

POLITICS

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Balanced foreign policy from dream to reality

-TEHRAN PAPERS-

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

of President Masoud Pezeshkian in foreign policy and wrote: A review of the positions of Pezeshkian and especially his article entitled "My message to the new world" shows that the foreign policy paradigm of the 14th government can be summarized in this concept: "Balanced pragmatic interactionism." This paradigm is based on the following three principles:

- 1- Constructive interaction with the world and de-escalation with the aim of ridding the country's foreign relations of the current deadlock with many countries.
- 2- Implementation of pragmatic, realistic, and opportunistic initiatives and discarding ideas without real foundations and analysis.
- 3- Restoring the balance to foreign policy based on the principle of "Neither East nor West."

The basis of the foreign policy of the Pezeshkian administration can be called "balancing", because until the balance returns to the country's foreign policy, it is not possible to get out of the current blockage and use the opportunities arising from it to design and implement outcome-oriented initiatives. Based on this, the 14th government wants its foreign policy not to be a dream, but it wants it to be operational and outcome-oriented.

Shargh: The great absentees of the green continent

In a conversation with Ali Akbar Farazi, a senior foreign policy commentator, Shargh investigated the restoration of Tehran's relations with the green continent as one of the foreign policy priorities of the 14th government. The paper said: European countries were among the big absentees in the inauguration ceremony of Pezeshkian. Now the European countries and the European Union do not have much desire to improve the current destroyed relations with Tehran unless the differences and crises that have caused blockages in Iran's relations with the green continent are resolved. The most important factor in the formation of these differences between Iran and the Europeans is the war in Ukraine, and some doubts have been raised about the possibility of Tehran's military and defense cooperation with Moscow on the sidelines of the war with Ukraine as a challenge to European security. A specific, explicit, and decisive policy should be pursued through the 14th government regarding the war in Ukraine, and we should

In an analysis, Etemad discussed the positions clearly clarify our stance on this war, and also improve Iran's economic and trade relations with Europe.

Sazandegi: Netanyahu and the American Republicans want a massive conflict in the

In a note, Sazandegi discussed the rocket hitting Majdal Shams and wrote: Majdal Shams is not considered a military or Jewish area, but Israel is making the most of this incident for its benefit, and during his recent visit to the United States, Netanyahu tried to make Iran the main accused in the Gaza war and tried to divert public opinion from this case to the threat of Iran. Netanyahu wants to turn the war of attrition in Gaza into a regional war, which is both Netanyahu's wish and the favorite scenario of Republicans, especially Trump. This situation can put the Biden administration in an unfavorable situation because, in this situation, the United States must either enter the war, or not enter it. If they do not enter the war, Biden and especially Kamala Harris will be criticized for not supporting their ally. It seems that Lebanon's Hezbollah and even Iran understand this situation and that Netanyahu should not be given a chance to exploit this situation for his

Donva-e-Egtesad: The 14th government must take steps forward with all its power

In a commentary, Donya-e-Eqtesad discussed the problems facing the 14th government in the field of economy and said: The 14th government needs coordination in all its elements to be more successful, especially in the field of economy, the ministers must act in full coordination. Unfortunately, sanctions have become a permanent pest in Iran's economy. The 14th government can make it possible to overcome the sanctions by creating the base for the implementation of respectable diplomacy. It is definitely not possible to solve the sanctions problem in the short term, but it can be considered an important topic for the government. The 14th government has shown that it has taken the approach of accompanying the beneficiaries' community in all fields. If such a decision and action continue and the path of interaction is replaced by confrontation, the country's problems will definitely be solved. The principle of wise and compassionate behavior can save this land.

Qalibaf holds talks with foreign officials

officials who departed for Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian.

According to ISNA, Nechirvan Idris Barzani, the President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, who arrived in the Iranian capital to participate in the inauguration ceremony of the fourteenth presidential term, met with Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of Iran's Parliament.

The expansion of bilateral relations, border security, and increasing cooperation in the legislative field were among the topics of this meeting. In another meeting, Qalibaf met with Nuriddin Ismailov, the speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan, and discussed legislative matters.

Amadou Ba, the representative of the National Assembly of Senegal, also met with Qalibaf and congratulated him on his re-election in Iran's Parliament, emphasizing the need to enhance bilateral relations between Iran and Senegal.

Hussein Arnous, the Prime Minister of Syria, in his meeting with Iran's Parliament speaker, expressed gratitude for the inter-agency coordination between Iran and Syria in carrying out Operation True Promise, and called for political support for occupied Palestine and condemnation of the Israeli regime for its attacks on civilians in Gaza.

In another meeting, Qalibaf hosted the Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon. During this meeting, he noted to Abbas al-Haj Hassan, "The Zionist regime, especially Netanyahu, conditions its establishment on the expansion of war and crime and that the United States and some Western countries support this issue."

The Lebanese Minister of Agriculture expressed his pleasure at being in Iran and thanked it

TEHRAN- On Wednesday, the speaker of Iran's for its hospitality, stating, "Today, you are the Parliament met and spoke with several foreign — cornerstone of the Resistance axis in the region. which you have managed to strengthen. The people of Lebanon appreciate your role."

> Vyacheslav Volodin, the chairman of the State Duma of Russia, also thanked Iran for hosting the inauguration ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian during his meeting with the speaker of the Parliament, noting, "A security conference with the participation of six neighboring countries of Russia will soon be held in Moscow, and we invite you to attend this important regional conference."

> Qalibaf also thanked Volodin for his presence at the presidential inauguration and emphasized the necessity of forming a bilateral economic commission between Iran and Russia to pursue the commercial agreements of both countries.

> In another meeting, the speaker of the Parliament hosted Manuel Marrero Cruz, the Prime Minister of Cuba, where both sides emphasized their commitment to fighting imperialism and fostering long-term bilateral cooperation.

> Igor Sergienko, the chairman of the Parliament of Belarus, also thanked Iran for hosting the inauguration ceremony and called for coordination between the legislative assemblies of Iran and

> In another meeting with the speaker of the National Assembly of Algeria, Qalibaf thanked Algeria for expressing condolences regarding the tragic incident that occurred to Ayatollah Raisi, the late president of Iran, and referred to the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, stating, "After 300 days of crimes in Gaza, the Israelis, unable to achieve their goals, have resorted to disgraceful crimes and state terrorism. Iran and Algeria will stand alongside the people of Gaza against the crimes of the Israeli regime."

We consider it our duty to take revenge for our dear guest Ismail Haniyeh

TEHRAN- Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has issued a statement in which he vowed revenge for the assassination of Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

The Leader said the Israeli move has paved the way for a "severe punishment" of Israel.

"The criminal, terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our territory and has caused our grief, but it has also prepared the ground for a severe punishment," Ayatollah Khamenei said in the statement.

He said Haniyeh never feared martyrdom and was prepared to embrace it throughout his life. "However, following this bitter, tragic event which has taken place within the borders of the Islamic Republic, we believe it is our duty to take revenge," Ayatollah Khamenei continued.

The Leader also offered condolences over the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, and a member



of his security detail

The prominent Palestinian leader was killed in a strike in Tehran in the early hours of Wednesday. Iranian media reported that the Hamas political bureau chief was killed as a result of projectile targeting his accommodation.

Following is the full text of the Leader's statement:

In the Name of God, the

Beneficent, the Merciful

"Indeed, we belong to Allah and to Him do we indeed return" [Quran 2:156].

Dear Iranian nation!

The brave leader and prominent Palestinian mujahid, Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, joined his Creator in the early hours at dawn, and the great Resistance Front is mourning his loss. The criminal, terrorist guest in our territory and has

caused our grief, but it has also prepared the ground for a severe punishment.

Martyr Haniyeh was willing to sacrifice his honorable life in this dignified battle for many years. He was prepared for martyrdom and had sacrificed his children and loved ones on this path. He was not afraid of being martyred on the path of God and in order to save the lives of God's servants. However, following this bitter, tragic event which has taken place within the borders of the Islamic Republic, we believe it is our duty to take revenge.

I offer my condolences to the Islamic Ummah; the Resistance Front; the courageous, proud people of Palestine; and in particular to the family and loved ones of Martyr Haniyeh and of one of his companions who was martyred beside him. May Almighty God elevate their ranks.

Sayyid Ali Khamenei

Mordad 10, 1403

Zionist regime martyred our dear [July 31, 2024]

Leader prays over Hamas chief's body

TEHRAN-Iran's Islamic Dissemination Office has announced that a funeral procession for martyred Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh will take place in the Iranian capital Tehran on Thursday morning.

The office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei also announced that Ayatollah Khamenei would perform prayers over the body of Martyr Haniyeh.

The prayers will be held at the University of Pezeshkian, on Tuesday, July 30.

Tehran before the march starts towards Azadi

Haniyeh was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new Iranian president, Masoud

Iran says united in grief, resolved to answer Haniyeh's assassination

TEHRAN - Iranian officials sized that the Zionist regime have reacted and condemned the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was targeted in an airstrike in Tehran in the early hours of Wednesday.

The Palestinian Resistance leader was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

President slams "cowardly" assassination of Ismail Haniyeh

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued a strong condemnation of the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh.

In a message released on Wednesday, Pezeshkian empha- to Israel's actions, describing the

would soon face consequences for this "cowardly terrorist act."

He stated, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will not abandon its efforts to protect its territorial integrity, sovereignty, dignity, and reputation. The Zionist regime will soon see the results of its cowardly act."

3 days of national mourning and international call to action

In response to the assassination, Iran has declared three days of national mourning.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has called for a global response assassination of Haniyeh as a blatant violation of international law and a serious threat to regional peace and security.

The ministry's statement described the attack as another manifestation of the "aggressive and law-breaking nature" of the Israeli regime, urging countries and international organizations to hold Israel accountable.

"We expect the international community to take necessary political, legal, and punitive measures against this rogue regime in support of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination." the ministry stated.

IRGC promises retaliation

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has vowed a severe response to Haniyeh's assassina-

In a statement, the IRGC described the killing as a cowardly act that would not go unanswered. They pledged that Haniyeh's blood would not be shed in vain and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Palestinian Resistance against Israeli aggression.

"The martyrdom of Haniyeh will only strengthen our resolve to fight against the Zionist regime," the IRGC stated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Palestinian factions vow continued resistance after Haniyeh's assassination

TEHRAN – Palestinian resistance factions have expressed deep sorrow over the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas's political bureau, vowing that his passing will not deter their fight against Israel.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement mourned Haniyeh as a "great national leader" and a symbol of resistance. In a statement, they declared: "The sinful assassination carried out by the criminal enemy against a symbol of the Resistance will not deter our people from continuing the Resistance to put an end to Zionist criminality, which has crossed all limits." They affirmed their "cohesion with Hamas in resisting the usurping entity."

The Popular Resistance Committees in Palestine, echoed this sentiment, vowing to remain steadfast in their struggle. "The assassination of a great leader and symbol of the Palestinian people and their Resistance," they declared, "will not weaken the resolve and determination of the Resistance to continue its path of expelling this treacherous Zionist enemy from our occupied land, from its river to its sea.

The Committees further stressed that Israel's "policy of assassinations will only increase Resistance efforts on all fronts and in all arenas," adding, "The blood of the great martyr leader Abu al-Abed Haniyeh will be a curse that will shock and burn the entity of the Nazi enemy, which will be broken and humiliated by the blessed strikes of the Resistance in all arenas of confrontation and engagement."

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) mourned Haniyeh as a leader who followed the path of martyrs in defending Palestinian existence against Israeli genocide. They called on Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and "free people of the world" to "rise and revolt against the criminal enemy that continues its crimes to ignite the region and the entire world."

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas also slammed Israel for its "cowardly" act, calling the assassination of Hamas' Political Chief a "dangerous development". Abbas also announced a day of mourning and ordered that flags be flown at half-mast in official Palestinian institutions in the West Bank governorates.

Nationwide protests in Iran following assassination of Ismail Haniyeh

Following TEHRANassassination of Ismail Haniyeh, people in Tehran gathered in Palestine Square on Wednesday

Demonstrators chanted, "My dear Haniyeh, I swear by your pure blood, your path will continue," and condemned the cowardly assassination.

It is worth noting that early this morning, Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the Hamas Resistance group, and one of his bodyguards were martyred in Tehran after their

residence was targeted.

Similar gatherings protests were conducted across various cities in Iran, expressing nationwide outrage and solidarity.

Israel's state terrorism: A step toward all-out war

By Abbas Akhoundi

martyr Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil, Israel put the MENA region on the brink of a full-scale war. It is time for the United Nations Security Council and all the major world powers, including the United States, China, Russia, and the European Union, as well as all the major organizations and countries in the region, including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt, and others, not only not to fall into Israel's trap, but also to save the world from the

state terrorism.

in this regard is accepted by all the intelligence and security services of the world.

How the Islamic Republic of Iran responds appropriately to this aggression and horrific act in retaliation, repentant, and security-creating measures is within the competence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and its security forces, and this writer cannot deal with it. Hence, the focus of this note is on possible political actions. In this regard, it is appropriate to pay attention to the unbalanced political situation in the world in which we are

First, in the past year, Israel has become more hated and unveiled in world public opinion than ever before. Suppose the new generation has no memory of the crimes of this regime in the 1940s and 1970s, this time, by witnessing the genocide, women, and child killings of this regime, they have become quite alert. They have seen its racist, apartheid, and terrorist nature. And international organizations, including the International Criminal Court, have endorsed it.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

TEHRAN- By assassinating the

danger of falling into a full-scale war through a consensus and international cooperation against

Israel has not yet accepted responsibility for the operation. But who does not know that the only regime that has continuously planned and executed state terrorism operations since its establishment is Israel? For the past nine months, the regime has been engaged in ethnic cleansing in Gaza and has openly proclaimed and pursued the idea of destroying Hamas and its leaders. Undoubtedly, Israel's responsibility

Israel's show of desperation

Assasinations in Beirut, Tehran come as regime fails to face off Hamas in embattled Gaza

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - The Israeli regime has been targeting top Resistance commanders and leaders in the region since its colossal defeat at the hands of Palestinian fighters on October 7.

Hezbollah's Taleb Abdallah, Wissam Tawil, Muhammad Nimah Nasser, Mohammad Ahmad Ayoub, and Iran's Razi Mousavi and Mohammad Reza Zahedi are among the senior commanders the regime has assassinated in the past months. Israel tried to add two more figures to the list on Tuesday and in the early hours of Wednesday: Fouad Shokor, one of the most senior Hezbollah commanders, and Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh.

Israel conducted attacks in Beirut and Tehran, targeting Shokor in a residential building in the former and Haniyeh in his temporary residence in the latter.

Haniyeh had traveled to Tehran to attend Masoud Pezeshkian's presidential inauguration ceremony. According to Khalil al-Hayya, the deputy chief of the Hamas political bureau, a missile struck the bedroom Haniyeh's accommodation, shattering windows and causing damage to the walls. Iranian officials have stated that a full account of the circumstances surrounding the assassination of the Hamas leader will be made public shortly.

Hossein Kanaani, a seasoned West Asia analyst, argues that Israel's legal impunity, granted by Western powers, has allowed the regime to completely and utterly disregard international law and repeatedly breach established red lines. "Netanyahu



kills 40,000 Palestinians, injures another 90,000 who are likely to die due to the destruction of all Gaza's hospitals and medical facilities, and then travels to the U.S. and receives standing ovations from members of Congress. How ridiculous is that?" Kanaani told the Tehran Times, adding, "During his address to the U.S. Congress, he explicitly informed American officials of Israel's plans for further terrorist acts and demanded Washington's approval. While Israel's inherently terrorist nature is no secret, the recent two attacks couldn't have occurred without the U.S.'s direct knowledge and assistance. Washington aids the regime in its terror acts and then protects it from reprisals in every international court and organization."

Back in May, it was revealed that over a dozen U.S. senators have threatened the International Criminal Court (ICC) with American sanctions if the international court moves forward with arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials. Israel has committed various war crimes against civilians in Gaza, including murder, starvation, rape, and torture.

"Israel failing to gain victory on the battleground"

Israel's military and intelligence circles were completely caught offguard after Palestinian fighters from the Hamas Resistance group successfully infiltrated the occupied territories on October 7, took control of some settlements for several hours, and took dozens of Israeli hostages to Gaza. In response, Israel launched a full-scale war against Palestinians in the enclave, stating that it plans to continue the war until the full "eradication of Hamas".

10 months into the war, the entirety of Gaza has been razed to the ground and Israel has turned into a leper around the world. Hamas, however, is nowhere near defeated.

"Netanyahu is facing growing dissent within Israel as the regime's military struggles to make significant gains against fighters in Gaza. Simultaneously, Hezbollah's relentless attacks since October 8 have left the regime paralyzed in the north," Mohammad Bayati, an expert on West Asian affairs, said while talking to the Tehran Times.

"With the U.S. presidential elections

approaching, the U.S. has been urging Israel to reach a ceasefire agreement with Hamas. However, Netanyahu's demands for a ceasefire, including the ability to resume war against Gaza at will and control over the Philadelphi Corridor bordering Gaza and Egypt, are seen as impossible. These conditions could only have been softened if Netanyahu could point to new achievements in Israel to boast about," he added, stating the need for an urgent ceasefire is likely the reason Washington consented to the regime's recent assaults in Beirut and Tehran, which have seriously escalated tensions.

How will Resistance respond to Israel's latest aggressions?

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has vowed a "harsh response" for the assassination of Haniyeh. "The criminal and terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our homeland and left us bereaved, but it also set the ground for a harsh punishment for itself." the Leader said in a statement released on Wednesday.

The last time Ayatollah Khamenei delivered a warning of this magnitude to Israel was in April, following the regime's assault on Iran's diplomatic premises in Syria. In response, Iran retaliated by launching dozens of drones and missiles from its own soil at the occupied territories, successfully targeting all military bases involved in the embassy attack. Several nations, including the U.S., UK, France, and Jordan, intervened to support Israel and counter the attack, which is thought to have been quite restrained on Iran's part.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 1, 2024 Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

Rower Javar apologizes for disrespecting Iranian people

TEHRAN - Iranian female rower Mahsa Javar apologized to all Iranian people after accusing them of being uncultured.

The fans had criticized the athletes' uniform in the 2024 Paris Games but Javar had hit out at the critics, labelling them uncultured.

Javar showed a poor performance in the Women's Lightweight Double Sculls in Paris and it seems she had to concentrate on her performance instead of publishing a film about the uniforms.

And question is why the officials of the Iran's National Olympic Committee allow the athletes to be active in social media during the games?

The Paris Games kicked off on Friday and run to Aug. 11.

Azmoun's Al-Shabab move: A step backwards?

TEHRAN - Sardar Azmoun, Iran's prolific striker, has shocked the football world with his move to Al-Shabab in the UAE. This lucrative deal, reportedly worth €3.5 million per year, has made him the highest-paid Iranian footballer. However, the decision to leave Europe for the Persian Gulf has raised eyebrows among fans and pundits alike.

The 29-year-old had shown promise in the Bundesliga with Bayer Leverkusen and Serie A with AS Roma, albeit with mixed results. His potential and previous achievements hinted at a future in one of Europe's top leagues. Yet, the attractiveness of a lucrative financial package seems to have swayed the forward.

This decision stands in stark contrast to the path taken by fellow countryman Mehdi Taremi. The 31-year-old striker made a similar move to Europe, but his journey has unfolded differently. After impressive spells in the Portuguese league, Taremi secured a high-profile transfer to Inter Milan, where he continues to compete at the highest level.

While financial considerations are undoubtedly a factor for many footballers, Taremi's persistence in Europe serves as a reminder of the potential rewards for those who prioritize sporting ambition over immediate financial gain.

Azmoun's decision to opt for the UAE is a gamble. It could prove to be a wise career move, offering him financial security and a relaxed lifestyle. However, However, it could also hinder his growth as a player and limit his chances of achieving his full potential.

As the dust settles on this surprising transfer, the football world will be watching closely to see if Azmoun's decision pays off in the long run.

Iran para thrower Nourafshan passes away

TEHRAN - Four-time Paralympic Games gold medalist Mokhtar Nourafshan passed away on Wednesday.

He died at the age of 57 in Shiraz, Fars

Nourafsahan was hospitalized last week due to the effects of war injuries, especially kidney infection.

He won a gold medal in Discus Throw - 3 in 1988 Seoul and bagged his second gold in 1996 Atlanta in Javelin Throw - F53. Nourafshan also won two more golds in Discus Throw - F54 and Shot Put - F54 in 2000 Sydney.

He claimed two silver medals in 1996 Atlanta in Discus Throw - F53 and Shot Put - F53 and a bronze in 2004 Athens in Discus Throw - F55.

Tehran Times extends its deepest

Women's futsal team nominated for world's best team

TEHRAN - Iran's team was nominated for the Futsalplanet Awards 2023 Best Women's National Team in the World.

The 24th edition of the annual futsal prizes was released by Futsalplanet.com on Best Women's National Team in the World

nominees are as follows:

(listed in alphabetical order)

Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Hungary, Iran, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine

Guendouz reaches agreement with **Persepolis**

TEHRAN – French goalkeeper Alexis Guendouz has reportedly reached an agreement with Persepolis football club.

The Iranian side has not found a replacement for Alireza Beiranvand so far.

Persepolis, headed by Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido, will hold a training camp in Turkey next week.

Guendouz, 28, currently plays in Algerian team CR Belouizdad and is supposed to join Persepolis in Istanbul.

The club had been previously linked with Gol Gohar goalkeeper Mohammad Reza Akhbari and Brazilian goalkeeper Helton

Pezeshkian congratulates Iran's volleyball win in Asia

TEHRAN - The new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian congratulated his country's national U20 volleyball team on winning the 2024 Asian Under-20 Volleyball Championship.

In a post on his X account, Pezeshkian said that the victory of young Iranian volleyball players at the 2024 Asian Men's U-20 Volleyball Championship took place on the same day as he took an oath of office to become the 9th Iranian president which he said is very blessing.

The inauguration ceremony of the new Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian was held in the Iranian parliament with many foreign dignitaries in attendance on Tuesday afternoon.

Iran eased past South Korea in straight sets (25-12, 25-18, 25-22) on Tuesday in the 2024 Asian Men's U-20 Volleyball Championship

Sayyadmanesh scores and assists for Westerlo

TEHRAN -The last match of the first day of the Belgian football championship ended with a 3-0 victory for Westerlo over Cercle Bruges.

Lucas Stassin (18th, 55th) and Allahyar Sayyadmanesh (64th) were on target for

This victory by three goals allows them to occupy first place in the Jupiler Pro League.

The Belgian Pro League, officially the Jupiler Pro League, due to sponsorship reasons with Jupiler, is the top league competition for association football clubs in Belgium.

Contested by 16 clubs from the 2023-24

International outcry over Haniyeh's assassination

TEHRAN - The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the political bureau chief of Hamas, has sparked widespread condemnation and concern over escalating regional tensions.

Haniyeh was killed in an Israeli airstrike on his

residence in Tehran early Wednesday morning. Russia condemns 'unacceptable political murder'

Russia has strongly denounced the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the political bureau chief of

Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov called it an "unacceptable political murder" and warned that it would significantly heighten regional tensions and negatively impact ongoing negotiations in Doha.

China expresses serious concern

China has voiced its strong opposition to the assassination. "We are highly concerned about the incident and firmly oppose and condemn the assassination," said foreign ministry spokesman

He called for a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Turkey denounces the 'heinous' act

Turkey's Foreign Ministry described the assassination as "heinous" and criticized the Israeli government, accusing it of having no intention to pursue peace.

The ministry emphasized that this act underscores the Israeli administration's lack of commitment to peaceful resolutions.

"With condolences to the heroic nation of Palestine and the Islamic nation and the combatants of the Resistance Front and the noble nation of Iran, this morning (Wednesday) the residence of Mr. Dr. Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political office of the Islamic Resistance of Hamas, was hit in Tehran, and following this incident, he and one of his bodyguards were martyred," the statement released by the Turkish ministry reads.

Malaysia calls for justice and restraint

Malaysia condemned the assassination, urging for an immediate and thorough investigation.

The Malaysian Foreign Ministry called for all parties to exercise restraint and engage in constructive dialogue to prevent further escalation,

reiterating their support for the Palestinian struggle for justice and self-determination.

Pakistan expresses deep concern

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry extended condolences to Haniveh's family and the people of Palestine, condemning the assassination as reckless and a threat to regional stability.

The ministry highlighted the timing of the attack, coinciding with the inauguration of Iran's president, and viewed it as a dangerous escalation by Israel.

Iraq warns of regional instability

Iraq's Foreign Ministry condemned the assassination, describing it as a violation of international law and a threat to regional security and stability.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Pezeshkian holds talks with foreign leaders

TEHRAN- Leaders and officials from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Russia, Zimbabwe, and others met with Iran's president Masoud Pezeshkian.

As reported by the Presidential Office, Masoud Pezeshkian, continued meetings with leaders and officials from foreign countries who departed for Tehran to participate in the inauguration ceremony of the fourteenth term of the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidency.

On July 31, the Foreign Minister

of Egypt, the special representative of the King of Saudi Arabia, the special envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, the chairman of the State Duma of Russia, the Vice President of Zimbabwe, and the Prime Minister of Iraq met with Masoud Pezeshkian.

Masoud Pezeshkian, in a meeting with Badr Abdelatty, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, described Iran and Egypt as two brotherly countries whose nations share an interest in each other.

"Referring to the ancient, brilliant, and proud civilization history of the two countries. I expressed hope that the problems facing the normalization of relations between the two countries will be completely resolved as soon as possible," Pezeshkian said.

Saying that Iran and Egypt can solve many problems in the region by cooperating, Pezeshkian added, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate and exchange experiences, capabilities, and mutual capacities with

Badr Abdelatty also pointed out that less than a month has passed since he was appointed to this position in the new government of Egypt, and stated that he has received a mission from the president of Egypt to convey his heartfelt wishes for the success of the president of Iran and the 14th government in achieving progress and improving the welfare of the Iranian people.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Why Israel assassinated Ismail Haniyah in Tehran

By Xavier Villar

MADRID- Hamas said its political leader Ismail Haniyah was killed in an Israeli strike in the Iranian capital Tehran on Wednesday, describing it as a "severe escalation" that several foreign ministries said risks further regional hostilities.

Originating from a family of refugees expelled from historic Palestine during the Nakba in 1948, Ismail Haniyah grew up in the al-Shati refugee camp in northern Gaza. He rose through the ranks of Hamas, initially

serving as secretary to the group's founder, Ahmed Yassin, and later leading its political bureau. In 2006, after Hamas won Palestine's latest

legislative elections, Haniyeh, as the movement's top candidate, was appointed to form a new government, which he led for a year.

His prominent leadership positions within Hamas made him a target for Israel, which arrested, expelled him from Gaza, and repeatedly threatened his life. Haniyah survived several assassinations attempts by Israel, including one in 2003 targeting Ahmed Yassin, which resulted in injuries to his arm.

In 2018, the United States designated him as a specially designated global terrorist, a move Hamas dismissed as "ridiculous."

During the ongoing conflict in Gaza, Israeli forces targeted members of Haniyah's family in the alShati refugee camp, resulting in the deaths of at least three of his sons, two grandchildren, his sister, and around ten other relatives.

It was the second high-profile assassination to be attributed to Israel in a matter of hours, after a strike in Beirut killed a senior Hezbollah commander, heightening fears that the region was sliding towards a full-blown war.

This incident follows nearly ten months into the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Haniyah had arrived in Tehran just the previous Tuesday to participate in the inauguration of Iran's new president, Masoud Pezeshkian.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

sympathy to Nourafshan's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

season onwards, it operates on a system of promotion and relegation with the Challenger Pro League.

INTERNATIONAL



WORLD HEADLINES

Martyr of occupied al-Quds

Icon of resistance in activism and politics for Palestine

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN - The assassination of Ismail Haniyah in the Iranian capital, Tehran, ended his long journey of resistance across various levels.

From a student activist to leading the political bureau of Hamas, martyr Haniyeh has presented a model of Palestinian resistance and provided Palestine with a leader whose name will be added to the long list of its legendary leaders in their struggle for statehood.

Haniyeh was born in exile in 1963 in the central Gaza Strip's Shati refugee camp. His parents were forcibly displaced by the Israeli military from their home in the town of Asqalan (now known as Ashkelon).

This was to make way for Israeli settlers to move into his parents' house following the Nakba of 1948.

He graduated in 1987 from the Islamic University of Gaza with a degree in Arabic literature and then obtained his PhD from the same university in 2009.

Political activity

Haniyeh began his activism against Israeli colonialism and occupation with the "Islamic Bloc" which represented the stu-

dent arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gaza Strip, from which the resistance movement Hamas emerged.

He was a member of the Student Council of the Islamic University in Gaza between 1983 been killed since and 1984, and then served as its president the following year.

Imprisonment

Haniyeh was arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities in 1989 and spent three years in prison. The Israelis then exiled him to Marj al-Zohour on the Lebanese - (Israeli-occupied) Palestinian border along with a group of Hamas leaders.

Return from exile

He returned to the Gaza Strip after being forced to spend a year in exile. Haniyah was appointed as a dean at the Islamic University in the enclave.

Politics

In 1997, he was appointed as head of the office of the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed

He was elected the chief of Hamas in the Gaza Strip following the assassination of Sheikh Yassin and his successor Dr. Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi in 2004.

In December 2005, he headed the Change and Reform list, which won the majority in the second Palestinian legislative elections in 2006.

The movement nominated him on February 16, 2006, to the position of Prime Minister of Palestine. He took over the prime ministerial post on the 20th of that month.

In May 2017. Haniyah was elected as the head of the political bureau of Hamas, succeeding Khaled Meshaal, before leaving Gaza for exile in Qatar two years later.

Assassination attempts

Ismail Haniyeh survived several assassination attempts, the last of which was in 2003, when Israeli fighter jets carried out an airstrike targeting a group of resistance leaders following a military operation by the armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam brigades.

Operation al-Aqsa Storm

As soon as Hamas launched Operation al-Agsa Storm on October 7, 2023, Haniyeh appeared in a video, broadcast from Qatar, by media outlets, jubilant with the movement's leaders in his office in Doha, while he was following a report on one of the Arab channels about fighters from the al-Qassam Brigades seizing Israeli military vehicles.

He then led a prayer "to thank God for this victory".

On April 10, 2024, seven members of Haniyeh's family, including three of his children and at least four of his grandchildren, were assassinated in an Israeli bombing that targeted a vehicle carrying them in the Shati refugee camp as they were traveling to pay respect to the camp's victims amid the genocidal Israeli war

on Gaza during the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

cluding his sister, were assassinated in an Is-

raeli bombing that targeted their home in the

Commenting on the incident, Haniyeh stated

that the blood of his sister Umm Nahed and her

children and grandchildren mix with the blood

of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and all

It will only "increase our steadfastness and

resolve in the path and certainty of victory,"

emphasizing that they "achieved martyrdom in

a blessed rank and a victorious, eternal battle".

killed by the Israeli occupation forces since Oc-

tober 7, 2023. This is while Haniyah was a politi-

cal leader and not a member of the armed wing

Following the news of the assassination of

his children and grandchildren this year, he de-

clared that "the blood of my martyred children

and grandchildren is no more precious than the

blood of the Palestinian people. I thank God for

this honor He has granted me with the mar-

tyrdom of my three children and

In a speech he delivered in

2014 in response to the ongoing

siege on the Gaza Strip, he said,

"We are a people who, if your de-

cision is siege, our decision is vic-

tory. If the decision is to subdue

Gaza and the people, our decision

All decision-makers inside and

outside Palestine should under-

is that we only bow to God.

stand this people's message: We are a people

who love death as much as our enemies love

life. We love martyrdom for what the leaders

died for, as others love their political positions

in power. Take all our political positions in pow-

Haniyah also visited Tehran following the U.S.

At the funeral procession for General Solei-

mani on January 6, 2020, Haniyah praised the

general's support and wisdom for the op-

pressed Palestinian people and told a huge

crowd of mourners that the martyr Iranian

general is "the martyr of al-Quds, the martyr of

Among the many images that went viral

The martyr Hamas leader appeared from a

mosque that was struck by an Israeli missile

and walked towards an ambulance, carrying

the body of a very young child, covered in blood,

The world woke up to the news of Haniyeh's

assassination as the Hamas leader was waiting

to hear news from Lebanon amid another Israe-

li assassination attempt on a senior Hezbollah

leader in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese

Haniyah spent his last years among a group

of Hamas leaders sheltering outside Gaza, most

notably in Doha and unable to return to Pales-

July 31 was Haniyeh's turn to sacrifice him-

self for the sake of freedom and the defense

of Palestinian land and sanctities adorned by

The Palestinian resistance movement has

witnessed similar assassinations, from Sheikh

Ahmed Yassin to Dr. Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi to

Saleh al-Arouri. After them, there emerged

those who sought vengeance for their blood

and continued the path with even greater mo-

The people will come out to bid farewell to

Haniyeh on August 1 and then seek retribution

for him, sending a message to the occupation

regime that they are committed to the legacy of

Haniyah and other Palestinian martyrs by con-

Muslims, Christians and Jews.

tinuing the journey they began.

of Haniyah was in the aftermath of an Israeli

assassination of the anti-terror icon Lieutenant

er and leave us the homeland."

General Oassem Soleimani.

al-Quds, the martyr of al-Quds".

bombing of the Gaza Strip in 2004.

Iconic images

capital Beirut.

Martyrdom

some of my grandchildren."

of Hamas.

As many as

60 relatives of

Haniyah have

October 7

Notable positions

As many as 60 relatives of Haniyah have been

places where the Palestinian people are.

Beach Camp west of Gaza on June 24.

Additionally, ten members of his family, in-

regime has not only massacred civilians in Palestine and beyond over the past decades but it has also assassinated regional resistance leaders.

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The Israeli apartheid

Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh is the latest resistance leader who was assassinated by Israel in the early hours of Wednesday, July 31.

Yahya Ayyash



Yahya Ayyash, who was one of the Hamas' main explosive experts, was assassinated by Is-

raeli intelligence services in the mid-1990s.

Ayyash was killed in Gaza City on January 5, 1996, when his cell phone exploded during his weekly phone call to his father in the West Bank. The Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, intercepted the call, confirmed his identity, and detonated the explosives remotely.

He was known as "the Engineer" for his bomb-making skills.

Salah Shehadeh



Salah Shehadeh was among the founders of the al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' military wing, and spent a

decade in Israeli jails.

He was killed after in an Israeli air raid on his house in Gaza City on July 22, 2002.

Sheikh Ahmed Yasin



Israel also assassinated Sheik Ahmad Yassin founded who Hamas in late 1987 after the

break of the first Palestinian Intifada (uprising) in the same year.

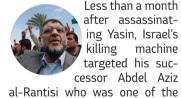
Israel assassinated the Hamas spiritual leader on March 22, 2004, along with nine other people in Gaza.

Yasin survived an attempt on his life when an Israeli F-16 fighter jet fired several missiles at a home in Gaza city On September 6, 2003.

He strongly defended the Palestinian people's right to resist the Israeli occupation and often criticized the Palestinian Authority for discounting the armed resistance option in its dealings with the occupation regime.

Yasin had been confined to a wheelchair following an injury he sustained at the age of 12.

Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi



Less than a month after assassinating Yasin, Israel's killing machine targeted his successor Abdel Aziz

seven founders of Hamas. Rantisi,56, was killed by the Is-

raeli military in a targeted assassination on April 17, 2004.

Al-Rantisi, a pediatrician by

training, survived an Israeli assassination attempt in 2003.

He was a popular figure in Gaza and supported all means that would force Israeli forces and illegal settlers to leave Palestine.

Palestinian officials arrested al-Rantisi in 1998 after he called for the resignation of a number of senior figures from the Palestinian Authority.

The doctor remained a regular critic of the Palestinian Authority. He condemned the PA for its compromise with Israel as part of an alleged roadmap peace plan.

He also lashed out at Mahmud Abbas for participating in a conference in Jordan in June 2003 with Israeli premier Ariel Sharon and US President George Bush.

Ahmad Jabari



Ahmad Jabari, a top Hamas commander, was another victim of the Israeli assassination machine.

Jabari, the operational commander of the al-Qassam Brigades, was killed in an Israeli strike on a car in Gaza City in November 2012. His assassination sparked an eight-day war between Israel and Gaza.

Saleh al-Arouri



Senior Hamas official Saleh al-Arouri was another resistance leader who was assassinated by Isra-

el this year.

He lost his life in a drone strike in the southern suburbs of Dahiyeh in the Lebanese capital Beirut in January 2024.

The attack targeted Hamas' office which also claimed the lives of six others.

The office was furnished with at least one computer with a Wi-Fi connection, potentially giving Israeli forces a method of locating the men.

"Once the laptop started, the strike hit the office," senior Lebanese officials said.

The 57-year-old was the deputy chief of the Hamas political bureau, who helped establish the Qassam Brigades.

Before Israel's war on Gaza began on October 7, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had threatened to kill him.

Netanyahu also told a press conference in November last year that he had instructed the regime's Mossad spy agency to

"assassinate all the leaders of Hamas wherever they are".

Israel's long history of

assassinating resistance leaders

Palestinian martyrs fueling resistance against Israeli apartheid

According to a December leaked recording, Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar told the Knesset that Hamas leaders would be killed "in Gaza, in the West Bank, in Lebanon, in Turkey, in Qatar, everywhere."

Failed assassinations

Israel also made a futile attempt to kill Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif earlier this year.

Deif was targeted in a massive Israeli airstrike on the al-Mawasi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip's southern area in July that killed at least 90 Palestinians and wounded 300 others.

But Deif escaped the Israeli attempt to kill him.

Deif has been the leader of Hamas' military wing since 2002.

He was behind Operation Al-Agsa Storm, which was carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7. The operation caught Israel off guard and shattered the myth of the regime's invincibility.

Mossad agents also tried to kill then-Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal in Amman, Jordan, in 1997. But their plot failed.

Apart from Hamas leaders, Israel has also targeted Islamic Jihad officials.

Fathi Shaqaqi



Fathi Shaqaqi, who established the Islamic Jihad, was assassinated in 1995.

Shaqaqi, a physician from Rafah in the Gaza Strip, was fatally shot six times on October 26, 1995, in front of the Diplomat Hotel in Malta's northeastern coastal town of Sliema by a hit team composed of two agents working for the Israeli Mossad spy agency.

Officials from Lebanon's Hezbollah have also been subjected to Israel's assassination policy.

Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi



Israel assassinated Sayyed Abbas al-Musawi, one Hezbollah's major founders in Lebanon and the

former secretary general of the resistance movement, in the early

Hezbollah's charismatic leader was killed by a missile strike from Israeli helicopters while driving with his wife and 6-year-old son on a road in the Bekaa region of east-

ern Lebanon on February 16, 1992. **Imad Mughniyeh**



Imad Mughniyeh, Hezbollah's military was killed when a bomb planted his car exploded in

Damascus in February 2008. Newsweek and The Washington Post revealed in 2015 that the CIA worked jointly with Israel's Mossad to assassinate him.

Israel has also assassinated other military leaders and political officials of regional resistance groups. These assassinations have been in line with Israel's attempts to either eliminate or weaken resistance groups. But such attempts have backfired.

Failed plans

When the first Palestinian uprising broke out in 1987, people only threw rocks at fully armed Israeli troops and military vehicles to vent their anger at the regime's atrocities.

But Hamas' October 7 attack highlighted the growing power of the Palestinian resistance in the face of Israel's atrocities.

Since the start of the war, Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas but it has failed to do so.

Instead, resistance fighters have dealt heavy blows to the Israeli army killing hundreds of its forces on the battlefield. This, in fact, shows that the era of hit-and-run has come to an end.

Israel has also suffered major blows at the hands of Hezbollah resistance fighters for more than two decades.

Israel launched an offensive in Lebanon in 1982, sending its tanks all the way to the capital Beirut. The regime occupied southern Lebanon until it was driven out by Hezbollah in 2000.

Israel also launched a war on Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. But Hezbollah forced the Israeli army to retreat in both conflicts.

Currently, Hezbollah is a regional power which is capable of giving Israel a painful lesson amid growing fears over a potential war between the two sides.

Hezbollah has about 150,000 missiles and rockets of various types and ranges. Likewise, according to Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the number of Hezbollah operatives who are ready to join a potential war with Israel has exceeded 100,000.

Assassinating leaders of resistance groups has long been an Israeli strategy which has remained unsuccessful. Facts and figures indicate such assassination campaigns have boosted the resolve of these groups to put up resistance against the bogus regime.

The killings have also resulted in increased public support for these resistance movements. Revelations by American and Israeli media have shown that Israel's war on Gaza has led to growing support for Hamas across the Palestinian territory.

Government media office: 165 Palestinian journalists killed since Oct. 7

The Gaza government media office has denounced the killing of Al Jazeera journalist Ismail al-Ghoul and camera operator Rami al-Refee.

Both journalists were killed together when Is-

raeli forces targeted their car in Gaza City.

"We condemn the targeting and killing of Palestinian journalists, and hold Israel responsible for this heinous crime. We call on the international

community and media groups to pressure Israel into stopping these continuing violations," it said in a statement. It also said that since October 7, Israel has killed more than 165 Palestinian jour-

Reuters: Body of Hezbollah senior commander found

The body of Fuad Shukr, one of Hezbollah's most senior commanders, has

tial building in the southern suburbs of Beirut and that "a number of citizens" had been killed and others

health ministry said two children and two women had been killed and 74 people injured in Beirut.

The Israeli army blamed Shukr for an attack on Saturday that left 12 children and teenagers dead in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights -Hezbollah denied involvement.

Hezbollah's long-awaited statement on Shukr came on Wednesday, It said Shukr "was present in this saying Israel had attacked a residenbuilding at the time". The Lebanese

been found in rubble in the southern Beirut suburb attacked by Israel on Tuesday, two Lebanese security sources said, Reuters reported.

Over 76m tons of goods loaded, unloaded at Iranian ports in 4 months

TEHRAN - Based on the latest data released by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), some 76,330,052 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20- July 21).

As reported, during the mentioned four months more than 8.949 million tons of oil products and over 17.484 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 25.4 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 24.494 million tons.

Totally, more than 26.434 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said four months, and over 49.896 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

During the said period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 924,886 TEUs, which was four percent more than the 886,378 TEUs in the first four months of the past year.

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 allout support to ports and more development of them serious and

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,

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 five years.

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March

As reported by the PMO portal, the mentioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastructure and operational capacity of the country's ports.

Earlier this month, PMO Head Ali-Akbar Safaei said over the past few years the organization has managed to attract nearly \$1.7 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country's ports and maritime sector.

Speaking in a press conference

on July 10, Safaei said some 620 trillion rials (about \$1.24 billion) of domestic investment and \$470 million of foreign investment have been attracted in the mentioned

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

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

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

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

ECONOMY

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

ICCIMA calls for FTA with Brazil to boost trade



ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh (R) meets Vice-President of Brazil Geraldo Alckmin in Tehran on Wednesday.

TEHRAN - The head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called for signing free and preferential trade agreements with Brazil to improve the trade relations between the two

Samad Hassanzadeh made the remarks in a meeting with Vice-President of Brazil Geraldo Alckmin in Tehran on Wednesday, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The ICCIMA head pointed to the lack of free and preferential trade agreements between Iran and Brazil as an obstacle to the development of economic relations between the two countries, saying that the governments of Iran and Brazil should consider measures to solve the monetary and banking problems between the two countries

"Another obstacle to the development of economic relations between the two countries is the problems of money transfer and banking relations, which the governments of Iran and Brazil must eliminate this problem as soon as possible with their own measures," he noted.

Referring to the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two countries for easing the export and import of agricultural products between the two sides, he continued: "Despite the signing of this memorandum, unfortunately it has not been implemented in the last 10 years and the businessmen of both sides have not been able to benefit from it."

Hassanzadeh further considered the membership of Iran and Brazil in BRICS as a very suitable capacity for the development of economic cooperation between the two countries and said: "Unfortunately, the two countries have not been able to make much use of this opportunity."

Exchanging business delegations between Iran and Brazil can increase the level of economic relations through raising awareness about the potentials and fields of cooperation, he said.

The official invited the head of the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce to visit Iran with a business delegation and said: "Considering Iran's capabilities in the fields of medical and pharmaceutical, renewable energies, oil, gas and petrochemicals, automobile industries, food and agricultural industries, and technical and engineering services, there are suitable fields for joint cooperation."

In this meeting, Alckmin stated that he has a mission from the President of Brazil to take the necessary measures to strengthen the relations between the two countries as much as possible.

Over 600 units active in medicinal plants processing, packaging

TEHRAN- The director of Iran's Agriculture Ministry's medicinal plants national plan announced the activity of three refineries and more than 600 processing and packaging units of medicinal plants in the country to prevent sales of raw materials.

Hossein Zeynali has announced that Iran exported over 100,000 tons of medicinal plants in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March

He said the Office of Medicinal Plants has registered more than 60 tariff codes in the last three years in order to monitor the amount of export and even import of medicinal plants by intercepting these tariff codes on the customs

According to Tarahom Behzad, the directorgeneral of the pasture affairs office of Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization, 14 natural climates are known in the world, of which there are about 11 climates in Iran, and it is the breeding ground of all kinds of medicinal plants.

So far, about 8,600 plant species have been identified in Iran, of which 2,300 species are medicinal and are directly used in the field of medicine, health and food supplements, the official added.

He said benefitting from a special climate and the area of about six million hectares of medicinal plant habitats is a very suitable opportunity for Iran for proper exploitation, more serious entry into the field of processing, creating employment, more specialized exports in the field of processed products, and earning foreign currency.

Although, problems such as not allocating an independent line of credit for the protection and modification of medicinal plants and boosting production of these plant, and the lack of necessary and expert personnel have caused the valuable and hidden capacities of this field to remain stagnant, the official lamented.

According to the published statistics, 400,000 people are working in the production of medicinal plants in Iran.

Also, 32,000 people are working in packaging of these plants.

As stated by an official with the Ministry of Health, Iran holds some 40 percent share of the market for medicinal plants in the neighboring

"A large volume of pharmaceuticals, supplements, food products, and beverages are exported to Iraq, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, and Afghanistan," IRNA quoted Hamidreza Banafsheh as saying in late October, 2023.

Iran is among the leading countries in the field of medicine and health technology, supplying 98 percent of pharmaceutical items to the domestic market, the official noted.

"Nearly 450 out of 1,400 knowledge-based companies are active in the field of herbal medicines, biotechnology, and food industries." He went on to say that the National Institute for

Medical Research Development aims at expanding exports of medicinal products.

Since most of the raw materials for the production of herbal medicines are native to the country, these products can internationally compete with those of the other countries, he

Besides, some 15 to 20 percent of Iran's herbal medicines are unique in the world. Iran has the capacity to introduce new herbal medicines to the world, he highlighted.

Producing and commercializing pharmaceutical plants are the best ways to introduce the rich



resources of herbal medicines which, in addition to making foreign currency revenues for the country, will lead to the scientific authority of Iran in this field, he concluded.

According to the chairman of the Union of Medicinal Plants Exporters of Iran, the country's export of medicinal plants can be increased through compliance more with the world standards.

Mohammad-Ali Rezaei Kamal-Abad stated that world standards are increasing due to the healthoriented consumption of herbal products, and failure to comply with these standards will lead to the return or destruction of these products.

"In the past years, poisons have entered the country, which are not only not used in other countries, but have also caused water and soil pollution in our country", he lamented.

Referring to the importance of agricultural product export standardization, he added: "Standardization is done in our country, but this standardization is not up-to-date. With the coordination of ministries, expenditure and updating of information can help to standardize agricultural products and develop the export of these products", he commented.

He said that having more than 11 climates out of 13 climates, Iran has 8,000 varieties of medicinal plants, which is at least twice as much as Europe.

CBI provides \$5.1b in subsidized foreign currency for imports of basic goods

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has provided \$5.1 billion in foreign currency for importing basic goods and commodities since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2024) up to July 28, IRNA

Based on the CBI data, the government had allocated €13.6 billion for the imports of basic goods in the current Iranian year and considering the targeted figure for the current year, the provided amount is in accordance with the government plans.

As reported, the average monthly foreign currency quota for the imports of basic goods in the current year is about \$1.25 billion, therefore, the allocation and supply of foreign currency in the mentioned period has been done in accordance with the determined foreign currency exchange quota.

Back in March, Iran's Expediency Discernment Council authorized the government and the state management apparatuses, including the CBI, to spend 13.6 billion euros at a preferential exchange rate for the import of basic items such as agricultural products, medicine, and its raw materials as well as medical equipment.

Council members took the decision on the import fund allocation while meeting under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Amoli Larijani to discuss and review the budget for the current

They stressed that the government would offer preferential rates for clearing or exchanging foreign resources resulting from the export of oil, gas, and gas condensates for the import of "only basic agricultural goods and medicine", the list of which was approved by the Council of Ministers at the end of April.

The imports are overseen by a working group consisting of the first vice president, the head of the central bank, the head of the country's planning and budget organization, the minister of economic affairs and finance, the minister of agriculture as well as the minister of industry, mining, and trade.

The Minister of Health along with other relevant bodies are also required to implement and monitor the allocation, distribution, and use of currency for medicine and equipment.

In addition, the central bank is obliged to prepare monthly reports on the implementation of Clause 4(A) of the Budget Law.

TEDPIX falls 5,200 points on Wednesday

of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 5,210 points to 2,068,322 on Wednesday, which is the fifth day of the Iranian calendar week.

exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

The head of Iran's Securities and TSE is one of the four Iranian stock Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the capital of the companies active in the stock market increased

by 5.0 quadrillion rials (about \$10 billion) in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19). According to Majid Eshqi, the capital of listed companies increased from 15 quadrillion rials (about \$30 billion) two years ago to 20 quadrillion rials (about \$40 billion) in the previous year, IRNA reported.

15 airport projects to go operational in Iran by late March 2025

TEHRAN - The head of Iran Airports Company (IAC) has said 15 airport development projects are going to go operational in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025), Tasnim News Agency reported.

According to Reza Nakhjavani, 21 airport projects with a total investment of 60 trillion rials (about \$120 million) are currently underway across the country of which 15 will be completed in the current year.

The mentioned projects include improvement of the runway, terminal and flight lines, wall covering, renovation of heating and cooling facilities, construction of warehouses and sheds, construction of domestic and foreign flight terminals, landscaping, renovation of radar sites and flight control towers, construction of police unit premises, as well as protection and cultural complexes and ground safety equipment, the official

He stated that now 56 airports of the country are under the supervision of Iran Airports Company, adding: "After going through legal procedures, three important projects namely completing the new terminal of Shiraz Airport, draining and striping the runway of Sari Airport and completing the flight control building of Mehrabad Airport have reached the stage of concluding contracts with private sector contractors."

Invitation to creditors (private joint stock)

The Iranian and French Automobile Company in liquidation (private joint stock) registration No: 95179 and national ID. No: 10101392440 (3 times)

For the implementation of Article 225 of the amendment to the Commercial Law, all the creditors of Iran and France Automobile Company (SIFA) in liquidation process with registration No: 95179 and national ID. No: 10101392440, whose liquidation notice was placed in the official Gazette of the country of Iran No: 22930 dated 1/Oct/2023, are invited to submit their supporting documents regarding their claims within a maximum period of 6 months from the date of publication of the first advertisement, to the liquidator, Mr. Mohammad Javad Piran with phone No: 09122651348 and at Domicile: legal deputy of Iran Khodro, Sarir Building, Tehran – Karaj high way kilometer 14, and postal code: 1495613311. It is obvious that the company and the liquidator are not responsible for any probable claims that is reflected to the company outside of the above period.

Mohammad Javad Piran

Liquidation manager of Iran and France Automobile Company (private joint stock) in liquidation

TOURISM



China lifts travel advisory against Iran



TEHRAN – China has removed its travel advisory for Iran, an official with Iran's tourism ministry said on Tuesday.

Moslem Shojai, who presides over the ministry's foreign tourism marketing and development office, said that since early May, the Chinese Embassy had issued a yellow warning on its official website for its citizens, advising caution when traveling to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He added that as a result of this advisory, restrictions were imposed on individual and group travel of Chinese tourists to Iran.

Shojaei noted that following the considerable efforts of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to clarify the actual situation and complete safety of the country, the advisory for cautious travel to Iran has been lifted.

Notably, since March 15, 2023, corresponding to the 24th of Esfand 1401, Chinese citizens have been allowed to undertake tourist trips to 40 countries, including Iran, Mehrnews agency reported.

According to Shojaei, there is now an opportunity for Iranian travel agencies and tour operators to benefit from the flourishing tourism market in China.

With diplomatic relations between Tehran and Beijing strengthening in recent years, Iran has set its sights on attracting millions of Chinese nationals. The move is part of the country's broader efforts to diversify its tourism market and reduce its dependency on traditional sources of income.

Last year, Deputy Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian announced that Chinese arrivals in the country had been soaring at a faster pace even when compared to pre-pandemic levels. "The demand for visiting Iran has been soaring among Chinese nationals," Shalbafian said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Lu Ying Chuang held in Tehran's Sa'dabad historical complex.

With its rich history, stunning architectural gems, diverse natural sites, and warm hospitality, Iran has immense potential to tap into the enormous Chinese tourist market.

Tehran street leads visitors to unique blend of religious harmony

TEHRAN - Si-e Tir, a cobblestone one-way street stretching northward, is renowned as a unique reflection of religious diversity in the bustling heart of the Iranian capital.

Adjacent to the National Museum of Iran, the Grand Bazaar, and Tehran's sole UNESCO-designated site, the Golestan Palace, Sie Tir St. leads to Adrian Zoroastrian Temple, Haim Synagogue, Saint Mary Church of Tehran, and Majd Al-Dowla Mosque, all located within walking distance of each other.

Sources say that proximity is a testament to Iran's inclusive approach towards interfaith harmony and intercultural dialogue of peace and understanding among Zoroastrians and the three Abrahamic religions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

Some tour guides say a half-day tour of the four destinations promises not only spiritual enlight-enment but also a deeper understanding of Iran's cultural harmony.

Adrian Zoroastrian Temple

The Adrian Zoroastrian Temple, also known as the Fire Temple of Tehran, is a beautiful example of Zoroastrian architecture. The temple is adorned with intricate floral designs and carvings, reflecting the ancient Persian art style.



A view of the Adrian Zoroastrian Temple in downtown Tehran

Inside the temple, you'll find the sacred fire altar, where a flame has been kept burning continuously, symbolizing purity and the eternal light of Ahura Mazda, the Zoroastrian god.

Adjacent to the temple, the museum offers a glimpse into the Zoroastrian way of life, with exhibits showcasing religious texts, artifacts, and traditional attire.

Haim Synagogue

Haim Synagogue is one of Tehran's oldest and most significant synagogues, serving as a vital center for the Jewish community in Iran

The synagogue's interior is decorated with beautiful stained glass windows and intricate woodwork, showcasing the artistry of Persian-Jewish culture.

It is not just a place of worship but also a hub for cultural and educational activities, reflecting the vibrant Jewish heritage in Iran.

Saint Mary Church

The church's architecture features classic Armenian designs, with a striking dome and ornate stone carvings.

Inside, the walls are adorned with exquisite frescoes depicting biblical

scenes, reflecting the artistic heritage of the Armenian community.

The church is not only a place of worship but also a center for cultural gatherings and community events, showcasing the vibrant Armenian-Christian life in Tehran.

Majd Al-Dowla Mosque

The mosque showcases traditional Islamic architecture, with stunning tile work and a grand entrance portal.

The mosque's prayer hall is spacious and serene, featuring intricate calligraphy and beautiful chandeliers.

The mosque is an active center for community engagement, offering educational programs and religious activities.

This half-day tour of Si-e Tir Street offers a unique opportunity to experience the harmonious co-existence of different religions in Tehran. Each place of worship provides a window into the spiritual and cultural life of its community, inviting visitors to appreciate the beauty of diversity. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a cultural explorer, or a spiritual seeker, this tour promises an enriching experience that transcends borders and fosters understanding.

Startup's new feature lets you build an itinerary from a screenshot, YouTube or TikTok video

Al travel agent startup Mindtrip on Tuesday released a feature that lets you save places or build an itinerary from several places around the web.

Mindtrip lets you insert a link like a Reddit post or a blog, and ask the AI assistant to build an itinerary based on the places mentioned.

You can also see these places on a map and easily save them to favorites or a trip list. You can also use a YouTube, TikTok or Instagram link to populate the list of places mentioned

Currently, the tool can only work with Tik-Tok videos that have text overlays. For You-Tube videos, the tool uses transcripts to show suggested places.

You can even upload a screenshot of a ticket, or a list of cities you are visiting and ask Mindtrip's assistant to suggest places to visit, bars and restaurants.

"People don't plan travel in a linear fashion, yet the travel industry continues to offer only platforms that do just that," CEO of Mindtrip, Andy Moss, said in a statement.

"We've developed Start Anywhere to enable people everywhere to turn all of the incredible travel content online into something actionable."

Now you have it. With reports showing that 75 percent of people find travel inspiration on social sites or online, we are excited to see what travelers do with this game-changing

technology and how it will transform the way we all approach planning vacations."

With this feature, Mindtrip is also starting a creator program, where creators can generate their own Mindtrip link and post it in their bios or along with their content.

When someone clicks on that link, Mindtrip generates an itinerary based on the creator's content.

Creators can also add their photos, videos, and recommendations directly to Mindtrip to better customize Al-generated itineraries. Mindtrip pays creators an unspecified amount for each registered user.

The company said that creators can generate up to \$10,000 per month through this program.

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The company said later this year, it plans to introduce a revenue-sharing program where creators will get a cut when a user places bookings through travel plans made by creators.

Mindtrip, which has 12 experienced founders, raised \$7 million from Costanoa Ventures last year. The company was one of the apps that OpenAI showed off on its dev day. While the product has been in beta testing for a while, Mindtrip made it available to users in May.

(Source: techcrunch.com)

Falak-ol-Aflak assumes qualities for UNESCO recognition, official says



An aerial view of Falak-ol-Aflak, a Sassanid-era fortress located in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province.

TEHRAN - Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress (and its surrounding cultural landscape) possesses the necessary qualities for a possible recognition as a World Heritage site, Lorestan province's tourism chief said on Wednesday.

The fortress and its environs (situated in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province) possess all the key attributes required to capture UNESCO's attention and are interconnected in a chain-like fashion, Ata Hasanpour explained.

In a recent interview with ISNA, Hasanpour highlighted the unique architectural and urban

planning characteristics of Khorramabad, which is renowned for its dual identity as both a "Garden City" and a "Water City."

He noted that at the heart of this city lies the formidable and historical Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress, also known as Shapur Khast. "In fact, this fortress is somewhat of a comprehensive cultural, natural, and historical package."

"The Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress has been presented to UNESCO as a distinctive cultural product," Hasanpour stated, expressing hope that it would soon be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

"The surrounding environment of the fortress is equally remarkable, comprising a collection of prehistoric caves, the historic Khorramabad Valley, a river flowing through the city's center, and old bridges that encircle the eastern part of the fortress." This valley, Hasanpour explained, serves as an ancient passageway, encapsulating a timeline of human life from the Stone Age to the present.

The unmissable eight-towered fortress dominates Khorramabad as one of the most visited travel destinations in the region for both domestic and foreign sightseers. The fortress seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night, offering picturesque views of its encir-

cling crenelated battlements.

Some experts believe that Falak-ol-Aflak is comparable with similar works in Naqsh-e Rostam, Naqsh-e Rajab, Tape Chugan, and Firuzabad in Fars province. In 2018, the UN cultural body added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under the Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as the palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble. Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Iron Age pottery fragments unearthed in central Iran

TEHRAN – An archaeological team has unearthed pottery fragments from the Iron Age during excavations in central Iran.

On Wednesday, Hossein Mahmoudi, the deputy tourism chief of Markazi province, announced the discovery of Iron Age pottery during excavation operations at the historical Alishar mound.

Mahmoudi stated that this site has been investigated and surveyed for the first time. He said that a one-hectare area was examined, which was once home to a mud-brick fortress and has now become a mound with a height of 27 meters.

The official emphasized that with the issuance of a permit from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, under the supervision of Dr. Alireza Goudarzi, an archaeologist, excavation operations were conducted to determine the boundaries and extent of this historical site, and maps

outlining the area's limits were prepared.

Mahmoudi added that the pottery discovered at this historical site indicates that it was inhabited during the Iron Age.

It became uninhabited at the end of the Zand dynasty and was abandoned in the early Qajar period.

The discovery can yield valuable insights into how people lived in specific eras. Due to its durability and widespread use, pottery is a

highly informative and abundant material that can help answer questions about daily life activities, beliefs, economies, political systems, and social organization.

Historically speaking, some of the earliest evidence of Iranian pottery dates back to the Neolithic Period, around the 7th millennium BC. Before the invention of the potter's wheel in Mesopotamia, around 4000 BC, pottery was handcrafted using coil or molding methods

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

M'Zab Valley

A traditional human habitat, created in the 10th century by the Ibadites around their five ksour (fortified cities), has been preserved intact in the M'Zab valley. The property is situated 600 km south of Algiers, in the heart of the Sahara Desert.

According to UNESCO, the five ksour of the M'Zab Valley form an extraordinarily homogenous ensemble constituting, in the desert, the mark of a sedentary and urban civilization possessing an original culture that has, through its own merit, preserved its cohesion throughout the centuries.

Comprised of ksour and palm groves of El-Atteuf, Bounoura, Melika, Ghardaia and Beni-Isguen (founded between 1012 and 1350), the M'Zab Valley has conserved practically the same way of life and the same building techniques since the 11th century, ordered as much by a specific social and cultural context, as by the need for adaptation to a hostile environment, the choice of which responded to a historic need for withdrawal

and a defensive imperative.

Each of these miniature citadels, surrounded by walls, is dominated by a mosque, the minaret of which functions as a watchtower.

The mosque is conceived as a fortress, the last bastion of resistance in the event of a siege, and comprises an arsenal and a grain

Around this building, which is essential for communal life, are houses built in concentric circles up to the ramparts.

Each house constitutes a cubic cell of standard type, illustrating an egalitarian society founded on the respect for the family structure, aiming at the preservation of its intimacy and autonomy.

At the beginning of the first millennium, the Ibadis created in the M'Zab, with local materials, a vernacular architecture which, with its perfect adaptation to the environment and the simplicity of its forms, is an example and an influence for contemporary architecture and town-planning.

Paris tourism takes a plunge despite excitement of Olympics 2024

It may be that Paris is proving to be the exception that proves the rule when it comes to the common misconception that host cities of the Olympic games see huge influx of tourists.

For whatever reason, visitors - and even Paris residents themselves who might have been tempted to stay at home - are holding back from Paris this summer despite predictions of a travel boom.

John Grant, chief analyst at the aviation intelligence company OAG said: "The phenomena of the Olympics is that the local market doesn't travel," he said. Plus, "the regular business traveller who would normally be travelling during that moment in time stops [and] stays at home."

In previous years, London, Athens, and Atlanta all observed decreased tourism when they hosted the summer games. "It just never quite achieves and delivers what's expected," added Grant.

AirFrance-KLM last week announced it was expecting a third-quarter drop in its unit revenues from €170m to €150m because of the lack of demand to visit Paris this summer.

The airline identified problems earlier this month. On 1 July, it announced that flights to and from Paris needed to be improved compared to other major European cities. Not only did this cause interest to decrease, but "international markets show

a significant avoidance of Paris," the company stated.

Likewise, Delta Airlines also suspects it will take a colossal hit, due to a significant decrease in travel volume to Paris amid summer games.

(Source: euronews)

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Welfare Organization facilitates job creation for over 85,000 people

TEHRAN -Over the past year, the Welfare Organization has facilitated the provision of job opportunities for 85,696 individuals by allocating a budget of 120 trillion rials (about \$200 million).

Out of 85,696 individuals, 5,944 are university graduates, and some 870 others are people with physical disabilities, ILNA quoted Mohsen Iravani, an official with the Welfare Organization, as saying.

In the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023 to March 2024), 2,388 persons benefited from a three-percent employment quota in government organizations in 21 provinces.

Also, some 22,000 families with disabled members received self-employment loans, the official noted.

Since the beginning of the current Iranian year, which started on March 20, approximately 10,041 welfare recipients have been registered in the country's national employment monitoring system, and the Welfare Organizations



aim to create jobs for them.

In 2022, the late President Ebrahim Raisi said that not only the Welfare Organization, but all institutions have the mission to provide the ground for growth, prosperity, and employment of persons with disabilities.

He made the remarks in the commemoration ceremony of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which was held in Tehran

People with disabilities should

These people should not be pitied, but should have double respect because despite having physical defects, they are effective and efficient at all levels of society, and they should have equal social opportunities with others, he further highlighted.

be supported.

He went on to say that all institutions have a mission to provide a basis for the growth and employment of disabled people; the streets, public places, and private

buildings should be made accessible for the disabled.

Proper attention to people with disabilities in society should become a culture, and this requires media and cultural work.

Also, the government and related organizations should pay special attention to this issue, he added.

He further called on the Ministry of Labor and the Welfare Organization to take measures on their employment and prosperity.

It should be announced to the authorities that employing disabled people should be prioritized.

I emphasize that the employment of disabled people will cause social peace, which is effective and useful, he emphasized

The persons with disabilities constitute 8 percent of the Iranian population; These loved ones should not be removed from society and neglected, he concluded.

Envoy concerned about Convention on combating use of ICT for criminal purposes



TEHRAN – The inclusion of certain provisions in the Convention on Countering the Use of ICT for Criminal Purposes under the guise of human rights obligations would only defeat the purpose of the Convention and risk it venture being dragged into politicization and selectivity of few, Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, has stressed.

It would hinder cooperation and prevent us from protecting the human rights of victims of ICT crimes as well as the society as a whole in the face of criminals who are relentless in employing legal loopholes to victimize people, IRNA quoted Iravani as saying.

He made the remarks while attending the Reconvened concluding session of the Ad Hoc Committee on July 29.

Underscoring the importance of fighting against the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for criminal purposes, he said, the joint statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of many delegations, resonates with the common objective of all states in reaching a consensus-based convention.

However, some very important outstanding issues remain to be discussed to reach a de-

sired and acceptable text and move towards

The focus of the present meeting should be elaborating a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, which is the important mandate conferred upon the Ad hoc Committee as per resolution 74/247.

Iravani noted that addressing issues that are outside the scope and purpose of this Convention would deviate us from our common main goal which is to provide the international community with a sound and robust international legal framework to counter crimes committed via information and communications technologies.

"We will continue our active engagement in the works of the committee to ensure that the final text addresses the serious concerns of my delegation and many like-minded delegates and make sure that constructive proposals presented by my delegations, together with other like-minded delegations on certain provisions, have not been ignored and deleted in the current text," the official highlighted.

He went on to say that the current article 14 is not sufficient to protect children against the horrendous crime of child sexual exploitation online.

The main goal of the Article is to counter child sexual exploitation and prevent children from falling victim to the hands of criminals.

There should be no exception that would allow for the commission of any form of child sexual exploitation or otherwise normalize such criminal conduct, Iravani added.

However, Paragraph 3 of Article 14 manifestly defeats the purpose of the Article and

visibly justifies child sexual exploitation when it is not related to a real person.

Misuse of technological advancements and materials depicting child sexual exploitation using technologies such as artificial intelligence tends to normalize child sexual exploitation and increases the possibility of perpetration of such crimes.

"We reaffirm our principled position that child sexual exploitation should be prohibited in all its forms, and Paragraph 3 of Article 14 should be deleted for that matter," the official stated

He also reiterated concern on the current formulation of Article 16 which did not take into account the position of many delegations who proposed or otherwise supported a paragraph to make this Article acceptable in the domestic laws of many countries.

"During the previous meeting of the Ad hoc Committee, my delegation and like-minded states proposed and supported languages that provide latitude to differences among various legal systems without undermining the purpose of the Article.

The inclusion of a caveat paragraph, as my delegation suggested before, is the minimum requirement for this Article to gain support and consensus," he further noted.

In conclusion, I wish to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation to conclude the comprehensive Convention during this session.

We are committed to working together to reach a consensus and present a draft convention with robust provisions that could ensure an effective fight against the use of ICT for criminal purposes. Irayani said.

SOCIETY

AUGUST 1, 2024
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

Iranian students bag 4 medals at IChO 2024

TEHRAN –Iran grabbed one gold medal and three silver medals at the 56th International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) which was held in Saudi Arabia from July 22 to 30.

The IChO 2024 was held under the slogan 'Building Connections Together'.

A total of 333 talented men and women from 90 countries participated in the competitions of the 56th edition of the IChO, under the supervision of 260 international specialists in the field of chemistry, at King Saud University in Riyadh.

Ramtin Moradi Mazhar succeeded in winning a gold medal, while Alborz Rezaei, Amirkia Salimi, and Mohammad-Yasin Salehi Marzijarani secured silvers.

During the competitions, the students took two main exams that were translated into more than 50 languages, one of which was practical, laboratory, and the other theoretical, written, in a highly competitive environment

Since its launch in Prague in 1968, the international competition for secondary education students in the field of chemistry has been hosted by a different country each year.

It aims to strengthen international communications in chemistry and stimulate the activities of students interested in chemistry by providing independent and creative solutions to chemical problems.

Intl. 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.

Five Iranian students who attended the 54th International Physics Olympiad managed to win a gold medal and four silver medals, improving the country's ranking from 17th in 2023 to fourth this year.

The 54th edition of the IPhO commenced on July 22 in the city of Isfahan and concluded on July 28.

A total of 200 elite students from 47 countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Mexico, Turkey, and some other countries participated in the nine-day event, IRNA reported.

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

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

China, Russia, and Romania ranked first to third respectively.

According to Mahmoud Bahmanabadi, the chairman of the IPhO 2024 Organizing Committee, 17 percent of participants grabbed silver medals, and 25 percent of them won Bronze medals.

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 to increase 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 Bahmanabadi 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 internation-

al 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. Attending the 40th Annual Science Olym-

ty, Iranian students managed to win a bronze medal and two diplomas of honor. A total of 114 teams from 84 countries pre-

piad Tournament at Michigan State Universi-

senting 310 scientific projects participated in the competition, Mehr news agency reported.

The competition is held annually for students aged 12 – 18 from June 1 to 15.

Supported by Oxford University, the competition was held in two stages in the fields of technical engineering, computer science, energy, biological science, social science, art, and robotics.

In the first stage, after evaluating the student's projects, 4 Iranian teams consisting of Sina Moqaddam-Nodehi, Paniz Karimi, Ilya Nosrat-Panah, Mahan Qadimi, and Mohammad-Sam Nemati-Moein were selected to advance to the second stage.

Moqaddam-Nodehi won the bronze medal, while Mahan Qadimi and Mohammad-Sam Nemati-Moein received diplomas of honor.

Also, Karimi and Nosrat-Panah received a certificate for taking part in the competition.

These students have also succeeded in becoming members of the World Federation of Inventors. This summer, they will participate in the world competition in Geneva, Switzerland, as selected Iranian inventors.

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

Russia hosted the tournament 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 won five medals, ranking third in the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics, which was 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, which 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), which was held in the United Arab Emirates from July 3-11. The IBO 2023 hosted 293 students from 76 countries.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Only 15% of Tehran's construction waste recycled'

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran's department of environment (DOE) has said.

Waste materials, generally termed as construction and demolition waste, are part of construction materials' packaging, containers, and spent machinery and equipment parts that are no longer usable.

"A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face," Bazgir said. He further referred to a construction waste management unit opened in Abali in Damavand county last week, and stated that the unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت میشود

رییس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید میشود، گفت: متاسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زبالهها بازیافت میشود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دیو میشود.

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Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430 Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807 Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603 Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

AUGUST 1, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The elderly are the sources of mercy and divine blessing. Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:28 Dawn: 3:27 (tomorrow)

Tehran cultural center to host reading performances of "Lady Windermere's Fan"

TEHRAN- Tehran's Arasbaran Cultural is evident throughout the play. Wilde Center will be playing host to reading performances of Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde's play "Lady Windermere's Fan".

The performances will take place from August 1 to 9 and will be directed by Vahid Akhavan. The cast will include Alireza Darvishnejad, Abbas Mohebi, Amir Parsi, Amir Hossein Babai, Mana Nasseri and Parisa Fallahzadeh.

"Lady Windermere's Fan" is a four-act comedy, which premiered in London in 1892.

The play delves into themes of trust, reputation, and the complexity of human relationships, through its engaging narrative centered around Lady Windermere, who suspects her husband of infidelity. This suspicion sets off a chain of events that challenges societal norms and questions the very nature of a "good woman."

At the heart of the story is Lady Windermere, who confronts her husband, Lord Windermere, about her fears of his potential affair with the mysterious Mrs. Erlynne. When he denies the allegations yet invites Mrs.

Erlynne to Lady Windermere's birthday ball, the tension escalates. Deeply hurt and feeling betrayed, Lady Windermere contemplates leaving her husband for another man. However, Mrs. Erlynne's pursuit of Lady Windermere culminates in revealing her true identity as Lady Windermere's estranged

In a powerful act of sacrifice, Mrs. Erlynne jeopardizes her own reputation to preserve her daughter's marriage.

Wilde's journey in creating "Lady Windermere's Fan" began in the summer of 1891. At that time, Wilde had seen little success with his previous works, and he sought to create a play that embraced comedy instead of tragedy.

Wilde's attention to aesthetic nuances

emphasized that while details may be insignificant in life, they are vital in art.

"Lady Windermere's Fan" showcases Wilde's wit and social commentary, exploring the dualities of appearance versus reality, the nature of love, and the sacrifices made in the name of familial obligation.

Through its intricate character dynamics and moral dilemmas, Wilde crafts a timeless reflection on the societal pressures placed upon women and the often-murky waters of personal relationships.

The play remains a significant work in the annals of theatre, drawing audiences into a world where the intricacies of human behavior are laid bear with humor and poignancy.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was an Irish playwright, poet, and novelist renowned for his sharp wit and flamboyant style.

Born in Dublin, he became a prominent figure in the late 19th-century literary scene, celebrated for his sharp social commentary and ability to blend humor with profound insights into human nature.

Wilde's most famous works include "The Picture of Dorian Gray," a novel that explores themes of vanity and moral duplicity, and the play "The Importance of Being Earnest," a comedy that satirizes Victorian society's

Wilde was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and later at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he developed his distinctive aesthetic philosophy, which emphasized beauty, art, and individualism.

Despite his tragic end, Oscar Wilde's legacy endures.

His works continue to captivate readers and audiences worldwide, celebrated for their wit, charm, and critical perspective on societal norms. Wilde remains a symbol of artistic freedom.

Iranian films to go on screen in Zanzibar festival

TEHRAN- Four Iranian films will compete in different sections of the 27th edition of Zanzibar International Film Festival, which will run in Tanzania from August 1 to 4.

"Killing A Traitor," the latest film by the veteran filmmaker Masoud Kimiai, will go on screen at the main section of the festival.

The film narrates a story about the time when the Iranian Oil Industry was to be nationalized.

When the Iranian government faced budget deficits because the entire world stopped acquiring oil from the country, Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh asked the people for support.

To help the Prime Minister, a group of university students decided to rob the National Bank

Amir Aghai, Poulad Kimiai, Mehran Modiri, Farhad Aiish, Sara Bahrami, Narges Mohammadi, Pante'a Bahram, Reza Yazdani, and Sam Derakhshani act in the



A scene from "Killing A Traitor," by Masoud Kimiai

120-minute film that was made in is an annual celebration held in 2022.

Additionally, Iranian shorts "Side by Side" by Amir Raisian, "Nietzschean Suicide" by Payam Kordestani and "Foot Print" by Mostafa Alami will also be screened at the festival.

The Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF), also known as the Festival of the Dhow Countries,

Zanzibar, Tanzania, and stands as one of the largest cultural events in East Africa.

Founded in 1997 as a nongovernmental organization, ZIFF aims to develop and promote film and other cultural industries as catalysts for regional social and economic growth.

Recognized as Eastern Africa's

premier multi-disciplinary arts and cultural festival, ZIFF showcases a diverse array of films, music, and community initiatives.

Each year, the festival presents over 100 films from Africa, West Asia, Europe, Latin America, the U.S., and Asia, with a particular emphasis on works originating from Africa and created by Africans, including those in the African Diaspora.

Dedicated to enhancing the visibility of African culture through film, ZIFF celebrates centuries of communication between the diverse peoples of the Indian Ocean and those in East Africa.

The festival encourages creativity, excellence, and a deeper understanding of African arts and cultures.

Organized by a non-profit organization established in 1998, ZIFF is committed to promoting and showcasing the rich heritage of the Dhow Countries

Shahrzad Theater Complex to host Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House"



TEHRAN-The play "A Doll's House" written by renowned Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen is to start its performances from August 1at Shahrzad Theater Complex in Tehran.

Sevda Shokri has directed and produced the 75-minute play, which has Mostafa Ebrahimi, Dorsa Afzali, Behzad Amiri, Alireza Radman, Ghazaleh Mehrabi, Alireza Golzadeh, and Paniz Nasiri in the cast among others, IRNA reported.

The play was first published in 1879.

Set in a Norwegian town, the three-act play concerns the fate of a married woman. Nora Helmer, who lacked reasonable opportunities for self-fulfillment in a male-dominated world.

Nora is a seemingly happy and carefree wife and mother, whose life takes a dramatic turn as long-buried secrets and societal expectations come to light.

The plot unfolds against the backdrop of 19thcentury Europe, a time when societal norms and gender roles were rigidly defined.

The play explores themes of marriage, gender inequality, and the consequences of imposed social expectations on individual freedom.

Nora's journey to self-discovery and her decision to challenge societal norms by confronting her husband Torvald, in the final act, has made "A Doll's House" a timeless and provocative piece of literature.

The play's exploration of women's rights and the societal constraints placed on individuals continues to resonate with audiences, making it a classic that remains relevant to contemporary discussions on gender equality.

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) was a Norwegian playwright and theater director.

As one of the founders of modernism in theater. Ibsen is often referred to as "the father of realism" and the most influential playwright of the 19th century, as well of one of the most influential playwrights in Western literature more generally.

Ibsen is the most frequently performed dramatist in the world after Shakespeare and "A Doll's House" was the world's most performed play in 2006.

"A Doll's House" will remain on stage until August 30 at Shahrzad Theater Complex located at No. 74, Neauphle-le-Château St., Hafez St.

New translation of Charlotte Brontë's "Shirley" hits bookstores

TEHRAN-A new translation of the Novel "Shirley, A Tale" written by the English novelist Charlotte Brontë has been released in bookstores across Iran.

Lida Tarzi has translated the book into Persian and Neyestan Publishers has printed it in 296 pages, Mehr reported.

Originally published in 1849, it was Brontë's second published novel after "Jane Eyre".

Following the tremendous popular success of "Jane Eyre." which earned her lifelong notoriety as a moral revolutionary, Charlotte Brontë vowed to write a sweeping social chronicle that focused on "something real and unromantic as Monday morning."

Set in the industrializing England of the Napoleonic wars and Luddite revolts of 1811-12, "Shirley" is the story of two contrasting heroines.

One is the shy Caroline Helstone, who is trapped in the oppressive atmosphere of a Yorkshire rectory and whose bare life symbolizes the plight of single women in the nineteenth century.

The other is the vivacious Shirley Keeldar, who inherits a local estate and whose wealth liberates her from convention.

The book navigates the friendship between these two young women as well as their thoughts about marriage and

As many critics have noted, Shirley has a number of different plot strands, loosely drawn together. It can be read as a romantic tale, as a sociological comment on the question of women's lives or as a history of the Luddite riots in the clothmaking district of Yorkshire.

A work that combines social commentary with the more private preoccupations of "Jane demonstrates 'Shirley' the full range of Brontë's literary talent. "Shirley is a revolutionary novel," wrote Brontë biographer Lyndall Gordon.

"Shirley follows Jane Eyre as a new exemplar but so much a forerunner of the feminists of the later twentieth century that it is hard to believe in her actual existence in 1811-12.

She is a theoretic possibility: what a woman might be if she combined independence and means of her own with intellect.

Charlotte Brontë imagined a new form of power, equal to that of men, in a confident young woman [whose] extraordinary freedom has accustomed her to think for herself. "Shirley" [is] Brontë's most feminist novel."

Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855) was an English novelist and poet, the eldest of the three Brontë sisters who survived into adulthood and whose novels became classics of English literature.

Over 700 creatives condemn Royal Academy of Arts' removal of Gaza-related works

More than 700 creatives and public figures accused the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) of anti-Palestinian censorship today after it removed two artworks from its Young Artists' Summer

One work, created by an 18-year-old artist, shows a photograph of a protester holding a placard reading "Jews say stop genocide on Palestinians: Not in Our Name," Morning Star

A drawing was submitted by a 16-year-old showing a swastika above a screaming woman wearing a headscarf.

Both were removed after the Board of Deputies of British Jews raised "significant concerns" about the works, describing them as containing "anti-semitic tropes and messaging."

In an open letter published by Artists for Palestine, visual artists and writers Rosalind Nashashibi, Adam Broomberg, Natasha Walter, Kamila Shamsie, Sabrina Mahfouz, Fatima Bhutto and Gillian Slovo are among those

saying that the RA has "stigmatis[ed] the work of the young artists" and "colluded with the erasure of Jewish contribution to solidarity with Palestinians.

Others who signed the letter include fashion designer Bella Freud, director Mike Leigh, musician Brian Eno and the Jewish Socialists'

It adds: "Far from protecting Jews, the RA is lending support to a racist, anti-Palestinian campaign that aims to silence expressions of support for Palestinian people."

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) has asked its 330,000 supporters to email the chief executive of the Royal Academy.

The PSC letter states that "in silencing solidarity for Palestine, the Royal Academy is complicit in shielding the state of Israel from accountability for its actions," adding that it should not "be regarded as inherently illegitimate for artists to draw comparisons between one genocide and others in history."

More than 39,360 Palestinians have since been killed, mostly women and children, and nearly 91,000 injured since the beginning of war in Gaza last October.

Over nine months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water, and medicine.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, whose latest ruling ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on

Occupied Palestinian Territory - About 10% of the Gaza Strip's population has been killed, injured, or is missing due to the 293day genocide carried out by Israel in the Strip, ongoing since 7 October 2023.

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Cartoon of Day



Cartoonist: Hassan Bleibel from Lebanon