



Arsonists Warn of Conflagration

How Washington and Europe are sleepwalking into Israel's war

▶ Page 3

A car drives past a poster depicting late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, top commander of Iran's Quds Force Qassem Soleimani and Hezbollah top commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut, Lebanon, August 5, 2024.

No question, no doubt: Iran foreign ministry says punishment of Israel incoming

TEHRAN – Iran has reiterated its determination to punish Israel for the assassination of Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed hours after attending Masoud Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

During a weekly press conference on Monday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani emphasized that Iran will not be dissuaded from taking retaliatory measures in accordance with international law, stating, "Iran has the unquestionable right to protect its national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Reports suggest multiple regional leaders have contacted Iranian authorities since Haniyeh's assassination on Wednesday, as part of efforts to persuade Tehran to hold back from attacking Israel. Jordan's foreign minister also made a rare visit to Tehran on Sunday – the first such visit by a Jordanian top diplomat in two decades. ▶ Page 2

Israel to eventually succumb to its own misdeeds: IRGC chief

TEHRAN – In an address on Monday, Major General Hossein Salami, the chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), denounced the Israeli regime as an entity established through terrorism, predicting that it would ultimately succumb to its own misdeeds.

Speaking at an event in Tehran on National Journalists' Day, Salami stated, "The Zionist regime was born in a cradle of terrorism and lacks the fundamental elements that constitute a nation." He referred to the establishment of Israel in 1948, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during a Western-backed conflict.

Since its inception, Salami stated, Israel has engaged in daily acts of terror against regional nations, aiming to suppress opposition to its existence and expand its occupied territories. He described these actions as creating a "self-made vortex of fire" that has ensnared the regime itself. ▶ Page 3

Iran calls Haniyeh assassination as part of Israeli genocide against Palestinians

TEHRAN – Iranian acting foreign minister addressed the recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh by Israel, describing it as part of a broader genocide project against the Palestinian people.

Ali Baqeri Kani made the remarks at a meeting with ambassadors and heads of foreign missions, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran, on Monday.

Baqeri Kani highlighted that the meeting aimed to clarify the scope of the Zionist regime's terrorist attack, which occurred at dawn on Wednesday, July 31. This attack resulted in the death of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, and his bodyguard.

"Indifference to injustice leads to inaction, and inaction emboldens the criminal," Baqeri Kani remarked, emphasizing the moral responsibility to combat evil. He criticized indifference and appeasement in the face of atrocities, describing them as moral failures that enable the growth of wickedness. ▶ Page 2

Israeli air defense systems fail to intercept Hezbollah drone

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Lebanon's Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for an attack that saw a squadron of drones target an Israeli military base amid the resistance movement's ongoing support for the Palestinians in Gaza.

Despite being on an increasingly high state of readiness for a widely anticipated retaliation by Hezbollah, the Israeli military's aerial defense systems failed to intercept a drone that hit the occupation forces' newly established 91st Division headquarters in Ayelet HaShahar.

The Ayelet HaShahar military base is located northeast of Safed in the Upper Galilee, northern occupied Palestine, some ten kilometers from the Lebanese border.

Tel Aviv was forced to relocate this base mostly used by the Golani division for the north, which used to be three kilometers from Lebanon, after it came under constant fire by Hezbollah.

The Israeli military acknowledged that one officer and one soldier have sustained injuries in the attack, with the officer in a critical condition. ▶ Page 5

China-Iran relationship will see robust development

By Dr. Jin Liangxiang

The China-Iran relationship is always the focus of the international community. Despite some potential inconsistencies in Iran's foreign policy framework, the inauguration of Masoud Pezeshkian will lead the Iran-China relationship into another stage on the course of improvement. It is reasonably expected that China-Iran relations will grow stronger. The reasons could be numerous, but the following three are particularly worthy of mentioning.

Relationship has become more institutionalized

The years 2022 and 2023 saw Iran's full membership in SCO and BRICS respectively. The significance of Iran's admissions into these two blocs is obvious in many ways. As a great civilization and a major player in regional and international affairs, Iran, by its participation, will greatly enhance the legitimacy and functions of the two institutions. And the full SCO and BRICS memberships will also enhance Iran's standing in the international community.

As two important members of SCO and BRICS, China and Iran will see their relationship more institutionalized. The two institutions provide abundant mechanisms for dialogue at ministerial and presidential levels. As a result, ▶ Page 5

Container operation rises 4% in Iran's ports in 4 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - Based on the data released by the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), container operation has increased four percent in the ports of country 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 mentioned data, 924,886 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container goods have been unloaded and loaded in the country's ports in the first four months of this year, while the figure was 886,378 TEUs in the first four months of the previous year.

Based on the PMO's released data, some 76,330,052 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at the country's ports in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year. ▶ Page 4



Russian security chief meets with Iranian president in Tehran

TEHRAN – Russia's Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu has engaged in a high-level meeting with Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian.

Shoigu arrived in Tehran on Monday to engage in critical discussions with senior Iranian officials following the recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Hamas Resistance movement.

The assassination, carried out by Israel, has significantly heightened tensions in the region.

Shoigu's visit also included meetings with Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Akbar Ahmadian, where the two sides discussed the regional matters. ▶ Page 3

Netanyahu: A madman who demonizes his victims

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – At the beginning of his speech to the joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on July 25, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "We meet today at a crossroads of history. Our world is in upheaval. In the Middle East, Iran's axis of terror confronts America, Israel and our Arab friends. This is not a clash of civilizations. It's a clash between barbarism and civilization. It's a clash between those who glorify death and those who sanctify life."

For the forces of civilization to triumph, America and Israel must stand together. Because when we stand together, something very simple happens. We win. They lose. ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

Disrupting Israel's dangerous game

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

Donya-e-Eqtasad devoted its editorial to Iran's goals and strategies in international relations and wrote: Iran's strategic goals include strengthening its allied forces in the region and weakening the influence of its enemies. On the other hand, Israel's strategic goals include creating a regional war, persuading America to the war against Iran, oppressing and winning the world's public opinion, creating discords between Iran and the Arab countries, destroying Iran's infrastructure and Hamas, disconnecting Iran from Syria and Lebanon, and making the crisis regional and international. With the strategic analysis between Iran and Israel based on theories, it can be concluded that Iran, by strengthening relations with its neighbors, accompanying world public opinion, negotiating with Europe and the United States, de-escalating tensions, disrupting Israel's game, increasing military power, and preparing an intelligent response can achieve the desired balance point and avoid threats and risks. Through these strategies, Iran can effectively disrupt Israel's dangerous game, strengthen regional stability, and protect national interests.

Javan: Effort to save Tel Aviv

In a note, Javan addressed the effort of mediators to save Tel Aviv and said: The assessments in Tel Aviv and Washington consider Iran's response to the assassination of the leader of Hamas's political office in Tehran as certain. Three American and Israeli officials have said that Iran's attack will happen by Monday, and Yediot Ahronot wrote that Iran's attack this time will be more extensive, more intense and deadly. In such a situation, an unprecedented campaign was formed through various channels to dissuade Iran from applying "severe punishments", but the Zionist regime crossed all of Iran's red lines and could no longer prevent Iran's harsh response by sending mediators and threats. Ayman al-Safadi, the Jordanian foreign minister, came to Tehran to convey the message of King Abdullah II of Jordan to Pezeshkian. It is said that the purpose of his trip is to hold discussions with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding bilateral, regional, and international issues. However, most sources say that the purpose of this trip is to dissuade Tehran from punishing the Zionist regime.

Iran calls Haniyeh assassination as part of Israeli genocide against Palestinians

TEHRAN – Iranian acting foreign minister addressed the recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh by Israel, describing it as part of a broader genocide project against the Palestinian people.

Ali Baqeri Kani made the remarks at a meeting with ambassadors and heads of foreign missions, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran, on Monday.

Baqeri Kani highlighted that the meeting aimed to clarify the scope of the Zionist regime's terrorist attack, which occurred at dawn on Wednesday, July 31. This attack resulted in the death of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, and his bodyguard.

"Indifference to injustice leads to inaction, and inaction emboldens the criminal," Baqeri Kani remarked, emphasizing the moral responsibility to combat evil. He criticized indifference and appeasement in the face of atrocities, describing them as moral failures that enable the growth of wickedness.

The acting foreign minister condemned the ongoing occupation of Palestinian lands, which he stated has persisted for eight decades. He detailed the brutal reality faced by Palestinians, including the killing of the young and old, the mutilation of women and children, and the assassination or imprisonment of intellectuals.

Baqeri Kani underscored that a deliberate and systematic genocide project against Palestinians is being executed.

Specifically addressing the recent surge in violence, Baqeri pointed to ten months of continuous crimes by the Zionist regime in Gaza. "The assassination of Haniyeh is part of the genocide project against Palestinians

Iran: Biden's hope for Tehran's continence

With the acceleration of the critical developments in the Middle East and the imminent attack of Iran against the Zionist regime, Israel and the United States are coordinating their activities to prevent possible missile and drone attacks, in addition, the Americans are trying to deploy the Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier in the Sea of Oman. Despite the military movements in the waters of the region, American officials hope to dissuade Tehran from its possible decision against Israel through diplomatic channels. They know very well that Tehran's tough military response to Israel has irreparable consequences for Israel as Washington's regional ally. For this reason, Biden has expressed hope that Iran will show continence despite its threat to take revenge for the assassination of the leader of Hamas's political office in Tehran. Following the efforts, Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani also wanted Iran to inhibit and avoid actions that would lead to the escalation of tension in the region.

Jam-e-Jam: Escape from Tel Aviv

Jam-e-Jam investigated the critical situation in Tel Aviv and said: The regime occupying Jerusalem is in a difficult situation. In the meantime, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah, the Iraqi and the Yemeni resistance have each become a nightmare for this evil and occupying regime. The emphasis of each of these resistance groups on revenge for martyr Haniyeh has caused the Zionists to face a comprehensive hybrid war, which will be imminent and widespread. Considering that the assassination of martyr Ismail Haniyeh took place inside the territory of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran has considered the recent action of Israel as a clear crime in the territory of our country and has promised severe revenge in this regard. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has emphasized that this crime will be faced with a clear and decisive response from our country. The IRGC also proved during the operation of the True Promise at the beginning of this year that protecting the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran is considered its red line. The IRGC announced a severe retaliation that is "definite, immediate and costly" for the Zionist enemy.



and nothing else," he declared, asserting that this project is being implemented on multiple levels.

It has been over nine months since Israel launched a war on Gaza following a surprise retaliatory operation by Palestinian Resistance groups. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of at least 39,600 Gazans, mostly women, children, and adolescents, with another 91,469 Palestinians injured.

Also, in a post on his X account on Monday, Baqeri Kani criticized the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for its failure to react to crimes committed by the Zionist regime, blaming the council's stance as one of the reasons behind instability in the West Asia region.

He emphasized that the UNSC and the European Union's failure to react to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime, including the mass killing of children and women in Gaza, and the assassination of Palestinian leaders in other countries, is one of the most important factors of instability in the region.

He underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran will exercise its legitimate and inherent right to confront the terrorist acts committed by the Israeli regime with the aim of protecting its national security.

No question, no doubt: Iran foreign ministry says punishment of Israel incoming

From page 1 ▶ Iran has not specified how it will punish Israel for the terror act, but multiple officials, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, have affirmed that retaliation will be carried out.

In his remarks to reporters, Kanaani highlighted the necessary political and legal actions that Iran has initiated following Haniyeh's assassination. He firmly asserted, "Nobody is allowed to cast doubt on Iran's legitimate right to retaliate and create deterrence."

He elaborated, "We believe that Iran is entitled to punish the aggressor within the framework of international law... Iran will definitely and decisively take serious and deterrent measures by exercising its inherent right on the basis of international principles to ensure its security."

The spokesman also expressed concern over the lack of action from international organizations against the crimes of the Zionist regime. He clarified, "Iran does not seek an escalation of tensions but intends to ensure stability," adding, "Iran believes that stability will be achieved with the punishment of the aggressor."

Kanaani mentioned that the ministerial council of



the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is set to convene in Jeddah on Wednesday at Iran's behest to discuss the implications of Haniyeh's martyrdom.

Iranian authorities dismiss infiltration claims in Haniyeh assassination

The spokesperson for Iran's parliamentary National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said that no intelligence infiltration happened in the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas political bureau chief.

Lawmaker Ebrahim Rezaei quoted the deputy head of the Quds Force intelligence unit as rejecting the issue of infiltration in Iran's intelligence agencies regarding the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh.

Speaking at the Sunday meeting of the parliamentary National Security Committee, Rezaei condemned the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in the terrorist incident on July 31 and stated, "Today's meeting included the deputy head of the Quds Force intelligence unit, the deputy head of the Ministry of Intelligence, and the deputy head of Parliamentary Affairs of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps to examine various aspects of the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of the political bureau of the Hamas movement."

Rezaei noted that the Quds Force intelligence official presented a report on the regional situation since the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation until today, as well as details of

the terrorist incident that led to Haniyeh's martyrdom. The official emphasized that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran was not the result of infiltration, and this incident is under investigation, according to Rezaei.

Rezaei emphasized that the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation was a strategic leap in the Resistance front, and this operation accelerated the destruction of the Zionist regime and obliterated its identity.

The spokesman for Iran's parliamentary National Security Committee pointed out, "The Zionists have no choice but to accept defeat because they have not achieved any of their goals following the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, and the army of this regime has suffered attrition over the past 10 months."

"Furthermore, the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation caused 200,000 Zionist settlers to become displaced, which led the Zionist regime to carry out retaliatory acts by assassinating the commanders of the Axis of Resistance," he added.

After the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, many news agencies and newspapers linked this terrorist incident to the infiltration of Mossad in Iran's intelligence organizations.

Iran's acting FM holds talks with foreign counterparts

TEHRAN – Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, held telephone conversations with his counterparts from Slovenia and Bahrain on Monday.

Bagheri Kani held a telephone conversation with Tanja Fajon, the Slovenian foreign minister, to discuss the importance of the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in maintaining regional peace and stability and the necessity of stopping the genocide in Gaza and the condemnation of the Zionist regimes violations of international law.

Slovenia is a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Bagheri pointed to the ongoing and escalating aggression of the Zionist regime, stating, "Nearly three hundred days into the Zionist regime's war against the defenseless people of Gaza, the defeated Zionists, facing the power of resistance, are using their most advanced military equipment to kill women, children, and defenseless civilians, and to target civilian sites."

Bagheri further emphasized, "The Zionists are also carrying out terrorist actions against civilian sites in other countries such as Yemen, Lebanon, and recently in Iran."

He expressed surprise at the silence of European parties and the refusal to issue even a single statement in the UN Security Council against the Zionist regime's aggressions in Tehran, Yemen, and Lebanon.

Bagheri questioned the lack of condemnation from European countries regarding the assassination of the head of the Hamas political bureau.

Bagheri also noted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will undoubtedly exercise its legitimate and inherent right to defend its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity to create deterrence against the Zionist regime's aggressive actions and ensure continued security and stability in West Asia."

Fajon, for her part, reaffirmed Iran's right to self-defense, stating, "We condemn any violation of international law and hope that all parties will exercise restraint, wisdom, and prudence to ensure regional stability."

She emphasized the crucial role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional stability and security, adding, "We do not deny the suffering of the Palestinian people and call for a ceasefire according to a specific timetable."

The Islamic Republic of Iran is an important player in the world and can play a fundamental role. Slovenia is always ready to facilitate dialogue and prevent escalation of tensions in West Asia."

Fajon also congratulated Iran on the election of its new president, stating, "The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran has sent an important message to the world in foreign policy."

Iran is not afraid of regional war: FM

Iran's acting foreign minister has also condemned Israel's ongoing atrocities against Palestinians, including the brutal murder of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Speaking with Bahrain's foreign minister, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, over the phone, Bagheri decried the regime's heinous acts, particularly those targeted at women and children.

He further sounded the alarm on the ramifications of turning a blind eye to Israel's provocations, emphasizing that inaction could spell disaster for regional stability.

"Silence towards the Zionist regime's recent actions is a kind of reward for them."

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not afraid of regional war and reserves its right to take countermeasures based on international rules and procedures," Bagheri Kani stated.

Iran's acting foreign minister issued a stark warning to Israel, stating that silence in the face of its recent aggression is tantamount to condoning its actions.

"Iran reserves its right to respond within the boundaries of international law," he said, emphasizing that failure to act would only embolden Israel's destabilizing behavior.

His counterpart, Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani, expressed his nation's support for peace efforts, calling for a swift ceasefire in Gaza and urgent humanitarian assistance to Palestinians suffering in the wake of the conflict.

Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran on July 31, while he was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Ali Baqeri Kani meets with Hamas representative in Tehran

TEHRAN – On Monday, the acting foreign minister of Iran, Ali Baqeri Kani, visited the Hamas office in Tehran to meet with Khaled al-Qaddumi, the representative of the Hamas Resistance movement in Iran, following the recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau.

During his visit, Baqeri Kani extended his condolences on the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh. This visit comes amid heightened regional tensions.

In his meeting with al-Qaddumi, Baqeri Kani expressed his sympathy for the loss of Haniyeh and reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause. He praised Haniyeh's contributions to the struggle and reiterated Iran's stance against the actions of the Israeli regime.

The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday has intensified tensions. Haniyeh, who was in Iran to attend the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President



Masoud Pezeshkian, was targeted in an attack that has been widely condemned by many countries. The Iranian government has vowed a decisive and regretful response to Israel's actions.

Tehran condemns deadly terrorist attack in Somali

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the terrorist attack by the Al-Shabaab group in the city of Mogadishu.

Nasser Kanaani condemned the attack that Al-Shabaab, an affiliate of the al-Qaeda terrorist

group, claimed on the evening of Friday, August 2. He expressed sympathy for the victims and their families.

The attack resulted in the deaths of 37 people and injuries to a large number of Somali civilians.

The violence erupted when a suicide bomber detonated explosives at the entrance of the Lido Beach hotel.

Other attackers attempted to storm the building and fired upon people on the beach, as reported by witnesses and the

Somali Police.

Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Lido Beach hotel.

The group has been engaged in a 17-year-long conflict, seeking to overthrow the fragile central government in Mogadishu.

Arsonists warn of conflagration

How Washington and Europe are sleepwalking into Israel's war

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The anxious tone in the Sunday G7 statement voicing concern about the potential for a “wider” war in West Asia and the hopeless look on Biden's face when he told reporters he hoped Iran would “stand down” from retaliating against Israel, were in stark contrast to the earlier indifference Washington and Europe had displayed when Israel carried out the aggressions leading to Iran's fury today.

Israel assassinated senior Hezbollah Commander Fuad Shukur and Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh in separate attacks on July 30 and July 31.

Shukur was targeted in a building south of Beirut, and Haniyeh was killed inside his temporary Tehran residence, where he was staying after attending the inauguration ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Washington and its European allies seemed unconcerned about the escalating tensions when the two high-profile attacks happened.

But a palpable shift emerged in their demeanor and words once it became evident that Iran intends to hold the Israeli regime accountable for violating significant “red lines.”

In the past few days, Western states have engaged regional countries in a desperate bid to persuade Iran to refrain from attacking Israel, or at least to temper its response.

They have also deployed media outlets to launch propaganda campaigns aimed at undermining the legitimacy of any military action by Iran.

It seems, however, that these efforts have so far fallen short. “Iran does not doubt that Israel



must be punished,” said Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Monday, adding that contrary to what the West says, the only way to rein in Israel is to make the regime face the consequences of its terrorist actions.

West might not seek war with Iran, but it is moving toward it

The flurry of diplomatic calls to Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani and the constant calls for restraint from Western leaders have prompted widespread questioning.

Many are asking why the West, particularly Washington, allowed Israel to carry out an action virtually guaranteed to provoke a strong and potentially dangerous response from Iran.

Observers wonder if the U.S. is deliberately misleading the world by claiming it doesn't want war with Iran and its allies, or if it's simply failing to understand that just as the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in 1914 ignited World War I, the killing of one of the most prominent Palestinian leaders during his stay in the country that's the backbone of the Resistance could unleash a cascade of violence.

Washington's first attempt to

answer those questions came when Secretary of State Antony Blinken claimed the U.S. was not “aware of or involved in” the death of Haniyeh – an assertion that many found difficult to believe.

“It's impossible to know for sure what transpired behind closed doors between the U.S. and Israel,” Amir Ali Abolfath, an expert on international relations and American affairs, told the Tehran Times.

“We don't have direct access to intelligence exchanges between Israel and the U.S. nor do we accompany Biden and Netanyahu during their private meetings. But it is still highly unlikely that Washington was unaware of Israel's plan to assassinate Haniyeh in Tehran.

Americans might have even aided Israel in the attack because they aim to weaken Hamas and omit any force that would pose a challenge when determining who should govern Gaza after the war ends,” he added.

Abolfath, however, rejected the notion that the U.S. wants war with Iran, explaining, “Israel desires to draw the U.S. into a conflict with Iran, similar to what happened in Iraq and

Afghanistan.

But Washington has learned from those costly experiences and understands that a war with Iran would have far more devastating consequences.”

Even though both Washington and Iran do not seek to start a war, American politicians' support for Israel might eventually lead to one, the expert added.

“I think it is incorrect to say that the U.S. allows Israel to do everything it wants.

But at the same time, nothing Israel has committed would have been possible without U.S. support.

Israel acts recklessly because it knows that at the end of the day, Americans are committed to defending Israel's security.”

More analysts have spoken up in recent days to warn the U.S. about the dangers of miscalculating Iran's responses to Israeli aggressions.

While pundits acknowledge that Iran may prefer to avoid a full-blown war with Israel, they emphasize that this does not mean Iran will tolerate violations of its red lines.

In other words, Iran is willing to defend its interests, even if it means risking a confrontation.

“Regardless of Israel's desire to reestablish deterrence, leaders in Jerusalem and Washington must still think through how Iran and Hezbollah are most likely to respond,” wrote the former special assistant to President Barack Obama in an article published by the Washington Institute, mirroring other voices that believe the U.S. should pull the plug on Israel, at least occasionally, if it doesn't want Netanyahu to drag it into a regional confrontation with Iran.

Israel to eventually succumb to its own misdeeds: IRGC chief

From page 1 ▶ Salami cited specific examples of Israeli aggression, including the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists and the recent killing of Ismail Haniyeh, a political leader of the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas, in Tehran.

He argued that these actions were misguided attempts to prolong Israel's survival. “They think that through these measures, they would succeed in prolonging their survival,” he said.

“These atrocities are, however, graves that they [the Israelis] dug for themselves and will

gradually bury themselves in,” Salami added.

He emphasized that a strong response would make the Israeli regime realize its miscalculations.

Salami's remarks echoed those of Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who, following Haniyeh's assassination, warned of a “harsh response” and reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's commitment to avenging the Resistance leader's death.

The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday, has intensified tensions. Haniyeh, who was in Iran to attend the



inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, was targeted in an attack that has been widely condemned by many countries.

Strong alliance between Resistance and Iran formed, says IRGC official

TEHRAN – A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says a powerful alliance has been established between the Resistance Front and the Islamic Republic of Iran, thanks to the efforts of General Qassem Soleimani and his loyal companions.

Iraj Masjedi, who serves as a top advisor to the commander of the IRGC Quds Force made the remarks at a ceremony honoring the martyr Milad Bidi, an Iranian military advisor killed in a recent Israeli attack on Beirut.

Masjedi noted the persistent

efforts of the enemy, which seeks revenge through the killing of civilians and the assassination of leaders, fighters, and Resistance leaders.

“The enemy tries its best, but it has no other weapon than to massacre women and children and to assassinate officials, fighters, and leaders of the Resistance,” he added.

Despite these threats, Masjedi assured that the iron will of the Iranian nation, the Islamic Republic, and the Islamic Resistance Front will not be weakened or pushed back by these losses, bombings, and

martyrdoms.

“The iron will of the Iranian nation, the Islamic Republic, and the Islamic resistance front will not be weakened or pushed back by these martyrdoms, losses, and bombings,” he emphasized.

He reiterated that the legacy of the late Lieutenant General Soleimani, along with the valiant fighters of the Resistance, has forged a formidable alliance between the Resistance Front and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday, has

intensified tensions. Haniyeh, who was in Iran to attend the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, was targeted in an attack that has been widely condemned by many countries.

The Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned of a “harsh response” to the recent atrocity, and reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's duty to avenge the blood of the Resistance leader.

Israel has also killed more than 39,600 Palestinians, mostly children and women, in Gaza since October.

Russian security chief meets with Iranian president in Tehran

From page 1 ▶ In his meeting with chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri, Sergei Shoigu echoed the sentiment of comprehensive cooperation agreement between the two nations, stating Russia's readiness to collaborate with Iran on regional matters.

He underscored the importance of this partnership in addressing common challenges and advancing mutual interests.

Shoigu also condemned the recent assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, labeling it a cowardly act. He asserted that the perpetrators of

such crimes are intent on escalating tensions in the region.

During the meeting, Major General Baqeri emphasized the shifting global power dynamics, noting, “The United States is well aware that the era of unipolar power is over.”

He expressed Iran's openness to enhanced trilateral cooperation with Russia and China.

The Russian Security Council emphasized that Shoigu's discussions in Tehran will focus on strengthening the strategic partnership between Russia and Iran, addressing mutual security concerns, and exploring joint economic initiatives.

The meetings aimed to cover a wide range of topics, including the enhancement of bilateral cooperation in security, trade, and economic projects, as well as various aspects of global and regional security.

Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran on July 31 while attending the swearing-in ceremony of President Pezeshkian.

This incident has sparked outrage in Iran, with officials condemning the act as a “blatant violation” of international laws and affirming Tehran's right to retaliate against the aggressors.

AUGUST 6, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

China edge Iran to win 2024 Asian U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN - China clinched their first-ever title in the 15th Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship after battling past Iran 3-2 (23-25, 25-17, 25-19, 20-25, 15-10) in a thrilling final played at the Bahrain Volleyball Association's (BVA) Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa.

China had previously won bronze four times, most recently in 2017, and now improved on their fifth-place finish from the last edition of the championship in 2022. Iran came away with the silver medal for the third time and for the second straight edition. The top two were joined on the podium by Pakistan, who claimed the bronze medal following a stunning 3-0 (25-13, 25-21, 25-17) victory over Japan.

Three Iranian volleyballers handed awards

TEHRAN - Individual awards were handed out to the best performers in the 2024 Asian U-18 Volleyball Championship and three Iranian players are among the best.

Iran lost to China 3-2 (23-25, 25-17, 25-19, 20-25, 15-10) in a thrilling final played at the Bahrain Volleyball Association's (BVA) Isa bin Rashid Arena at Isa Sports City in Riffa. China's Ding Haocheng won the Most Valuable Player honor.

Iran's Mohammad Amin Arabyarmohammadi was the Best Libero. China's Gong Haoqian was Best Setter. Pakistan's Muhammad Yahya was the Best Opposite. China's Yu Xiang and Iran's Mohammad Amin Rahimi were the Best Outside Hitters, and Iran's Mohammad Nima Bateni and Pakistan's Jabran Jabran were Best Middle Blockers.

Sepahan to host Shabab Al Ahli in preliminary stage encounter

TEHRAN - The AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 gets underway on Tuesday with Iran's Sepahan hosting Shabab Al Ahli in a preliminary stage encounter.

At stake will be a spot in the next stage of the preliminaries, with the winners to face Qatar's Al Gharafa on August 13 to earn a spot in the West league stage.

Both teams will be determined to not let rust derail their ambitions, with their respective domestic seasons yet to kick off.

Sepahan, who featured in the AFC Champions League 2023-24, underwent a two-week training stint in Turkey in preparation for Tuesday's encounter. The home side, who earned their spot by virtue of winning the 2023-24 Hazfi Cup for a fifth time, have appeared on Asia's pinnacle club stage on 14 occasions – the most by a club from Iran. The five-time league champions were runners-up in the AFC Champions League 2007 and reached the Round of 16 last season.

Shabab Al Ahli will be unfazed by the prospect of facing Sepahan away, with the Dubai-based club having strengthened their ranks ahead of the upcoming season.

An exciting addition is Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun, who has joined from German side Bayer Leverkusen.

Shabab Al Ahli, who prepared for the match with a training stint in Austria, qualified for the preliminary stage after finishing as the UAE Pro League 2023-24 runner-up.

Movahed wins silver in 2024 World Blitz C'ship

TEHRAN - Sina Movahed, Iranian chess player, claimed a silver medal in the 2024 World Junior Blitz Championship (Open U20) on Sunday.

Movahed became the youngest Iran's chess

grandmaster in July.

He had won a gold medal in the Baku Open 2024.

The 2024 World Junior Blitz Championship started on August 1 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and will run until 8.

Hosseinnezhad to join Dynamo Makhachkala

TEHRAN – Iran international midfielder Mohammad Javad Hosseinnezhad has reportedly reached an agreement with Russian club Dynamo Makhachkala.

The 21-year-old player, who currently plays for Sepahan, scored two goals in 27 matches for the Iranian club.

The Russian media reports suggest that Hosseinnezhad will join the Russian team on a three-year deal. The side plays in 2024–25 Russian Premier League.

Soleimani nominated for best women's team coach

TEHRAN – Iran women's head coach Forouzan Soleimani has been nominated for the 2023 Best Women's National Team Coach.

The 24th edition of the annual futsal prizes was released by Futsalplanet.com on Monday.

Best Women's National Team Coach in the World

*Nominees

(listed in alphabetical order)

Roberto Bruno Castillo (COL), Cláudia Pons Xandri (ESP), Mike Alexander Guerra Díaz (VEN), Luis Miguel Jerónimo da Conceição (POR), Silvio Nicolás Noriega (ARG), Oleg Shaytanov (UKR), Forouzah Soleimani (IRN), Takehiro Suga (JPN), Wojciech Weiss (POL), Wilson Nóbrega Sabóia (BRA)

Iran learn fate in 2024 FIBA U18 Asia Cup

TEHRAN – Iran are drawn in Group B of the 2024 FIBA U18 Asia Cup.

The Persians have been pitted against South Korea, India and Kuwait. The 16 participating teams have been finalized after Qatar and Kuwait completed the cast by finishing 1-2 in the GBA Qualifiers held in Kuwait City.

Korea ruled the previous U18 Asia Cup in 2022 in Tehran, Iran by way of a 77-73 come-from-behind win over Japan in a Final befitting of a title bout.

China are coming in still with the most competition titles with 11.

Group A:

Australia, Chinese Taipei, Lebanon, Mongolia

Group B:

Iran, South Korea, India, Kuwait

Group C:

China, Japan, Qatar, Kazakhstan

Group D:

The Philippines, New Zealand, Jordan, Indonesia

The FIBA U18 Asia Cup 2024 is set on September 2-9 in Amman, Jordan, where the top 4 teams will qualify for the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup 2025 in Switzerland.

Lopez beats Mirzazadeh: Greco-Roman

TEHRAN - Mijain Lopez o Cuba defeated Iran's Amin Mirzazadeh in the 130kg quarterfinal of the 2024 Olympic Games. Lopez had defeated the Iranian in the Tokyo Olympics. In Paris, he got the first par terre advantage and got a turn from par terre to lead 3-0 at the break!

Three minutes to wrestle. Mirzazadeh used a much more aggressive approach in the second period. Lopez is called for passivity and is now in par terre.

Mirzazadeh needed a turn to take the criteria lead. Mirzazadeh wanted to resume in standing. That strategy from Iran will need three points for a win. Lopez is still standing tall over Mirzazadeh. Lopez defeated Mirzazadeh 3-1 and moves into the semifinal.

300km new railway to be inaugurated by next March



By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The managing director of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) said that 300 kilometers of new railways will be inaugurated in the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2025).

Making the remarks in a press conference on Monday, Miad Salehi also announced that 883 kilometers of railways were put into operation in the previous government.

The official said that in the 33 months of the 13th government activity, 883 kilometers of railway lines were built and put into operation, of which 390 kilometers were the first line, 320 kilometers were the second line, and 164 kilometers were the lines connecting enterprises to the rail network.

*** Rail transport up 71% in 13th government

Further in his remarks, the RAI managing director said that with the diplomacy of rail transport, the annual record of rail transport was broken in the previous government, in a way that transport via railway rose by 71 percent during the 33 months of the 13th government's incumbency, as compared to the same past time span.

In terms of passenger transportation through railway, Salehi said, "We saw record breaking in this field in the Iranian years 1401(ended on March 20, 2023) and 1402

(ended on March 19, 2024); Last year, the record of rail transportation was broken with the transportation of 31,780,000 passengers."

The official went on to say that, "By implementing the order of the Islamic Revolution's Leader on the issue of oil barter, we are looking for 500 percent allocation in the railway sector. In the last month of the previous [Iranian] year, the first payment due to oil barter was received, the second one was received in the second month of this year, and the third one will be received in the next few days."

In mid-May, Salehi said a \$500-million fund has been allocated for purchasing the equipment, repairing and modernizing the railway fleet of the country using oil bartering.

He made the remarks in a meeting with the producers and repairmen of the railway fleet of the country, adding that another \$500 million will also be earmarked for buying locomotives.

The official further pointed out that the construction of 50 freight locomotives of the company would be awarded to the private sector in the coming month.

The development of the railway sector has been one of the macro policies of the Iranian government as it has been emphasized by the general policies of the country's national development plans.

In this regard, the national railway fleet has constantly received new domestically-made locomotives and wagons in the past and current Iranian calendar years.

Advantages such as consuming less fuel and creating less pollution as well as high safety attach priority to the railway when compared to some other transportation systems, and make its development economically viable.

'Expert workforce necessary for introducing AI to petchem industry'

TEHRAN - University professor Mohammad Fakhroleslam believes that introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the petrochemical industry will significantly increase production speed and accuracy, however to do so the industry requires expert workforce.

Speaking at a specialized meeting on the sidelines of the 15th Iran Petrochemical Forum (IPF) on Monday, Fakhroleslam said: "The speed and accuracy in the industries will increase significantly with the use of artificial intelligence, which requires expert workforce."

Noting that artificial intelligence is used in the fourth generation of industrial development to facilitate affairs, he said: "In the fifth generation of the industrial revolution, humans are also involved and human thinking is implemented."

"For digitalization in the fourth generation of industrial development, there must be a suitable database in industries that processes information and simulates the production unit virtually using available tools," the scholar added.

According to him, artificial intelligence performs better monitoring in short intervals, based on which appropriate decisions can be made.

The 15th International Forum on Iran's Petrochemical Industry (IPF) kicked off in Tehran on Sunday.

In the two-day event, which is organized by the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), more than 40 Iranian and foreign speakers, and the representatives of 70 domestic and foreign companies participated.

As NIPNA reported, seven specialized workshops and several business promotion sessions were also held during the forum.

With the slogan of "clean technology", the international event aimed to discover new horizons in achieving sustainable development in the petrochemical industry with the effective participation and support of the private and public sector.

Also, in the current year's IPF, this opportunity was provided for some of the companies active in this industry to showcase their capabilities in the form of an exhibition.

Back in July, Head of Iran's National Petro-

chemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaei said the achievements and latest developments of Iran's petrochemical industry are tried to be presented in the IPF to improve the position of this industry in the world.

He mentioned presenting the achievements of the four continents of the world in the petrochemical industry, improving processes, identifying environmental pollution and avoiding their release in this industry, meaningful cooperation and strengthening of the petrochemical industry and financial institutions, commercial companies and manufacturers, unveiling advanced processes and sharing technological plans and ideas as some of the goals of holding this conference.

According to Shahmirzaei, almost all of the need for petrochemical catalysts in the country is met by domestic producers, and the company is taking final steps to fully indigenize the knowledge for the production of such catalysts.

He has said that the NPC is seriously pursuing the plan for localizing petrochemical industry catalysts.

He further said Iran's petrochemical industry is moving on the way of progress and growth by relying on its capable infrastructures.

Referring to the government's strategy of relying on sea-oriented development, Shahmirzaei has said that the petrochemical industry is being expanded across the shores of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman which will result in diversity in the basket of petrochemical products, economic growth and employment in the area.

Elsewhere in his remarks he said that "we should be determined to move toward providing our needs from within by relying on domestic capabilities, cutting the country's dependency to foreign-made products."

He announced that about 550 grades of petrochemical products are being produced inside the country at the moment which by making new investments, the capacity to produce different petrochemical products will grow; consequently, not only will meet domestic needs but increase the potential for exports as well.

Container operation rises 4% in Iran's ports in 4 months yr/yr

From page 1 ▶ As reported, during the mentioned four months more than 8.949 million tons of oil products and over 17.484 million tons of non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports, while the loading of oil products in ports was reported to be 25.4 million tons, and the loading of non-oil goods was 24.494 million tons.

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

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

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as



the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and un-

loading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

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

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment

from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

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

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

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

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

Thermal power plants output exceeds 140m MWh

TEHRAN - Iran's thermal power plants have generated over 140 million megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), an official with the Thermal Power Plants Holding (TPPH) announced.

According to Esmail Namazi, the director of TPPH's Production and Technical Office, combined cycle power plants accounted for 58 percent of the thermal power plants total electricity generation during the mentioned period, Mehr News Agency reported.

Power generation by combined cycle units registered a two-percent increase compared to the previous year's same period, according to the official.

Pointing out that since the beginning of the year, most of the country's electricity needs have been provided by thermal power plants, Namazi said: during this period, the amount of electricity produced by gas units also increased by 1.5 percent to 27 million MWh, and the production share of steam units also increased to 32 million MWh.

Currently, a total of 478 thermal power plants are operating throughout Iran which includes both gas power plants and com-

combined cycle plants.

Over two-thirds of Iran's thermal power plants are owned and operated by the country's private sector and private owners are currently generating nearly 67 percent of Iran's thermal power.

Iran's total power generation capacity currently stands at about 90,000 MW, more than 90 percent of which is supplied by thermal power plants.

Back in May, the head of Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH) said the country is the world's ninth-biggest producer of thermal electricity.

Mentioning an increase of 9,000 megawatts (MW) in the capacity of the country's thermal power plants over the past two years, Abdolrasoul Pishahang said thermal power plants currently account for 92 percent of Iran's total power production capacity.

"Last year, 389 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity were produced in the country's power plants, and thermal power plants with the production of 360 billion kilowatt-hours supplied 92.5 percent of the country's electricity needs," Pishahang said.



Stating that last year more than 2,000 MW were added to the capacity of thermal power plants in the country, the official added: "The readiness factor of thermal power plants reached 98 percent during the peak period of last year, and we are trying to record a very good performance this year as well."

Emphasizing that 50 percent of the country's power plants are domestically built, he said: "Currently, 95 percent of the equipment needed by the country's power plants is made by domestic experts, and by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2025), with the production of F-class turbine blades in the country, we will be completely self-sufficient in the field of manufacturing these types of turbines."

Annual cement export hits 14m tons

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Cement Association has said the country exported 14 million tons of cement in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), IRIB reported.

Hamid Farmani put the country's cement production in the mentioned year at 76 million tons, noting that most of the exported cement was sent to the countries in the region.

According to the official, Iran's cement consumption in the previous year was about 66 million tons, 10 percent more than the figure for a year earlier.

"We predict that in the coming years, the per capita consumption of this product in Iran will approach advanced and developing countries, and the consumption will increase from about 800 kg per person to 2,000 kg per person," he noted.

Mentioning some of the challenges in the way of increasing cement production in the country, Farmani said the country's cement production equipment and machinery are in need of renovation.

Cement companies, especially those that are older, have not been able to renovate their machinery and equipment over the past 10-15 years due to lack of sufficient income," he said.

Back in April, head of Iran's Cement Industry Producers Association said Iran's cement exports have grown by 12 percent in nearly two years.

Ali-Akbar Alvandian said that Iran had exported 10.5 million metric tons (mt) of cement in the first nine

months of the calendar year 1402 (March 21-December 21, 2023).

As reported, 13 million mt of cement had been exported in 1401, he added.

Alvandian noted that Iran produces about 90 million mt of cement annually, of which 60 million mt is consumed domestically.

There are currently 13 semi-finished projects in the country, he said, adding that the production of white cement will increase by over 8.8 million mt if they become operational.

Iranian cement is exported to 25 countries, including Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Syria.

Iran produced 63 million tons of cement in 2021 to be ranked the world's seventh biggest cement producer.

The Islamic Republic was ranked the world's fifth biggest cement producer in 2020, producing 69 million tons of the product.

The Iranian cement industry has a history of more than eight decades of activity.

Currently, there are 96 cement production lines active in 74 factories across Iran, and nearly half of them are less than 10 years old. This is an indication that new production units have a greater share of the total output in this sector.

Neighboring countries are not only consumers of Iranian cement but also demand the transfer of the cement industry's technology to their countries.

Power plants build by industrial sector to come on stream by Mar. 2026

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi has said most of the power plants that are being constructed by the industrial sector will come on stream by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (late March 2026), ISNA reported.

"It seems that a big part of the power plants will enter the power network by the end of [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 to supply electricity to energy-consuming industries," Rajabi Mashhadi said.

Major industries are obliged to build power plants with a total capacity of 10,000 megawatts, of which far, 1,800 megawatts have been constructed, the official added.

Back in 2021, the Iranian Energy Ministry announced a program based on which the country's major industries would construct power plants with a total capacity of 10,000 MW across the country to meet their electricity demand during peak consumption periods.

Later in November of that year, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian announced that the construction of 10,000 MW capacity power plants was started by various industrial sectors, saying: "Four major industries have started their work in the field of power plant construction. Based on the contract concluded with these industries, the said industries will not be provided with electricity from the national grid if

they cannot deliver the power plants based on the specified schedule."

After the primary agreement, however, more sectors stepped up to be included in the program and the initial figure has now exceeded 17,000 MW.

The nominal capacity of Iran's power plants has reached 92,055 MW, according to the latest data released by Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC).

The IGMC data for the 10th Iranian calendar month (ended on January 20) indicate that the country's power generation capacity has increased by 1.4 percent compared to the previous year.

As reported, the capacity of the country's gas power plants, which account for 25.3 percent of the country's total power generation capacity, also increased by 3.1 percent to 23,330 MW in the current year.

The total capacity of renewable power plants also increased by 20 percent compared to the previous year, reaching 1,120 MW.

Most of Iran's power generation capacity is supplied by thermal power plants. Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share of the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

The total capacity of the country's thermal power plants stands at over 75,000 MW, according to the Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH).

Netanyahu: A madman who demonizes his victims

From page 1 ▶ Comically, these words are uttered by a person - rightly called the crime minister - who has been committing indescribable crimes against 2.3 million people in the Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023. His regime's acts against the Gazans have shocked the entire world.

In the view of Netanyahu preventing the flow of water, food and medicine to civilian people is considered a civilized behavior. Netanyahu sees collective punishment, indiscriminate killings, and the targeting of civilians who seek shelter in schools, mosques, churches, and hospitals as civilized acts.

So far, this madman has destroyed about 60 percent of buildings in Gaza and killed about 40,000 people - most of them women and children. Yet, he demonizes his victims, who have been subjected to the worst kinds of cruelty. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Based on a study published in the *Lancet* journal, the accumulative effects of the war could mean the true death toll in Gaza is more than 186,000 people.



Netanyahu's words will go down in history as extremely shameful and disgraceful. A person is talking about civilization whose army killed about 300 people in order to just free three hostages.

Not just children, women and the elderly have been brutalized by an army whose commander-in-chief talks about "civilization" but medical workers have also been arrested, tortured, and abused.

Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has thrown a spotlight on the severe impacts of attacks on health facilities in Gaza and the occupied West Bank since Octo-

ber 7. "More than 1000 attacks on doctors, patients, clinics, and health infrastructure have fueled a public health catastrophe in the OPT [Occupied Palestinian Territory]. This grim milestone has few if any precedents for the scale and magnitude of attacks on health in the OPT," said Housam al-Nahhas, PHR's Middle East and North Africa researcher.

The leader of a regime is calling the war on Gaza a "clash between barbarism and civilization" that nine members of his army gang-raped a Palestinian detainee and members of the Knesset broke into two military bases to prevent the military police from de-

taining the rapists!

In fact, it was Hamas fighters who attacked southern Israel on October 7 which led to the death of about 1,140 people (many of them by the Israeli troops). But what is the sin of the Palestinian civilians who had no role in the attack and no connection to Hamas?

Ironically, a person is talking about civilization who is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The world can easily judge who is acting in a barbaric way and who is the chief victim. For 10 months the world has been seeing that civilians in Gaza are being starved, forced to escape from one place to another, chased and killed in hiding places, buried in mass graves, and many other horrific acts.

The barbaric acts that the Netanyahu regime is committing and the purely appalling remarks that he is making will not go unnoticed by historians. Surely, he will be remembered as one of the most brutal rulers the world has seen in modern history.

Israeli air defense systems fail to intercept Hezbollah drone Lebanese resistance strikes Israeli military headquarters

From page 1 ▶ The operation, which was announced by Hezbollah in a statement that said the Lebanese resistance movement targeted the positions and residences of Israeli officers and soldiers, directly hitting them and causing several fatalities and injuries.

Tel Aviv has raised its aerial defense systems in the north after the regime assassinated senior Hezbollah commander Fouad Shokor in Beirut last week.

The aggression marked the first time that the Israeli military has attacked Hezbollah in the Lebanese capital, escalating the daily exchange of fire that had been limited to the southern Lebanese border regions.

In a speech at Shokor's funeral ceremony, Hezbollah Secretary-General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah vowed to retaliate but has kept Tel Aviv waiting on the nature of the response.

Analysts have said the vague warning by Seyyed Nasrallah has also left the Israelis in a state of fear and panic.

In its statement, Hezbollah also noted that the operation was "in support of the steadfast Palestinian people in Gaza and to back their resistance, as well as in response to the attacks against civilians and assassinations carried out by the Israeli occupation in the towns of Bazourieh, Deir Siriane, and Houla".

Israeli media reported an explosion of a drone in the Ayelet HaShahar area and also noted that an interception missile had fallen to the ground without attempting to intercept the drone.

Israeli media also reported that the drone targeted a mobile shelter, resulting in a large fire around it while the soldiers were trapped inside.

The Israeli occupation forces admitted that an officer and a soldier from the Golani Brigade were injured, one of whom had severe head injuries, and both were transferred to the Ziv medical center in Safed.

Commenting on the operation, an Israeli news outlet said that Hezbollah is breaking the rules of engagement and increasing its firepower at midnight in response to the Israeli army's attacks in southern Lebanon earlier.

One news platform added that the "drone operator" in Hezbollah knows the way to the training field 100 "with his eyes closed" (referring to the Golani Brigade training site in the north).

Israeli media also noted that the Israeli military censorship had imposed a publishing ban on recent events in the north.

On Sunday, the Lebanese resistance forces carried out several operations against the occupation regime targeting its espionage equipment in the settlement of Beit Hillel for the first time.

Israeli military positions also came under fire in Ramia, Al Barakah and Birkat Risha. A building used by Israeli soldiers in the Manara settlement was targeted as well.

Meanwhile, Israeli Channel 12 reported on Monday that two anti-tank missiles were fired from Lebanon towards Kibbutz Bar'am.

As Hezbollah prepares its own retaliation for Shokor, Yemen's Ansarullah has shot down an American MQ9 drone.

According to the Sana'a government military spokesperson, Yahya Sare'e, Yemeni air defense forces shot down the U.S. MQ9 drone while it was conducting "hostile operations"

over Sa'ada governorate (northwest of the capital, Sana'a).

This is not the first time an American drone of this type has been shot down. Yemeni air defenses have previously downed similar reconnaissance drones, with six similar UAVs having been downed on various previous dates since the Yemeni support front in solidarity with Gaza began in November.

Sare'e also declared that the Yemeni forces targeted the "Groton" ship in the Gulf of Aden with several ballistic missiles, achieving a precise hit.

He added that the targeting of the "Groton" ship was a result of the ship owner's violation of the entry ban to ports in occupied Palestine".

The statement also highlighted that the "Yemeni Armed Forces salute the heroic Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip for 300 days of steadfastness, heroism, and sacrifice in defense of the nation and its dignity and honor, and in support of its sanctities."

It also emphasized that "the Yemeni Armed Forces will continue their military operations at various escalation stages," affirming that "Yemeni military operations will not cease until the aggression stops and the blockade on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip is lifted."

The downing of the American spy drone coincides with a threat from Sare'e in which he warned that the response to Israeli aggression against Yemen "is inevitable and will be significant and substantial," stressing the Yemeni Armed Forces' full right to defend Yemen against American-British aggression, as well as against Israeli aggression.

WORLD HEADLINES

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina flees



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country on Monday after hundreds of people were killed in a crackdown on demonstrations that began as protests against job quotas and swelled into a movement demanding her downfall.

Jubilant crowds stormed into the opulent grounds of the presidential residence unopposed, carrying out looted furniture and TVs. One man balanced a red velvet, gilt-edged chair on his head. Another held an armful of vases.

Elsewhere in Dhaka, protesters climbed atop a statue of Hasina's father, state founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and began chiseling away at the head with an axe.

The flight into exile ended a 15-year second stint in power for Hasina, who has ruled for 20 of the last 30 years as leader of the political movement inherited from her father, assassinated with most of his family in a 1975 coup.

Hasina had left the country for her own safety at the insistence of her family, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy told the BBC World Service.

Biden meets national security team as Mideast war fears grow

US President Joe Biden held crisis talks with his national security team on Monday as fears grow of an Iranian attack on Israel in retaliation for the killing of a Hamas leader in Tehran, AFP reported.

Biden also called Jordan's King Abdullah II as part of a flurry of diplomacy aimed at preventing the situation in the Middle East from spiraling into an all-out war.

The United States has deployed extra fighter jets and warplanes to the region to support Israel, as reports suggested Iran could respond as soon as Monday to the killing of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh.

Biden was due to meet his national security

team in the Situation Room in the White House "to discuss developments in the Middle East" after flying back from a weekend at his home in Wilmington, Delaware, the White House said.

Biden was calling King Abdullah before leaving Wilmington, the White House said.

Iran has blamed the Haniyeh assassination on Israel, which has not directly commented on the attack, and sworn revenge. The killing came hours after an Israeli strike on Beirut left Hezbollah military chief Fuad Shukr dead.

UK's Starmer promises 'swift criminal sanctions' after more anti-immigrant violence

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday vowed "swift criminal sanctions" following an emergency meeting on the far-right riots that broke out across England last week over the murder of three children.

The prime minister met with ministers and police chiefs, including Scotland Yard boss Mark Rowley, to discuss how to quell the violence that first broke out in Southport, northwest England, on Tuesday.

Over the weekend, several police officers were injured and scores of people were arrested as mobs throwing bricks and flares clashed with officers, burnt and looted shops, and smashed the windows of cars and homes.

As part of a "number of actions" to come out of Monday's meeting, the government will "ramp up criminal justice" to ensure that "sanctions are swift", Starmer told the media.

Ukraine displays first F16- jets donated by the West

Ukraine's newly arrived F-16 fighter jets were put on display Sunday by President Volodymyr Zelensky, who said the planes will boost the country's war effort against Russia.

"These jets are in our sky and today you see them," said Zelensky, standing in front of two of the fighter jets as two others flew overhead in close formation. "It's good that they are here and that we can put them to use."

Ukraine is also trying to get neighboring countries to help defend it against Russian missiles, Zelensky said.

Haniyeh assassination is madness: analysis

TEHRAN - In a commentary published on August 1, Middle East Eye says the Israeli assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas political chief, was "madness".

"From a strategic point of view, Israel's action is madness," David Hearts, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Middle East Eye, wrote.

Heart says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's only goal is to set the region on fire.

Following is the text of the article:

In killing Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau in Tehran, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has sent the clearest message yet to Iran and the resistance movements that he wants a regional war.

In denying any involvement or foreknowledge of the drone strike that killed Haniyeh, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken further damaged Washington's battered credibility.

US security officials were briefing journalists within an hour of the attack taking place that a senior member of the Axis of Resistance had been killed. They did not specify where or whom, and at first it was thought

to be a second strike in Lebanon after the targeting of Fuad Shukr, Hezbollah's most senior military commander and right-hand man to leader Hassan Nasrallah.

But it is certain that US security officials knew about the drone strike on Haniyeh within minutes of it happening. To cast Netanyahu as a leader in the grip of Jewish messianic fascists in ordering this strike, is only half of the story.

When I met him two decades ago as a political outcast dubbed an extremist by my liberal Zionist hosts, Netanyahu had only one idea to impart: Iran was the mothership.

Hamas and Hezbollah were only its aircraft carriers.

Netanyahu's lifelong belief that he will lead his nation to victory by crushing the Palestinian national cause and preventing a state from ever seeing the light of day can never be discounted.

Today, he might think he is on the cusp of his ultimate political achievement as Israel's longest-serving prime minister, by dragging the US and Britain into war with Iran.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

China-Iran relationship will see robust development

From page 1 ▶ presidents of the two countries could meet several times a year.

Hopefully, President Xi Jinping and President Pezeshkian will meet in Russia at the BRICS summit in the coming October, and they can frequently address the issues of common interests directly and in principle.

And the ministers can address issues in much more detailed ways for implementation.

The world is entering a new stage defined by centennial change and power shift.

China and Iran, as two members of the two blocs, will be able to work together with other parties to work for orderly multipolarity. And the two were also able to support the agendas of the other side at the institutional level. For instance, the two institutions have backed Iran's legitimate quest to remove sanctions.

Relationship has been more solidly based on shared interests and concerns

For thousands of years, the relationship between China and Iran has been based on mutual appreciation of the civilizations of the other.

The last decades have seen the complementarity of the two economically, as Iran is a major oil producer while China a major consumer. And Iran is updating its infrastructure while China is good at construction.

The two also have shared interests in countering terrorism and share the same position in opposing power politics and bullying.

The future will see shared interests grow. The two are also concerned about the terrible humanitarian disaster in Gaza as a result of the brutal war; the two share interests in maintaining

stability in the Persian Gulf; the two are worried about the potential spillover of the Israel-Palestine conflicts as the two regard peace and stability are primarily in the interests of the two.

Also, China and Iran have to prepare for the worst weather as Donald Trump could be elected as the next U.S. president.

Having anxiety over its relative decline, the U.S. could be extremely crazy and even mad in its policy, which could be a disaster for all countries in the world. China and Iran will be two of the most seriously and negatively affected.

Trump claims to levy taxes on commodities produced in China and has a tough policy to contain China. On Iran, Trump could likely once again launch his notorious "maximum pressure" policy.

China and Iran will have to work together with countries

sharing similar concerns. Politically, the two will have to support each other on issues related to political security.

Economically, the two will have to import more commodities produced in the country of the other for sustainable development and welfare. The two will also have to cooperate on strategic issues in the West and Central Asian regions.

Relationship has become much more mature

Despite enjoying strong and friendly ties, China and Iran did experience some levels of misunderstandings and misperceptions in some ways.

There could be multiple reasons. However, these misunderstandings are mainly due to the over-expectation of the other side and poor communication between the two sides.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

4.5m Iranians expected to attend Arbaeen pilgrimage



TEHRAN - Over 4.5 million Iranian pilgrims have been estimated to attend this year's Arbaeen pilgrimage destined for the holy city of Karbala, an official said on Monday.

In a recent interview with ILNA, the Supreme Representative of the Iranian President in the Arbaeen Committee shared details about the extensive preparations underway to accommodate the millions expected to partake in this significant religious journey.

With the pilgrimage commencing this Saturday, Iranian authorities have adopted measures to ensure the safety and comfort of the millions of Shia Muslims who will be journeying from Iran and other parts of the world to Iraq, Saeid Ohadi explained.

Ohadi emphasized that extensive efforts have been made by the Iranian Red Crescent and other responsible entities to ensure a seamless experience for all pilgrims.

"Over the last two days, we conducted a detailed inspection of the border areas used by pilgrims traveling to Iraq," said Ohadi. "This

visit focused on assessing the readiness of the Iranian Red Crescent and ensuring the services and facilities are prepared for the expected influx."

To cater to the healthcare needs of pilgrims, the number of medical centers along the Najaf to Karbala route has been significantly increased. "Last year, we operated 17 medical centers along this path, along with four active hospitals," Ohadi explained. "This year, we've expanded to 25 centers, marking a substantial improvement in our capabilities."

The number of pilgrims expected to embark on this sacred journey has seen a significant rise compared to last year. "In the previous Arbaeen, we witnessed the participation of 4.15 million pilgrims from Iran," Ohadi noted. "This year, we anticipate over 4.5 million pilgrims to travel to the holy sites, which is a remarkable figure."

Ohadi urged pilgrims to rely on personal vehicles to reach the Iran-Iraq border crossings, emphasizing that transportation facilities are ready to transfer pilgrims from the parking areas to the border points.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage holds immense religious significance as it marks the end of the 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions, who were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE. Last year, the event drew approximately 22.5 million pilgrims from around the globe to Karbala, underscoring its role as one of the largest religious gatherings in the world.

Hamedan draws nine million tourists in three years

TEHRAN - Hamedan has seen a surge in tourism, attracting over nine million visitors in the course of the past three years, said a local tourism official.

"Nine and half million tourists have visited the province's places of interest in the last 36 months," Mohsen Masoom-Alizadeh brought to light, speaking in a press conference on Sunday.

Additionally, more than one million overnight stays have been recorded during this period, the official highlighted.

Throughout the last three years, he added, the province welcomed 23,210 foreign tourists, and the number of accommodation beds increased from 4,070 to 4,604.

The official emphasized that recent Hegmataneh's UNESCO registration is just the beginning of Hamedan's tourism journey. Future plans include organizing festivals, inviting various individuals, especially foreign ambassadors, to promote Hamedan globally, Masoom-Alizadeh wound up.

Believed to be among the oldest Iranian cities, Hamedan dating its historical roots back to the 700 BC, brings to light how precious is the city to every tourist who wants to immerse themselves in the rich atmosphere of the area.

Sprawling on a high plain, the ancient city was built by the Medes, Assyrians, Persians, and Parthians. It may no longer be the legendary metropolis it once was, but it still boasts all the culture you'd expect



from a location with such a long history.

It is perhaps best known as the location of the Tomb of Avicenna, which commemorates and celebrates the life of the Islamic world's most revered scientist. The Ali Sadr Cave and the inscriptions of the Ganjnameh, which were created by the Darius and Xerxes rulers of ancient Persia, are two more amazing sights to see.

Hamedan, also known as Ecbatana (better known as Hegmataneh in Iran) in classical times, was once one of the most important cities in the ancient world. A pitiful few artifact from antiquity still exist, but significant areas of the city center are dedicated to excavations, and there are a few historical oddities scattered about.

With 1,800 historical and natural attractions, more than 1000 of which are registered as national heritage, Hamedan stands out as a prime destination for tourism.

Spain set for record tourist numbers in 2024 after first-half jump

The number of foreign tourists in Spain jumped 13% in the first-half of 2024, putting the country on track for another record year for visitor numbers despite growing discontent over the impact of the holiday industry in some tourist hotspots.

For the six months to the end of June, 42.5 million international visitors arrived in Spain, with the month of June alone recording a 12% rise to 9 million as the busier summer period picks up, Spain's data agency INE reported on Friday.

That means 2024 is shaping up to be another record year for Spain, already the world's second most visited country be-

hind France, making it likely it will beat last year's high of 85 million tourists, when numbers exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

But for some Spaniards in the most popular destinations including Mallorca, Barcelona and the Canary Islands, there is increasing unease about the influx of tourists and their impact on housing costs and locals have staged protests.

Earlier in July, a small group of anti-tourism campaigners in Barcelona squirted water pistols at foreign visitors, chanting "tourists go home", a demonstration that created headlines around the world.

(Source: Reuters)

Grand Bazaar of Kashan: a journey through history and culture

TEHRAN - With its labyrinthine alleys, vernacular architecture, and vibrant atmosphere, the Grand Bazaar of Kashan is not just a shopping destination but a living testament to centuries of Persian heritage.

Located in Isfahan province, the bazaar has been a bustling center of trade and commerce for centuries. Here, the aroma of herbal spices, the lively chatter of merchants, and the vibrant colors of goods on display create an unforgettable sensory experience.

The bazaar has undergone numerous renovations throughout its history, reflecting the city's evolving architectural and cultural influences. Notably, during the reign of Shah Abbas I in the Safavid era, the bazaar saw significant enhancements with the construction of four spacious marketplaces, creating a hub of activity that continues to thrive today.

According to sources, the bazaar's historical significance is highlighted in the writings of several famous travelers. English traveler Anthony Shirley, who accompanied Shah Abbas on a journey to Kashan, vividly described the celebrations and vibrant life within the bazaar. Meanwhile, Jean-Baptiste Tavernier, a 17th-century French gem merchant and traveler, praised the bazaar's beauty, noting its large and comfortable caravanserai that catered to merchants and travelers alike.

Despite enduring a devastat-



ating earthquake in the 18th century, which caused significant loss of life and structural damage, the Grand Bazaar of Kashan rose from the ruins, preserving its status as a cultural and economic hub.

Today, it remains a living museum of Persian architecture and commerce, where each corner whispers stories of the past.

Constructed using traditional materials such as bricks, raw clay, and mud mortar, the structures are adorned with thatch and plaster, with intricate woodwork adorning entrances, arches, and latches. These materials not only add to the bazaar's aesthetic appeal but also provide durability suited to the region's climate.

One of the most renowned sections of the bazaar is the Timche-ye Amin od-Dowleh, a masterpiece of Persian architecture. Commissioned by Farrukh Khan Amin al-Dawla in

the 19th century, this remarkable structure is famous for its stunning skylight, which illuminates the intricate brickwork and decorative motifs below. Located on the south side of the main artery of Kashan's bazaar, this two-story building is arranged around a vestibule and a large central space, offering a breathtaking view of Persian architectural ingenuity.

The Timche-ye Amin od-Dowleh serves as a focal point of the bazaar, showcasing the elegance and sophistication of Qajar-era design. Its dome-covered space not only attracts architectural enthusiasts but also provides a tranquil setting for visitors to pause and soak in the ambiance of this historic gem.

As you wander through its bustling alleys if the bazaar, you'll discover a diverse array of shops offering everything from exquisite Persian carpets and textiles to spices, jewelry, and traditional handicrafts.

The Grand Bazaar of Kashan also houses several mosques, madrasahs, caravanserais, arcades, public bathhouses, and water reservoirs, each contributing to the cultural heritage of the bazaar.

These historical structures offer a glimpse into the daily lives of the people who have called Kashan home for generations.

For sightseers, the Grand Bazaar of Kashan is not merely a place to shop; it offers a ride through time and culture. Visitors may experience a rich traditions of Persian hospitality by engaging with local artisans, enjoying traditional Persian tea at quaint cafés, or exploring the bustling corridors that have welcomed travelers for centuries.

The Grand Bazaar of Kashan begins from the middle of Baha-Afzal Street and stretches to the Darvazeh-Dowlat district.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, architecture aficionado, or curious traveler, the Grand Bazaar of Kashan promises an unforgettable experience.

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd.

Moreover, the ancient town is a gateway to many sights, stories, and surrounding attractive villages to discover. Amongst the highlights of the city are the lavishly decorated houses of Brujerdi, Tabatabai, Ameri, and Abbasi, as well as the UNESCO-listed Fin Garden to name a few.

Shahdad desert to host special tour for astronomy enthusiasts

TEHRAN - Kerman province's cultural heritage department has announced an extraordinary opportunity for stargazers and astronomy enthusiasts.

Later this month, the renowned Perseids meteor shower will illuminate the skies over the Shahdad region situated in the UNESCO-listed Lut Desert.

In that regard, a special tour will be organized in an unparalleled natural setting of the Shahdad desert, an official with the department said on Monday.

Mo'in Afzali highlighted the Shahdad region in the Lut Desert as an ideal location for observing the Perseids.

"The desert's clear, unobstructed skies create a stunning view of the stars," Afzali stated.

"The Lut Desert's vast, dark landscape enhances the visibility of the meteor shower, making it feel as if the stars are closer and brighter."



The Shahdad Desert is renowned for its minimal cloud cover, offering almost uninterrupted views of the sky.

The region's isolation from urban light pollution further ensures that visitors will have an exceptional opportunity to observe the celestial spectacle.

The Perseids meteor shower, known in Persian as Shahabi-e Barasavashi, is an annual celestial event associated with the Swift-Tuttle comet.

Typically, visible from mid-July to late August, this meteor shower reaches its peak around August 12th.

This year, the best viewing times in the Shahdad region are expected on August 11th and 12th, providing a spectacular cosmic show against the backdrop of the starry desert skies.

In collaboration with local travel agencies and tour operators, the tours are set to take place during the meteor shower's peak later this month, the official said.

The Perseids meteor shower is not just an astronomical event but also an opportunity for people to connect with the cosmos in a profound way.

This year's event promises to be a memorable experience, especially with the Shahdad Desert's incredible scenery serving as a backdrop.

Sassanid bridge undergoes restoration



TEHRAN - An ancient arch bridge dating back to roughly 1,700 years ago in Dezful, has undergone restoration, said a local official.

"This phase aims to eliminate previous interventions on the bridge's deck and conduct protective and restorative measures on some of its arches," Hamidreza Khadem noted. "The restoration work will involve removing multiple layers of asphalt to reduce dead load and lighten the historical structure."

Other tasks, he added, include correcting the slope, preventing moisture from penetrating the

bridge's core elements, waterproofing, and paving the deck with bricks.

Best known as the Dezful bridge, the massive monument on the Dez River is believed to be the oldest still-standing bridge in the world and it remained in full functionality until recently.

The Sassanid-era structure has been extensively repaired and renovated in various eras

to ensure its functionality and preservation. Nowadays, cars are no longer allowed to pass over the structure due to its historical value and fragility.

It is said that the monument was built by Roman prisoners of war after suffering a defeat at the hands of the Sassanid king Shapur I the Great, who reigned over Persia from around 240-270 CE.

Gilan seeks to breathe new life into antique buildings

TEHRAN - Some historical buildings across Gilan province, have been entrusted to the private and public sectors for restoration and investment, said a local official.

"Aligned with the cultural heritage preservation policies, 15 antique buildings have been handed over to be restored with investments," Vali Jahani told Mehr news agency, adding that the structures are located in different counties of the province.

This initiative, spanning various cities including Lahijan, Rudsar, Anzali, Rasht, Rudbar, Talesh, Astara, Siahkal, and Fuman, aims to safeguard Gilan's historical assets, ac-



ording to the official.

The investment volume for these buildings,

he underscored, exceeds some seven million dollars and is expected to create 420 jobs post-restoration.

Jahani pointed to the department's goals as protecting heritage, reducing government management, and fostering sustainable development and employment.

The official further elaborated that Gilan has 220 registered historical buildings needing restoration, with less than one tenth currently being addressed by the department. The goal is to continue this effort to ensure the preservation and revitalization of Gilan's rich cultural heritage, he wound up.

Iranian team to attend RobotChallenge 2024

TEHRAN –A total of 16 groups, each made up of 3 students, will represent Iran in the robotics competition (RobotChallenge 2024) which will be held in Beijing from August 9 to 11.

China will host over 5,000 contestants from 31 countries.

The international robotics contest has been held annually since 2004.

Each year RobotChallenge, one of the world's largest artificial intelligence robotic championships, brings together people from all over the world who compete with self-made, autonomous robots in various competitions.

This year, a Malaysian coach, Muhammad Zaki, accompanies the Iranian robotics teams, IRNA reported.

Students will compete in Robot bowling, Share Technology Idea, Share Technology Product, RoboSumo, Humanoid sprint, Free style, Air Race, Line Follower, Puck Collect, and Unknown Mission.

Iran's under-17 team won second place at RobotChallenge 2023 in Beijing, China.

The Iranian robotics teams were comprised of 42 teens from across the country with their coaches, participating in five various leagues of the competition.

The five categories Iran participated in included Line Follower, RoboSumo, Rugby, Free Style, and Technical Report. Iran gained medals in RoboSumo and Free Style.

The teams were coached by Ma'ede Najafi, Nasrin Ashuri, Parisa Afshar, and Mohammad Hossein Naderi, with Ahmad Sami'ei as the head coach.

The Iranian team had also gained second place in the 2022 competitions in India, and third place in the



2019 competitions in Malaysia. The competitions were canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Achievement in robotics competitions

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

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

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

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

Over 20 countries including Iran, Canada, Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Roma-

nia, and Oman participated in the competition, ISNA reported.

The competition was held both in person and online.

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

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

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

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

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

"The educational system of other countries is excellent, yet Iran is among the top 5 countries in the world in the international Olympi-

ads, YJC quoted Elham Yavari, the head of the National Organization for the Development of Brilliant Talents (SAMPAD), as saying.

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

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

The tournament was hosted by Russia at the Sirius Educational Center from November 14 to 22, IRNA reported.

Iran grabbed one gold medal and three silver medals at the 35th International Olympiad in Informatics, ranking seventh in the world among 91 countries.

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

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

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

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

Iran ranks 32nd in 2024 Research Leaders worldwide

TEHRAN – The 2024 edition of the Nature Index Research Leaders report has placed Iran 32nd among Research Leaders globally. The report is based on Nature Index data from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Institute for Fundamental Sciences (IPM), University of Tehran, and Sharif University of Technology are ranked first to third in the country.

The country is ranked second in Physical Sciences, third in Chemistry, as well as Health Sciences, fourth in Earth and Environmental Sciences, and fifth in Biological Sciences in the region.

Iran's best global ranking is in Physical Sciences with the rank of 27.

The Nature Index is an open database of author affiliations and institutional relationships. The Index tracks contributions to research articles published in high-quality natural science and health science journals, chosen based on reputation by an independent group of researchers.

The Nature Index provides absolute Count and fractional share counts of article publications at the institutional and national levels and, as such, is an indicator of global high-quality research output and collaboration.

Data in the Nature Index are updated regularly, with the most recent 12 months. The database is compiled by Nature Research Intelligence, part of Springer Nature.

Journal and article selection

The journals included in the Nature Index were selected, irrespective of publisher, by actively publishing researchers in the natural sciences.

Researchers were asked to list the journals in which they would most like to publish their best work. They were asked to focus on their perception of the journals' content, rather than measures such as the Journal Impact Factor.

The limitations

The Nature Index tracks a small proportion of the total number of research articles published, and they cover the natural sciences and health sciences only. There are many factors that determine an institution's output in the Nature Index. The size of the institution is a major factor, as is the composition of research specialties within the institution.

The Nature Index does not attempt to normalize data for such factors. Rather it presents raw data that can contribute to an analysis.

An institution's output in the Nature Index can be located globally, by country or by region, across the five broad fields of biological sciences, chemistry, Earth and environmental sciences, health sciences, and physical sciences; and by sector whether academic, government, corporate, healthcare, or NGO.

Article output for an institution, country/territory, or region is counted in two ways.

Count: A Count of one is assigned to an institution or location if one or more authors of the research article are from that institution or location, regardless of how many co-authors there are from outside that institution or location.

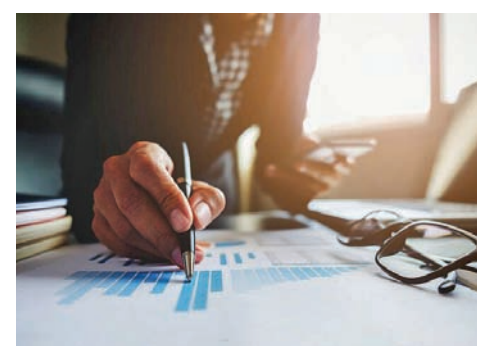
Share: Nature Index's signature metric, Share, is a fractional count that takes into account the proportion of authors from an institution or country/region and the number of affiliated institutions per article.

For the calculation of Share, all authors are considered to have contributed equally to the article. The maximum combined Share for any article is 1.0.

Iran ranks 14th for most-cited institutes

The number of top Iranian universities and research institutes in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database has increased from 115 last year to 134 this year, ranking the country 14th worldwide, and second among Islamic countries, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has reported.

Essential Science Indicators, or ESI, is a fundamental analysis and evaluation tool that reveals emerging science trends, as well as the performance of influential individuals, academic institutions, papers, journals, countries, and regions in various fields of scientific research.



A total of 9,019 universities and research institutes in all subject areas are ranked by the ESI database in a ten-year period, from 2014 to 2024.

Iran's top universities and research institutes are present in 19 subject areas, and the largest number is in the clinical medicine subject area with 74 universities and research institutes.

The number of institutions in the subject areas of engineering was 67, chemistry 57, agricultural sciences 29, materials sciences 28, pharmacology and toxicology 27, social sciences, general sciences 21.

Also, the number of institutions in the fields of plant and animal sciences, and environment/ecology 20 each, neuroscience and behavior 18, biology and biochemistry 17, computer science 15, immunology 10, geology 8, molecular biology and genetics and physics 5 each, microbiology and psychiatry and psychology 3 each and mathematics one.

The ranking includes 35 Islamic countries. Turkey ranks first among Islamic nations, followed by Iran in second place.

Also, Turkey with 149 universities and research institutes ranks 12th in the world.

Egypt (with 48 universities and research institutes) ranks 25th, Pakistan (with 46 universities) ranks 27th, and Saudi Arabia (with 45 universities) ranks 38th, respectively.

Recent rankings

The Times Higher Education (THE) included 33 universities from Iran among the top 1,500 universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDG) compared to 27 universities in 2023.

THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401- 600); and Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, Mehr news agency reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology achieved the highest ranking in industry innovation and infrastructure, ranking 27.

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

This year's ranking featured over 1,500 institutions across 105 higher education systems.

Sharif University of Technology (with a rank of 342), University of Tehran (368), Amirkabir University of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) were ranked first to fifth, respectively.

A total of 29 Islamic countries with 270 universities were included in this ranking.

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey ranked first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities. Iran ranked 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR) 2024 placed 197 Iranian universities among the top institutions in the world compared to 194 universities in 2023.

The SIR is a classification of academic and research-related institutions ranked by a composite indicator that combines three different sets of indicators based on research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact measured by their web visibility.

The 14th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2024 included 17 Iranian universities in 17 subject entries, compared with 16 universities in 2023.

Tehran, Baghdad discuss strategies to facilitate Arbaeen pilgrimage

TEHRAN – Iranian and Iraqi officials held a meeting on Monday in Baghdad to review and discuss strategies to facilitate the Arbaeen pilgrimage and ensure the safety of pilgrims.

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).

Iran's Deputy Minister of Interior, Majid Mirahmadi, and head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, in a meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Interior, Abdul Amir al-Shimari, followed up on the latest arrangements made regarding Arbaeen pilgrimage.

During the meeting, the Iranian officials obtained permission to operate IRCS rescue helicopters as well as ambulances and bring necessary medicine and equipment to provide medical

services to pilgrims.

Referring to the IRCS volunteer medical teams dispatched to provide healthcare services to pilgrims in Iraq during Arbaeen pilgrims, Kolivand said necessary agreements have been made for the presence of Iranian physicians in Iraqi hospitals, and the deployment of relief teams along the roads to provide services.

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 flocks 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; processions; 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.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

System to be set up for monitoring, forecasting agricultural drought

A system will be launched to monitor, forecast and report the agricultural lands being hit by drought, Amir Qaderi, an official with Disaster Management Organization has announced.

Over a meeting of a special working group for addressing drought and risks threatening agricultural sector, a plan for establishing a system for monitoring and forecasting agricultural drought in the country was approved and submitted to the Disaster Management Organization for review, he explained.

"Following the study of other countries' experiences and existing global methods, the necessity of establishing a domestic system to recognize the lands prone to agricultural drought was emphasized," he noted.

سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران ایجاد می‌شود

معاون امور بازسازی و بازتوانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور از ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران خبر داد.

امیر قادری روز یکشنبه با اعلام این خبر گفت: طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران طی جلسه‌ای با حضور مدیران و کارشناسان سازمان مدیریت بحران و وزارت جهاد کشاورزی بررسی شد.

وی ادامه داد: پس از بررسی تجارب داخلی و روش‌های موجود جهانی، ضرورت استقرار نمونه بومی پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی مورد تأکید قرار گرفت و با مشارکت مراکز پژوهشی سازمان هواشناسی کشور و پژوهشکده حفاظت خاک و آبخیزداری طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران پیشنهاد شد.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
 Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



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

AUGUST 6, 2024

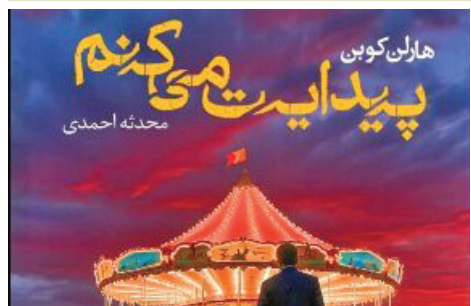
GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you, and patience against what you covet.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:10 Evening: 19:23 Dawn: 3:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:17 (tomorrow)

“I Will Find You” at Iranian bookstores



TEHRAN- A Persian translation of American writer Harlan Coben's "I Will Find You" has recently been published by Amut Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Mohaddeseh Ahmadi.

In "I Will Find You", David Burroughs is a man consumed by grief and guilt after his three-year-old son, Matthew, is brutally murdered while he was asleep just down the hall.

The trauma of the event is compounded by the fact that he is wrongly accused and convicted of the crime, leaving him to serve a life sentence in a maximum-security prison.

Years go by, and David becomes despondent, unable to muster the will to fight for his freedom.

However, his world is turned upside down when his wife's sister, Rachel, visits him during prison hours and brings a mysterious photograph that changes everything.

The picture shows a bustling amusement park, and in the background, a boy who bears an uncanny resemblance to Matthew.

David's conviction that Matthew is still alive becomes an all-consuming obsession, driving him to plan a daring escape from prison.

With his life on the line, David sets out on a perilous journey to clear his name, find his son, and uncover the truth behind the murder.

As David navigates the treacherous landscape, he must evade capture by the FBI and confront the dark secrets that have

haunted him for years.

Along the way, he uncovers a shocking truth that challenges everything he thought he knew about his son's death and his own innocence.

Harlan Coben is a renowned American author of mystery novels and thrillers, known for his intricate plots that often involve the resurfacing of unresolved or misinterpreted events in the past.

His books have been translated into 43 languages and have sold over 60 million copies worldwide. Coben has won numerous awards for his work, including the Edgar Award, Shamus Award, and Anthony Award.

Coben's writing career began in the 1990s, when he published his first book, "Play Dead".

He went on to create a series of thrillers featuring a former basketball player turned sports agent, Myron Bolitar.

In 2001, he published his first stand-alone thriller, "Tell No One", which was later adapted into a French-language film.

Coben has since written numerous stand-alone novels, including "Hold Tight", which debuted at number one on the New York Times Best Seller list.

In addition to his novels, Coben has also written essays and columns for various publications, including The New York Times and Parade Magazine.

He has won several awards for his work, including the Anthony Award for "Best Paperback Original" and the Shamus Award.

Coben's work has been adapted into several films and television shows, including the French-language film "Ne le dis à personne" and the British crime drama television show "The Five".

He has also created the French-British crime drama television show "Safe", which premiered on Netflix in 2018. Coben's ability to craft complex plots and relatable characters has made him a beloved author among readers and fans of the thriller genre.

Marvel backtracking on Sabra's Israeli identity in "Captain America: Brave New World"

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN-Due to public opposition to the Israeli superhero named Sabra (Ruth Bat-Seraph) appearing in "Captain America: Brave New World," Marvel seems to have removed all of the traditional Israeli roots in the character's history from the trailer for the film, which was released on July 12.

"New to the cast is Shira Haas, who joins as Ruth Bat-Seraph. A former Black Widow, Ruth is now a high-ranking U.S. government official who has the trust of President Ross," announced Marvel.

Ruth is played by Israeli actress Shira Haas, who was first cast in the role in 2022 and was a former volunteer with the Israeli army's theater troupe. She has previously appeared in movies including "Asia" and "The Zookeeper's Wife," as well as the Netflix series "Bodies."

Haas' accounts show her posing in an Israeli army uniform, seemingly on a film set, and praising Israel's 2018 Eurovision win, which was a major front in the Zionist regime government's cultural propaganda war.

Marvel and Mossad, Brothers in arm

The character was the subject of a backlash in 2022 when it was announced that she would feature in "Captain America: Brave New World," the fourth film in the Captain America series.

It led to Marvel issuing a statement at the time to say that the character would be reworked.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Dr. Matthew Alford, a British filmmaker and the author of the book "Reel Power: Hollywood Cinema and American Supremacy," explained that Israeli actors have appeared in comic book films since Gal Gadot, who played Wonder Woman in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," released in 2016.

"In some ways, this is a welcome diversification of Hollywood talent - but, of course, it's set against a backdrop of longstanding Islamophobia in the industry.

Such stereotypes were brilliantly deconstructed in the life's work of an American scholar with Lebanese roots, Jack Shaheen, best known for the book "Reel Bad Arabs", which documented over a thousand films going back a hundred years," he added.

The author pointed out that in 1960, the epic "Exodus" starring Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint established a sympathetic



narrative on how Israel was formed. "In recent years, the links between Israel and Hollywood have become easier to see."

Traditionally, Sabra is a Mossad agent who has served in the Zionist regime army. The character wears a blue-and-white costume featuring a Star of David cape clasp, evoking the Israeli regime flag.

Sabra's first full-fledged appearance was in Incredible Hulk vol. 1 #256 in a notoriously offensive story called "Power and Peril in the Promised Land". In the story, Arabs are portrayed as terrorist bombers.

Just like a prickly pear cactus

The name Sabra is a modern Hebrew term for a person born in the occupied territories.

Additionally, Rabbi Simcha Weinstein, who is known as the "Comic Book Rabbi", refers to another meaning of this word in his book, "Up, Up and Oy Vey: How Jewish History, Culture and Values Shaped the Comic Book Superhero".

"The word is derived from the Hebrew tzabar, the prickly pear cactus. Rough to the touch, this desert plant has a sweet interior.

Israelis may sometimes seem prickly, but this is simply a natural defense mechanism."

"They are a kind and benevolent people at heart!" Weinstein adds.

Sabra's name is also a reminder of a terrible event that the Zionist media often refuses to mention;

Sabra and Shatila massacre.

Over a period of two days just outside Beirut in September 1982, Israeli-backed Lebanese militiamen slaughtered up to 3,500 Palestinian refugees and Lebanese civilians in what became known as the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

Pregnant women were stabbed in the stomach; fetuses were ripped out. Children had their throats cut; young men were lined up and shot in the back.

Israeli regime's military provided logistical support throughout the butchery, which occurred three months into the apocalyptic Israeli invasion of Lebanon that had been green-lit by the United States.

Captain Apartheid for glorifying genocide

The announcement of Sabra's appearance in the fourth Captain America film in 2022, just one week before the anniversary of the massacre, caused anger among Muslims and Arabs around the world.

As soon as Sabra's appearance in the new Captain America movie was announced, social media buzzed with criticism of Marvel's decision, calling Sabra "Captain Apartheid" and quipping that her many powers include "demolishing Palestinian homes with her mind and assassinating Palestinian children with her laser beam eyes".

In addition, in response to this action of Marvel, various movements started to boycott the

film.

In November, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement called for a boycott of "Marvel's apartheid Israel superhero movie".

"By glorifying the Israeli army and police, Marvel is promoting Israel's violence against Palestinians and enabling the continued oppression of millions of Palestinians living under Israel's authoritarian military rule," wrote the Institute for Middle East Understanding, a U.S.-based pro-Palestinian organization, on Twitter.

Also, pro-Palestine users criticized the movie for its inclusion of an Israeli actress. In late 2022, a petition calling for the removal of the actor garnered over 8,000 signatures.

The change of Sabra's background occurs when the world is angry with the Zionist regime because of the Gaza genocide.

It should be noted that Disney, the parent company of Marvel Studios, has come under considerable public pressure, especially after its so-called "Humanitarian" Relief to the Israeli regime in October.

Another Israeli soldier as a superhero

On the other hand, pro-Zionist users and media did not welcome this change and labelled the rebranding as "Israeli erasure".

"The creation of a new, de-Zionized Sabra, played by Israeli actress Shira Haas, comes amid speculation that Marvel Studios has sought to avoid criticism from an audience bombarded by anti-Israel propaganda," wrote the Jewish Chronicle.

At least 39,000 Palestinians, the vast majority civilians, have been killed since the start of the genocide.

This unprecedented genocide was carried out by the army of a regime that claims to be the most moral army in the world.

After Gal Gadot, Shira Haas is the second Israeli actress to get a role in the world of superheroes, in addition to serving in the army of the Zionist regime.

This time, an Israeli actress is playing an Israeli superhero. It can be said that this is the latest attempt of the Jewish industry of superheroes to whitewash the Zionist regime.

However, the reaction of people around the world shows public awareness and unity against the Israeli regime, known for its child-killing actions.

Iran FICTS festival to be held in September

TEHRAN- The 14th edition of the Iran International FICTS Festival is scheduled to take place in Tehran in September, the organizers have announced.

The Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) is the body organizing this sports film festival, which is part of the World FICTS Challenge held across 16 countries worldwide.

To date, more than 410 works have been submitted for this edition of the festival, including 250 international entries from 54 countries and 160 Iranian works across various sections, with the submission process still ongoing, as reported by Mehr on Monday.

The festival's selection committee has commenced its work, and the final review of the competition films will be announced once all

entries are complete, the report added.

The Iranian edition of the festival will be conducted in collaboration with Iran's National Olympic and Paralympic Committee, the Ministry of Sports and Youth, IRIB, the Cinema Organization of Iran, and Tehran Municipality.

The FICTS headquarters is located in Milan, Italy, with over 134 member countries. The Iranian festival is recognized as one of the 16 global hubs and hosts 34 Asian countries, serving as a gateway for participation in the global festival in Milan, which attracts filmmakers and cinema professionals from these regions.

Given the festival's international prestige and the enthusiasm it has garnered, works from European countries and beyond are also welcomed at this event.



A poster for the 14th Iran International FICTS Festival.

Winners in each category, including feature films, short films, documentaries, animations, and TV shows, will qualify for the Milano International FICTS Fest, which serves as the final phase of the World FICTS Challenge.

Cartoon of Day



IDF

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

Iran's "Khalil" to compete at Italian festival

TEHRAN- Iranian director Seyyed Payam Hosseini's short movie "Khalil" will go on screen at the main section of the Lessinia Film Festival, which will be held in the Italian city of Verona from August 23 to September 1.

The film is set in a small village on the Iranian plateau and follows the journey of a 13-year-old boy named Khalil, who has recently lost his father. Overwhelmed by the fear of his father's fate in the

afterlife, Khalil is deeply troubled by the possibility that his father may not receive God's forgiveness and could end up in Hell.

In a desperate attempt to save his father's soul, Khalil seeks forgiveness from everyone around him, hoping their answers can sway divine judgment. However, their collective reassurances do little to ease his distress. With encouragement from his school teacher and support from his

friends, Khalil takes a bold step: he decides to write a heartfelt letter to God, pleading for mercy.

The combination of Khalil's innocence and determination give rise to a story of tenderness, which tests the faith and love of a son.

The Lessinia Film Festival is Italy's only competition dedicated to short films, documentaries, and feature films focused on mountain life, history, and traditions.

Established in 1995 by the Curatorium Cimbricum Veronese Association as a video exhibition for the Veronese mountains, it has since expanded worldwide, though it excludes sports and climbing films.

The festival features screenings at Teatro Vittoria over ten days in late August, complemented by special events and exhibitions.