's footsteps



Europe must act independently from U.S. to strengthen ties with Iran: ministry

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has addressed what he considers a lack of "necessary dynamism" in relations between Iran and Europe, urging European states to chart a course independent from Washington in order to forge closer ties with Iran.

"Naturally, Iran has considered Europe as an important area of focus in the field of foreign relations," Kanaani said during his weekly press conference on Monday. "The current chill in ties between Iran and Europe may be attributed to Europe's miscalculations or external pressures, particularly from the United States," the spokesman added before urging Europe "to act independently in its relations with Iran to unlock the full potential of the two sides' partnership."

Addressing the issue of reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Kanaani stressed the importance of all parties, including the United States, fulfilling their commitments under the agreement. "Iran has consistently upheld its obligations under the JCPOA and calls for a responsible return of all parties to the agreement." ▶ Page 2

Iran interior minister visits Iraq

TEHRAN- The Iranian minister of Interior arrived in Baghdad to attend a regional conference.

According to Tasnim, Ahmad Vahidi, the Minister of Interior, departed for Baghdad on Monday to participate in the second regional conference on combating drugs. Upon his arrival in Baghdad, he was welcomed by Abdul Amir al-Shimmari, the Minister of Interior of Iraq.

Meetings and discussions with senior Iraqi officials, participation in the second regional conference on combating drugs of neighboring countries, and following up on issues related to the Arbabeen Walk are among the main focuses of the Iranian Minister of Interior's two-day visit to Iraq.

The second regional conference on combating drugs will be held in Baghdad with the presence of the interior ministers and heads of drug enforcement agencies from Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. A preliminary meeting with the heads of police from the member countries' expert delegations was also held on Saturday and Sunday.

Iran has always faced security challenges in this area due to its location in a critical region for the production and transit of drugs originating from Afghanistan and Pakistan. This issue has not only prioritized the fight against the cultivation, production, trafficking, and abuse of drugs in Iran but has also urged Tehran to seek closer regional cooperation in combating the drug trade.

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At least 57 killed in Israeli raids near Khan Younis

Palestinians have offered prayers on the grounds of Nasser Hospital after Israeli tank shelling and air raids killed at least 57 people near Khan Younis.

The victims were killed by tank salvos in the town of Bani Suheila and other towns just east of the southern city of Khan Younis, with the area also bombarded by air, according to medics, Al Jazeera reported.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said the dead included several women and children and that dozens of other people had been injured by Israeli fire.

Some 400,000 people are living in the targeted areas and dozens of families have begun to leave their houses, Palestinian officials said, adding that they were not given time to evacuate before the Israeli strikes began.

At Nasser Hospital, some people stood outside the morgue to bid farewell to dead relatives before burials.

"We are tired, we are tired in Gaza, every day our children are martyred, every day, every moment. This is the blood of our children, it has not yet dried," said Ahmed Sammour, who lost several relatives in the Israeli bombing.

Palestinian healthcare workers are the true heroes

Since 7 October, Israeli forces have killed hundreds of Palestinian healthcare workers and imprisoned others under inhumane conditions. The ongoing attacks on physicians, nurses, paramedics and aid providers, coupled with the destruction of Gaza's health infrastructure, are central to the ongoing genocide.

Throughout this period, we have witnessed the bravery and steadfastness of medical teams in Gaza, who have shown remarkable resourcefulness in addressing the needs of their patients, even as Israel strikes have destroyed the region's hospitals.

The commitment and fortitude displayed by healthcare workers have been aptly characterized as a form of resistance. Their tireless service amid severely challenging conditions, including shortages of essential food and medicine, is to be commended.

Many have received distressing reports of family members killed or wounded in Israeli air strikes, but this has not deterred them from fulfilling their professional and moral obligations.

Hezbollah responds to attack on Lebanese army

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- In a series of drone, missile, and artillery attacks, Hezbollah has swiftly responded to Israeli attacks targeting civilians and the Lebanese Army.

The resistance in Lebanon says the operations also come in solidarity with the people of Gaza who have been facing a genocidal Israeli war for nearly ten months now.

In a statement, Hezbollah said it has launched an aerial attack using a squadron of precision combat drones against a newly established Israeli military site in the Hanita settlement.

The statement noted that the drones directly hit a gathering point for soldiers resulting in losses among "the enemy" including fatalities and injuries to Israeli troops.

The Lebanese resistance movement said it had targeted the Israeli Zar'it barracks with artillery shells. This came in response to the Israeli "aggression against Lebanon's army" that left at least two Lebanese soldiers injured.

Eastern giants unite: Iran and Russia's strategic partnership

By Dr. Mohammad Ali Senobari

TEHRAN- Under the dynamic leadership of newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, the bond between Iran and Russia is poised for a substantial enhancement.

Building on the robust foundation laid by the late President Ebrahim Raisi, Pezeshkian's administration is committed to deepening this strategic alliance. This renewed vigor in diplomatic relations not only promises to fortify economic and political ties but also signals a continued trajectory of successful collaboration and mutual support on the global stage. As both nations navigate the complexities of international affairs, their partnership is set to become a pivotal force in shaping regional stability and global geopolitics. ▶ Page 3



'Minister of Resistance': Amir Abdollahian lauded for his firm support of Palestine

TEHRAN – The late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian garnered global recognition as the "Minister of Resistance" due to his extensive and effective efforts in defending and supporting Gaza in international forums, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs stated on Monday.

Reza Najafi was speaking at a press conference held to commemorate the 1020 days Amir Abdollahian spent as Iran's foreign minister. The late diplomat lost his life alongside Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi during a helicopter crash on May 19. ▶ Page 2

Oil sector's annual growth hits 14.7%: CBI

TEHRAN- The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said the country's oil sector grew by 14.7 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), compared to a year earlier.

Speaking at the CBI 64th general assembly on Sunday, Mohammadreza Farzin put the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the base price (fixed prices in 2016) in the mentioned year at 5.0 percent.

"Last year, the oil sector recorded a growth of 14.7 percent, the industry sector recorded a growth of 4.5 percent, the services group reached a growth of 3.8 percent and the agricultural sector grew by 0.2 percent," he said.

The country's GDP excluding oil increased by 3.6 percent, Farzin said. ▶ Page 4

New axis

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

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad discussed the establishment of closer relations between China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea and wrote: Amid Russia's war in Ukraine, the conflict between Israel and Hamas, and China's repeated threats to attack Taiwan, some security and military analysts say that we are on the similar path again and that Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea are the "new axis powers".

Former Defense Secretary and NATO leader Lord Robertson described Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea as the "deadly quartet".

According to Dr. Alan Mendoza, executive director of the Jackson Art Society, although the four countries have long been anti-Western, a pivotal relationship between them solidified in February 2022.

When Tehran launched an unprecedented missile and drone attack on Israel in April, it forced the United States and Britain to come to Israel's defense, bringing the two sides closer to comprehensive war than they have been in decades.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin has strengthened ties with North Korea. This shows how the "new axis is working."

Hamshahri: The Zionists' new overstatement

In a commentary, Hamshahri addressed the mutual attacks of Yemen and Israel and said: The Zionist regime has started bragging against Iran after the attack on Yemen.

The American and Israeli news websites considered the attacks of Yemen and the Zionist regime against each other as a danger to the expansion of the war in the Middle East.

Israel's military officials have started to threaten Iran and repeatedly talked about Iran's role in the Yemeni drone attack on a building in Tel Aviv and the military equipment of the Yemeni army.

According to The Jerusalem Post, what matters is the vulnerability of Iran's vital oil infrastructure, especially on Khark Island. These facilities are not just an economic asset, but a vital point and geopolitical leverage of Iran for financing activities and regional backed forces.

Despite such reports of the intensification of Zionist rhetoric against Iran, the regime's new threats are considered an overstatement considering its previous clear retreats from similar cases.

Arman-e-Melli: The challenge of removing dollar from Iran and Russia's commercial exchanges

In an interview with Bahador Ehamran, a former member of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Arman-e-Melli discussed the removal of the dollar from Iran and Russia's transactions and said: The removal of the dollar from the international exchanges of

Iran and other countries is a complex issue that has been discussed among economists and policymakers.

The commercial exchanges between Iran and Russia have decreased due to the sanctions on both of them and in this way, the number of exchanges between the two countries is not so much that we will benefit even if the dollar is removed from them. Certainly, if the dollar is weakened or removed from the global exchange circle, it will be favorable for everyone, especially Iran and the countries under sanctions.

However, currently, considering the problems facing the country, efforts to remove the sanctions and also accept the FATF are more valuable than making useless agreements.

Although it is not impossible to remove the dollar from the international exchanges of Iran and Russia, it is a complex issue that requires careful consideration of its potential benefits and risks. It is important for policymakers and businesses to seriously consider any decision before making it.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Pezeshkian and the link between "diplomacy and the field"

In an article, Arman-e-Emrooz dealt with the complexity of international relations. It wrote: Undoubtedly, the field of international relations is a complex and multi-layer field.

Diplomacy and field are considered two important tools in advancing the foreign policy of countries. These two tools complete each other and can maximize the effectiveness of foreign policy.

The correspondence between president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian and Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, was the first of his foreign policy action.

This action showed the president-elect's intelligence in understanding the factors affecting the preservation of inter-institutional convergence and the advancement of our country's national interests.

In today's complex and dynamic world and based on global experience, countries that can establish a proper balance between diplomacy and the field will be more successful in advancing their national interests.

It is hoped that the intelligence of the president-elect of our country in understanding the necessity and importance of linking the field and diplomacy can provide more basis for understanding and inter-institutional cooperation in the country to secure national interests at the regional and extra-regional level, as Iran showed its strength and ability in the field with the nuclear negotiations with the 5+1 group and was able to gain points in the diplomatic negotiations.

Europe must act independently from U.S. to strengthen ties with Iran: ministry

From page 1 ▶ The JCPOA was signed by Iran, the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, China, and Russia in 2015. It limits Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the termination of sanctions.

The deal fell apart when in 2018, Washington

announced its withdrawal and re-imposed heavy sanctions against Iran.

European signatories to the JCPOA have also stopped all trade with Iran despite not officially leaving the pact.

Iraqi military official visits Iran

TEHRAN- the deputy commander of Iraq's Army for educational affairs, who arrived in Iran at the head of a seven-member military delegation, visited the Iranian National Defense University.

According to Mehr News, Major General Hamid Mohammad Kamar entered the Islamic Republic of Iran at the head of a seven-member military delegation.

During his visit to the National Defense University, he met with Brigadier General Ismail Ahmadi-Moghaddam, the head of the university. In this meeting, he expressed the Iraqi Army's interest in developing scientific, educational, and research relations with Iran and emphasized, "We hope that the people and armed forces of

the Islamic Republic of Iran, who stood by the people and armed forces of Iraq during the crisis in Iraq and the fight against ISIS, will also assist in training the Iraqi armed forces."

Ismail Ahmadi-Moghaddam stated, "The National Defense University is ready to provide and engage in scientific and research collaboration for a strategic level with the Iraqi Army. We are prepared to offer strategic national defense and specialized doctoral courses to all neighboring and Muslim countries, utilizing our most experienced professors."

The head of the National Defense University of Iran traveled to Iraq on December 25, 2023, at the invitation of the Iraqi Minister of Interior to sign academic cooperation agreements.

'Minister of Resistance': Amir Abdollahian lauded for his firm support of Palestine

From page 1 ▶ Najafi emphasized that Abdollahian's strategic plan for foreign policy focused on increasing international cooperation and advocating for the oppressed, particularly in Gaza and Palestine. "Iran's foreign policy, characterized by Martyr Amir Abdollahian was balanced, dynamic, and intelligent. It focused on increasing international cooperation and paid great attention to the oppressed people of Palestine."

The diplomat commended Amir Abdollahian's unwavering commitment to representing Iran's interests in various international forums. "In international forums, the agenda often favors developed countries.

However, Iran's approach has been consistent: to actively participate in these forums and ensure its voice is heard. We will be present everywhere, and there is no empty seat for Iran."

Furthermore, Najafi discussed Iran's diplomatic efforts over the past thousand days, emphasizing the country's dedication to multilateralism and effective participation in international organizations. He highlighted Iran's active role in regional mechanisms such as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), which has isolated the Zionist regime from participating in meetings.

On human rights issues, Najafi reiterated Iran's advocacy for human rights and condemned Western allegations against the country as politically motivated.

"The West has been exploiting human rights to fulfill its political goals," he noted adding that despite hostile acts by Washington and Europe, Iran is ready to engage in dialogue to



resolve issues.

Regarding the assassination case of Iran's top anti-terror commander General Qassem Soleimani, Najafi mentioned a dedicated committee overseeing international legal mechanisms to hold those responsible for the crime accountable.

He also addressed the release of Iran's blocked assets in various countries, stating that Iran's assets have been unfrozen, but obstacles remain due to unilateral sanctions.

In anticipation of the upcoming inauguration ceremony for the new government, the diplomat confirmed invitations sent to leaders from other countries and expressed optimism for a successful and impactful event. He underscored the importance of international participation in the ceremony and highlighted preparations for a positive international outcome.

'Economic diplomacy contributes to political and security stability'

Also speaking at the press conference, Mehdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Coordination on Economic Diplomacy, highlighted the significant impact of economic issues on political and security matters.

IRGC chief highlights enemies' failure to isolate Iran

TEHRAN - Major General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), has declared that Iran has successfully thwarted efforts by its enemies to isolate the nation.

"We have emerged from the isolation scheme that our enemies pursued. Today, it is more evident than ever that Israel and the United States are recognized as the most isolated and detested countries in the world," Salami stated during a conference in Mashhad on Sunday.

Addressing a gathering of IRGC Ground Force commanders and other officials, General Salami emphasized that securing Iran's borders is not merely about physical security. "Guarding our nation's borders today is not merely about border security. Border closure in the Islamic Republic of Iran signifies obstructing our enemies' global policies against Iran," he remarked.

Highlighting the enemy's strategies, Salami pointed out that their goal is to breach borders and destabilize the nation.

Commenting on Iran's influence in the United States, Salami noted that Iran has played a decisive role in shaping U.S. political discourse. "The most important topics in the debate between the two U.S. presidential candidates were about Iran. All these phenomena reflect the grandeur of the Islamic civilization emerging from Iran as a rising power, depicting a reality that is taking shape," he said.

He noted the importance of the True Promise Operation, emphasizing its impact in altering

the power dynamics of the region and the world. The operation, which occurred on April 13, was a retaliatory act in response to the Israeli assault on the diplomatic premises of Iran in Syria. General Salami highlighted that this operation along with other developments by the regional Resistance forces has gradually altered the political map of the Islamic world and West Asia.

Salami concluded by highlighting Iran's growing strength and global influence. "We have reached a point of strength and have had a considerable and significant impact on all continents. We have managed to conduct exports and imports without the intervention of meddling powers, and we have successfully moved beyond the isolation plan that our enemies aimed for. Today, it is more evident than ever that Israel and the United States are recognized as the most isolated and detested countries in the world," he concluded.

IRGC Ground Force commander asserts readiness to maintain security across Iran

Also speaking at the conference, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, the commander of the IRGC Ground Force, emphasized his forces' readiness to ensure lasting security throughout Iran. He reassured that the country's borders remain fully secure under the vigilant watch of the IRGC.

Addressing IRGC Ground Force commanders, General Pakpour highlighted the IRGC's proactive measures to maintain "sustainable and multifaceted security" in Iran. He noted



that given the current global security landscape and Iran's strategic importance, destabilizing the region, particularly along Iran's borders, remains a key objective for adversaries.

General Pakpour asserted that there are no significant issues regarding border security. He stressed that the IRGC continuously enhances its preparedness and updates its capabilities to counter the organized threats posed by enemies aiming to undermine the country's frontier stability.

The IRGC has implemented extensive plans in recent years to develop border provinces and underprivileged areas, particularly in the southeastern province of Sistan and Balouchistan. These initiatives aim to bolster local security and support community development.

In addition to their security efforts, IRGC forces have played a crucial role in rescue and relief operations during natural disasters across Iran, showcasing their commitment to the well-being and safety of the Iranian people.

Pezeshkian administration commences work following credential ratification: official

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for the Guardian Council announced that Masoud Pezeshkian's presidential term will begin simultaneously with the ratification of the decree by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The ceremony for the ratification and granting of the presidency to the fourteenth president and the official start of the fourteenth government will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024, with the presence of the Leader.

Hadi Tahaan Nazif emphasized, "In Article 110 of the Constitution, which discusses the duties and powers of the Leader, under paragraph 9 of this article, the signing of the presidential decree after the people's election is mentioned among the duties and powers of the Leader. The signing of this decree means ratification and implementation of the decree, which aims to validate and confirm a legal act."

He added, "After that, in a ceremony following the report

provided by the Minister of Interior on how the elections were held, and with the announcement of the candidate who received the majority vote and the reading of the credentials of the elected person, the Leader will sign the presidential decree for Masoud Pezeshkian, and based on Article 1 of the Law on presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the presidential term begins from the date of ratification of the credentials by the Leader and then the inauguration ceremony

will be held."

The inauguration ceremony for the president will be held on the 4th of August with the presence of the head of the Supreme Court, members of the Guardian Council, the head of the Judiciary, and other national and military officials in the Parliament, during which the elected president will swear in according to article 121 of the Constitution to utilize all his abilities and capacities in fulfilling the responsibilities he has undertaken.

Bigdeli emphasized that all activities in the consular sector are aimed at meeting the needs of Iranian citizens abroad. "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has 140 representations in 103 countries, which play a crucial role in economic diplomacy and political relations," he declared.

The official provided statistics on consular services in the past three years, including the issuance and renewal of 200,000 Iranian passports abroad, as well as the issuance of 1,660,000 visas for foreign nationals to travel to Iran.

Additionally, he highlighted the Ministry's efforts in facilitating the pilgrimage to Imam Reza's shrine and its active engagement in sports and tourism diplomacy.

Regarding Iranian prisoners abroad, Bigdeli mentioned that the Ministry is actively engaged in seeking the release of detained Iranian nationals in various countries.

He specifically addressed the situation of Iranian prisoners in Saudi Arabia and expressed hope for their imminent release. "We have one pilgrim imprisoned in Saudi Arabia, and one person detained due to his activities on social media. We sent five notes and our consular deputy negotiated with the Saudi ambassador on their behalf. We hope they will be released soon."

Iran's military exports tripled in less than three years: defense minister

TEHRAN – Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani has announced that Iran's export of military products and services has tripled over the past 33 months.

Speaking at a cabinet session on Sunday, Ashtiani highlighted the significant defense achievements made during President Ebrahim Raisi's administration.

Ashtiani reported substantial growth in the country's defense sector, noting that in most performance indicators, Iran witnessed an "enormous increase" over the specified period.

He emphasized that the production of weapons, defense equipment, and services to the Armed Forces has increased by 2.5 times.

Highlighting key achievements, Ashtiani pointed to the successful launch of the Simorgh (Phoenix) satellite carrier, which placed three satellites into orbit simultaneously. Additionally, he noted the launch of the "Zoljanah" research satellite



carrier and the "Saman" orbital transmission system with a sub-orbital space probe.

The defense minister also mentioned the design and manufacturing of the Khorramshahr 4 and Abu Mahdi missiles and the enhancement of missile pinpointing capabilities.

Among other accomplishments, Ashtiani listed the development of the Khordad 15 surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, the successful testing of the domestically-manufactured Mersad and Arman defense systems,

and the design and production of the Mohajer 10 strategic drone. He also mentioned the first successful flight test of the Simorgh transport aircraft, the Yasin training jet aircraft, and the completion and launch of the Dana destroyer.

The defense minister also highlighted advancements in detection and identification systems, as well as improvements in targeting low-altitude threats and cruise missiles.

Ashtiani praised Iranian military experts and engineers for their

breakthroughs in manufacturing a wide range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

Iranian officials have consistently emphasized the importance of strengthening the country's military capabilities for defense purposes.

They have asserted that Iran's defense capabilities are non-negotiable and will continue to be bolstered. Despite years of sanctions on Iran's military sector, the country has preserved and reached unprecedented heights.

It even got to step foot on the sea and have a naval fleet wrap up a round-the-world 236-day trip in May.

It is undeniable that Iran has successfully fulfilled its long-lasting aspiration, which emerged after Iraq's war against Iran, to establish a powerful military and secure a prosperous future through deterrence.

Iran has also entered a market that has for decades been reserved for Western countries.

Eastern giants unite: Iran and Russia's strategic partnership

From Page 1 ▶ From Tehran to Moscow

In testament to this deepening alliance, Russian President Vladimir Putin quickly congratulated Pezeshkian on his electoral success and expressed optimism about the flourishing of close relations between the two countries. The leaders underscored their common interests and ongoing cooperation within influential international and regional organizations, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS. Putin's invitation to Pezeshkian to attend the upcoming BRICS summit in Kazan further solidifies this bond.

There is great anticipation for the signing of a comprehensive cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia, marking a pivotal step in consolidating their partnership. During a phone call with Putin, President-elect Pezeshkian reiterated Tehran's commitment to strengthening relations with Moscow. Highlighting the 20-year Iran-Russia association agreement, which has been under negotiation since late 2021, Pezeshkian expressed his readiness to finalize the deal at the upcoming BRICS summit in Kazan.

The summit will bring together members of the BRICS group, initially founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, and now including several new members. This emerging global bloc is transforming into a formidable and competitive entity, thanks in large part to the combined efforts of Russia, Iran, and China. Cooperation between these countries is expected to reshape the geopolitical landscape, as Pezeshkian's presidency heralds a new era of Iranian-Russian cooperation.

Unbreakable Alliance: Strengthening Iran's Enduring Partnership with the Eastern Bloc

Since President Pezeshkian's election victory, Western media have suggested that Iran must choose between strengthening relations with the West or maintaining its long-standing alliances with Russia and China. This narrative implies an inevitable trade-off, suggesting that close cooperation with Europe and the United States will automatically lead to strained relations with Moscow and Beijing.

However, a deeper analysis reveals contradictions in the motivations driving Iran's partnerships with these global powers. Asserting that strengthening ties with both the West and Russia simultaneously is impractical ignores the nuanced dynamics of Iran's foreign policies.

President Pezeshkian has set a clear framework for Iran's foreign policy, especially regarding its eastern alliances. In a prominent article for the Tehran Times, he emphasized the enduring support and friendship that Iran has

received from Russia and China during difficult times, highlighting the deep value placed on these relationships.

The 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership with China exemplifies Iran's approach to global diplomacy, aiming to foster mutually beneficial relations amid evolving geopolitical circumstances. This strategic vision extends beyond bilateral relations, reflecting Iran's readiness to engage more deeply in a changing world order that is rapidly moving toward a multipolar world, thereby signaling the end of American unipolarity.

Regarding Russia, President Pezeshkian reaffirmed Iran's commitment to strengthening cooperation with its strategic neighbor. This commitment extends to various frameworks, including BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Union, reflecting Iran's strategic interests in regional stability and economic integration, much like his predecessor, Ebrahim Raisi, successfully pursued.

Conversely, the Iranian president-elect has critically assessed Western policies, particularly in light of their failure to fulfill commitments under the JCPOA. He has criticized the unilateral expectations imposed on Iran and highlighted coercive U.S. policies that do not respect Iranian sovereignty.

In essence, the foundations, goals, and motivations guiding Iran's relations with these global powers are fundamentally different. President Pezeshkian's approach seeks to leverage the unique strengths of each partnership to advance Iran's national interests on the global stage, navigating the complex terrain of diplomacy with insight and realism.

Iranian Strategic Sovereignty: Pride, Wisdom, and Benefit

President Masoud Pezeshkian's candid stance on American policies is not an independent initiative, but a response to the American administration's unconstructive statements regarding negotiations. Even with the new Pezeshkian administration extending a hand to all countries for cooperation, the President has firmly concluded that American policies are not based on respecting the sovereignty of states, but rather on "hostility."

To understand Pezeshkian's foreign policy tendencies, we must consider his electoral base. Pezeshkian's victory in the elections is attributed to his conservative nature and his steadfast commitment to the principles of the Islamic Republic, which he emphasized repeatedly in his media appearances during the campaign. His adherence to these principles, resonating deeply with Iranian voters, reflects the core values of Iranian foreign policy: "pride,

wisdom, and expediency." These principles will guide Pezeshkian's approach to foreign policy, reinforcing his dedication to the nation's core beliefs.

How can Iran engage with the West, which seeks to label the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards—a key military institution that defended Iranian lands during the eight-year holy war with Iraq, in which Pezeshkian himself participated—as a terrorist organization? How can one engage without the three principles emphasized by Pezeshkian, "pride, wisdom, and benefit," with the United States, which treacherously assassinated the heroic Quds Force commander and national security figure, Qassem Soleimani? President-elect Pezeshkian described this act as "state terrorism."

The West's demands from Iran are tantamount to submission. Their demands increase as Iran's power grows. After the nuclear agreement, they demanded the abandonment of the Iranian missile program, then the defense industries, particularly drones. They also demanded severing ties with the Axis of Resistance, and now they insist on Iran abandoning its constructive relations with Russia and China. However, these expectations are met with resistance from the Iranian leadership, which views these alliances as crucial for the country's sovereignty and security.

Despite the hopes of some reformists who admire the West and the United States for a shift in Iranian foreign policy post-Raisi, Pezeshkian's approach is rooted in a practical and historically informed perspective. Strengthening relations with Russia remains a cornerstone of Iran's foreign strategy and reflects Pezeshkian's commitment to a balanced and flexible diplomatic stance.

The relationship between Iran and Russia is based on a history of mutual recognition and strategic cooperation. It is important to remember that the Soviet Union was the first country to recognize the Islamic Republic of Iran, setting a precedent for a permanent and strategic partnership between Tehran and Moscow.

In conclusion, strengthening Iranian-Russian relations under President Pezeshkian is not just a political choice but a necessity dictated by historical alliances and contemporary geopolitical realities. As Iran navigates the complex landscape of international relations, its steadfastness in maintaining strong ties with Russia stands as a testament to its enduring commitment to national pride, wisdom, and expediency.

Mohammad Ali Senobari is the director and editor-in-chief of the New Vision Center for Strategic Studies

Japan hopes to develop bilateral relations with Iran: PM

TEHRAN- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced that Fumio Kishida had a telephone conversation with the Iranian president-elect in which the two sides expressed their desire to develop bilateral relations.

According to the announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had a telephone conversation with Masoud Pezeshkian, on July 22. During this conversation, Prime

Minister Kishida expressed his intention to cooperate in further developing Japan-Iran relations, based on their long-standing friendly relations.

Furthermore, the Prime Minister of Japan emphasized Iran's active role in the region in creating peace and stability, especially in the current events in West Asia, and asked the Pezeshkian to play a more constructive role in resolving regional crises.

Pezeshkian also expressed his

desire to strengthen relations with Japan and declared that strategic alignment in resolving Iran's nuclear program is one of the priorities for developing bilateral relations with Japan in the 14th government.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev also spoke over the phone with Pezeshkian. He congratulated him on his election win and emphasized Kazakhstan's commitment to further strengthening bilateral relations.

According to ISNA, Tokayev and Pezeshkian had a phone conversation on Monday. Tokayev wished Pezeshkian success in this position.

Tokayev and Pezeshkian discussed the current situation and the prospects for developing cooperation between Tehran and Astana in the fields of trade, economy, transportation, logistics, culture, and humanitarian efforts, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral relations between Iran and Kazakhstan.

Taekwondo athlete Nematzadeh aims to win gold at 2024 Olympics

TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondo athlete Mobina Nematzadeh is determined to win a gold medal in the 2024 Olympic Games.

She secured her spot in the Games in March.

the -49kg taekwondo player is spending her final preparation for the Olympics.

"I want to compete in Paris in my best condition, physically and mentally. Indeed, I am determined to win a gold medal in Paris," Nematzadeh said.

"I am looking forward to do my best in the Olympics and I know my four opponents and analyzed them. I have worked hard during the past months, but with my family by my side and the support of the federation made it easier for me," she added. "I am going to participate in the next Olympics but I will definitely change my weight class," Nematzadeh concluded.

The taekwondo competitions at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris are scheduled to run from Aug. 7 to 10 at the Grand Palais strip. Some 128 taekwondo fighters, with an equal distribution between men and women, will compete across eight different weight categories (four per gender) at the Games, the same amount as the previous editions since Beijing 2008. Each weight category is composed of sixteen taekwondo fighters; however, this figure may increase if additional athletes are invited and selected from the Refugee Olympic Team.

Jahanbakhsh and Feyenoord in talks about new agreement

TEHRAN - Alireze Jahanbakhsh seems to be in talks with Feyenoord about a new stay at the Rotterdam club, 1908.nl reports via their site.

The Iranian expired his contract this summer and the Rotterdam club reported at an earlier stage that the contract would not be extended.

Jahanbakhsh is currently still without a club. 1908.nl reports that the Iranian international was in talks with trainer Brian Priske on Friday. Jahanbakhsh was also present at the practice match of Feyenoord against Cercle Brugge at Varkenoord.

Iran to play Kuwait in 2024 Asian Junior Handball Championship 5th – 6th place

TEHRAN – Iran are scheduled to play Kuwait on Wednesday in the 18th edition of Asian Men Junior Handball Championship's 5th – 6th place.

The Iranian team lost to Japan 31-29 Sunday night. The 18th Asian Men's Junior (U21) Handball Championship started on July 16 and will run until July 27, 2024 in Amman, Jordan.

The championship serves as a qualifying event for the 25th IHF Men's Junior (U21) Handball World Championship in Poland, slated for June/July 2025. The top four teams from this competition will secure qualification spots for the World Championship.

South Korea have won the most medals in the championship, totaling twelve, including three gold, six silver, and three bronze medals.

Syria forward Yasin Dali to join Chadormalu

TEHRAN - Alaa-Aldin Yasin Dali has traveled to Iran to finalize his deal with Chadormalu football club. He currently plays for Iraqi football club Naft Missan.

The 27-year-old forward has played 24 times for Syria and scored four goals.

Chadormalu won promotion to the 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) in June.

Dominance of Iran youth in Asian wrestling

TEHRAN - The Iranian youth wrestling team won six gold, one silver and two bronze medals and became the undisputed champions of the Asian Championship.

The Asian youth wrestling competitions were held in Sriracha, Thailand, on July 20-21.

At the end, Ali Ahmadi Vafa in 55 kg weight, Erfan Jarkani in 63 kg weight, Alireza Abdoli in 77 kg weight, Mohammad Hadi Saeedi in 87 kg weight, Hamid Reza Keshtkar in 97 kg weight and Abolfazl Fathi Tazangi won the gold medal in 130 kg weight.

Ahmadreza Mohsennejad won a silver medal in the weight of 67 kg. Ahura Boiri in weight 72 kg and Mohammad Arjmand in weight 82 kg also won bronze necklaces. In the team ranking, Iran became the champions with 206 points, while Kazakhstan with 185 and Kyrgyzstan with 141 points were second and third, respectively.

Inzaghi impressed by Mehdi Taremi in Inter's training

TEHRAN – Iran international forward Mehdi Taremi has now been working with Simone Inzaghi for a week and the Inter coach is happy with his new signing.

The fact that the other senior strikers from last season have not been part of training thus far has meant that the Iranian international has had the chance to work one-on-one with Inzaghi.

And the coach has been very impressed with what he's seen from Taremi during the week.

The Gazzetta report that there are echoes of former Lazio and Bayern Munich striker Michoslav Klose in what Taremi has demonstrated in preseason. Inzaghi had worked with Klose right at the tail end of the German's career at the Biancocelesti in 2016.

Similarly, the Gazzetta report, there are echoes of Edin Dzeko's game in Taremi. The Bosnian spent two seasons as a key player for Inter under Inzaghi.

Iran ready to win eighth gold at Asian U20 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran will play China on Tuesday in their opening match of the 2024 Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship.

The Persians are also scheduled to meet Chinese Taipei and Qatar in Pool B in following days. Iran are the most decorated team in the competitor, winning the gold seven times.

The 2024 Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship will be the 22nd edition of the Asian Men's U20 Volleyball Championship, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Indonesian Volleyball Federation (PBVS).

Pool A consists of hosts Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and Australia.

Iran are in Pool B along with China, Chinese Taipei and Qatar. Pool C consists of India, Japan, Bangladesh and Kuwait and South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and Kazakhstan are in Pool D.

The tournament will take place in Surabaya, Indonesia from July 23 to 30.

Iran sitting volleyball to play Kazakhstan

TEHRAN – Iran's men sitting volleyball team will play friendly match with Kazakhstan in Mashhad.

The match is scheduled for next week.

Team Melli prepare for the 2024 Paralympic Games, where the team are drawn in Pool B along with Brazil, Germany and Ukraine.

Kazakhstan are in Pool A along with host France, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt.

The Iranian team have won seven gold medals in the Paralympic Games.

PMO to launch 8 new port projects by late March 2025



TEHRAN –Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), as the government body in charge of developing and managing commercial ports, is going to put eight new projects in the country's ports into operation by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, IRNA reported.

A 100,000-ton silo in Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti Port, three posts of Shahid Rajaei Port's oil wharf, 1.8 kilometers of access corridor to Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar and a belt road for Nowshahr port are among the important projects that are scheduled to be inaugurated in the current year.

As reported, PMO has also started the executive operations of several other projects in the country's ports which will go operational in the coming years.

These projects include the construction of a 50,000-ton oil dock in Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar, the construction of the first phase of Shahid Beheshti Port's oil pipelines, the construction of two bulk warehouses in Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar and the construction of a ramp for vessels carrying mineral bulk in Lengeh Port.

Back in January, The PMO head announced that 41 development projects worth 65 billion rials (about \$130 million) were going to be inaugurated in the commercial ports of the country.

Ali-Akbar Safaei said more than 70 very important projects in the field of sea economy and sea-oriented development have been designed and are being implemented.

Referring to the announced policies of sea-oriented development and the necessity

of the integration of the country's maritime organization in the implementation of this document, the official emphasized that the literature of sea-oriented development policies is based on maritime governance and its implementation scope includes oceans, seas, coasts, ports and harbors.

In mid-November last year, the official said that the PMO was going to attract 1.0 quadrillion rials (about \$1.968 billion) of investment in the country's ports to develop maritime economy.

In a televised interview Safaei said that 470 trillion rials (about \$924 million) of the mentioned figure is going to be invested by the private sector and the rest will be supplied by PMO.

According to the official, private contractors had so far signed deals worth 60 trillion rials (about \$118 million) with PMO to implement development projects in the country's ports.

"In order to realize the general development policies of the maritime sector, we need an integrated, coordinated and agile management at the highest level," Safaei said.

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

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

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

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons.

'Textile industry needs new govt. special attention'

TEHRAN – The head of Association of Iran Textile Industries has outlined the expectations of the country's textile industry from the new government in an interview with IRIB on Sunday.

According to Mojtaba Dastmalchian, an authorized imports of garments, lack of the necessary funding for production units and the need for modernization of machinery and equipment are the main challenges of Iran's textile industry that the new government should pay special attention to.

The official noted that despite the law banning the imports of goods that have similar domestic equivalents, many clothing and textile items are imported officially or smuggled into the country and this has put the industry under pressure and doesn't allow it to grow.

"We expect that the ban on the import of similar goods will be considered more seriously in the textile industry by the new government," Dastmalchian stressed.

He also mentioned to the old age of the industry's machines, and said: "In the textile industry, due to the long life of the machines, we need to restore and modernize them, but unfortunately, it is not possible to register orders for textile machinery, and we expect this concern of textile operators to be solved."

About \$500 million of textile products were exported from Iran in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024).

In this period, most of the country's textile products were exported to Iraq, Afghanistan and Russia.

The three countries accounted for 26, 18 and 6.0 percent share of Iran's total textile exports, respectively.

The majority of the textile products were exported from the country through the Kashan Customs Office, followed by Mashhad



and West Tehran customs.

Also \$2.2 billion of textile products were imported into the country from March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024, showing a 12 percent growth compared to a year earlier.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), China and Turkey were the main countries that exported textile products to Iran in this period

Back in October 2023, Secretary of the Association of Iran Textile Industries Shojaeddin Emami Rauf said annual export from the country's textile industry stands at \$560 million, while the imports are currently about \$1.880 billion.

"The imports in the textile industry are currently \$1.880 billion, which includes the import of yarn, clothing, fabric, etc.," Emami Rauf said.

According to the official, approximately \$680 million of the above-mentioned figure is related to the imports of fabrics.

"We have a big gap in the weaving industry and investment should be made in this field; with a small investment we can reduce the imports in this sector and turn raw materials into domestic products," the official said.

"If the government supports weaving units, we can also invest in the spinning and dye sector and increase exports while preventing currency outflow," he added.

According to Emami Rauf, the Iranian textile industry has the capacity to increase exports by 3-4 times.

Oil sector's annual growth hits 14.7%: CBI

From page 1 ► According to the CBI Economic Accounts Department, GDP to the base price (fixed prices in 2016) in the 3rd quarter of the previous Iranian calendar year showed a 4.5 percent growth compared to the same period a year earlier.

In addition, the country's economic growth without oil included in the mentioned period reached 3.9 percent, the report added.

The study of the investment situation in various economic sectors (to the fixed prices in 2016) clarifies that the 'formation of the fixed gross capital' in the 3rd quarter of the last Iranian calendar year saw a 14.2 percent growth compared to the same period in the previous year.

The realization of 4.5 percent economic growth in the previous



Iranian calendar year indicates the continuation of the growing trend of economic activities in the country.

Earlier this month, the World Bank (WB), in its latest report, predicted that Iran's economy will grow 3.2 percent in 2024 and the

inflation rate will decrease to 35.3 percent.

According to the estimate of the international body, Iran's economy experienced a five percent growth and a 40.7 percent inflation in 2023.

The bank has forecast that the

growth of Iran's non-oil sector which was 3.8 percent last year will reach 3.0 percent in the current year. Iran's oil sector, which experienced a significant growth of 17.1 percent in the previous year will also grow by 5.0 percent in the current year.

In addition, the World Bank has predicted that Iran's oil production this year will increase by 200,000 barrels compared to the previous year and will reach 3.2 million barrels per day.

It is expected that Iran's agricultural sector will grow only 0.9 percent this year, and the growth of the industry sector will reach 4.9 percent and the service sector will grow 2.6 percent.

Iran's inflation rate which was 40.7 percent in the previous year is also expected to fall to 35.3 percent in the current year.

Small-scale power plants' output surpasses 1,300 MW

TEHRAN- Head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said that the generation capacity of the country's small scale power plants has surpassed 1,300 megawatts (MW).

He announced the completion of 61 vital projects of the electricity transmission network before the peak period of this summer and emphasized, "With the implementation of these projects, no shutdown of generation or shutdown due to the weakness of the network has occurred during the peak period of this year and we were able to speed up in the implementation process, and achieved good records, which caused the duration of the contract to be reduced from 24 months to 13 months in some projects."

According to the official, Tavanir has implemented 61 transmission and super distribution network development projects since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

He said the mentioned projects have been implemented with the aim of minimizing the possibility of any incident and disruption in the electricity supply during the peak consumption periods.

"Due to the fact that in the summer the electricity transmission and distribution equipment is loaded at its maximum capacity, in case of an accident or breakdown, it is usually not possible to compensate the loss from other equipment," he said.

Peak electricity consumption in Iran exceeded 76,000 megawatts (MW) earlier this

month as a new heat wave hit the country.

According to the official, electricity consumption in the country reached 76,768 MW on July 7, while the consumption stood at 71,486 MW on the same day last year.

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

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

The ministry is going to implement a comprehensive program during the summer, based on which low-consuming households are going to be rewarded while the subscribers whose consumption exceeds the normal level will face a penalty.

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

Tavanir has repeatedly announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Rajabi Mashhadi has also said that Energy Ministry plans to construct new power plants with a total capacity of 22,000 megawatts (MW) across the country.

Stating that in the past three years, up

to three billion dollars have been invested annually in the electricity industry, he said: "the construction of 22,000 megawatts of new power plants, half of which will be renewable, has been targeted."

According to the official, the mentioned power plants, including 12,000 MW of renewable power plants and 9,000 MW of cycle power plants, should be commissioned within the next three years.

Statistics indicate that Iran's generation of electricity during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi registered a 13.5 percent growth, with Iran generating more electricity than industrialized countries like the UK and Italy.

Recent statistics released in a report on "Statistical Review of the Global Energy" show that Iran generated 382.9 terawatts/hour of electricity in 2023, registering a 4.3 percent hike compared to a year earlier.

Iran had generated more than 367.1 terawatts/hour of electricity in 2022.

The growth of Iran's generation of electricity in 2023 was nearly twice that of the average growth of the generation of electricity in the world.

The report put the total generation of electricity worldwide in 2023 at more than 29,924 terawatts/hours, which was 2.5 percent higher than a year earlier.

Iran's generation of electricity in 2023 exceeded that of industrialized countries like the UK, Italy, and Spain as well as Turkey, Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan and Thailand, the report added.

Imam Khomeini Port accounts for 34% of Iran's total transit

TEHRAN – The director of Khuzestan Province's Ports and Maritime Department has said that 34 percent of the country's total transit is carried out through Imam Khomeini Port in this province, IRNA reported.

More than one million tons of goods were transited from the special economic zone of Imam Khomeini port in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), indicating that the share of this port in the transit of the country is 34 percent, Abutaleb Gerailou said.

As the largest entry gate of basic goods to the country, Special Economic Zone of Imam Khomeini Port, has unloaded more than 3.8 million tons of basic goods in the first three months of this year, the official said.

Imam Khomeini Port is a seaport at the northwestern end of the Persian Gulf near Ahvaz, the center of Iran's southwestern

Khuzestan province.

Opened in 1960 with two berths, the port is Iran's second-largest operating port after Shahid Rajaei Port in southern Hormozgan province.

Considering its importance in Iran's trade, the development of Imam Khomeini Port has always been a priority for the Iranian government.

Earlier this year, Iran launched a new loading platform at Imam Khomeini port to further enhance the port's commodity transmission.

The port presently features five docks which are able to provide daily services of loading and unloading, he underlined.

In late December last year, Iranian private companies signed investment deals and memorandums valued at 90 trillion rials (about \$180 million) to implement development projects at Imam Khomeini Port.

The mentioned contracts were signed in a ceremony attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash on the occasion of Transportation Week.

According to Gerailou, four of the mentioned deals worth 21.5 trillion rials (about \$43 million) were concluded between the Ports and Maritime Department of Khuzestan Province and private sector investors to increase the capacity of loading and unloading of goods at the port.

The construction of storage tanks for petroleum products with a capacity of 40,000 cubic meters, the construction of a light hydrocarbon production refinery, a gamma irradiation system, and Arvand petrochemical saltwater transmission lines are among the projects that the private sector is going to invest in.

Gerailou stated that the completion of the commodity trading chain, the creation

of value-added services, the development of the export of oil products, and the expansion of production activities in the Special Economic Zone of Imam Khomeini Port are among the goals of concluding the mentioned investment contracts.

The other five investment contracts worth about \$140 million were signed to develop investment opportunities and increase the capacity of unloading and loading goods in the Imam Khomeini Port Special Economic Zone.

The official further noted that the PMO is following new policies to create specialized terminals for the loading and unloading of goods, and in this regard, the completion of four mechanized terminals for grains, container cargoes, and minerals at the special economic zone of Imam Khomeini Port have been prioritized.

Red meat production up 2% in a month

TEHRAN- Production of red meat in Iran rose two percent in the third month of the current Iranian calendar year (May 21- June 21), as compared to the previous month, the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) announced.

As reported, 33,167 tons of red meat was produced in the third month of this year.

Beef and veal had the lion's share in the country's red meat output during the third

month with 18,310 tons, followed by lamb and mutton with 11,626 tons, goat meat with 2,468 tons, and red meat from other livestock with 763 tons.

Supply of red meat in the third month of this year fell 28 percent from that of the same month in the previous year.

Iran is among the leading consumers of red meat in the West Asia region with lamb

being the most sought after. However, the consumption per person is around a third of what is normally seen in countries like the U.S. and Australia, mainly due to the prohibition of pork in Islamic law.

The major part of Iran's red meat imports comes from countries like Brazil, where Iranian supervisors directly control culling methods to ensure they comply with religious rules.

Gone with dark legacy

Biden withdraws from the presidential race with Gazans' blood on his hands, leaving behind an Iran policy marred by following in Trump's footsteps

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - President Joe Biden's decision to end his re-election campaign has sent shockwaves across the American political landscape and raised many questions.

The 81-year-old president dropped out of the 2024 presidential race on Sunday.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Biden said in a letter posted to his official account on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Biden also endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to succeed him, urging Democrats to rally behind her.

Unfit for office

Ending his bid for re-election came after a disastrous debate with Donald Trump last month.

Biden's shockingly poor performance in the June 27 televised debate raised concerns about the president's stamina, mental capabilities and skepticism of his ability to effectively campaign against Trump.

Harris' ascension to the top of the Democratic ticket is not certain because delegates to the Democratic National Convention will determine the nominee.

Nonetheless, early signs indicate that the Democratic Party is coalescing around Harris and she will be able to win the nomination.

But there are concerns whether Harris, 59, or any other Democratic nominee will be able to beat Trump less than four months before the November election. Trump is currently leading in polls.

Zionist lobbyists pull the strings

Age and questions about Biden's mental faculties had been his biggest political liability since he first ran against Trump four years ago.

Biden's doctors and advisors have been aware that he won't be able to run the US for another four years.

Many Democrats have welcomed Biden's decision to exit the presidential race but there is also a lot of frustration among them who ask why he did not do so months ago.

Some critics believe by staying in the race, he has deprived the Democratic Party of the incredibly important process of a primary test.

It is believed that his early departure would have provided an opportunity for the progressive wing of the Democratic Party to speak out against Washington's



unwavering support for Israel during primaries and caucuses.

Pro-Israeli lobbying groups are accused of egging him on to stay in the race in an attempt to prevent progressive Democrats from criticizing the regime's genocidal war on Gaza.

Abetting genocide

Biden has thrown his full weight behind the Israeli war in Gaza which has claimed the lives of more than 39,000 Palestinians over the past nine months.

Since Israel declared war on Gaza on October 7, protesters have staged rallies across the United States denouncing their country's backing for the onslaught.

They have also accused Washington of complicity in Israeli crimes in Gaza.

Some protesters have called Biden "Genocide Joe" for abetting the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

U.S. serves Israeli interests

The Biden administration has blocked several resolutions at the United Nations Security Council aimed at establishing a ceasefire in Gaza.

Besides, the US has approved additional military aid to Israel worth tens of billions of dollars since October 7 despite mounting civilian casualties in the Gaza Strip.

This is in addition to supplying Israel with an annual \$3.8 billion in military aid.

Blow to Biden administration

Since the start of the Gaza war, a dozen American officials have stepped down to vent their anger at Washington's support for the onslaught.

Tariq Habash, an official at the Department of Education, is among those who resigned in January.

He has said that a significant part of the Democratic base is already disillusioned with Biden because of his unwillingness to hold Israel accountable for violations of international humanitarian law.

"Whoever replaces the President on the ticket needs to show voters that there will be a substantive shift in policy that ends the dehumanization of Palestinians and supports Palestinian human rights, international law,

and peace," Habash added, according to The Intercept.

An American Air Force major who also resigned in June over Biden's policies in Gaza criticized the Democratic Party for ignoring the plight of Palestinians in Gaza amid Israel's brutalities.

"That being said, Biden isn't stepping down because of pressure on how brutal his Gaza policy was. From my perspective, the ongoing genocide in Gaza had minimal to no impact on the pressure for him to step down. I'm still disheartened that the Democratic Party doesn't care about Palestinians and continues to offer unconditional support to Israel," Livermore told The Intercept.

Pro-Palestine groups in the US have also challenged Biden's leadership over his support for the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

"It was not Biden's failed debate that showed he is unfit to lead. It was the tens of thousands of bombs he sent to kill Palestinian families," the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights said.

In a statement the group added, "Biden's refusal to adhere to international law or enforce U.S. law has deepened Israel's illegal military occupation. The International Court of Justice's latest advisory opinion on Friday asserted that every state has a legal obligation 'not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation' created by Israel's denial of Palestinian rights."

Standing by Israel amid its massacres in Gaza is among the dark legacies that Biden is leaving behind.

Washington warmongering

Washington's military adventurism and warmongering approach has shown no sign of abating during Biden's tenure.

The US has time and again pounced the positions of resistance groups in West Asia which are opposed to Israel's war on Gaza and Washington's support for the regime's carnage.

American fighter jets have also carried out strikes against Yemen over the Ansarullah movement's moves toward the Gaza war.

Biden's policy on Iran

Biden has continued a hostile approach toward Iran since tak-

ing office in 2021.

He had criticized some of the anti-Iran policies of his predecessor, Donald Trump, including his unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Senior officials in the Biden administration have called Trump's anti-Iran policies, including the imposition of sanctions and the JCPOA pullout a failure.

However, Biden has not only failed to restore the nuclear deal but also maintained or intensified sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

These sanctions have taken a heavy toll on Iranian patients, particularly those with rare diseases. This is because international pharmaceutical companies have refused to do business with Iran amid fears of sanctions.

Alena Douhan, the UN special rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, who visited Iran in May 2022, says the delivery of medicines and medical equipment to Iran has been "severely undermined" by the effects of sanctions.

"These constitute serious impediments to the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health by all Iranians," Douhan has said.

Hence, the blood of Iranian patients who have lost their lives due to the impact of US-led sanctions after 2021 is on Biden's hands.

Biden has followed in Trump's footsteps despite promising to rectify his erroneous policies toward Iran. Both of them like other US presidents have tried to smear Iran, but Trump has shown the true colors of America's nature.

Hegemonic mindset

The United States has ramped up arms supplies to Ukraine amid the war with Russia which began in February 2022. The Kremlin has accused the US and its Western allies of prolonging the Ukraine war by continuing to send arms to Kyiv.

The Biden administration has also continued a hostile policy toward North Korea, China and other countries that challenge the US hegemony.

Biden will leave the White House after the next president takes office, but he will go down in history as a US president who enabled, funded, and supported the Israeli genocide in Gaza, caused the deaths of Iranian patients and fanned the flames of conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza.

WORLD HEADLINES

US Secret Service director faces hearing over Trump shooting

Kimberly Cheatle was expected to be grilled later on Monday at a congressional hearing into her agency's failure to prevent a would-be assassin from wounding Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump earlier this month.

On July 13, Thomas Crooks, 20, a nursing home aid, was killed by law enforcement after shooting Trump in the ear at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

Questions loom on how the Secret Service, which is tasked with protecting presidents and ex-presidents, failed to prevent an armed man from climbing a rooftop of a building close to a Trump political rally.

Since then, Cheatle has faced calls for her resignation from top Republicans, including House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Germany's Scholz sees Harris as 'experienced and competent'

A German government spokesperson says Chancellor Olaf Scholz considers Harris an "experienced and competent politician".

The spokesperson said Scholz had met the US vice president on several occasions, including alongside Biden, and that there was "a certain closeness and familiarity" between them.

Pakistan police raid ex-PM Imran Khan's party HQ

Security forces have stormed the offices of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The raid on Monday came a week after the government said it planned to disband the

Palestinian healthcare workers are the true heroes

From page 1 ▶ This perseverance has played a pivotal role in allowing certain medical facilities to continue operating amid Israel's relentless attacks.

Some hospitals hit by air strikes have resumed operations in a limited capacity despite suffering significant damage. According to the Palestinian health ministry, several operating rooms were restored at al-Shifa hospital in January. But just two months later, Israel stormed the facility again, putting it "out of service forever", according to its acting chairman.

During a December raid of Kamal Adwan hospital in Beit Lahia in northern Gaza, the Israeli army reportedly used bulldozers to dig up bodies recently buried in makeshift graveyards in the facility's courtyard and arrested the hospital's director. Despite immense hardships, it was still able to function partially until this past May, when Israel bombed and besieged the hospital again, halting its services.

Unwavering commitment

The Indonesian hospital in northern Gaza, which sustained severe damage and was rendered inoperative due to Israel's bombardment and siege, resumed operations amid joyous celebrations by healthcare professionals in May.

Among those celebrating was Munir al-Bursh, the director general of the Palestinian health ministry, who lost his daughter and suffered a back injury in an Israeli air strike in Jabalia. Despite moving from one hospital to another, Bursh continued to work tirelessly

party, Pakistan's largest opposition movement.

A police contingent sealed off the offices in Islamabad. Acting party Chairman Gohar Khan and Information Secretary Rauf Hasan were detained, according to a party spokesperson quoted by the Reuters news agency.

The PTI said Gohar Khan had since been released while a Pakistani police official told the Agence France-Presse (AFP) news agency that Hasan remained in custody.

Bangladesh protesters issue demands amid shaky calm

Protesters in Bangladesh have issued demands amid a lull in the violence that has filled the streets in recent days after the government backed down on quotas on hiring for government jobs.

Student leaders said on Monday that they plan to continue demonstrations despite a decision by the Supreme Court the previous day scaling back the controversial job quota system that sparked the protests. A deadly government crackdown ahead of the ruling saw a reported 163 people killed, hundreds arrested, and thousands injured.

'Catastrophic toll' as Sudan's warring sides refuse to budge: MSF

Civilians face violence and killings and health workers and medical facilities are suffering persistent attacks amid severe violence being perpetrated by both warring sides in Sudan. Doctors Without Borders has said in a new report.

The NGO, known by its French initials MSF, warned in the report issued on Monday that protection of civilians has collapsed, with entire communities "facing indiscriminate violence, killings, torture and sexual violence amid persistent attacks on health workers and medical facilities".



Muhammad Abu Salmiya, the director of al-Shifa hospital, is welcomed by relatives in southern Gaza after his release from an Israeli prison.

ly to help injured Palestinians, even as these facilities were attacked and shut down one by one.

Such unwavering devotion is intrinsically influenced by political factors. Gaza's healthcare providers are committed not only to upholding their professional ethics and serving their patients but also to saving Gaza's population.

As surgeon Ghassan Abu Sittah noted in an interview with Al Jazeera, those in charge of Gaza's healthcare system made a "national decision" not to evacuate hospitals, as this would have been tantamount to participating in the crime of ethnic cleansing.

Such sentiments have been echoed by numerous healthcare professionals. Adnan al-Bursh, a prominent Palestinian orthopaedic surgeon who died in an Israeli prison in April, often delivered emotional testimonies highlighting his colleagues' steadfastness in the face of Israeli destruction.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Hezbollah responds to attack on Lebanese army Missiles, artillery and drones unleashed on Israeli sites

From page 1 ▶ This came in response to the "enemy's aggression" against residential areas in the towns of Adloun and Houla located in southern Lebanon.

Also in response to the "enemy's aggression" against the two towns, Hezbollah said it had used Grad rockets to target the Israeli "northern corps command headquarters at the Ein Zeitim base".

The resistance movement targeted the Dafna settlement with Katyusha rockets in response to Israeli occupation attacks that targeted civilians in Adloun, causing several injuries.

Hezbollah also said it had targeted the al-Summaqa as well as al-Ramtha military sites in the occupied Lebanese Kfar Shouba

Hills with rockets, achieving direct hits.

The two operations took place within one hour.

It declared that the operations have been "in support of the steadfast Palestinian people in Gaza and in support of their resistance," and part of the response to the occupation regime's aggression, especially those targeting the towns of Adloun and Hula.

Hezbollah had previously vowed that "the response to any aggression against civilians would involve striking new settlements."

Israeli media acknowledged the explosion of a Hezbollah drone in the Hanita settlement, while also noting the activation of warning sirens in several settlements in the north.

Meanwhile, Israeli attacks on southern Lebanese villages and towns are continuing, with the occupation regime's artillery targeting a Lebanese army center on the outskirts of Maroun al-Ras village. Israeli warplanes also struck two other towns. An Israeli drone strike hit a third.

Earlier, the Lebanese Army reported that two soldiers were moderately injured after an Israeli attack hit a surveillance tower in the outskirts of Aalma El Chaab village in southern Lebanon.

In another publication, Hezbollah announced that three of its fighters have been "martyred on the path to al-Quds".

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Iraqi travel insiders to be familiarized with Kermanshah's capabilities

TEHRAN - Kermanshah is set to host a group of Iraqi travel insiders, who will soon arrive in the western province to discover its rich attractions, said a local official in charge of tourism.

"Kermanshah boasts a wide range of travel destinations concerning history, nature, culture, and health," Dariush Farmani told ISNA. "Which can be leveraged to attract more visitors and stimulate the province's economy."

In recent years, the director-general emphasized, that tourism has become a priority for the provincial officials as a key aspect of development.

Highlighting the importance of attracting foreign tourists for economic benefits, Farmani noted that efforts are being made to draw not only domestic tourists but also international visitors, with a particular focus on Iraq due to its proximity.

He further elaborated that one significant advantage Kermanshah holds for attracting foreign tourists is its proximity to Iraq, with which it shares a 371-kilometer border. "Unfortunately, this potential has not been fully utilized, especially in medical tourism, as Iraqi tourists often use Kermanshah as a transit point to other provinces," Farmani added.

The official stressed the need to introduce Kermanshah's tourism capacities and infrastructure to Iraqi tourists, stating that in recent years, there have been several visits to neighboring Iraqi provinces to establish stronger tourism ties.

To familiarize Iraqi tourism activists with Kermanshah's capacities, several have been



invited to visit the province, according to Farmani. "During their stay, they will tour historical, natural, and cultural sites and get to know the province's tourism infrastructure, particularly in medical tourism," he continued.

"We are ramping up every effort to organize this tour as soon as possible," Farmani said, expressing hope that this event will pave the way for increased Iraqi tourists to the province.

In his final words, he highlighted that while Kermanshah boasts numerous attractions that can draw Iraqi tourists, it is also crucial to develop recreational infrastructure, such as amusement parks and shopping centers, to further enhance the province's appeal to Iraqi visitors.

Iran's strategy of prioritizing tourism from neighboring countries in recent years, places Iraq in a special position due to geographical and religious proximity. Arranging such familiarization tours aims to strengthen cross-border tourism ties and highlight Kermanshah's potential as a prime destination for Iraqi travelers.

Ardabil draws one-fifth more visitors

TEHRAN - Ardabil province, known for its pleasant climate especially in summer, has seen a surge in tourist numbers, according to a local official in charge of tourism.

The province has welcomed 20 percent more visitors, compared to the corresponding period of a year earlier, said Yahya Najjar-Qabel in a recent interview with IRNA.

"The hotel occupancy rate has reached 85 percent, experiencing an outstanding influx," the official further explained, adding that the growth is evident in both travel statistics and the occupancy rates of hotels and accommodation units across the province.

However, the official did not mention a period in which the province witnessed the surge.

"Given the ongoing trend, we anticipate

welcoming over four million tourists this summer," Najjar-Qabel noted.

The official also pointed out the appeal of Ardabil's modern tourism facilities, including several dozens of spa centers, suspension bridges in Hir and Meshginshahr, a ski resort, and the historical complexes of Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili and Sain Qala caravanserai.

Najjar-Qabel outlined that Sareyn, Meshginshahr, Khalkhal, and Ardabil have been particularly popular among tourists recently, with this trend expected to continue through the end of summer.

To fully leverage Ardabil's tourism potential, the official emphasized the importance of promoting and branding Ardabil's tourism sector to both domestic and international tourists.

Thousands protest over-tourism in Spain's Mallorca

Some 20,000 protesters have hit the streets of the Mallorcan capital Palma in a huge demonstration against mass tourism.

The rally on Sunday saw demands for changes to a touristic model that protestors say is harming the Spanish Mediterranean island.

Under the slogan "Let's change course and set limits on tourism", the demonstrators formed a sea of brightly-coloured flags and banners as they surged through the city's most visited streets. The demonstration was the latest in a wave of protests against mass tourism in Spain.

"Your luxury, our misery," read one placard. Another placard said: "This isn't tourismophobia, it's numbers: 1,232,014 residents, 18 million tourists."

The protests were called by some 80 organizations and social groups who want limits to be placed on excessive tourism in the Balearic Islands, whose main three islands are Mallorca, Menorca and Ibiza.

They say the current model of tourism has stretched public services to breaking point, harms natural resources and makes local access to housing increasingly difficult.

Organisers claimed that 50,000 attended the protest; police estimates put the numbers closer to 20,000 participants.

Last year, a record 17.8 million people visited the Balearic Islands, both from mainland Spain and abroad. The number of visitors is expected to be even higher this year.

Mass protests across the archipelago's three main islands were seen at the end of May, during which many thousands of marchers hit the streets to demand steps to limit over-tourism under the slogan: "Our islands are not for sale."

"From a practical point of view, it is a legitimate economic activity. But as an economic activity, it should ultimately be regulated in the same way as hotels," said architect and urban planning expert Jose Maria Ezquiaga, who told TVE public television he believes tourist rental flats should require the approval of local residents' associations.

"It should be local property owners who set the rules of the game and decide whether or not certain formats are acceptable," he said.

Manuel de la Calle, an expert in the field of tourism and business, said imposing a tourist tax could be part of the solution.

"It is one of the possible solutions that could be put in place. It will not reduce the flow of tourism, but it will generate resources that can be driven into tourism management or other avenues to help the local population," he told TVE.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

UNESCO-listed Gonbad-e Qabus to undergo restoration

TEHRAN - The director of the Gonbad-e Qabus World Heritage site has announced that the government has allocated part of the approved budget for combating vegetation growth on the conical dome of the 1,000-year-old brick tower.

Abdolmajid Nourtaghani stated that an amount of 230 billion rials (some \$385) was required to boost the structure's strength and carry out emergency restoration work. "Of this amount, the government approved 120 billion rials, and so far, 70 billion rials have been allocated."

Speaking on Sunday, Nourtaghani provided an update on the status of this UNESCO-registered site. He said that following the 2019 floods and the subsequent growth of weeds on its dome, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage issued orders for scaffolding installation and emergency restoration.

Nourtaghani added that after a weed removal project, it was decided to address the issue of vegetation growth fundamentally. Consequently, the preparation of a restoration plan for Gonbad-e Qabus has been included in the new program of the ministry. The restoration study for the exterior layer of the dome was prepared in collaboration with professors from Shahid Beheshti University.



He emphasized that combating vegetation growth, assessing the structure's strength, and carrying out emergency restoration are among the priorities for this monument, which will be undertaken with the assistance of expert restorers and scholars.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nourtaghani announced that a selected contractor is to commence the restoration work. "Bricks that are less damaged will be cleaned and reinstalled, while those severely damaged and beyond repair will be replaced with new, similar bricks."

The director also noted that the new bricks, produced as lab samples, will be traditionally made, approximately 2,000 in number, using local soil from Gonbad-e Kavus, and will be fired

in a kiln specifically built for this purpose.

He further mentioned that the necessary materials (semi-cooked and semi-ground gypsum) for brick installation will be produced in a separate kiln, using gypsum stone sourced from Semnan province.

Nourtaghani explained that the western section of the dome, containing 1,500 bricks, will be inspected, cleaned, and re-grouted. Most of these bricks were installed during the restoration work in the 1960s and, if found deteriorated, will be replaced with new, rooted bricks.

He also highlighted that part of the allocated funds will be used for studies of the overall structure of the tomb tower, including

detailed technological assessments and necessary tests that require scaffolding.

The director added that an additional 150 billion rials are needed to complete this round of restoration.

Experts say that growing plants on the Qabus tower is not a new issue and is witnessed in all brick buildings across the country, especially in northern provinces, due to their climatic conditions.

Located in Golestan province, Gonbad-e Qabus is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and innovative design of early Islamic-era architecture.

Visible from great distances in the surrounding lowlands near the ancient Ziyarid capital, Jorjan, the 53-meter high Gonbad-e Qabus dominates a modern town of the same name laid out around its base in the early 20th century.

Its hollow, cylindrical shaft of unglazed fired brick tapers up from an intricate geometric plan in the form of a ten-pointed star to a conical roof. Two encircling kufic inscriptions commemorate Qabus Ibn Voshmgir, Ziyarid ruler and literati as its founder in 1006 CE.

As mentioned by UNESCO, the monument bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Ancient inscriptions, written in Pahlavi scripts, deciphered

TEHRAN - A number of ancient inscriptions, written in Pahlavi scripts, have recently been deciphered at a newly established museum located near the city of Aran-va-Bidgol in the heart of Iran.

Mohammad Javad Abdoli, head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Aran-va-Bidgol, announced the detection on Monday, saying the deciphered items revealed the name of a related Sassanid town as well.

"These inscriptions identified the city's Sassanid-era name as Faraskan, which was later changed to Haraskan during the Islamic period."

The discovery was made at the newly established Vigol Cultural Heritage Museum after its authorities decided to conduct a restoration and cleaning project on gypsum artifacts for public display.

Abdoli further explained that the Pahlavi inscriptions found on gypsum seats within a

fire temple at the site were scrutinized and deciphered by a linguist from Tehran University.

He also addressed concerns regarding the construction (or expansion) of a road near the primary zone of the Vigol archaeological site, where the temple and other related ruins are embraced.

"In response, Vigol's cultural heritage base obtained permission from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to conduct exploratory drilling in the immediate vicinity of the road."

He noted that the initiative was intended to determine the presence or absence of artifacts in the proposed road area, which will inform the final decision regarding the road's status.

Years ago, preliminary archaeological work on the site led to the identification of the central part of a fire temple and a small part of its circumambulation corridor. The second

season of the archeological exploration of the fire temple was to identify other spaces around the central part of the fire temple. Archeological studies have revealed that since this fire temple was built in the urban context, it is more important than the fire temples that were built away from settlement areas.

Besides architectural evidence, religious elements, and decorative stucco relics were found in this fire temple.

The identification of several Sassanid Pahlavi inscriptions on the walls of the eastern circumambulation corridor of the fire temple added to its importance.

Pahlavi inscriptions were found on the stucco plaster of the Dado which is written with attractive handwriting.

Unfortunately, except for a few inscriptions, most of them couldn't be read and required extensive research.

World's oldest adobe city to host Asia Cooperation Dialogue summit



TEHRAN - Yazd, an Iranian city shining bright as the tourism capital of the Asian Dialogue Forum in 2024, is set to host the ACD summit before this year is out, said a local official.

The summit will welcome tourism ministers, diplomats and experts from member countries, according to Mohammad Ali Shah-Hosseini.

The official highlighted the im-

portance of international trade relations, adding that "Efforts have been made to enhance these international connections, and there is a focus on establishing joint platforms between Asian cities."

Preparations, he further explained, have been underway to host an international summit of this scale, aiming to bolster potential partnerships.

Shah-Hosseini brought to light that the summit will welcome prominent delegations from ACD member states, significantly impacting Yazd's touristic, economic, and international landscape. However, the official did not

provide further detail about the schedule of the summit.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue was established in June 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand, with the objective of enhancing cooperation and regional integration among Asian governments and organizations. Currently, the ACD comprises 35 member countries. Presently, Iran holds the presidency of the ACD.

Yazd, a central Iranian city steeped in historical significance and cultural richness, achieved a momentous honor by being designated as the tourism capital among member states of ACD in 2024.

Yazd's historical eminence, underscored by its UNESCO World Heritage status as the world's premier adobe city, further enhances its newfound role. Renowned for its architectural marvels, Yazd encapsulates a tapestry of historical monuments, earning titles such as the "land of wind towers" among its many enchanting accolades.

This prestigious recognition propels Yazd onto the global stage, celebrating its legacy as a guardian of ancient traditions and a pivotal bridge for nurturing dialogue and collaboration among nations.

Ways to protect Teymareh petroglyphs discussed

TEHRAN - Experts on Sunday discussed strategies and methods for protecting the historical, cultural, and natural landscape of Teymareh, which is home to thousands of petroglyphs.

The Tehran meeting, titled "The Historical, Cultural, and Natural Landscape of Teymareh: A Heritage at Risk," brought together a number of cultural heritage and archaeology experts, CHTN reported.

In Iran, the earliest known petroglyphs can be found in Teymareh, some of which date back 7,000 years. Teymareh is home to more



than 20,000 petroglyphs spread across an area of 150 square kilometers.

Situated at the intersection of the headwaters of the Anarbar River, between the cities of Mahallat, Khomein, and Golpayegan, Teymareh's mysterious rock paintings can be

found in the provinces of Markazi, Lorestan, and Isfahan.

The carved figures in Teymareh range from abstract to realistic, and they include depictions of animals and plants. Animal figures are predominant, especially goats with large, pointed horns. Other animals depicted include feliforms, canids, horses, dromedaries, owls, fish, tigers, cows, and birds such as storks, hoopoes, and partridges. Plant figures include cedar, pine, and wheat. There are also images of martial arts, magic dances, pregnant women, camel caravans, and people with large hands.

Isfahan hosting 54th International Physics Olympiad

TEHRAN –The 54th edition of the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) commenced on Monday in the city of Isfahan and will conclude on July 28.

A total of 198 elite students from 46 countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Mexico, Turkey, and some other countries are attending the nine-day event, IRNA reported.

Out of 198 participants, 15 students are girls. Some 150 individuals are accompanying teams during the event.

Hosted by Isfahan University of Technology, the IPhO 2024 consists of two parts: theoretical and practical exams which will be held on Tuesday and Thursday this week. Around eight percent of the participants are expected to grab gold medals.

Moreover, Oman and Morocco have participated in the competition as observers to become familiar with the Olympiad.

Participants are required to adhere to the IPhO statutes, which stipulate that each national team may consist of up to five students and two leaders.

Contestants must be general or technical secondary school students, excluding those enrolled in technical colleges. Eligible students could have completed their school examinations in 2024 without commencing university studies and should not exceed twenty years of age by June 30th, 2024.

Delegation leaders must possess expertise in physics or physics education and be capable of solving competition problems.

Additionally, each of them should be able to communicate in English. Alongside delegations, teams may be accompanied by observers and visitors. While observers may attend all Olympiad meetings, including those of the International Board, they do not possess voting rights or active participation in discussions. Visitors, on the other hand, are not permitted to attend International Board meetings.



Considering the growing importance of physics in most fields of technology and the general education of youths, the annual competition is held every year in a country with the aim of increasing international communication.

Science diplomacy is one of the strategic policies of the country. Holding this competition will contribute to the development of science diplomacy since it serves as a platform to meet future physicists and promote constructive interaction in physics and other science and technology fields IRNA quoted Mahmoud Bahmanabadi, the chairman of the IPhO 2024 Organizing Committee, as saying.

The history of the IPhO dates back to 1967, when the first edition was held in Warsaw Poland with the participation of only five countries.

It has been 36 years since the Iranian team started participating in the competition and won many medals so far.

Iran has so far hosted four international Olympiads of physics (2007), astronomy (2009), computer (2017), and biology (2018).

The Iranian team grabbed four silver medals and one bronze medal in the 53rd IPhO that was held in Japan in July 2023.

The IPhO 2023 was held from July 10-17 at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo, ISNA reported.

Mehdi Shirin-Bayan, Mohammad-Mehdi Mousavi, Ali Qanbari, and Sina Fat'h won the silver medals

and Shayan Feiz-Oskouei won the bronze medal.

The Iranian team gained two silver medals and three bronze medals at the 52nd International Physics Olympiad (IPhO 2022) hosted by Switzerland.

Intl. Olympiad achievements

The outstanding achievements of Iranian students in international Olympiads have placed the country among the top five nations in the world.

"The educational system of other countries is excellent, yet Iran is among the top 5 countries in the world in the international Olympiads, YJC quoted Elham Yavari, the head of the National Organization for the Development of Brilliant Talents (SAMPAD), as saying.

Yavari pointed to a reform-based plan approved by Iran's Ministry of Education in 2011 that defined a 20-year prospect for the elevation of educational standards and improvement of the educational system across the country.

Iranian schoolchildren ranked second and grabbed six gold medals in the Second Open World Astronomy Olympiad (OWAO).

The tournament was hosted by Russia at the Sirius Educational Center from November 14 to 22, 2023, IRNA reported. The participants attended the event both in person and remotely.

Iran grabbed one gold medal and three silver medals at the 35th International Olympiad in Informatics, ranking seventh in the world among

91 countries.

The IOI 2023 was held in Szeged, Hungary, from August 28th to September 4th.

The International Olympiad in Informatics is an annual international informatics competition for high school students from various invited countries, accompanied by social and cultural programs.

It is one of the several international science Olympiads held annually around the world. Exceptional high school students from various countries compete in the prestigious algorithmic competition to sharpen their informatics skills—such as problem analysis, design of algorithms and data structures, programming, and testing.

This year, the Iranian team took five medals, ranking third in the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics held on August 10-20 in Chorzow, Poland.

IOAA is an annual event for students who perform very well academically around the world. Established in Thailand in the year 2006, it was an initiative by five countries including Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, China, and Poland.

Also, Iranian students took six medals, ranking 11th at the 64th International Mathematical Olympiad which was held in Japan on July 2-13, 2023.

IMO is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School students and is held each year in a different country.

The Iranian students who participated in the 53rd International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) succeeded in winning four silver medals and one bronze medal which placed the country 11th among 111 participating countries, ISNA reported.

The IPhO 2023 was held from July 10-17 at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo, ISNA reported.

In the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO), held in the United Arab Emirates from July 3-11. The IBO 2023 hosted 293 students from 76 countries.

Iranian students to attend Beijing robotics competition

TEHRAN – The national robotics team is scheduled to participate in an international robotics competition which will be held in Beijing in August.

Contestants from 31 countries will take part in the competition from August 4 to 13, IRNA quoted Nader Nobakht, the head of the Iranian team, as saying.

A total of 48 students from the country will attend the event, he added.

This year, a Malaysian coach, Muhammad Zaki, accompanies the team, as well, Nobakht noted.

Achievement in robotics competitions

The robotics team of Iran won a gold medal and three silver medals in the Dubai International Inventions Show (DIS) 2023.

The event provided a business platform for inventors, manufacturers, and dealers to present their latest products and innovations and exchange information.

For this occasion, delegations from different countries came to Dubai to present their patented inventions and new ideas, the competition brings together many participants and inventions in many diverse areas.

At DIS, excellence in innovation is highlighted through the Invention & Innovation Award, it brings recognition to the best inventions, innovations, and trade, adding to its merit is supported by many international delegates.

Over 20 countries including Iran, Canada, Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, and Oman participated in the competition, ISNA reported.

The competition was held both in person and online.

Elite students from Iran ranked first in the UniKL International Robattle Competition (UIRC) 2023 and became champions in the category of Innovation.

The competition was hosted by Malaysia and held from December 10 –13, IRIB reported.



The event brought together more than 420 participants, under the age of 17, underscoring its widespread appeal and global representation.

A group of four students from the Iranian team was able to present the best design of the innovation league and was awarded first place in this section.

The outstanding achievements of Iranian students in international Olympiads have placed the country among the top five nations in the world.

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Iran nanotech exhibition slated for November

TEHRAN – The 15th Nanotechnology Exhibition will be held in Tehran from November 3 to 6 to expand the market, increase the number of innovative companies, and boost the export of products in various industrial fields.

The first nanotechnology exhibition was held in 2004 under the auspices of the nanotechnology development headquarters to recognize the research and industrial potentials and raise public knowledge in the nanotechnology field. The event is held annually attracting both domestic and foreign technologists.

Iran a global leader in nano-tech

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The increase in scientific publications and sales of nano products proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the impressive fourth place worldwide.

According to StatNano, a leading nanotechnology website, Iran has made great strides in the field of nanotechnology being ranked fourth in terms of nanotechnology publication.

This ranking proves the country's remarkable scientific development.

The site considers the number of scientific articles to compare scientific progress in nanoscience, technology, and industry.

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on a near-atomic scale to produce new structures, materials, and devices. The technology promises scientific advancement in many sectors such as medicine, consumer products, energy, materials, and manufacturing. Nanotechnology refers to engineered structures, devices, and systems.

In the past two decades, the world has ob-

served a steady increase in the number of industries producing nano-based products and the number of countries promoting nanotechnology.

More importantly, the ratio of nanotechnology to nominal GDP has increased significantly, suggesting that the contribution of nanotechnology to World GDP has increased. Nanotechnology has also played a key role in the creation of new jobs, Press TV reported.

The nanotechnology sector is a prime example of success in Iran, an arena consisting of expert and program-oriented human resources with significant goals that shine like a jewel in the country's innovation and technology ecosystem.

With the support of talented academicians and knowledge-based companies, the nanotechnology sector has indigenized many technologies to solve the main challenges of the country in various areas, including industry.

Policy making and planning for progress in nanotechnology started in 2003 with the formation of a special headquarters for the development of nanotechnology, and accelerated with the approval of the first 10-year document for the development of nanotechnology entitled "Future Strategy Document".

According to the latest statistics, Iran's nano-tech products are exported to 48 countries worldwide.

The first five export destinations are Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, Turkey, and Georgia, accounting for some 80 percent of exports, Mehr quoted Emad Ahmadvand, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, as saying.

A total of 1808 nano-tech products have so far been produced and marketed in 15 different industrial fields based on domestic technologies in the current Iranian calendar year that ends on March 20.

Interior minister attends Intl. Conference on Drug Control in Iraq

TEHRAN –Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi participated in the second International Conference on Drug Control, which was held in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday.

The official was scheduled to hold meetings with Iraqi officials, and follow up on the issues related to the Arbaeen pilgrimage, Mehr news agency reported.

During his two-day official visit, Vahidi will meet counterparts from other countries to explore ways to foster cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

Delegations from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, and Egypt also attended the conference.

"The preparatory meetings for the international delegations participating in the second Baghdad International Conference on Drug Control started on Saturday, July 20, in the capital, Baghdad, under the slogan "Through

Cooperation and Unity of Purpose, We Eliminate Drugs," Iraq's Ministry of Interior said in a statement.

The event was attended by Iraqi Minister of Interior, Abdul Amir Al-Shammari, and the anti-narcotics police chiefs of the neighboring countries participated in the preparatory meeting.

During the meeting, Iran anti-narcotics police chief, Iraj Kakavand, called regional cooperation essential in tackling drug trafficking.

Highlighting Iran's all-round efforts in the battle against narcotics and illicit trafficking, Kakavand said regional cooperation is crucial to address the problem due to vast border trafficking, IRNA reported.

Tehran, Baghdad to share anti-narcotics experience

In August 2023, Iran and Iraq anti-narcotics police emphasized the need to strengthen

regional stability and develop bilateral cooperation in combating drug trafficking by sharing experiences.

A joint meeting between the anti-narcotics police chiefs of the two countries was held at the police headquarters of Karbala province with Al-Shammari, the Iraqi anti-narcotics police chief, Ahmed Al-Zarkani, and Kakavand, in attendance.

The two sides stressed the exchange of information on monitoring drug transit between the two countries and discussed possible ways to deal with drug trafficking and smuggling.

The Iranian official explained Iran's anti-narcotics police measures and activities in the fight against drugs, saying: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is at the forefront of combating drug trafficking and transit which is mostly imported from eastern countries.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended 116,000 schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols against the coronavirus pandemic.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, said this year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می‌شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The elderly are the sources of mercy and divine blessing.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon: 12:11 Evening: 19:36 Dawn: 3:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:06 (tomorrow)

6th Beijing International Children's Film Festival launched in China with 4 Iranian movies

TEHRAN-The 6th Beijing International Children's Film Festival kicked off in China on July 22 with four movies from Iran in the line-up of different sections.

The feature animation "A Passenger from Ganora" directed by Seyed Ahmad Alamdar, short animation "Being Ten" by Fatemeh Jafari, feature film "World, Northern Hemisphere" by Hossein Tehrani, and short film "The Kites" by Seyyed Payam Hosseini are the Iranian participants in this year's edition of the festival, IRNA reported.

Competing in the International Feature Competition, "A Passenger from Ganora" is a 94-minute animation made in 2024.

A family, science fiction, and adventure animation, it is about an alien who comes to the earth to search for the ruler of the planet Ganora, who is lost on earth. A disabled boy and his friends help the alien to restore peace to the land of Ganora.

In this section, Alamdar's animation vies for the Golden Flower Award along with 13 other films from Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Slovenia, the Netherlands, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the International Short Competition, "Being Ten" is competing with 16 movies from Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Cyprus, Belgium, India, China, South Korea, France, Russia, the UK, and the U.S.

A production by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), "Being Ten" is about a father and his ten-year-old son who live in a lonely cottage in the middle of a dense wood. The father, a hunter, spares one of his prizes and brings it home as a present for his son. What, at first, was just a plaything forever will change the young boy's life.

The other two Iranian films are present in the BRICS Countries competition section.

A 2020 production, "World, Northern Hemisphere" is an 84-minute film about Ahmad Showhani, a 12-year-old boy, who works on a leased farm together with his mother and two sisters. One day, a piece of human skull bone is found in the farm.

The cast includes Reza Shohani, Mehran Atashzay, Saideh Albaji, Abolfazl Aghakhani, Mohammad Esmaeili, Khaton Albaji, and Zahra Baji.

In "The Kites," a girl is playing on the green slopes of a valley in Kurdistan, on the border between Iran and Iraq, when her kite is suddenly swept across the river by the wind. Three boys on the other side see her calling for help, but cannot make out what she is saying as she is just too far away. Separated by the river, the children try to communicate with each other yet between them lie the explosive remnants of past wars.

Karo Ghavami, Ramyar Ghavami, Karo Hassani, Amir Kadkhodai, Osman Pira, Kimiya Khalehdian, and Amir Salehian are in the cast.

The two Iranian short feature films are competing with six movies from India, Brazil, China, and Russia in the section.

The Beijing International Children's Film Festival was established in 2018. Now it has become the largest children's film festival in China.

A non-profit film festival supported by the Red Cross Foundation of China, it is open to films from all over the world.

More than 200 films are screened every year, with more than 5 million young people and children watching online.

In cooperation with the Red Cross Society and other foundations, the festival donates film watching activities and cultural facilities for disabled children and left-behind children.

The 6th Beijing International Children's Film Festival will conclude on July 28.

Cartoon of Day



Olympics against Genocide

Cartoonist: Paresh Nath from India

Veteran actor Saeed Rad passes away



TEHRAN- The renowned Iranian actor, Saeed Rad, who had been battling health issues for the past ten months, passed away in a Tehran hospital on Monday. He was 79.

Rad suffered a fall at home last year, which led to a hospitalization after he was diagnosed with serious injuries.

He underwent surgery and spent a month recovering before attempting to walk again with the aid of a cane and walker, according to Persian media reports.

However, due to complications from the surgery, Rad's condition worsened, and he was hospitalized again for further treatment. Despite undergoing extensive physical therapy, he was ultimately unable to regain his ability to walk independently.

As time passed, Rad's health continued to decline, with subsequent complications including respiratory and urinary infections further exacerbating his condition.

For approximately ten months, his health issues persisted before he eventually succumbed to his illness.

A renowned actor in Iranian

cinema, Rad began his career in the 1970s with films such as "Conquerors of the Desert" by Mohammad Zarindast and "Goodbye Freund" by Amir Naderi.

His unique acting style, combined with his physique and facial expressions, quickly earned him the leading roles in several movies as a young actor.

Rad appeared in 34 films before the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979, including notable

works such as "Impious" directed by Fereydoon Gole, "Sadeq the Kurd" by Nasser Taqvai, "Tangna" by Amir Naderi, and "The Journey of the Stone" by Masoud Kimiai.

He later appeared in seven films between 1982 and 1985, including "The Red Line" by Masoud Kimiai, "The Imperiled" by Iraj Ghaderi, "Dadshah" by Habib Kavosh, and "Eagles" by Samuel Khachikian.

Rad's career was briefly inter-

rupted due to censorship issues, but he made a powerful comeback in 2001 with a role in "Duel" by Ahmadreza Darvish.

In recent years, Rad has also appeared in television productions and several internet platform video series, including "In the Eye of the Wind", "Motherland", and "Silent Terror".

Rad's last appearances were in the television series "Father's Legacy" and "Gildokht".

IAF cinematheque to screen Amir Naderi's "The Runner"

TEHRAN- The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen a restored version of Amir Naderi's "The Runner" on Wednesday, marking the 40th anniversary of the film's production.

Following the screening, Iranian critics Reza Saemi and Maziar Fekri Ershad will lead a discussion and review the movie.

Additionally, a video conversation between Amir Naderi and Ramin Bahrani will be shown, featuring Naderi's recollections from the film's production and his thoughts on the impact of "The Runner" on Iranian filmmakers who have followed in his footsteps.

The conversation was conducted in English and has been translated and subtitled exclusively by the IAF.

Produced in 1984, "The Runner" is widely regarded as an Iranian new wave masterpiece. The film follows an illiterate, but resourceful, 11-year-old orphan, who lives alone in an abandoned tanker in the Iranian port city of Abadan.

He survives by shining shoes, selling water, and diving for deposit bottles thrown overboard by foreigners, while being bullied by adults and older kids.

But he finds solace by dreaming about departing cargo ships and airplanes and by running, seemingly to nowhere.

Through the use of striking imagery, particularly the fire and water imagery which symbolizes the Iranian people's struggles, the film provided a poignant commentary on the political situation at the time.

The film is often praised for having one of the best child performances of all time with Majid Nirumand.



Majid Nirumand acts in a scene from "The Runner" by Amir Naderi.

Inspired by Naderi's own childhood, "The Runner" is among the films that first drew the world's attention to the new Iranian cinema.

Furthermore, "The Runner" was also a milestone for Iranian cinema in the global arena, as it was the first film to be presented at foreign festivals after the Islamic Revolution. The film's lasting impact and recognition in the international film community speaks to the immense talent and impact of Iranian filmmakers and their commitment to offering a nuanced, complex portrayal of Iranian society and culture.

It was shown in Venice and London, though not released in the U.S. until 1991, when it opened at Film Forum.

The new restoration features brand-new subtitles by Maryam Najafi and Bruce Goldstein.

The film is often compared to De Sica's "Shoeshine" and "The Bicycle Thief" and other great works of Italian Neo-Realism, Bunuel's "Los Olvidados", Hector Babenco's "Pixote" and Truffaut's "The 400 Blows".

The Museum of Modern Art held a retrospective of Naderi's work in 2018.

Curator Dave Kehr wrote, "Naderi spent his formative years on the street.

A job working in a movie theater led him to discover his true homeland, the cinema."

"Naderi has remained a citizen of that refined world ever since, pursuing his passion for filmmaking around the globe with no regard for physical borders or language barriers," he added.

Nirumand's performance in "The Runner" was named #12 in a list of "The 25 Greatest Child Performances in Cinema History" on the film site Taste of Cinema. The Los Angeles Times called it "the greatest performance ever given by a child."

Born in Abadan in 1946, Amir Naderi is a renowned Iranian film director, screenwriter, and photographer.

He developed his passion for cinema through his childhood fascination with photography and film criticism.

His early works were influenced by the urban experience and everyday life, as well as the aesthetics of Italian neorealism.

Naderi's films often explored the struggles of working-class people, as seen in his debut film "Goodbye Friend" (1971).

After the Iranian revolution, Naderi continued to make films, including the critically acclaimed "The Runner" and "Harmonica", which gained international recognition and critical acclaim.

Iranian video art "Sculpture" wins at Los Angeles Movie and Music Video Awards



TEHRAN-The Iranian video art "Sculpture" has won two awards at the summer edition of Los Angeles Movie and Music Video Awards in the U.S.

Written, directed, and composed by Ramin Hosseinpour, it won the awards for the best rock music video and best VFX: music video at the 30th edition of the festival, Mehr reported.

The video art is about the life story of Persian poet and mystic

Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Shams Tabrizi.

Rumi undertook one or two journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish Shams. However, he was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit to Konya in 1244.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams (The Collected Poetry of Shams) is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

Hosseinpour's video art has won several awards at various

international festivals so far. It recently won the Best Composer Award at the 26th LA Sun Film Fest in Los Angeles, the U.S.

Its previous achievements include the award for Best Animated Music Video in the HALO International Film Festival in Saint-Petersburg, Russia; the award for the best documentary script from the King Film Awards 2023 in London; and the Best Experimental Music Video award at the 16th Berlin International Art Film Festival in Germany among many others.

Hosseinpour, 37, is a multi-talented international artist, professionally working in the international media. He is an architect, conceptual artist, writer,

director, producer, and composer.

He has won awards in more than 54 international festivals in Munich, Vancouver, Paris, Moscow, New York, Boden, Las Vegas, Saint-Petersburg, Rome, Los Angeles, etc.

Los Angeles Movie and Music Video Awards is a one-of-a-kind online festival where more than 5000 creators from 105 countries have already placed their trust.

It is part of the Best Film Awards - IMDb Qualifying Film Festival. The festival is particularly interested in projects that offer unique storytelling, innovative visual styles, and compelling narratives in both film and music video formats.