

Day of Reckoning Looms Large

Iranians bid historic farewell to 'dear guest' Ismail Haniyeh



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Iran will remain committed to supporting Resistance: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – Iran's president says the country's leadership, nation, and government would not waver in their support for the steadfast and oppressed Palestinian people and the Axis of Resistance.

In a phone conversation with Khalil al-Hayya, the deputy head of the Hamas political bureau in Gaza, Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's steadfast support for the resilient and oppressed Palestinian people.

Al-Hayya, who had accompanied the late Ismail Haniyeh on his visit to Tehran for the inauguration ceremony of Iran's 14th presidential term, received condolences for Haniyeh's martyrdom.

In the call, which took place on Wednesday evening, President Pezeshkian praised Haniyeh as a great and steadfast warrior: "Our dear brother, martyr Ismail Haniyeh, ▶ Page 2

Haniyeh killed with American green light: minister

TEHRAN- Iranian Intelligence Minister Ismail Khatib has said that the Israeli regime moved to assassinate the Hamas political bureau chief, Ismail Haniyeh, after receiving a green light from the United States.

Khatib made the remarks in a message on the occasion of the martyrdom of Haniyeh, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA.

"The cowardly assassination of the head of the political office of Hamas... which was done by usurping Zionists with the green light of the United States, once again brought the Zionist regime's depravity to the fore," the Iranian intelligence minister said in the message.

He also said that the assassination of Haniyeh evidenced the victory of the Al-Asa Flood operation, and indicated the collapse of the Israeli regime.

The prominent Palestinian leader was killed in the early hours of Wednesday after a projectile targeted his residence in Tehran.

Nasrallah leaves Israelis in a state of fear

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Israeli media has described the speech of Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during the funeral of a prominent Hezbollah commander as "very aggressive".

"The enemy, and those who are behind the enemy, must await our inevitable response ... You do not know what red lines you crossed" Nasrallah declared on Thursday.

Hebrew media pointed out that the most significant aspect of the speech was "his talk about Hezbollah entering a new phase of fighting," after Tel Aviv crossed red lines by targeting the southern suburbs of Beirut.

It was reported that Sayyed Nasrallah "keeps Israel in a state of tension with his dramatic threat that it should definitely expect a forthcoming response". ▶ Page 5

Haniyeh assassination places Meta's hypocrisy on full display

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Meta's double-standard and hypocritical policies are back in the limelight in the wake of the Israeli assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh.

The American-based tech firm which owns and operates Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and WhatsApp, among other products and services has sparked a backlash over removing posts about Haniyeh's murder.

Ordinary people and prominent world leaders have posted messages of condolences since Haniyeh was killed in an Israeli strike in the Iranian capital on Wednesday morning. He had traveled to Tehran for the swearing-in ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian. ▶ Page 5

Hamas political chief is laid to rest in Qatar

TEHRAN- Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh was laid to rest in Qatar on Friday, two days after he fell victim to an Israeli assassination plot.

Funeral ceremonies were held for him in the capital Doha. Thousands gathered at Imam Muhammad ibn Abdul al-Wahhab Mosque to join ritual prayers ahead of the burial in Lusail, north of the city, according to Al Jazeera.

People from all walks of life, Haniyeh's family, representatives of Hamas and other Palestinian factions including Islamic Jihad and Fatah, attended the funeral.

The atmosphere was one of grief and solidarity for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Khalil al-Hayya, Hamas's deputy head in Gaza, was among those who attended Haniyeh's funeral in the Qatari capital.

"We are sure that his [Haniyeh's] blood will bring out victory, dignity and liberation," Al-Hayya said in a message to several of Haniyeh's relatives at the ceremony in Doha. ▶ Page 5

Cultural officials, artists express condolences on martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh

TEHRAN- Iranian cultural figures have reacted to the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of the political bureau of the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas, expressing condolences and condemning the Zionist regime for the treacherous raid.

Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards, who had participated in the swearing-in ceremony of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran, were assassinated in their residence in Tehran early on Wednesday.

Expressing his condolences, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili quoted a Quranic verse and congratulated Haniyeh's martyrdom as he died for a righteous cause, ISNA reported. ▶ Page 8



Several countries hold funeral services for Ismail Haniyeh

Several countries held funeral processions for Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh who was assassinated early on Wednesday.

People in Yemen, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan rallied and held in-absentia funeral prayers for the Hamas leader.

They condemned his assassination by Israel and the regime's crimes in Gaza.

Similar protests were held in Pakistan and Indonesia.

Prayers in-absentia were also performed in the Gaza Strip and occupied East Jerusalem (al-Quds).

Tehran, Dhaka emphasize broadening trade ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi has stressed the need to enhance trade and economic cooperation between Iran and Bangladesh using the two countries current capacities.

"The two countries have high capacities and potentials to promote bilateral ties in the fields of trade and economy," Aliabadi said in a meeting with State Minister of Bangladesh Ahasanul Islam Titu.

As Mehr News Agency reported, in this meeting Aliabadi underlined Iran's capabilities in various fields including agriculture, foodstuff, tourism, pharmaceutical and medical industries, sports, etc.

He also added that Iran is a top producer of various types of construction materials and equipment in the region and the country can export such materials to Bangladesh as well. ▶ Page 4

World is waiting for revenge for Haniyeh

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Kayhan dedicated its headline to the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

It wrote: The unfortunate and bitter news of Ismail Haniyeh's martyrdom indicates a new crime of the Zionist regime and its Western supporters in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Zionist regime and the frustrated government of Netanyahu, which after ten months of the start of the war in Gaza, finds itself internationally disgraced, commits assassinations so that it can justify its disgraceful political life inside the occupied territories for the Zionist society.

Undoubtedly, this vicious assassination was carried out with the support of Congress and the American government, which supported Netanyahu and gave the green light in the past few days, and the American terrorist government is the main partner of the Zionist regime in the recent crime.

The Zionists know very well that repeating their crimes against Iran and violating the sanctity of the soil of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be costly this time. The Zionists will undoubtedly pay for the blood of martyr Haniyeh with blood.

Iran: Tehran will avenge Haniyeh assassination

The criminal act of the Zionist regime and the assassination of Martyr Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of Hamas, while he was a guest of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was accompanied by a wave of condemnation from all political figures and parties.

The majority of observers saw this assassination as a desperate struggle of the Zionist regime not only to deal with the resistance front and its leaders but also as a reaction to a new period of national reconciliation in Iran and a move towards solving some foreign issues.

This crime will not go unanswered and the Zionists will soon see the results of their cowardly and terrorist act.

Although this was not the first time, the choice of place and time to commit this terrorist crime was largely due to the regime's serious fear of pursuing the policy of supporting the resistance front by the new president of Iran, as well as his specific foreign policy plan to restore relations and resolve regional and international issues, a process that will undoubtedly narrow the field for the continuation of the crimes of the Zionist regime.

Iran voices support for Venezuela's election of Maduro's government



TEHRAN- The spokesman of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the interference of the United States in the results of the presidential election in Venezuela.

Nasser Kanaani on his X account congratulated the successful holding of the presidential elections to the people and the government of Venezuela and the president-elect, Nicolas Maduro, and announced the official support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Maduro's legitimate government.

Kanaani also underlined respect for the sovereignty of governments within the framework of international treaties and conventions, especially the United Nations Charter.

"While expressing our solidarity and firm support for the Venezuelan nation and government, we declare our opposition to any foreign pressure and interference in the

This regime has always made desperate efforts to prevent that.

Jam-e-Jam: Three points in the assassination operation of Haniyeh

In a note, Jam-e-Jam discussed the reasons for the quick publication of the news of Ismail Haniyeh's assassination as the first news in the world and quoted international relations expert Reza Sadr al-Hosseini as saying: One of the reasons for the martyrdom of Haniyeh was that they wanted to act in such a way that the news would spread quickly and create a deterrent for them. In other words, it can be said that the subject of martyrdom, presence in Iran, and the reason for presence in our country increased the prominence of this news. In fact, in this way, they tried to create deterrence by making this news as wide and prominent as possible. Another point that should be noted is that martyr Haniyeh had a diplomatic passport and entered our country officially. For this reason, it is possible to pursue this terrorist act in terms of international laws, and the condemnation of the crime of the Zionist regime will be several hundred times. Another issue that should be taken into consideration is Netanyahu's recent trip to America and the increase in terrorist acts by the Zionist regime. In this regard, it can be said that without a doubt, the Americans were aware of this issue. In fact, the Americans proved that they have always supported the Zionist regime in the past 10 months.

Hamshahri: The desire to cooperate again

In a commentary, Hamshahri dealt with the trip of Enrique Mora, the deputy chief of the EU foreign policy, to Tehran to participate in the inauguration ceremony of Pezeshkian and wrote: Enrique Mora (Thursday) by publishing a video together with Abbas Araghchi, who was Iran's former nuclear negotiator, expressed his desire to continue working with him in the new government of Masoud Pezeshkian and said that meeting and reconnecting with Mr.

Araghchi in the new chapter for Iran which has started was a source of satisfaction. Mora's visit to Iran has angered some representatives of the European Parliament, including the representative of Poland, who described such an action as "in direct conflict with the values and principles" of the European Union.

By accusing the Islamic Republic, he has claimed that Iran is a threat to global security. Of course, this reaction is not a new thing and European Union countries have made many human rights accusations against the Islamic Republic in recent years.

internal affairs of the country and believe that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has the necessary capacity and determination to protect and guarantee the fundamental rights of the people of that country within the framework of the Constitution," Kanaani's message.

Elvis Amoroso, the chief of Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE), announced that President Nicolas Maduro, aged 61, secured a third six-year term by winning 51.2 percent of the vote on Sunday, June 28. His main opponent, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, garnered 44.2 percent of the votes.

After the announcement of the election results, Antony Blinken, the U.S. secretary of State, stated, "Maduro's re-election in the Venezuelan presidential elections was fraudulent and that his rival, Gonzalez Urrutia, is the legitimate president of Venezuela."

The announcement from the U.S. government came amid diplomatic efforts to persuade Maduro to release vote tallies from the election and increasing calls for an independent review of the results, according to officials from Brazil and Mexico.

Following this diplomatic stance, some in Venezuela took to the streets in protest, and in recent days, many demonstrations against Maduro's government have occurred.

Iranians bid historic farewell to 'dear guest' Ismail Haniyeh

TEHRAN- Thousands of Iranian citizens poured into the streets of the capital Tehran on Thursday to attend the funeral ceremony of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas political bureau chief who was assassinated by Israel in the early hours of Wednesday on Iranian territory.

People from all walks of life began walking to the University of Tehran in the center of the capital, where the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei was set to lead the funeral prayer over Haniyeh's body.

The Palestinian leader was targeted inside his temporary residence in northern Tehran by a projectile, according to Hamas.

As Ayatollah Khamenei led the prayer, high-ranking Iranian officials and military leaders stood in attendance, including President



Masoud Pezeshkian, who was seen shedding tears during the prayer. Haniyeh had traveled to Iran to attend Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony.

Iranians flocking to the streets, however, talked to reporters with anger and assertiveness, asking Iranian armed forces to "teach Israel a proper lesson."

"Authorities need to understand

that we expect a proper response – a response that would make Israel regret what it did. Something even more fierce than Operation True Promise.

These Zionists just don't care about international law whatsoever. We need to put them in their place with force," said a young female citizen while speaking to reporters.

Other people attending the funeral in scorching heat seemed to be of the same mind, as they swayed flags of Palestine, Hezbollah, and Hamas in the air. Mourners also held aloft copies of the Thursday edition of Tehran Times whose front page promised that Haniyeh's blood would not be "trampled."

"Israelis just don't understand how much guests matter in Iranian culture," declared a 62-year-old man while holding his granddaughter in his arms and shielding her from the glaring sun with his hand. "We will not let this slip by. Israel will be taught a lesson, and the Iranian populace will make sure of that."

Haniyeh was transferred to Doha, Qatar after his funeral ended in Tehran.

Iran to exercise legitimate right to respond to Zionist's crimes: acting FM

TEHRAN – The Iranian acting foreign minister has affirmed Iran's intent to exercise its legitimate right to respond to and punish the "criminal Zionist gang."

Ali Baqeri Kani engaged in a detailed telephone conversation with Josep Borrell, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs on Friday, to discuss the serious repercussions of the recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Hamas movement.

He emphasized that Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran not only breached Iran's territorial integrity and national sovereignty but also jeopardized peace and stability both regionally and internationally.

During the call, Baqeri Kani outlined the profound political and security consequences of the assassination, highlighting that it constituted a grave violation of Iran's national security and threatened regional stability.

He pointed out that Enrique Mora, representing the European Union, had been present at the inauguration ceremony of Iran's president, which further underscored the gravity of the act.

Baqeri Kani referred to the emergency session of the United Nations Security Council requested by Iran, expressing disappointment over the actions of certain European countries that, alongside the United States, had obstructed the Security Council from officially condemning Haniyeh's assassination.

He criticized the complicity and silence of these nations regarding Israeli aggression in Yemen and Lebanon, arguing that such stances embolden Israel to continue its aggressive

policies, thereby threatening regional peace and stability.

In his response, Josep Borrell emphasized the European Union's recognition of Iran's right to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty.

He shared concerns about the escalating tensions and the potential for a broader conflict, which could have severe repercussions for the people in the region.

Concluding the conversation, Baqeri Kani urged the European Union to take decisive action to maintain international peace and security. He called on the EU to exert pressure on Israel to halt its ongoing aggressive actions, warning that failure to do so would encourage further warmongering by the Israeli regime, thereby endangering regional and international peace, stability, and security.

Acting FM tells UN chief Iran will punish 'criminal Zionists'

During a telephone conversation with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday, a day after Haniyeh was assassinated, Ali Baqeri Kani condemned the act as a violation of Iran's territorial integrity and a threat to regional and international peace.

"The Zionist regime's terrorist act of assassinating Haniyeh in Tehran did not only violate the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic but also endangered regional and international peace and stability," he stated.

Baqeri Kani emphasized Iran's right to take reciprocal action. "Iran will not forgo its inherent right to defend itself and take reciprocal action to punish the criminal Zionists," he stressed.

Iran will remain committed to supporting Resistance: Pezeshkian

Pezeshkian emphasized that the Zionist regime has failed in all its criminal policies, describing these terrorist acts as signs of the regime's dead-end.

During the conversation, Khalil al-Hayya expressed gratitude for President Pezeshkian's condolences and his principled remarks on the Palestinian issue during the inauguration ceremony. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a true supporter of the Resistance Axis

and a constant ally of the Palestinian people.

Haniyeh was in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's newly-elected President Pezeshkian when he was martyred alongside his bodyguard.

Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has vowed harsh retaliation against Israel, framing the incident as an attack on Iran's dignity and sovereignty.

Haniyeh assassination impossible without U.S. approval: Iran

TEHRAN – Iran has pointed out U.S. complicity in the Israeli assassination of Hamas political Chief Ismail Haniyeh, stating that the move would have been impossible without direct U.S. authorization.

Amir Saied Iravani, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, made the remarks during a Security Council meeting on "The Middle East Situation." He emphasized the significant role of the United States in the terror act as a strategic ally and primary supporter of Israel.

Haniyeh was assassinated in the early hours of Wednesday in his temporary residence in Tehran. Iravani condemned the assassination as a grave act of terrorism and a serious breach of international law and the United Nations Charter. He also characterized the act as a violation of Iran's sovereignty and national security, calling for immediate and

decisive action from the UN Security Council to fulfill its obligations under the Charter.

The full text of the address by the Iranian envoy before the UN Security Council is as follows:

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Russian Federation for convening this emergency meeting.

I extend my gratitude to China and Algeria for requesting this meeting as well as those members that supported convening of the meeting.

We also thank USG, Ms. Di Carlo for her briefing.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Council,

We request this urgent meeting and attend the Council today to address a matter of grave importance and urgency, one that

threatens international peace and security, and challenges the very principles upon which this esteemed body was founded.

As we addressed in our letter today to you Mr. President, the cowardly assassination of Mr. Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), and a great leader of the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle for self-determination, as the result of an aggressive act of terrorism by the Zionist occupying regime of Israel.

Mr. Haniyeh who was in Tehran upon an official invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the presence of leaders of many foreign countries, was targeted, alongside his companion, in his residence in Tehran at around 2:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday 31 July 2024.

This act of terror is just another manifestation of Israel's decades-long pattern of terrorism targeting Palestinians and other supporters and sympathizers of the Palestinian cause across the region and beyond.

In addition to its terrorist objectives, Israel was also pursuing a political goal with this act, aiming to disrupt the first day of the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has prioritized strengthening peace, and stability in the region, and enhancing cooperation and constructive engagement with international community.

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns in the strongest possible terms this horrible terrorist act as a most serious violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations as well as a grave breach of Iran's sovereignty and national security.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Multiple Iranian officials have emphasized the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's vow of retaliation against Israel for the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Haniyeh was assassinated in the early hours of Wednesday when a projectile hit his temporary residence in northern Tehran, according to a statement by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC). The head of the political bureau of Hamas had traveled to Iran to attend President Masoud Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who led the funeral prayer over Haniyeh's body before it was transferred to Qatar on Thursday, has vowed to avenge the blood of Iran's "dear guest."

"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 hours after Haniyeh was assassinated.

The first high-ranking Iranian official to repeat the Leader's vow was Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, a powerful figure in Iran's political system believed to be close to the country's armed forces.

"We will definitely act on the Leader's command to respond to the crime at the right time and place," the parliament speaker affirmed during Haniyeh's funeral ceremony held on Thursday, adding that the Israeli regime will pay a "heavy price" for its cowardly act.

Qalibaf also pointed the finger of blame at Washington, stating: "No Israeli crime ever takes place without direct U.S. coordination."

Analysts believe that Washington gave the greenlight for the assassination of Haniyeh during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent trip to the U.S., a visit that included his controversial address to Congress.

Iran's most senior military official, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein



Baqeri, has also vowed a harsh response for Israel.

"The way the Axis of Resistance and we will seek justice for the martyrdom of Haniyeh is under review. Various actions must be taken, and the Zionists will undoubtedly regret it," Major General Baqeri said on the sidelines of the funeral ceremony for Martyr Ismail Haniyeh.

"This will definitely happen. Various actions must be taken, and the Zionists will certainly regret it," he emphasized.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, the Iranian Army chief commander, and Major General Hossein Salami, the IRGC commander-in-chief, were among the other high-ranking military officials who reiterated Tehran's resolute will for retaliation.

On Friday, a day after the remarks by the military leaders, a member of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's office said Iran had concluded how it was going to avenge Haniyeh's blood. "It will be conducted shortly if God wills it," Mehdi Fazaeli announced.

The nature of Iran's response to the Hamas official's assassination remains uncertain. Some speculate that it could exceed the scale of Iran's response to the Israeli strike on its embassy in Damascus, which involved the launch of numerous drones and missiles into the occupied territories in April.

"I don't think Iran's retaliation would include the same

assassination tactics Israel has been using for years," Mehdi Bakhtiari, a war reporter and expert on West Asia, told the Tehran Times.

"I predict Iran will do something similar to what it did during Operation True Promise on April 14, but the response would be harsher and more destructive. That's because, in April, we merely aimed to showcase our capabilities and did not want to deal severe damage to the regime," he added.

Bakhtiari explained that the regime's assassination of a top Hezbollah figure hours before the killing of Haniyeh, and its earlier strike on Yemen's Hodeidah port, means a coordinated response against Israel from multiple fronts may be imminent. "Lebanon's Hezbollah, Yemen's Ansarullah, and even Resistance forces in Syria and Iraq might join Iran in its retaliation. Also, I don't think American or other Western forces are going to be targeted."

Recent remarks and discussions by Israeli officials show that the regime is also expecting a robust response. War Minister Yoav Gallant, in a conversation with his British counterpart on Friday, emphasized the need for a "coalition" of allies to defend Israel against potential attacks from the Axis of Resistance, similar to how some Western and Arab countries helped intercept Iranian drones and missiles on April 14.

Is the region teetering on the edge of an all-out war?

By assassinating a key figure from the other side of the negotiating table, Netanyahu has demonstrated that ending the war in Gaza is not his top priority.

Furthermore, given Iran's inevitable response to Haniyeh's assassination, his actions suggest an intentional desire to draw the U.S. into a regional conflict with Tehran and the Axis of Resistance.

This has caused observers around the world to have growing concerns about the prospects of the escalating situation erupting into an all-out war with severe and long-lasting consequences.

Many analysts, however, believe that while Joe Biden and his top accomplices like Antony Blinken have easily been manipulated by Netanyahu in the past 10 months, they are still wise enough to avoid a regional conflict in their current state.

"Iran has been dealing with Netanyahu for several years. It will not walk into the regime's trap.

Our response would be firm, but it wouldn't be conducted in a manner that would give Washington the reason to enter a war with us," an expert quoted by Nournews, an agency believed to be close to Iran's National Security Council, stated.

"The U.S. is also not looking for a new war in West Asia. It is already bogged down in Ukraine and needs to focus its resources on tackling significantly bigger threats like China."



inauguration ceremony of Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian, on Tuesday before he was assassinated.

Iran's VP meets Emir of Qatar

TEHRAN- On Friday, Iran's vice president Mohammadreza Aref left for Doha to meet with the Emir of Qatar and participate in the funeral of Ismail Haniyeh.

Before leaving for Doha, Aref pointed out, "The message of the Iranian people and the Islamic Revolution is solidarity with the oppressed and resistant people of Palestine and the ideas that pertain to the liberation of the holy Quds from the Zionists' occupation," as reported by ISNA.

During his trip, Aref discussed regional issues and the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh by the Zionist regime with the Emir of Qatar. The necessity of condemning the hostile and illegal actions of the Zionist regime in the assassination of the political chief of Hamas was one of the important points of this discussion.

Martyr Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday by the Zionist regime. He had attended the

EU diplomat hails Araghchi, says looking forward to new collaboration

TEHRAN- The deputy head of the EU's foreign policy expressed satisfaction of his meeting with Seyed Abbas Araghchi, the secretary of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations.

Enrique Mora stated in his official account on the X platform, "Good to recover contact with @araghchi in a new chapter for Iran. Looking forward to working with him again."

The two officials held their talks on

Wednesday in Tehran, discussing different issues regarding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Europe.

Mora was in Tehran to attend the inaugural ceremony of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian, which was held on Tuesday.

In recent days, Iranian media have mentioned Abbas Araghchi as one of the candidates for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the fourteenth government.

In a separate decree on Thursday, Pezeshkian, who took oath office in the Parliament on Tuesday, also chose Mohammad Jafar Qaem Panah as his deputy for executive affairs and chief of the presidential chief of staff.

An optometrist, Qaem Panah had worked with President Pezeshkian when he was the chancellor of Tabriz University and health minister in the Khatami government.



Pezeshkian appoints Zarif as his deputy for strategic affairs

TEHRAN – In a decree on Thursday, President Masoud Pezeshkian appointed Mohammad Javad Zarif as his deputy for strategic affairs and the chief of the Presidential Center for Strategic Studies.

Zarif, 64, was foreign minister from 2013 to 2021 under President Hassan Rouhani.

He was Iran's chief negotiator in the nuclear talks that led to the 2015 nuclear deal,

officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The agreement, endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, was ditched by former U.S. President Donald Trump as he withdrew the U.S., the main party to the agreement, from the deal.

Zarif also served as Iran's representative at the United Nations during the presidency of Mohammad Khatami.

Persepolis complete signing of Guendouz

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Persepolis completed the signing of French goalkeeper Alexis Guendouz early Friday.

The 28-year-old Algerian-French custodian has joined Persepolis on a three-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

He replaced Alireza Beiranvand.

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

Guendouz joined Persepolis from Algerian team CR Belouizdad.

The Algerian-French custodian is Persepolis's fourth signing in the summer. The Reds have previously completed the signing of Ayoub El Amloud, Farshad Ahmadzadeh and Ali Alipour.

Draws revealed for 2024 Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian teams Shahdab Yazd and Foolad Sirjan Iranian learned their opponents in the 24th edition of the Men's Asian Club Volleyball Championship.

The competition will be held in Iranian city Yazd from Sep. 8 to 15.

Iran's Shahdab Yazd are drawn in Pool A along with Kuwait Sporting Club.

Foolad Sirjan Iranian are also pitted against Qatar's Al Rayyan Sports Club and Afghanistan's Kam Air (AFG) in Pool D.

The Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, previously the AVC Cup Men's Club Tournament (between 1999 and 2002), is an annual continental club volleyball competition organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC), the sport's continental governing body.

The competition was first contested in 1999 in China. It was not held in 2003 and 2020 due to the 2002–2004 SARS outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic, respectively.

Draws:

Pool A: Shahdab Yazd (IRI A), Kuwait Sporting Club (KUW)

Pool B: Wolves Nagoya (JPN), Gas Al Janoub (IRQ), Baoding Wo Li Volleyball Club (CHN)

Pool C: Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi (INA), Pavlodar Volleyball Club (KAZ), Taichung Win (TPE)

Pool D: Al Rayyan Sports Club (QAT), Kam Air (AFG), Foolad Sirjan Iranian (IRI B)

Hungarian midfielder Nagy linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Hungarian international midfielder Zsolt Nagy has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis football team.

The 31-year-old player, who currently plays for Hungarian club Csákvár, has reportedly caught the eye of Persepolis coach Juan Carlos Garrido.

Zsolt Nagy was part of Hungary football team in the Euro 2024.

Persepolis have previously completed the signing of four players in the summer window.

Sepahan eye ex-France team Nzonzi

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club have reportedly shown an interest in signing Steven Nzonzi.

Nzonzi represented France national football team 20 times from 2017 to 2020.

The media reports suggest that the Iranian team is going to sign the former Sevilla and Roma defensive midfielder.

Sepahan, headed by Jose Morais, prepare for the 2024–25 Iran Professional League.

The Isfahan-based team, who won the Hazfi Cup in late June, will meet Persepolis as the league holders in Iran's Super Cup in the coming weeks.

Sepahan will host Shabab Al Ahli of the UAE in Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium in the AFC Champions League Elite Qualification on August 6.

Fasihi satisfied with her performance in women's 100m

TEHRAN – Iran's Farzaneh Fasihi failed to qualify for the women's 100m final in the 2024 Olympic Games but she is satisfied with her performance.

Fasihi, known as wind's daughter, came seventh with a time of 11.51 seconds.

Poland's Ewa Swoboda finished in first place with 10.99, followed by Briton Asher-Smith and Nigeria's Rosemary Chukwuma with 11.01 and 11.26, respectively.

"It was my second Olympics and I have to say I am happy with my result. I competed with the sprinters who are favorites to win the medal," Fasihi said.

"I took the first steps and hope the girls of the next generation can continue this path. I worked hard to get where I am and I will compete in the next Olympic Games if the people and federation support me," she added.

Iran's Hassan Taftian will compete in the men's 100m on Saturday.

Iran edge Sri Lanka in CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League

TEHRAN – Iran edged past Sri Lanka 3-2 (25-20, 25-12, 22-25, 13-25, 15-11) in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League on Friday.

Team Mellis will play the Maldives on Saturday.

The Persians had started the campaign with a 3-1 loss against India.

The competition kicked off at the National Sports Council in Kathmandu, Nepal, on August 1.

According to the competition format, all five participating teams will contest a single round robin and will be ranked first to fifth places respectively according to performances of each team. After that, team finishing on the bottom fifth place will leave the competition.

The teams finishing first to fourth places will contest the cross semifinals on Aug. 6, with the first-ranked team challenging the fourth place and the second-ranked side fighting it out with the third place. The two winning teams will then advance to the showdown and fight for the eventual crown on Aug. 7.

The CAVA Women's Nations League promises to be an exciting event, showcasing top-tier volleyball talent and fostering international sportsmanship.

Shooter Rostamian makes history in 2024 Olympics

TEHRAN – Iranian shooter Haniyeh Rostamian booked her place in the final round of the 2024 Olympic Games.

Rostamian came third in the women's 25m pistol qualification and will compete in the final, which will be played on Saturday.

The Iranian female managed a combined total of 588-18x.

Hungary's Veronika Major came first with 592-27x, followed by Indian Manu Bhaker with 590-24x.

"It was a difficult competition since the Olympics brought the world's best shooters together in Paris. I will do my best to win a medal on Saturday and need the Iranian people pray for me," Rostamian said.

Tehran, Dhaka emphasize broadening trade ties

From page 1 ▶ Regarding the economic capacities of Bangladesh, Aliabadi said, "According to the historical documents, Iran has always had deep cultural, scientific and commercial relations with the Indian subcontinent and Bangladesh, and active membership of the two countries in the international forums, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a solid evidence for this claim."

The Bangladeshi state minister, for his turn, introduced Iran as a country with high trade and economic potentials, stating that Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In April 2023, late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi urged the growth of commercial

and trade links with Bangladesh while reiterating his administration's commitment to fostering connections with other Muslim nations.

In a phone conversation with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Raisi stated that Iran's foreign policy is built on bolstering ties with all nations, particularly those in the Islamic world.

He also expressed optimism for strong ties between Bangladesh and Iran, particularly for the advancement of economic and commercial cooperation.

Sheikh Hasina, for her part, stressed the need for improving connections with Iran, particularly in the commercial and economic spheres, as well as regional cooperation.

IOOC to add 9,600 bpd to Iran's oil output in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – Head of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) has said that the installation and implementation of platforms A20 and A21 in Abuzar field by late December will increase the company's daily oil output from the fields in the Persian Gulf by 9,600 barrels.

Referring to the 85 percent progress of the construction of the mentioned platforms, Alireza Mehdizadeh said: "99 percent of the required items and equipment related to this project have been provided and some of these items are waiting for customs clearance and the implementation activities of this project are continuing at a good pace."

According to the official, each of the A20 and A21 platforms weigh more than 1,100 tons and are completely built using the ca-

pabilities of domestic contractor companies.

Mehdizadeh further stated that the drilling of four wells related to the A21 platform was done in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), and the drilling of four wells of the A20 platform will be completed by next month.

Stating that the jackets of the mentioned platforms have been pre-made and installed in the desired location, Mehdizadeh clarified: "the pre-commissioning and commissioning activities of this project will begin soon, and with the selection of the installation contractor for the platforms, the process of transportation, installation and commissioning will begin which is anticipated to take a month to complete."

Annual export from Tehran province rises 15%

TEHRAN – The value of non-oil export from Tehran province increased by 15.13 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), as compared to its previous year, according to a provincial official.

Heshmatollah Soleymani, the deputy head of the province's Planning and Budget Department, said that non-oil goods worth \$1.674 billion were exported from the province in the past year.

He also announced that the non-oil export from the province rose 4.23 percent in terms of weight in the previous year.

The official further said that Iraq with importing non-oil products worth \$266 million, Turkey with \$228 million, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with \$145 million, Pakistan with \$118 million, and Germany with \$105 million were the first five export markets of Tehran province in the previous Iranian calendar year.

As previously announced, the value of export from Tehran province increased by 19 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

As reported, 826,000 tons of non-oil goods worth \$1.444 billion were exported from Tehran province in that year.

Tehran province also imported 537,000 tons of non-oil goods valued at \$11.016 billion in 1401, with a 13 percent fall in the worth of imports.

Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Germany and Afghanistan were the first five export markets of Tehran province, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, Turkey, Germany and Switzerland were the first five sources of imports to the province in that year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

According to Mohammad Rezvaniyar, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

The official put the country's non-oil ex-

ports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical engineering services in the mentioned year.

Based on IRICA data, during this period, 48.8 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$19.4 billion were also exported, which shows a decrease of 11.32 percent and 28.59 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

During this period, liquefied natural gas with \$3.9 billion, liquefied propane with \$3.62 billion, and bitumen-oil with \$2.19 billion were Iran's top exported items.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$13.915 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$9.215 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$6.611 billion, Turkey with \$4.16 billion, and India with \$2.17 billion.

The official put the average customs value of each ton of exported goods at \$362 which has decreased by 17 percent compared to the preceding year.

During this period, 39 million tons of goods worth \$66.28 billion were also imported into the country, which shows an increase of 4.39 percent in terms of weight and 77.9 percent in terms of value, he said.

The country's top five sources of imports in the previous year were the UAE with \$20.782 billion, China with \$18.545 billion, Turkey with \$7.541 billion, Germany with \$2.155 billion, and India with \$1.917 billion worth of imports.

Corn, mobile phones, and gold ingots were the top three imported items followed by soybeans, automobile parts, sunflower seeds, and safflower were the five main items imported by the Islamic Republic.

Rezvaniyar said the average customs value of each ton of imported goods increased by \$5.16 and reached \$1,697.

West Karoun oilfields output to reach 1m bpd

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) has said the company is planning to increase the output of the oil fields in the West Karoun region to 1.0 million barrels per day (bpd), Shana reported.

Stating that all the projects in the West Karoun fields have been assigned to capable contractors, Abouzar Sharifi said: "By financing and carrying out the next phases of the development of West Karoun fields, in a gradual process, we will reach the daily production of one million barrels in this region."

He further noted that in the last three years, 67 wells have gone operational in the South Azadegan joint field which is located in the mentioned region.

"The implementation of mentioned wells has increased the production capacity of this field by 70,000 barrels per day, and the output of this field has now reached 140,000 barrels per day despite the natural de-



crease due to the specific conditions of the reservoir," Sharifi explained.

West Karoun oil fields, which Iran shares with Iraq in the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun, include five major fields namely North Azadegan, South Azadegan, North Yaran, South Yaran, and Yadavaran.

West Karoun holds great importance for the country's oil industry since according to

the latest studies, its in-situ deposit is estimated to be 67 billion barrels containing both light and heavy crude oils, and therefore it could have a big impact on Iran's oil output increases in the future.

Back in July 2023, the managing director of Arvandan Oil and Gas Company (AOGC), which is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) operating oil fields located in the West Karoun region, said the output from

West Karoun oil fields increased by 20,000 bpd in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

Speaking in a meeting with Sharifi and some of the region's oil industry officials, Abdollah Ozari said: "We were able to increase oil production in West Karoun by 20,000 barrels by moving some of the oil flow lines of wells in South Azadegan field to prevent oil pushing back from high-pressure wells to low-pressure ones."

Sharifi also pointed to some of the measures taken for the development of fields in the West Karoun region, saying: "We plan to hand over 17 new wells to AOGC next week, which will further increase the output from fields operated by the company."

ICCIMA hosts Iran-Brazil business forum

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted an Iran-Brazil business forum in Tehran, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The business forum was attended by senior officials from the two sides including the ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh and Vice-President of Brazil Geraldo Alckmin.

Speaking in this event, Hassanzadeh said the capacities of Iran's economy in the fields of medical, energy, petrochemical, mining, food and agricultural industries, and technical and engineering services should be used to develop cooperation with Brazil.

"Iran is interested in developing economic relations with friendly and neighboring countries, and the government is trying to enable the country's economic operators to benefit from such connection and economic relations," the official said.

"Iran's economy has capacities in various fields and we hope that businessmen and economic operators of the two sides have a coherent plan and cooperate to take advantage of such capacities," he added.

Referring to the trade relations between Iran and Brazil, he stated: "The lack of free and preferential trade agreements between Iran and Brazil is one of the most important obstacles to the development of economic relations between the two countries, and we hope that this obstacle will be removed as soon as possible."

The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce pointed to the potential fields for economic cooperation between Iran and Brazil and stated that medical and pharmaceutical sectors, renewable energies, oil, gas and petrochemical, mining, automobile industry, food and agricultural industry,



and technical and engineering services are among the fields that the private sectors of the two countries can cooperate in.

'Governments of Iran and Brazil should take measures to solve monetary and banking problems between two sides.'

"Strengthening these cooperations requires the development of bilateral relations," he stressed.

Prior to the business forum, Hassanzadeh had met with Alckmin on Wednesday.

In that meeting, the ICCIMA head said 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 eco-

nomical 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.

Iran's 4-month pistachio export up 193% on year



TEHRAN – The value of Iran's pistachio export increased by 193 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the chairman of Kerman's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture.

Mehdi Tayebzadeh put the worth of four-month pistachio export at \$273 million.

According to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported about 2.226 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$1.18 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian

calendar year, registering an increase of 32 percent in value year on year.

The exports of the mentioned products also increased 22 percent in terms of weight.

As reported, pistachio was the top exported item in the mentioned period with \$237 million of exports, a 193 percent increase compared to the previous year.

The country's non-oil trade reached \$36 billion in the first four months of this year. Out of the country's total foreign trade, \$17.5 billion was the share of exports and \$18.5 billion was for the imports.

Based on the data released by the IRICA, the Islamic Republic exported \$1.027 billion of agricultural products in the first three months of the current Iranian year (March 20-June 21), an increase of 37 percent in value year on year.

The exports of the mentioned products also rose by 19 percent in terms of weight in the said three months.

Pistachios, tomatoes, water-

melons, apples and potatoes were the top exported products in the mentioned period.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

Iran exported pistachios worth \$273 million during four months.

According to the Spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to

export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous year.

Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items.

The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood in second place, importing \$751 million of the mentioned products, followed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

WORLD HEADLINES

Hamas political chief is laid to rest in Qatar

Haniyeh will be etched on Palestinians' memory as a resistance icon forever

From page 1 ▶

Haniyeh's popularity

In addition to Palestinian factions, representatives of NGOs were present at the funeral in Doha. This attached significance to the position of Haniyeh among all Palestinians irrespective of their political affiliations.

Haniyeh, who was in the Iranian capital to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian, alongside other Axis of Resistance leaders, was killed in an attack early on Wednesday.

Huge crowds attended a funeral procession and prayer that was held for him in Tehran on Thursday.

Western propaganda

The US and some of its Western allies have waged smear campaigns against Hamas, claiming that the movement does not represent Palestinians. But a close look at attendees in Haniyeh's funeral disputes such false claims and shows that Hamas is



widely seen as a legitimate voice of the Palestinians.

Haniyeh was not only engaged in ceasefire talks with mediators - Qatar, Egypt and the United States - but was also an important face of the Palestinian resistance.

Haniyeh was assassinated by Israel although he considered talks as an approach to bring an end to the regime's genocidal war on Gaza.

His murder clearly shows that

Israel does not want ceasefire and uses talks as a smokescreen to advance its war agenda.

Israeli officials had promised to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders as part of their stated aim to destroy the resistance group since declaring war on Gaza on October 7.

More than 300 days have passed since Israel launched the onslaught.

According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, about 39,500 Pal-

estinians, including more than 16,300 children have been killed since the start of the conflict. The ministry says over 91,000 others have also been wounded.

But Israel has failed to eliminate Hamas. Intelligence assessments by the US and Israel have shown that Hamas has become more popular in Gaza and the West Bank after the war.

For now, the assassination of Haniyeh will not only fail to weaken Hamas but also boost the resolve of Palestinians to put up resistance against the occupying regime.

Haniyeh lost his life but his successor will continue his path with great strength.

His assassination also conveyed an important message to the world that Israel is an apartheid entity whose survival depends on bloodshed. Hence, negotiations with the murderous regime are nothing more than a wild-geese chase.

Haniyeh assassination places Meta's hypocrisy on full display

From page 1 ▶

"Condemning cowardice"

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim posted a video recording of his phone call with a Hamas official on Facebook on Wednesday to offer condolences following Haniyeh's death. But the tech company, which is owned by US billionaire Mark Zuckerberg, removed his post. It also took down a similar post published on the premier's Instagram account.

Anwar denounced the move, saying, "Let this serve as a clear and unequivocal message to Meta: cease this display of cowardice and stop acting as instruments of the oppressive Zionist Israeli regime."

Meta's takedown of his posts was accompanied by the caption, "Dangerous individuals and organizations."

Meta has designated the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement as a "dangerous organization" and bans content praising it.

Censuring censorship

Turkey's communications chief and a top adviser to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has also condemned Instagram for prevent-

ing people from posting messages of condolences over Haniyeh's assassination.

"This is censorship, pure and simple," Fahrettin Altun said on Wednesday.

He added, "We will continue to defend freedom of expression against these platforms, which have repeatedly shown that they serve the global system of exploitation and injustice."

The Turkish Information and Communication Technologies Authority blocked access to Instagram, the photo and video-sharing social media platform, on Friday for "censoring" Hamas-related content.

Such biased approaches by Meta are not unprecedented.

Bias towards Israel, US

Meta has already stirred controversy by abruptly removing Instagram and Facebook accounts belonging to the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. The US firm blocked Ayatollah Khamenei's accounts in February after he condemned Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

Meta adopted the same policy when the United States assassinated Iranian anti-terror commander, Lieutenant General Qassem

Soleimani, in Iraq in January 2020.

It removed comments praising the late general, who played a key role in helping Iraqi and Syrian armies defeat ISIL, and hashtags such as #Soleimani.

Such moves by Meta cast doubt on Western claims of upholding freedom of expression, revealing a willingness to stifle the voices of the voiceless. Besides, they expose a broader pattern of support for Israel and its main supporter, the United States.

Nonetheless, as Israel continues its war of genocide in Gaza, Meta's pro-Israel bias remains under the spotlight.

In fact, as Israel is massacring Palestinian people in Gaza, the US is abetting the regime's genocide through its tech firms. The removal of posts in support of Palestine and condemnation of the Israeli carnage in Gaza are aimed at helping the regime sweep its atrocious crimes under the rug.

In other words, Israel perpetrates atrocities and Meta, on behalf of the US and some other Western states, acts as a facilitator of genocide.

Hezbollah vows 'impactful' response to commander's killing

Hezbollah's deputy chief said the Lebanese resistance movement and its allies are destined to win against the "evil" forces they are confronting.

Speaking to Al-Manar TV, Sheikh Naim Qassem pledged a "present, important and impactful" response to the killing of commander Fuad Shukur, who was assassinated in an Israeli air raid on Tuesday

UNIFIL says it cannot attribute responsibility for Majdal Shams incident

Andrea Tenenti, the spokesperson for the UN peacekeeping troops in Lebanon, said the attack that killed 12 people in Syria's occupied Golan Heights falls outside the force's operations.

Israel had blamed Hezbollah for the explosion, but the Lebanese resistance movement has vehemently denied the allegation, Al Jazeera reported.

"UNIFIL is not in the position to attribute the responsibility of the tragic incident in Majdal Shams," Tenenti said, according to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA).

Tenenti's comments come after some media outlets falsely reported that a UNIFIL investigation found Hezbollah to be responsi-

ble for the attack.

Israel summons Turkish envoy over half-mast salute for Hamas leader

Israel's Foreign Ministry summoned the deputy Turkish ambassador for a reprimand after Turkey's embassy in Tel Aviv lowered its flag to half-mast in response to the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, Reuters reported.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a statement that Tel Aviv does not tolerate expression of mourning for Haniyeh.

Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Oncu Keceli, responding to Katz's remarks on social media platform X, said: "You cannot achieve peace by killing negotiators, threatening diplomats," in an apparent reference to Haniyeh's killing.

Tensions between Israel and Turkey have risen sharply since the start of Israel's bombing campaign in Gaza.

UNRWA: Situation in West Bank 'worsening daily'

The UN's Palestinian refugee agency said on X that the "Nur Shams and Tulkarm camps are suffering from water shortages and electricity outages."

The agency added that constant raids by Israeli security forces "continue causing destruction & threatening the lives of people in the area".

"This 'silent war' has to end", said UNRWA.

Netanyahu's claim that Iran funds protests would mean failure of 17 US intelligence agencies: analysis

TEHRAN - A senior analyst says the claim by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that protests in the United States against Israel's war on Gaza are funded by Iran would mean that 17 American intelligence agencies have failed to prevent Iran's influence in the country.

"Such a claim would mean a failure of 17 American intelligence agencies to contain Iranian influence, allegations that are serious accusations against the intelligence community," Seyyed Hossein Mousavian, Middle East security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University, wrote in the Middle East Policy Council.

Following is the text of the analysis:

In his speech before a joint session of Congress on July 24, 2024, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that "we all know Iran is funding the anti-Israel protests that are going on right now outside this building...I have a message for these protesters: When the Tyrants of Tehran, who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair, are praising, promoting and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots." While hundreds of members of Congress applauded him 79 times, the substantial number of Democratic no-shows included Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker, who later described the speech as "by far the worst presentation of any foreign dignitary invited and honored with the privilege of addressing the Congress of the United States."

Thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters demanding the U.S. stop military aid to Israel hoisted Palestinian flags and burned American ones outside Union Station in Washington, D.C. in demonstrations against Netanyahu's appearance. On July 9, Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines said that the Iranian government is one of several covertly encouraging American protests over Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza in a bid to stoke outrage ahead of the fall election: "Iran is becoming increasingly aggressive in their foreign influence efforts, seeking to

stoke discord and undermine confidence in our democratic institutions." While Netanyahu claimed that Iran is "funding" protesters, Haines reiterated that "using social media platforms, groups linked to Tehran have posed as online activists, encouraged protests and provided financial support to some protest groups."

On July 25, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller clarified some of those remarks made by Haines: "We understand that the vast majority of protesters in America are not taking their orders from Iran and that most of the people who might have received support from Iran wouldn't even know that that's where it was coming from." Nevertheless, the claims of Iran supporting the protests in the U.S. includes both truth and distortion. The truth is that for the past 40 years, the United States and Iran have both exerted efforts to maximize the exploitation of contentious internal issues in the other's country to their own geopolitical advantage.

Protests swept across Iran in recent months after Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman, died in September 2022 while being held by the "morality" police for violating the country's Islamic dress code. On the anniversary of her death, Joe Biden said "the United States remains committed to standing with the Iranian people—including by providing tools to support their ability to advocate for their own future." It is no secret that, since the 1979 revolution, the U.S. has consistently supported opposition groups to bring about regime change in Iran.

On the other side, in a message to American student protestors, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "You are now on the right side of history. You are now part of the resistance front, and under the ruthless pressure of your government — which openly defends the usurping and ruthless Zionist regime — you have embarked on an honorable struggle."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

its response, with an Israeli decision that any significant attack within Israeli territory, whether military or civilian, will be met with an Israeli response, meaning the likelihood of war expansion is high."

Meanwhile, an Arab affairs commentator on Channel 13, Zvi Yehezkeili, stated that "it must be understood that the threats of Nasrallah in the speech reflect a strong desire for revenge for the assassinations in the Beirut suburb and Tehran."

According to Yehezkeili, "Hezbollah is expected to respond exceptionally and more than usual in the north," referring to "launching precision drones and missiles deeper into Israel."

He indicated that "Iran is planning, as it did previously, to launch missiles and drones. If this happens, it might involve Yemenis, as well as Iraq and Syria, who feel they can do more than before. This is a significant challenge for Israel."

A military affairs analyst on the Hebrew Kan news outlet, Roy Sharon, also stated that "the security and military establishment is at the height of readiness across all fronts."

Sharon added, "We have heard Nasrallah, and we have heard threats from (leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution) Khamenei, clearly indicating that there will be a response."

This comes amid the panic experienced by the Israeli occupation entity, which is anticipating a response from Iran to the aggression that targeted Haniyeh during his stay in Tehran, as well as a response from Lebanon to the assassination of Hezbollah's Fouad Shokor in an aggression targeting the south-

ern suburbs of Beirut.

Israeli sources for Makan Channel predicted that Iran might launch ballistic missiles and explosive drones at Israeli army bases.

The channel's sources expected that the Iranian response could come in a few days, possibly by the end of the current week.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei, had confirmed that Tehran would respond to the assassination of Haniyeh, underlining that avenging the blood of the Haniyeh "is Iran's duty because he was martyred on our soil."

In Lebanon, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah confirmed that the resistance would respond to the occupation's assassination of Shokor and its aggression on the southern suburbs of Beirut, noting that "there is no discussion or debate about this," and that "the response will be real and very calculated, not a symbolic response."

Sayyed Nasrallah emphasized in his speech, which concluded the funeral ceremony for Shokor, that "we are in an open battle on all fronts, and it has entered a new phase."

Shokor, a senior military commander and Sayyed Nasrallah's close confidant, was assassinated by the Israeli military in the southern suburb of Beirut on Tuesday evening.

The Israeli occupation has been on high alert ever since it assassinated Shokor and Hamas's Political Bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Nasrallah leaves Israelis in a state of fear

Israeli media highlight fear of major Hezbollah retaliation

From page 1 ▶ Israeli media noted that Nasrallah, through his comments about the Israeli attack on Beirut and his insistence that it is aggression and not a response to the Majdal Shams incident, and his reference to the killing of civilians, including children, "gives legitimacy to the potential response".

Hezbollah categorically denied any involvement in the Majdal Shams incident when a projectile landed on a soccer field in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan Heights, killing a dozen civilians from the Arabic-speaking Muslim Druze community.

Tel Aviv used the tragic incident to attack Beirut, assassinating senior Hezbollah commander Fouad Shokor.

Lebanon's Civil Defense reported seven people were martyred and 78 wounded in the Israeli attack on the Lebanese capital's southern suburb that assassinated Shokor.

Among those killed included two children and several women.

Israeli Channel 13 military analyst, Alon Ben-David, commenting on Nasrallah's speech noted, "We heard Nasrallah threatening a severe response, and we take his words seriously, as we see Hezbollah preparing for war".

He continued that Hezbollah "does not want war," but it "knows that its severe response might lead to war, so it is preparing for this scenario, just as Israel is preparing in terms of air defense".

Ben-David added that "the estimate is that Israel will receive a significant response from Hezbollah, and the Israeli army is preparing

Governor-general hails Hegmataneh UNESCO listing as a milestone for tourism



TEHRAN – Hamedan province's Governor-General, Alireza Qasemi-Farзад, has praised the UNESCO World Heritage designation of Hegmataneh as a significant milestone in the province's history and tourism sector.

Known to Western sources as Ecbatana, this ancient city was officially inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list on July 27, during the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, India.

The recognition of Ecbatana, which brought Iran its 28th UNESCO World Heritage label, highlights its immense historical and cultural importance.

Speaking with CHTN about this accomplishment, Qasemi-Farząd emphasized that the inscription marks a turning point for Hamedan, the city regarded as a "capital of history and civilization" in Iran.

"This registration is a turning point in the history and tourism of Hamedan."

"Over the past three years, through special initiatives, relentless efforts, and collaboration with relevant executive bodies and urban management, we have been able to lay a suitable

groundwork for this international recognition," the official explained.

The governor-general underscored the pivotal role of Hegmataneh in the province's tourism landscape, referring to it as "the wing of tourism in Hamedan province."

Moreover, he highlighted the presence of over 1,900 historical, cultural, and tourism attractions in Hamedan that draw visitors to that province.

Qasemi-Farząd extended his gratitude to all parties involved in the successful bid for UNESCO recognition, including the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of the province, Hamedan's Islamic City Council, urban management authorities, media personnel, the provincial police, business owners, and the people of Hamedan.

Ecbatana was the capital of the ancient Median Empire and later served as a significant city under the Achaemenid and Parthian empires. Located in present-day Hamedan, Iran, it is celebrated for its archeological treasures and as a testament to the region's long-standing historical and cultural significance.

Located in the suburban area of modern Hamadan, Ecbatana spans approximately 50 acres, with its rich archaeological deposits offering a glimpse into millennia of human civilization. Despite its vast historical significance, large portions of the site remain unexplored, promising future discoveries that could further illuminate our understanding of ancient Iran.

Iran treasures to shine at Sulaymaniyah expo



TEHRAN – Iran is set to highlight arrays of tourism treasures at a show to be held in the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah in late September.

Tourism achievements, capabilities, and potentials of western Iran will be showcased at the Sulaymaniyah Expo, as part of a roadshow, Kordestan province's official in charge of tourism announced during a coordination meeting held on Wednesday.

"In line with the ministry's policies to promote tourism in the western provinces," Arman Vatan-Doust further elaborated. "Kordestan, Kermanshah, and Hamadan will participate in the event scheduled to open doors in late Sep-

tember."

The official also mentioned the numerous commonalities between the western provinces of Iran and Iraq's Sulaymaniyah, which provide strong opportunities for increased synergy and collaboration in the tourism sector. The significant tourism capacities in western Iran, he underscored, require special attention.

"The powerful and prominent presence of our region in this exhibition could mark a pivotal point in the growth and development of the western tourism route, further elevating the international reputation of our hospitable land..." Vatan-Doust noted.

In his final words the official expressed optimism that with strategic planning and coordination between the public and private sectors, the region can effectively showcase its tourism potential at the exhibition.

The meeting also saw participation of tourism officials from Kermanshah, and Hamadan provinces, along with private sector representatives, expressing their readiness to cooperate in all aspects of the exhibition.

Erbil hosts Iranian travel insiders on fam tour



TEHRAN – As part of the Qazvin Export Capabilities Exhibition in Iraq, some Iranian tourism managers have embarked on a tour to explore Kurdistan region's key attractions, enhancing cross-regional tourism collaboration.

"Travel insiders are touring Kurdistan's tourist sites as part of a week-long trip coinciding with the specialized expo in Erbil," Qazvin's director-general of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts told IRNA on Thursday.

The tour features 20 managers from Qaz-

vin's tourism sector who engage with local tourism professionals and explore attractions such as Aqua Tarin Water Park, Sami Abdulrahman Park, and historical sites including Erbil Citadel and the Kurdish Textile Museum, Alireza Khazaeli further explained.

The tour, he continued, will also feature visits to prominent hotels in Erbil, including the Cristal Hotel and Quartz Hotel, to better understand the hospitality services available. Khazaeli highlighted that this initiative aligns with Qazvin's active participation in the exhibition, where officials will showcase the province's tourism potential.

"Scheduled to run for four days, starting from July 30, in Kurdistan region, the exhibition will feature economic insiders and producers from the province," Khazaeli had said in late July.

The directorate general, Alireza Khazaeli added, participate with a booth featuring two counters dedicated to handicrafts and tourism, showcasing the capacities in these sectors.

17th-century Imam Mosque under potential threat due to moisture

TEHRAN – The overall structure of the 17th-century Imam Mosque is under potential threat due to moisture penetrating its foundation, a local tourism official said on Wednesday.

"The columns of Masjed-e Jameh Abbasi (aka Imam Mosque) are sinking due to [moisture caused by] the deterioration of the sewage system. If this issue is not addressed promptly, further damage will threaten this historical monument," said Shahram Amiri, the spokesperson of Isfahan province's tourism directorate.

Amiri made the remarks in an interview with IRNA, adding: "No matter how much we restore the dome of the mosque, if we do not address the deterioration, moisture, and humidity affecting its foundations, our efforts are essentially useless."

He said the mentioned risk is separate from the existing issue of land subsidence, which threatens the whole Isfahan.

It is worth noting that, in recent years, the historic city of Isfahan has faced significant subsidence issues due to devastating drought, excessive use of underground water, lack of perpetual water flow in the river of Zayandeh Rood, reduction of downpours, and other water resources.

"We have entered into negotiations with Isfahan's water and sewage authority to investigate the mosque's sewage system," Amiri said.

He explained that part of the moisture and humidity in the mosque is due to the outdated sewage system surrounding the huge monument. The mosque is located near residential neighborhoods and the Grand Bazaar



of Isfahan, all of which have interconnected sewage systems.

He emphasized, "Our concerns about the sewage system surrounding Masjed-e Jameh Abbasi are even greater than those about Isfahan's Masjed-e Atiq because a significant portion of the over one thousand shops in Imam Square are situated around this mosque."

According to Amiri, the moisture and humidity in the eastern prayer hall are due to the restrooms in the northeastern section.

In this regard, he added, "To resolve this issue, we intend to remove part of the northeastern restrooms from service. We have collaborated with the municipality to construct a new restroom in the northwest, outside the mosque's perimeter. This project was completed two weeks ago, allowing us to decommission the northeastern restrooms."

According to sources, Masjed-e Jameh Abbasi has long struggled with moisture and humidity, especially on its southern and eastern fronts. Experts cite several causes for this, including non-standard restorations, a de-

teriorated sewage system, and substandard restroom facilities.

Previously, in 2018, efforts were made to control the moisture and humidity by renovating and upgrading the northeastern restrooms. Additionally, a new set of restrooms was built outside the mosque, for use by the public and tourists.

Earlier in June, the scaffolding surrounding the magnificent dome of the Imam Mosque was finally removed after 14 years of meticulous restoration work.

The Imam Mosque dome, adorned with over 500,000 tiles, is recognized as the largest tiled dome among historic mosques worldwide, the official added.

Cultural heritage enthusiasts say the removal of the scaffolding marks a significant milestone in preserving and showcasing the architectural splendor of the Imam Mosque, a jewel of Persian Islamic architecture.

A masterpiece of Islamic architecture, the Imam Mosque stands tall at the southern end of UNESCO-registered Naghs-e Jahan Sq. (Imam Square) in Isfahan, central Iran. The majestic place of worship is impressive

because of its sheer size and incredible decoration.

Originally named Masjed Shah ("the Shah Mosque"), its construction began in 1611 during the rule of the Safavid King Shah Abbas the Great, who reigned from 1588 to 1629. The mosque's topmost dome was completed in the last year of his sovereignty.

Its interior and exterior walls are fully decorated with a polychrome, mostly dark blue, glazed tile revetment above a continuous marble dado.

Many believe each of the mosque's parts is a work of genius that leaves a lasting impression. This place of devotion owes its splendor mostly to being covered with seven-color mosaic tiles and symmetrical calligraphic inscriptions.

Imam Square is hemmed on four sides by magnificent buildings: to the east, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque; to the west, the palace of Ali Qapu; to the north, the portico of Qeysarieh; and to the south, the eminent Imam Mosque.

"The square was at the heart of the Safavid capital's culture, economy, religion, social power, government, and politics. Its vast sandy esplanade was used for celebrations, promenades, and public executions, for playing polo and for assembling troops," according to the UNESCO website.

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which translates into "half the world", meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. The city is home to many versatile artisans who underpin its reputation as a living museum of traditional culture.

Excavation sheds new light on Mannai culture



TEHRAN – A recent archaeological work has shed new light on the Mannai civilization, which flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC.

"The excavations focused on examining the architectural structures of the graves and the burial practices of the Mana civilization," Shouresh Mohammadpour, who presides over Bukan's cultural heritage directorate, said on Thursday.

Mohammadpour stated that the emergency excavations were conducted under the supervision of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

The primary objective was to gain new insights into the identity of the communities

that once inhabited Qalaichi Hill, he said.

"Additionally, the boundaries and the protected area of the Qalaichi Hill have been determined."

During the excavation, a number of significant artifacts were uncovered, shedding light on the rich history of the region.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mohammadpour emphasized the necessity of establishing an archaeological museum in Bukan to showcase these important finds and preserve the region's cultural heritage.

Situated in northwestern Iran, close to Lake Urmia, Qalaichi is renowned for its glazed bricks looted and smuggled out of Iran about four decades ago but were repatriated with the assistance of Swiss officials in December 2020.

In the 1970s, a farmer plowing at Qalaichi came across a decorated brick, probably from the columned hall of a citadel. This discovery led to extremely damaging illegal excavations, partly using a bulldozer. Eventually, in 1985, there was an official rescue excavation, but this was quickly abandoned because of an intensification of the Iran-Iraq War. There were then 14 more years of illegal digging until 1999,

when there was another official excavation. But by this time, only small fragments of broken bricks were found.

Situated about nine air km northwest of Bukan, Qalaichi (or Ghalay-chi) is an ancient settlement so far yielded a large number of glazed objects. Some of which are monochrome and the others show complex compositions. The glazed objects from the regular excavations were curated in Urmia Museum and Tehran National Museum.

The artifacts are connected to the Mannai civilization, which flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC. Mannai, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time, namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Mannaean are first recorded in the annals of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (reigned 858–824 BC) and are last mentioned in Urartu by Rusa II (reigned 685–645 BC) and in Assyria by Esarhaddon (reigned 680–669 BC). With the intrusion of the Scythians and the rise of the Medes in the 7th century, the Mannaean lost their identity and were subsumed under the term Medes.

'From Lut to Ararat': cyclists embark on tourism mission to Armenia



TEHRAN – Some motorcyclists from Kerman have set off on a 12-day journey to Armenia, symbolically riding "from Lut to Ararat" to promote tourism and cultural ties between the two regions.

"Six professional cyclists, all members of Kerman's adventurous tourism and motorcycling club, started their ride on Wednesday," said a local official in charge of tourism, adding that

the riders serve as tourism ambassadors.

The cross-border tour is arranged to showcase Kerman's rich tourism marvels on a global stage, Moein Afzali further brought to light.

Afzali elaborated that the motorcyclists also carry a message from the people of Kerman to the citizens of Armenia, which states: "We, people of the ancient land of Kerman, came to you with a message filled with peace and friendship. Kerman, the land of four seasons in Iran, the city of pistachios, dates, pomegranates, and cumin, with its ancient civilization from the city of Jiroft to the vast pistachio orchards, welcomes you

warmly and with open arms."

Kerman province, located in southeastern Iran, boasts a rich tapestry of historical sites, natural wonders and cultural treasures, making it a compelling destination for travelers seeking diverse experiences. The province's capital, Kerman city, serves as a gateway to its many attractions, including ancient citadels, mesmerizing desert landscapes and vibrant bazaars.

One of the province's most renowned landmarks is the UNESCO-listed Bam Citadel, an ancient fortress dating back over 2,000 years and a testament to the region's rich history.

Additionally, Kerman province

boasts natural wonders like the Shazdeh Mahan Garden, an oasis of lush greenery, and the impressive Rayen Castle, often dubbed the "miniature Bam" for its similar architectural style and historical significance.

With its blend of history, culture and natural beauty, Kerman province stands as a captivating destination with endless opportunities for exploration and discovery.

Whether wandering through ancient citadels, traversing desert landscapes, or immersing oneself in vibrant bazaars, visitors to Kerman are sure to be enchanted by its diverse tourist offerings.

Tehran to host 1st exhibition on nursing care in West Asia

TEHRAN – The first exhibition in West Asia on nursing equipment and care services for patients, elderly, and children, named Nursing Carex, is scheduled to be held in Tehran from November 5 to 8.

The exhibition will serve as a platform to feature nurses' key role in society, and provide an opportunity for sharing expertise in nursing services with regional countries; the companies will also have the chance to display their capabilities and latest achievements in the field, IRNA reported.

"International Nurses Day (IND) celebrated on May 12 highlighted the economic power of care which creates healthy people and societies and drives healthy economies under the theme: Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care," IRNA quoted Ahmad Nejatian, an official with the Iranian Nursing Organization, as saying.

Holding this exhibition also highlights the importance of the economic role of nurses' services and the equipment that nurses use to provide services to people, while the most important achievement of the exhibition will be showcasing the role of nurses, he stressed.

The main approach of the scientific exhibition is that nurses are the primary users of medical tools, the official added.

As the existing diseases progress, home care services will also grow to play an important role in patient care. It will soon compete with hospitals in terms of the volume of patients and the services provided.

"During the Covid-19 out-



break, the role of nurses in society became very prominent and people recognized that, too.

Nurses are on the front line of health services and are exposed to the greatest threats, but new perspectives such as home care services and in-home care, especially with the aging population, have created new markets for providing nursing services that will shape the future of the healthcare sector."

Holding the exhibition will certainly contribute to improving the status of nurses and enhancing nursing services in Iran, Nejatian highlighted.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, several seminars and scientific events will be held which will definitely be useful for nurses and update their information.

90% of hospital equipment is domestically made

Some 90 percent of medical equipment used in hospitals is domestically manufactured.

However, three devices with complicated technology are imported, ISNA reported.

On May 12, Ahmad Moslemi, a health ministry official, said with 50 percent of medical devices being domestically manufactured, Iran holds the first place in West Asia for producing medical equipment both in terms of quantity and diversity, Iranian-made medical devices worth around \$50 million are exported to 40 countries annually, IRNA quoted Moslemi as saying.

Over the past five years, the number of manufacturing companies has increased fivefold with some 2,000 companies operating now, he noted.

Moreover, the official said, the number of products has increased fourfold. Equipment such as implants as well as advanced medical devices are manufactured in the country as well.

In addition, the country's medical centers have been equipped with some 15,000 new hospital beds have been added to with 90 percent of the equipment produced locally, Moslemi added.

Rise in medical exports

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters, said in January.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, IRNA quoted Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

He went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Iran experienced a significant rise in exports of medicine and medical equipment in the first four months of the past Iranian calendar year that ended on March 19.

"Exports of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment grew by 300 percent in the first four months of the year," IRNA quoted Heidar Mohammadi, the head of the Food and Drug Administration, as saying.

Currently, the production of medicine, medical equipment, and powdered milk is supported by subsidies. So, their exports were very limited, but it is hoped that their exports will increase next year, he explained.

Arbaeen Intl. Congress offers a unique model of mass gathering management: IFRC official

TEHRAN – Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) undersecretary-general for national society development and operations coordination, has said that Arbaeen International Congress offers a unique model of mass gathering management for other red crescent societies worldwide.

"The management of mass gatherings demonstrates exceptional expertise and the Iranian Red Crescent Society is a pioneer in sharing its knowledge and expertise in this international congress," Castellanos Mosquera highlighted.

He made the remarks at the inauguration ceremony of "the International Congress of Relief and Rescue, Health and Mass Gatherings Management in Arbaeen" which was held in Tehran on August 1.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

While attending the congress via video conference, the IFRC official lauded the IRCS leadership for conducting the congress and assured that the IRCS efforts would contribute to the prosperity and comfort of Arbaeen pilgrims, Mehr news agency reported.

The experience gained over many years of managing mass gatherings in different domestic and global events such as the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia and the Arbaeen pilgrimage in Iraq have enabled the IRCS to carefully plan and master various aspects of events such as preventive health care, security and crowd control, emergency preparedness, and medical services, he added.

Castellanos Mosquera went on to enumerate four basic points to ensure the success of mass gathering management.

First, safety and security: It includes preparedness to respond to accidents and hazards' risks, medical emergencies, diseases, and even acts of violence. Each of them requires particular planning and procedures tailored to the location of the event.

Second, the environmental footprint: mass gatherings face the challenge of waste accumulation. Therefore, waste management and recycling should be an integral part of the planning. Reducing plastic consumption, saving energy, and finding alternative solutions should be on the agenda.

Third, crowds induce great risks. So, it is critical to minimize inappropriate behaviors by providing clear and timely information and guidelines to participants before the event commences. It helps to ensure that participants understand all the issues and challenges and are well-prepared knowing how to act properly and deal with different situations.

Observing rules and regulations is also important in ensuring safety.

Fourth, coordination: it is vital before starting any event that can be achieved by learning from past experiences and cooperating with relevant partners.

During the event, be aware of each other's roles and responsibilities, who does what, where, and how, and do not fail to communicate at any moment.

Finally, as the event ends discuss the lessons learned from the event and prepare a report of the learnings.

The IRCS hosted the International Congress on Relief and Rescue, Health, and Mass Gatherings in Arbaeen in Tehran from August 1-2.

Relief and rescue in Arbaeen; hygiene, treatment, and health; training, research, and technology; mass gatherings; passive defense; and public participation were the topics of the conference, the IRCS website reported.

Each year, a huge crowd of people floods to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

This year Arbaeen falls on August 25. Some five million Iranian pilgrims are estimated to attend the Arbaeen trek.

Also, the 4th International Congress on "Health in Arbaeen" was held in Tehran from July 3 to 5.

A total of 3,500 national and international participants attended the 4th congress. Hosting the event, the Iraqis comprised the majority of foreign attendees to enhance services to pilgrims.

The congress focused on the following scientific areas including accidents and hazards; artificial intelligence; traditional medicine; professions; environmental health; nursing; relief and rescue.

It also covered rehabilitation; forensic medicine; mental health; nutrition; cultural issues; pharmaceuticals; medical tools; as well as mawkibs (voluntary stations to serve the pilgrims). Moreover, some new topics such as dentistry and oral hygiene were discussed.

Data drives Tehran: a smarter future for the capital

By Soroush Saki

Imagine navigating Tehran's bustling streets with ease. Traffic lights that adjust to rush hour automatically, waste collection that anticipates your needs, and even parks offering personalized exercise routines – this is the vision of a "smart Tehran," and it's not just a futuristic dream. By harnessing the power of data collection and analytics, Tehran is aiming to become a more efficient, livable, and ultimately, happier place for its citizens.

Data-driven decisions for a smoother Tehran

So, how exactly is data making Tehran smarter? Here's a glimpse into how your city might benefit:

Traffic flow optimization: Tehran's notorious traffic jams could become a thing of the past. Sensors embedded in key intersections can track traffic patterns in real-time. This data can help adjust traffic light timings dynamically, potentially reducing congestion and shaving precious minutes off your commute.

Energy efficiency: Saving rials and the environment! Smart grids can monitor energy usage in buildings and public spaces. Analyzing this data can identify areas for improvement, leading to energy-saving infrastructure upgrades or educational programs to encourage residents to con-

serve power, reducing Tehran's carbon footprint.

Predictive maintenance: Avoiding disruptions before they happen! Imagine sensors embedded in bridges, roads, and even the Tehran Metro detecting potential problems before they occur. This allows for preventative maintenance, saving costs and preventing disruptions on your daily routes.

Waste management optimization: A cleaner Tehran with fewer trucks! Sensors in trash bins can signal when they're full, allowing for optimized waste collection routes. This reduces unnecessary truck trips, lowers emissions, and creates a cleaner city for everyone.

Beyond Efficiency: A Smarter Tehran for All

The benefits of a smart Tehran extend far beyond just efficiency. Data analysis can also be used to:

Improve public safety: Feeling safer in your own city! By analyzing crime patterns, authorities can allocate resources more effectively and proactively prevent crime, making Tehran a safer place for all.

Enhanced public transportation: Getting around Tehran with ease! Data on ridership patterns can help optimize bus and subway routes,

ensuring efficient and accessible public transport, reducing reliance on private vehicles.

Developing personalized services: Imagine receiving alerts about local events or road closures tailored to your location! Smart city initiatives can personalize services to improve citizen engagement and overall quality of life in Tehran.

Challenges and considerations

Of course, creating a smart Tehran comes with challenges. Privacy concerns surrounding data collection and potential biases in algorithms need to be addressed. Ensuring equitable access to the benefits of these technologies is also crucial. However, open communication and responsible data governance can pave the way for a smart Tehran future that benefits everyone.

Looking forward: Building a smarter future for Tehran

The concept of a smart city is constantly evolving. As technology advances, we can expect even more innovative applications of data to improve life in Tehran. By embracing data-driven solutions while addressing potential drawbacks, we can create a Tehran that is not just efficient, but also sustainable, livable, and caters to the well-being of all its residents.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years'

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnough as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته ، ۶۰ برابر شده است

رئیس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست.

به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است. وی خاطرنشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می‌تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.



tains antibodies that help protect against many common childhood illnesses, such as diarrhea and respiratory diseases.

This year, the campaign is celebrating breastfeeding mums in all their diversity, throughout their breastfeeding journeys, while showcasing the ways families, societies, communities, and health workers can have the back of every breastfeeding mum.

The days of the week are named as follows.

Wednesday, August 1, the role of policymakers in promoting breastfeeding.

Thursday, August 2, the role of fathers in successful breastfeeding.

Friday, August 3, the role of clergies and religious groups in promoting breastfeeding.

Saturday, August 4, the role of family support law in supporting mothers and infants.

Sunday, August 5, the role of media in raising families and mothers' awareness and skills.

Monday, August 6, the role of NGOs in promoting breastfeeding.

Tuesday, August 7, the role of managers and employers in promoting breastfeeding.

Almost half of Iranian infants exclusively breastfed

TEHRAN –According to the ministry of health, approximately 47 percent of infants in Iran are exclusively breastfed.

Exclusive breastfeeding in urban and rural areas is 45.9 and 50.9 percent, respectively. However, the figures have to reach 70 percent by adopting basic policies and measures that promote breastfeeding among mothers.

Breastfeeding contributes to several global goals including human survival and health, economic growth, as well as environmental sustainability.

Supporting and promoting breastfeeding is a cost-effective solution for ensuring survival; improving the nutritional status, growth, and development of infants and young children; safeguarding the health of mothers, and helping children to reach their full potential into adulthood.

The World Breastfeeding Week is being observed in the first week of August. This year, it is celebrated under the theme of 'Closing the gap: Breastfeeding for all'.

The day highlights the significance of breastfeeding in improving children's health and lowering their mortality rate.

Supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and many Ministries of Health and civil society partners, the World Breastfeeding Week as a global campaign underscores that breastfeeding is essential for child survival and health.

Breast milk is a safe, natural, nutritious, and sustainable food for babies. Breast milk con-

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Live amongst people in such a manner that if you die they weep over you and if you are alive they crave for your company.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:11 Evening: 19:31 Dawn: 3:33 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:11 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mostafa Qorbani.

The exhibition entitled "Range of Fire" will be running until August 12 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.

* A collection of paintings by Keykhosro Ghar is on view in an exhibition at Saless Gallery.

The exhibit named "Hand Print" will be running until August 13 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



* Javid Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by Homa Mansouri.

The exhibition runs until August 12 at the gallery that can be found at 17 Zartosht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Tarahom Salmani is on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit named "Narrator of Forgotten Tales" will be running until August 19 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 5, Bahrami alley, Mashahir Street, Qaem Maqam Farahani Avenue.



* A group of artists including Abdi Asbaqi, Reza Bangiz, Akram Afzali, Reza Hedayat and Mohsen Yunesi are displaying their latest paintings in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Treasure Trove" will be running until August 7 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Paintings by a group of artists including Saeid Emkani, Ramin Hafizi, Mohammad Tabatabai, Negin Farahani, Azin Rostami and Ali Golbaz are on view in an exhibition at Negah Gallery.

The exhibit named "Cock-a-doodle-doo" will run until August 18 at the gallery located at 64 Ghaffari St., Jam St., Motahhari Ave.



Photo

* Photos by Hossein-Ali Akkasbashi are on view in an exhibition at CAMA - Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery.

Named "Punctum", the exhibit runs until August 7 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

Multimedia

* An exhibition of artworks in various media by Ainaz Najmi, Erika Darvish, Maryam Kazemi, Zahra Khaki, Parsa Rahsad and other artists is underway at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit named "Mystery and Color" will run until August 7 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

Summer Group Exhibition ۱۴۰۳-۲۰۲۴



* A collection of paintings and sculptures by a group of veteran and young artists is on display in an exhibition at Mah Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until September 10 at the gallery located at 26 Golestan Blvd., Africa Ave.

Cultural officials, artists express condolences on martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh

TEHRAN- Iranian cultural figures have reacted to the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of the political bureau of the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas, expressing condolences and condemning the Zionist regime for the treacherous raid.

Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards, who had participated in the swearing-in ceremony of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran, were assassinated in their residence in Tehran early on Wednesday.

Expressing his condolences, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili quoted a Quranic verse and congratulated Haniyeh's martyrdom as he died for a righteous cause, ISNA reported.

In another message, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Qomi, head of the Islamic Development Organization, paid tribute to Haniyeh's steadfast commitment to the Palestinian cause, noting his significant role from the First Intifada to his leadership in Hamas.

Qomi emphasized that Haniyeh's martyrdom would not weaken the resistance movement but rather invigorate it.

Hojatoleslam Abdolhossein Khosropanah, secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, also condemned the assassination and stressed that such actions would not sever the bonds between the Iranian and Palestinian people.

He expressed confidence that those responsible would be brought to justice and reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting the Palestinian Cause.

Mehdi Ramezani, the Secretary-General of Iran Public Libraries Foundation, extended his condolences, praising Haniyeh for dedicating his life to the Palestinian Cause and highlighting the impact of his leadership.

The General Culture Council of Iran also released a statement, condemning the assassination and highlighting



The new mural at Tehran's Valiasr Square that features an image of newly-elected President Masoud Pezeshkian alongside Martyr Ismail Haniyeh.

Haniyeh's importance to the resistance movement. The council emphasized that such acts of violence only strengthen the determination of freedom fighters worldwide to continue their struggle against oppression.

Iran Book and Literature House issued a message of condolence, describing Haniyeh's assassination as a crime by the enemies of God and humanity.

Furthermore, several cineastes and artists have reacted to the tragic incident.

In separate messages, filmmakers Ebrahim Hatamikia and Davood Mirbagheri, movie producer Mahmoud Razavi, and singer Mohammad Golriz expressed their condolences on Haniyeh's martyrdom.

On Thursday, concurrent with the funeral ceremony for Haniyeh in Tehran, the latest mural at Valiasr Square was unveiled. It features an image of newly-elected President Masoud Pezeshkian alongside Martyr Haniyeh.

It includes a part of the President's speech regarding Haniyeh's martyrdom: "Yesterday, I raised his victorious hand, and today I must carry him on my shoulders."

The Islamic Republic of Iran will defend its territorial integrity, dignity, honor, and

pride and will make the cowardly occupiers regret their actions."

Another mural was revealed at Felestin Square in Tehran on Wednesday during a public gathering condemning the assassination of Martyr Ismail Haniyeh.

The mural, inscribed in both Hebrew and Persian, carries the slogan "Expect severe punishment" and features a photo of Haniyeh.

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 Ph.D. from the same university in 2009.

Haniyeh began his activism against Israeli colonialism and occupation with the "Islamic Bloc" which represented the student arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Gaza Strip, from which the resistance movement Hamas emerged.

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.

He returned to the Gaza Strip after being forced to spend a year in exile.

Haniyeh was appointed as a dean at the Islamic University in the enclave.

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

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

As many as 60 relatives of Haniyeh have been killed by the Israeli occupation forces since October 7, 2023. This is while Haniyeh was a political leader and not a member of the armed wing of Hamas.

In Israel's war against Hamas since last October, over 39,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 90,000 wounded.

"Little Caesar" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN-American novelist and screenwriter W. R. Burnett's 1929 book "Little Caesar" has recently been published in Persian.

Translated by Parviz Nasiri, the book has been published by Anapana Publications in Tehran.

"Little Caesar" is a crime novel that centers around the rise and fall of a small-time thug named Rico Bandello, and his friend Joe Massara, an aspiring dancer.

Set against the backdrop of Prohibition-era Chicago, the story follows Rico's ruthless ambition to climb the ranks of the criminal underworld.

While Rico quickly aligns himself with the gang of Sam Vettori, Joe hopes to pursue a career in dance, finding a partner and girlfriend in Olga.

As the story progresses, Joe attempts to distance himself from the criminal world, but Rico pulls him into a dire situation—a botched robbery at Joe's nightclub job.

During this heist, Rico brazenly disregards "Big Boy" (the underworld's supreme authority)'s directive to avoid violence, killing the crime-fighting Commissioner Alvin McClure in a shocking act that horrifies Joe.

The incident sets off a chain of events that sees gang member Tony killed on Rico's orders when he threatens to inform the authorities about the robbery.

With the power dynamics within the gang shifting, Rico grows increasingly assertive, chastising Sam for being weak and usurping control of the organization.

Driven by ambition, Rico attempts to eliminate his rivals, narrowly escaping an assassination attempt.

As Rico's power grows, so does his paranoia.

Fearing Joe knows too much, he demands that Joe abandon Olga and fully commit to life in crime, threatening both their lives should Joe refuse.

In a desperate act of fidelity, Olga contacts Police Sergeant Flaherty to inform him that Joe is ready to provide evidence against Rico. This news prompts a tense confrontation between the three men.

Despite his intentions, Rico finds himself unable to kill Joe when the moment comes. In a chaotic struggle, Otero, one of Rico's henchmen, tries to finish the job but ends up shot dead when police arrive in response to the commotion.

With his criminal empire crumbling and paranoia consuming him, Rico embarks on a downward spiral, retreating to a rundown flophouse.

In a moment of desperation, he learns from a newspaper that Flaherty has labeled him a coward, which incites him to make a reckless call to the police, declaring his intention to confront the officer.

That fateful call leads to his downfall, as it is traced and results in a deadly confrontation. Rico is cornered and ultimately killed by Flaherty, his last moments haunted by his own choices.

"Little Caesar" starkly portrays themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the consequences of crime, illustrating how the pursuit of power can lead to one's inevitable downfall.

Ultimately, "Little Caesar" portrays Rico as a tragic figure, illustrating how the quest for dominance results not just in personal ruin but also in the loss of humanity.

The novel is notable for its gritty realism

and direct exploration of the gangster archetype, making it a seminal work in American crime fiction and influencing the genre in literature and film.

William Riley "W. R." Burnett was a celebrated American novelist and screenwriter, renowned for his crime novel "Little Caesar," which marked the beginning of the classic American gangster film genre.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, Burnett transitioned from a civil service job to Chicago at 28, where he had already penned over 100 short stories and five unpublished novels.

Throughout his career, Burnett was prolific, creating at least one novel annually and adapting many into screenplays.

His thematic approach often paralleled contemporaries like Dashiell Hammett and James M. Cain; however, he uniquely contrasted the urban decay of city life with the idealism of pastoral dreams.

His characters frequently find themselves ensnared in crime, striving for redemption but ultimately thwarted by an oppressive system.

Burnett's writing explored complex moral landscapes where virtue could emerge from gangsters, and malice from authority figures, highlighting the human struggle within flawed systems.

He collaborated with legendary figures such as Raoul Walsh, John Huston, and Humphrey Bogart, receiving an Oscar nomination for "Wake Island" and a Writers Guild nomination for "The Great Escape."

Upon his death in 1982, he was interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California.