

Every 70 kg Counts as One Person

Israel turns a school in Gaza into a slaughterhouse by killing more than 100 people

▶ Page 5

Bags containing the remains of the martyrs of the Israeli attack on a school in Gaza, August 10, 2024.

Hezbollah ramps up rocket, drone attacks on Israel

TEHRAN - Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement carried out fresh strikes against Israeli sites and settlements late on Saturday.

Hezbollah fired multiple rockets and drones at Israel, triggering air raid sirens across the northern Galilee region.

According to Hezbollah's military media, Israel's espionage equipment at the Ramia site was also damaged in a drone attack.

The movement further targeted the Al-Malkiyeh site with artillery shells and struck a gathering of Israeli soldiers in Tal Shaar with rockets.

Separately, Hezbollah launched a barrage of Katyusha rockets at the Israeli settlement of Eilon.

Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging deadly fire since October 8, a day after Israel launched a genocidal war on Gaza which has so far claimed the lives of nearly 40,000 Palestinians.

Hezbollah has vowed to keep up its retaliatory attacks as long as the Tel Aviv regime continues the onslaught.

Hezbollah has repeatedly said it does not want a full-scale war with Israel while stressing that the movement is prepared in case it occurs.

Pezeshkian calls for international action against Israel after Gaza school massacre

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has condemned the massacre of al-Tabin School in the Gaza Strip, calling for swift action by the international community and the United Nations to prevent such atrocities by the Israeli regime.

"International institutions, especially Islamic countries, must employ their capabilities to prevent the recurrence of these crimes," Pezeshkian stated in a press release.

He went on to accuse Israel's supporters of complicity in these crimes, saying, "The supporters of the occupation entity are partners in these heinous crimes with their double standards and silence."

Pezeshkian urged the international community and the United Nations to "play their role in achieving the rights of the Palestinian people and limiting the continuation of crimes against them."

Over 100 people were reported dead after an Israeli strike targeted a school sheltering displaced Palestinians on Saturday. Local reporters say it is difficult to identify the dead bodies as most of them have been charred. ▶ Page 3

Global outrage erupts after Israel's deadly strike on Gaza school

TEHRAN - Israel's brutal attack on a Gaza City school housing displaced Palestinians has sparked widespread outrage and condemnation across the world.

Many countries as well as Palestinian and international organizations have expressed their shock at the strike on the Tabeen school in Daraj district which killed over 100 people, including women and children.

Horrorific crime

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement denounced the Israeli carnage as a horrific crime.

"The massacre at Tabeen school in the Daraj neighborhood in central Gaza City is a horrific crime that constitutes a dangerous escalation," Hamas said in a statement.

The statement said Israel's claims of the school being used as Hamas' command center are "excuses to target civilians, schools, hospitals, and refugee tents, all of which are false pretexts and exposed lies to justify its crimes".

Hamas called on Arab and Islamic countries and the international community to "fulfill their responsibilities and take urgent action to stop these massacres and halt the escalating Zionist aggression against our people and defenseless citizens." ▶ Page 5

Leader's aide says 'severe and crushing' response to Israel ready

TEHRAN- Iran has completed "legal, diplomatic, and media" preparations to carry out "severe and crushing" retaliation against Israel for the assassination of former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, declared Ali Shamkhani, a political advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and ex-secretary of Iran's National Security Council.

In a post published on X on Saturday, Shamkhani said the regime only understands the "language of force." He pointed to Israel's earlier attack on a school sheltering hundreds of civilians in Gaza, considering it a sign that Zionists are not serious about establishing calm in the war-torn enclave. "The only goal of Israel in killing worshippers at Tabeen School in Gaza, assassinating martyr Haniyeh in Iran is warmongering and derailing the truce talks."

Haniyeh was assassinated in a Tehran residence on July 31, hours after he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has vowed to avenge the blood of "Iran's guest", a vow that appears to remain in place despite days of pleading by regional countries tasked by Washington to dissuade Iran from retaliation. ▶ Page 2

It's time to refer a case against the USA to the ICJ and ICC

By Professor Hossein Askari

On August 7, Türkiye (or Turkey) showed courage and stood up for humanity. It became the seventh country asking to join the case that South Africa brought against Israel for 'genocide' on December 29, 2023 at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the United Nations' highest court. This is the case that has already been joined by Colombia, Nicaragua, Spain, Libya, Palestine and Mexico with Belgium waiting in the wings to join. Note that only one Arab country besides Palestine, namely Libya, has joined the case.

Why such reticence by most countries, especially Arab countries, to join South Africa's well-reasoned case? It's because of pressure from the United States coupled with insecure Arab rulers who feel they need U.S. support to stay in power. It's that simple.

How complicit is America in Israel's rogue reign of terror? America has given more aid to Israel than to any other country. Not that Israel is poor, being in fact richer than France, but because of the power of the Zionist lobby in the United States. There's much more than the billions of dollars we have given to Israel every year. Israel gets top-of-the-line arms that no other country gets. Then there are bombs and more bombs, even hundreds of 2,000 lb. bombs that destroy blocks of buildings and kill indiscriminately. Israel kills and kills in Gaza. ▶ Page 5

Taekwondo athlete Barkhordari takes silver in Paris

TEHRAN - Iran taekwondo athlete Mehran Barkhordari lost to Firas Katoussi from Tunisia in the men's -80kg final of the 2024 Olympic Games Friday night.

Barkhordari was defeated 2-0.

In the first bronze medal match, Simone Alessio from Italy won 2-0 over CJ Nickolas from the United States, then Denmark's Edi Hrnac won bronze 2-0 over the Republic of Korea's Seo Geonwoo.

Iranian female taekwondo athletes Nahid Kiani in the -57kg and Mobina Nematzadeh in the -49kg had won a silver and a bronze medal, respectively.

The taekwondo competitions at the 2024 Summer Olympics were held in Paris from Aug. 7 to 10 at the Grand Palais strip. A total of 128 taekwondo fighters, with an equal distribution between men and women, competed across eight different weight categories at the Games.



Robotics contests held in Kish island

Students from eight provinces of the country participated in robotics competitions on the Persian Gulf island of Kish.

Top contestants will be selected to compete in the World Robotics Olympiad which will be held in November in Turkey.

WRO organizes robotics competitions in four different categories for students aged 8-19 years. Together with partners worldwide, WRO reaches over 100 countries worldwide. Each WRO season culminates in the International Final, hosted in a different country every year.

In 2024 teams will learn more about how we humans affect nature and how nature and natural events can affect us. They will investigate how robots can help us live in harmony with nature.

Pezeshkian retains atomic energy chief, appoints key cabinet members

TEHRAN - Iran's newly inaugurated President Masoud Pezeshkian has retained Mohammad Eslami as the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), a key position in the country's nuclear program. Eslami has been holding since he was first appointed by the late President Ebrahim Raisi in 2021.

Eslami's journey in government began with his appointment as the caretaker of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in October 2018, following the resignation of Abbas Akhoundi. Just a week later, he earned the confidence of the Iranian parliament and was confirmed as the Minister of Roads and Urban Development, becoming the third individual to hold this position in Iran. Eslami holds a master's degree in civil engineering as well as an MBA in aviation management. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

American trick to save Israel from revenge

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

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed the resumption of the ceasefire talks hosted by Cairo and with the mediation of the U.S., Qatar, and Egypt.

It wrote: The United States is worried about Iran's response to Israel and intends to ensure Israel's security against Iran by announcing a ceasefire plan and convincing the parties to come to the negotiating table.

America's support for its long-time political friend questioned the humanitarian gesture of the United States vis-a-vis the war in Gaza. It is obvious to everyone that America is an accomplice of genocide in the war in Gaza.

Also, if Iran's response to Israel is such that the political life of the Zionist regime in the region is endangered, this means that the interests of the United States in the West Asia region will be endangered.

Therefore, the White House tries to be one of the negotiators in this agreement, so that if these negotiations conclude, the threat of Iran's attack will be removed from Israel.

Kayhan: Iranian media driving them crazy

In a commentary, Kayhan addressed the Israelis' fear of Iran's attack and wrote: The Zionist mayor of Haifa told the Reuters reporter that he does not sleep at night because of the anxiety and fear caused by Iran's retaliatory attack.

Israel is preparing for a possible attack by Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah. Israel faces the danger of a multi-front war. After the promises of Iran and Hezbollah to take revenge, it is expected that Israel will be attacked in the next few days.

Reuters and the mayor of Haifa are not the only Western media or Zionist officials who report that fear prevails over the Zionists, but other sources and circles have reported the dominance of fear and anxiety in the Zionist regime and admitted that the leaders of Iran, Hezbollah and the Hamas movement succeeded to win the psychological war. They admitted that the Iranian media is deceiving them and has made them crazy.

According to Amos Yadlin, the former head of Israel's military intelligence, the Iranians enjoy creating tension, anxiety, and panic in Israel, because they have a strategic impact without firing a shot.

Haniyeh assassination aimed to sow division among Muslims: commander

TEHRAN- The spokesman and deputy head of the public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) stated that the Israeli regime assassinated the Hamas leader to create a rift among Shia and Sunni Muslims.

During a media briefing on National Reporter's Day, Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeeni stated that the enemy is currently waging a hybrid war against Islamic Iran, targeting economic, political, psychological, and cultural sectors.

Arman-e-Melli: Escaping from punishment with a ceasefire card

Arman-e-Melli wrote about the developments in the region: The developments in the region have gained double speed. Movements in Tehran to respond to Israel's action have confused them.

In a statement, Jordan and the United States welcomed the return of the parties of war in the occupied territories to negotiate. It seems that if Netanyahu wants to sign a ceasefire with Hamas after these decisions, he will face a heavy defeat in anticipation of an attack by Iran and Hezbollah.

After the assassination, intensive consultations were held by the Arab countries of the region as well as the Western countries to convince Iran not to respond to Tel Aviv and even request Tehran to give a short response to Israel. Even the Americans announced in this context that they sent a message directly to Iran and Israel in order not to spread the war. But we immediately saw that the countries involved in the ceasefire negotiations, such as the United States, Egypt, and Qatar, adopted a new approach to somehow send a message to Iran to support the ceasefire path as before.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Secrets of the Jeddah meeting

During the last few days, not only the West Asia region but most of the world have prepared themselves so that Iran carries out a revenge attack against Israel. But is it possible that Tehran wants to progress in the Gaza peace talks instead of retaliatory operations? It was this hope that brought regional leaders together in an emergency meeting in Jeddah.

A U.S. official and a Western intelligence official told CNN that the fear of Hezbollah's action is now bigger than Iran's one. If this is the case, Israel's retaliation against Hezbollah can quickly escalate the regional crisis and drag Iran into war, something that everyone fears. What is clear is that the meeting in Jeddah and the behind-the-scenes diplomacy provided a diplomatic situation and time for the partial reduction of the crisis.

Currently, there seems to be a desire for this issue from both Iran and the United States. According to CNN, its prospects depend on Tehran's decision.

He also mentioned that the recent terror attacks on Iran and Lebanon, as well as the earlier assassination of Martyr Zahedi, are part of an ongoing psychological campaign.

The enemy aims to initiate a psychological war through these terror attacks

The IRGC spokesman noted, "The enemy aims to initiate a psychological war through these terror attacks to further their agenda."

Haniyeh, the political bureau chief of the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas, and one of his bodyguards were assassinated at their residence in Tehran on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

Pezeshkian congratulates Singapore on National Day

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has congratulated the people and government of Singapore on the country's National Day.

In a message to Singaporean President, Tharman Shanmugaratnam, on Friday, Pezeshkian expressed his best wishes and hoped for the expansion of relations between Iran and Singapore, emphasizing a new approach that considers the interests of both nations.

Singapore National Day, celebrated annually on August 9th, marks the country's independence from Malaysia in 1965.

The day is filled with various festivities, including the National Day Parade, which features performances, military displays, and fireworks.

The Prime Minister also delivers a national day message reflecting the nation's achievements and aspirations. This year, Singapore is celebrating its 59th birthday with events nationwide, including heartland celebrations and public engagement activities.

It's a day brimming with national pride and unity, highlighting Singapore's rich diversity and collective strength.

Leader's aide says 'severe and crushing' response to Israel ready

From page 1 ▶ The U.S. has also tried to temper Iran's upcoming response through propaganda campaigns.

In the past days, several Western media outlets have spread falsehoods about the circumstances of Haniyeh's assassination, in an attempt to portray military action against the regime as unjustified. Some have meanwhile alleged a lack of unanimity among Iran officials on how the country should punish Israel.

Another high-ranking and

influential official to affirm Iran's determination to respond to Israel on Saturday was the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC).

"The Leader of Revolution's orders will be carried out in the best way possible and this is Iran's current duty," Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi stated while speaking to Lebanon's Al Mayadeen TV.

He also addressed the appointment of Yahya Sinwar as Haniyeh's successor, saying it "indicates that the course of Hamas' resistance will continue

till the end."

It is still not clear how Iran would be responding to Israel's assassination of Haniyeh.

Some believe Lebanon's Hezbollah might also join Iran in retaliation, as the group has vowed to avenge the blood of one of its most senior military leaders, who was killed in a Beirut strike only hours before Haniyeh's martyrdom.

Pundits also believe it is not impossible for Yemen's Ansarullah movement to open a third front against the regime

concurrent with Iran and Lebanon.

Sana'a has promised to respond to an Israeli strike that targeted Yemen's al-Hudaydah port last month.

Reports show that Israelis are gripped with anxiety and fear as they anticipate the Axis of Resistance's retaliation.

Israeli media says people have been spending their nights in shelters, with Zionist officials either opting to leave the occupied territories or stay in missile-proof facilities.

Pezeshkian retains atomic energy chief, appoints key cabinet members



From page 1 ▶ Eslami's background is rich with experience in various capacities within Iran's defense sector. He has held key positions, including Deputy of Engineering and Development Plans at the Defense Industries Organization and CEO of Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Company.

Throughout his career, Eslami has been an active participant in numerous councils and committees, including the Supreme Aviation Council and the National Committee on Combat Dust Storms.

His academic contributions include teaching at Malek Ashtar University of Technology and supervising doctoral programs at the National Defense University.

Pezeshkian also announced a number of other cabinet appointments on Saturday, including Saeed Ohadi as the director of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs and Hossein Afshin, a 44-year-old mechanical engineering professor at Sharif University of Technology, as the vice president for Science, Technology, and

Knowledge-based Economy.

Zahra Behrooz was also appointed as the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs.

The new president's cabinet appointments, which are subject to parliamentary approval, are expected to be finalized on August 11, with lawmakers set to announce the results of their debates on August 17.

Pezeshkian had already appointed Mohammad Reza Aref as his first vice president shortly after assuming office in a ceremony on July 28.

Some have alleged that Pezeshkian will also retain Esmail Khatib as the Minister of Intelligence, and propose Abbas Araqchi, former Deputy Foreign Minister, as Iran's top diplomat.

Iranian officials united on retaliation against Israel: source

TEHRAN - An informed source has firmly denied any internal disagreements among Iran's top leadership regarding the response to Israel following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, a key Palestinian Resistance movement figure in Hamas, in Tehran.

The Iranian news agency Tasnim reported that contrary to claims by Israeli media suggesting a division among Iran's high-ranking officials, including the President and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), there is complete unity at the strategic level within Iran's ruling system.

The source, speaking to Tasnim, stated, "There is no discord on this matter; instead, there is a rare consensus, determination, and agreement among the country's authorities to carry out the response."

The source further noted that decisions on how to execute the retaliation are being made at the

highest levels, specifically within the Supreme National Security Council, which is chaired by the President of Iran.

In the aftermath of the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, who served as the head of Hamas's political bureau, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made it clear that it intends to respond decisively.

The Leader of Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, warned Israel of a severe retaliation, describing it as Iran's duty to avenge Haniyeh's blood.

"The criminal and terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest on our soil and left us in mourning, but it has also paved the way for its own harsh punishment," Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

Echoing this sentiment, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted that the Islamic Republic would not hesitate to



defend its territorial integrity and national sovereignty, vowing that Israel would soon face the consequences of its "cowardly and terrorist actions."

Similarly, the IRGC reiterated its commitment to taking revenge against what it called the "terrorist and adventurist Zionist regime," warning that Israel will face a "harsh punishment" at a time and place of Iran's choosing.

The assassination of Haniyeh occurred in the early hours of Wednesday, July 31, when he was in Tehran to

attend the inauguration of Iran's new president. He was killed by an aerial projectile while staying at a residence in northern Tehran.

Israel unleashed its brutal war on Gaza on October 7 after Hamas carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The ongoing Israeli military campaign has resulted in at least 39,790 Palestinians killed, the majority of whom are women and children.

Retaliatory action for Haniyeh killing independent from Gaza truce talks: Iran UN mission



TEHRAN - Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations has asserted that a retaliatory response to the Israeli assassination of former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran is inevitable, regardless of ongoing ceasefire talks in Gaza.

In a statement to American media, the mission stressed, "Establishment of sustainable ceasefire in Gaza is our top priority. Any deal that Hamas agrees on will be acceptable to us as well."

However, the mission also emphasized that "We have the right to legitimate defense, which is unrelated to the Gaza ceasefire. But we hope our response will be given at a time and manner that would not harm the likely ceasefire."

The statement comes after Israel's assassination of Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31. The late Hamas leader was in the

Iranian capital to attend the new president's swearing-in ceremony.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has already warned of a "harsh response" for Haniyeh's assassination, calling it the Islamic Republic's duty to avenge the Palestinian resistance leader's blood.

====Tehran, Washington have always had channels to communicate

Asked about the existence of messaging channels between Iran and the U.S., the mission confirmed that "there have always been formal direct and mediatory channels for the exchange of messages between Iran and the U.S. Both parties prefer the details to remain undisclosed."

The remarks come after Matthew Miller, the spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State, said on Thursday, "I will let all of the countries in the region speak to what diplomatic engagements they might have had with Iran."

But obviously, one of the points of the engagements that we have had is to urge countries to pass messages to Iran and urge countries to make clear to Iran that it is very much not in their interests to escalate this conflict, that it is very much not in their interests to launch another attack on Israel."

====No weapons for Russia until Ukraine war over

The Iranian UN mission also commented on recent allegations of missile transfer to Russia, stating that Iran will not deliver any weapons to Moscow until the conflict in Ukraine has come to a conclusion.

In response to recent claims that Tehran is poised to deliver hundreds of Fath-360 close-range ballistic missiles to Russia, the mission emphasized that while Iran and Russia have established long-term strategic cooperation agreements across various sectors, including military, "legally, Iran is under no restrictions or prohibitions regarding the purchase or sale of conventional weapons."

However, the mission added, "From an ethical standpoint, Iran refrains from transferring any weapons, including missiles, that could potentially be used in the conflict with Ukraine until it is over."

This statement follows a report by Reuters indicating that numerous Russian military personnel are currently being trained in Iran to operate the Fath-360 missile system. Citing two European intelligence sources, Reuters also suggested that the delivery of hundreds of these satellite-guided weapons to Russia is expected imminently for its operations in Ukraine.

Pezeshkian calls for international action against Israel after Gaza school massacre

From Page 1 ▶ Over 100 people were reported dead after an Israeli strike targeted a school sheltering displaced Palestinians on Saturday. Local reporters say it is difficult to identify the dead bodies as most of them have been charred.

Since launching its latest offensive against Gaza 10 months ago, Israel has relentlessly targeted hospitals, schools, mosques, homes, and other civilian sites. International action has been minimal, largely due to unwavering U.S. support for the Israeli regime.

Israeli attack on Gaza school a 'genocidal act'

In a strong condemnation of a recent Israeli military strike, the spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry labeled the attack on Palestinian refugees sheltering in the al-Tabin School in Gaza as a blatant example of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Nasser Kanaani issued a scathing rebuke of the Israeli actions on Saturday, referring to the regime as "child-killing" and describing the attack on the school, located in Gaza's al-Daraj neighborhood, as a deliberate and barbaric act of violence.

Kanaani highlighted that this attack is not an isolated incident but rather part of a broader pattern of atrocities committed by the Israeli regime against Palestinian civilians, particularly women, children, and the elderly.



Kanaani emphasized that the ongoing and relentless assaults by the Israeli regime are a testament to its disregard for international law, human rights, and moral principles. He argued that the attack on the al-Tabin School is a glaring violation of international peace and security, underscoring the urgent need for global intervention.

"The only effective way to confront this ruthless regime," Kanaani stated, "is through decisive and unified action by Islamic nations and all freedom-loving countries around the world. These nations must stand in practical support of the Palestinian people and their legitimate struggle against occupation and aggression."

He further called on the United Nations Security Council to take immediate and robust action to put an end to the "unbounded crimes" of the Israeli regime.

Kanaani pointed to the responsibility of the international community, particularly the Security Council and the International Criminal Court, to hold Israeli leaders accountable for the widespread acts of genocide and apartheid.

Kanaani concluded by stressing that the international community now faces a critical moral and humanitarian challenge. He urged global institutions and governments to ensure that those responsible for these heinous acts are brought to justice, asserting that the Israeli regime's leaders must be held accountable for their actions against the Palestinian people.

Following this heinous event, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees called for an end to the "horrors unfolding under our watch." "We cannot let the unbearable become a new norm," Philippe Lazzarini wrote

on X.

"The more recurrent, the more we lose our collective humanity," he said, reiterating his call for a "ceasefire now."

Josep Borrell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, also said he is "horrified" by the images coming out of Gaza City's al-Tabin school.

Writing on X, Borrell noted the attack is the 10th to hit Gaza's schools in recent weeks, causing "massacres" for which "there is no justification."

Israel launched the current offensive against Gaza, targeting hospitals, homes, and places of worship, following a surprise attack by Palestinian Resistance movements, which came as a response to the years of occupation by the Israeli regime.

At least 39,790 people have been killed and 92,002 wounded in Israeli military attacks on Gaza since October 7, the enclave's Health Ministry reported.

The UN estimates that 60,000 to 70,000 people have been forced to flee under new Israeli evacuation orders covering the eastern part of the city.

Israel continues to stand accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which ordered Tel Aviv to immediately halt its military operation in the southern city of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from the war before it was invaded on May 6.



victories of the Resistance as evidence of the legitimacy of their cause, asserting that these successes validate their struggle against Israeli atrocities and genocide.

This message from Ayatollah A'rafi comes at a time of heightened tension in the region, reflecting Iran's continued support for Hezbollah and its opposition to Israeli policies.

"We stand by you with all our strength," he added, underscoring the depth of Iran's support for the Resistance.

The letter also conveyed Ayatollah A'rafi's condolences on the martyrdom of Fuad Shukur, a senior Hezbollah military commander. Shukur was assassinated in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut on July 30.

In his message, Ayatollah A'rafi condemned the actions of the Israeli regime and its allies, accusing them of violating all ethical, humanitarian, legal, and international norms. He stated that it has become evident to the world that the Zionist regime and its supporters operate without regard for these fundamental principles.

Ayatollah A'rafi further stressed that the resistance front faces no other option but to eliminate what he referred to as the "cancerous tumor" of Israel. He pointed to the ongoing

Iranian clerics reaffirm support for Resistance Front

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian cleric has reaffirmed the steadfast support of the Iranian clergy and religious seminaries for Hezbollah and the broader Resistance Front.

In a letter addressed to Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Ayatollah Alireza A'rafi, a prominent figure in Iran's religious and political spheres, emphasized the unwavering commitment of Iran's religious community to the Resistance movement.

Ayatollah A'rafi, who also serves as a member of Iran's Guardian Council, expressed deep respect and admiration for the efforts and sacrifices made by the Resistance fighters.

"The seminaries and senior clerics honor the brave fighters in the resistance front," A'rafi wrote, highlighting the solidarity of Iran's religious institutions with Hezbollah.

Iran expresses support for the interim government in Bangladesh



Muhammad Yunus takes oath as head of Bangladesh's interim government at a ceremony in Dhaka on August 8, 2024. (AFP)

TEHRAN- The spokesman for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the formation of an interim government in Bangladesh headed by Muhammad Yunus.

In a statement on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, expressed his hope for the complete restoration of peace in Bangladesh, reflecting the desires of its people.

He also voiced hope that a general parliamentary election would soon take place, leading to the establishment of a formal government.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has returned to Bangladesh to lead an interim government. This follows weeks of student-

led protests that resulted in the resignation and flight of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India.

The protests against the government's job quota system have resulted in hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and the detention of several opposition political figures.

At least 366 people died and thousands of people were arrested as security forces sought to quell the unrest.

Yunus has taken the oath as the "chief adviser" to the caretaker government. His primary responsibility is to oversee the democratic process leading up to the elections.

Tehran to deliver strong response to Israeli crimes: official

TEHRAN - A former commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) says Iran is prepared to deliver a powerful response to the malicious actions of the Zionist regime.

During a gathering with veterans of the Iran-Iraq war on Saturday, Mohsen Rezaei condemned the recent actions of Israel in Gaza and Tehran, labeling them as severe violations of human rights.

Rezaei expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in Gaza, where Israeli forces have targeted civilians, including women, children, and the elderly.

He also condemned the

assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the political bureau chief of the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas, who was martyred in his residence in the Iranian capital early on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.

He pointed out that such acts have not only outraged the Iranian leadership but also resonated with people worldwide.

He cited Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which grants countries the right to self-defense, affirming that the Islamic Republic of Iran is entitled to defend itself and will not tolerate any further aggression

"Iran will respond to the Zionist

regime's wickedness with wisdom and power," Rezaei stated firmly.

Rezaei also condemned the bombing of the al-Tabin School in Gaza by the Israeli regime, which resulted in the deaths of more than 100 students, as well as prior attacks on hospitals and the killing of journalists.

He argued that such actions are unprecedented in both regional and global history.

Rezaei also accused those who claim to defend human rights of complicity, stating that their support for Israel's actions has destroyed their credibility.

Zahedi scores as Avispa held by Consadole Sapporo

TEHRAN - Avispa Fukuoka was held to a 2-2 draw by Consadole Sapporo in Round 26 of the J. League on Saturday.

Shahab Zahedi gave a lead to the visiting team from penalty spot in the 14th minute. Musashi Suzuki levelled the score from the spot in the 65th minute.

Masashi Kamekawa was on target for Avispa but Katsuyuki Tanaka equalized the match just before the final whistle.

Consadole Sapporo remained bottom of the table and Avispa also maintained its eighth place in the standing.

Persepolis target Attiyat Allah joins Egypt's Al Ahly

TEHRAN - Persepolis target Yahia Attiyat Allah joined Egyptian side Al Ahly on Friday.

The Moroccan winger has joined Al Ahly from Russian club Sochi.

The Russian club revealed that Attiyat Allah will join the Red Devils for a year on-loan with a to-buy option.

The 29-year-old left-back was supposed to join Persepolis as replacement for Qatari defender Abdelkarim Hassan, who joined Al Wakrah.

Iran men's sitting volleyball team named for 2024 Paralympics

TEHRAN - Iran men's sitting volleyball team head coach Hadi Rezaei announced his 12-player squad for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris.

There will be eight men's teams competing at Paris 2024. Hosts France will be joined by Tokyo 2020 gold medalists Iran, bronze medalists Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Preliminary round matches will be held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3, followed by classification matches and the semi-finals. The bronze medal and gold medal matches are scheduled for 6-7 Sept.

Defending Paralympic champions Iran will face Brazil, Germany and Ukraine in Pool B for a place in the semifinals.

France joined Tokyo 2020 bronze medalists Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt and Kazakhstan in Pool A.

2024 Iran Paralympic Men's Sitting Volleyball Roster

Davoud Alilpourian, Sadegh Bigdeli, Hamid Abbasi, Morteza Mehrzad, Ramezan Salehi, Majid Lashkari, Mehdi Babadi, Meysam Alipour, Meysam Hajibabaei, Hossein Golestani, Issa Zirahi and Mohammad Nemati

Saravi happy to get revenge on Aleksanyan

TEHRAN - Mohammad Hadi Saravi notched his first win in four career meetings with superstar Artur Aleksanyan of Armenia, and it couldn't have come at a better time or place.

Saravi scored a late takedown against Aleksanyan in the Greco 97kg final on Wednesday at the Paris Olympics, giving him a 4-1 victory to improve on the bronze medal he won three years ago in Tokyo and assuring that the Armenian's fourth career Olympic medal would be a second straight silver.

"Thank God I got the first gold for Iran at Paris 2024, and my first gold at an Olympics after I took bronze at Tokyo 2020," Saravi said. "And thanks to my coaches. I'm so happy."

In other action at the packed Champs de Mars Arena, one day after Japan won its

first Olympic Greco gold in 40 years, it got another when Nao KUSAKA (JPN) claimed the 77kg title, while Sarah HILDEBRANDT (USA) emerged victorious when the dust cleared on a chaotic day in the women's 50kg division.

Saravi looked confident against the veteran Aleksanyan, who had previously beaten him in the semifinals at the Tokyo Olympics and at both the 2019 and 2022 World Championships.

"It's so sweet to win the gold medal after three attempts," Saravi said. "I have a lot of respect for my opponent in the final. He's so professional, but I was able to beat him."

Both wrestlers were unable to score from the top in par terre, and Saravi held a 1-1 lead on criteria in the second period. In a quick flurry, Aleksanyan was knocked backward toward the ground, and Saravi spun behind for a takedown.

He then held on to become Iran's fifth Olympic Greco champion in its history.

"I had lost matches before, even though I still won medals, but now I won, and it is like getting revenge, and at the most important tournament to do that," said Saravi, the 2021 world champion who won bronzes in 2022 and 2023.

Dynamo Makhachkala signs contract with Hosseinnejad

TEHRAN - 21-year-old Iranian attacking midfielder Mohammadjavad Hosseinnejad has become a player for Makhachkala Dynamo.

Javad (this is the name that will be printed on the player's jersey) moved to Dynamo from Sepahan, a club in the Iranian Pro League, the top division in Iran.

The Dynamo newcomer is 21 years old, and he played two matches for the Iranian national team and had a productive 2023/2024 season for Sepahan: 22 games for the club in the championship and three assists, four matches in the Asian Champions League - with two goals and an assist.

Javad will play for the Russian team under number ten.

Govt. shows green light to emigrant athletes' return

TEHRAN - The First Vice President of the 14th government of the Islamic Republic of Iran showed green light to those Iranian athletes who emigrated from the country to return to the country.

"Young athletes who have decided to emigrate from the country for any reason! This is the right of the individual. The administration of President Pezeshkian is fully prepared to accept the emigrant athletes to return to their country," Mohammadreza Aref emphasized.

God willing, it is hoped that "we will witness the reverse migration," he added.

Iran's first vice president reacted to two Iranian taekwondo athletes "Nahid Kiani" and "Kimia Alizadeh" who hugged each other on the sidelines of Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Volleyball: France crush Poland to win back-to-back golds

TEHRAN - France beat the world number one ranked side Poland 3-0 to win the Olympic men's volleyball gold on Saturday, defending their title from the Tokyo Games but this time on home soil inside a rocking South Paris Arena 1.

France are only the third country to win back-to-back golds in men's volleyball after the former Soviet Union and the United States.

The U.S. had beaten world champions Italy in straight sets on Friday to take the bronze medal.

Iran-Iraq 4-month trade stands at \$3.77b



TEHRAN – The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Iraq stood at \$3.772 billion during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

As announced, Iraq was Iran's third biggest trade partner among the neighboring countries during the four-month period.

In late May, the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually.

Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq have increased 15-fold over the past 20 years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 billion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market, IRNA reported.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and

Iraq, he underlined.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil export to its neighbors increased by 16 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that the country exported 26.981 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$10.642 billion to its neighbors in the mentioned four-month period, indicating also six percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

The official further announced that Iran imported 7.215 million tons of non-oil goods valued at \$9.179 billion from the neighboring countries during the first four months of the current year, with one percent growth in terms of weight and four percent fall in terms of worth, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

According to the official, Iran's trade balance with 15 neighboring countries has been positive by 1.5 billion dollars without considering oil, during the said four-month period.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, the country exported \$17.5 billion non-oil goods, registering an 8.0 percent growth, year on year.

Rezvanifar put the total value of the country's non-oil trade in the mentioned four months at \$36 billion.

According to the official, Iran imported \$18.5 billion worth of non-oil products, about 6.0 percent less than the figure for the previous year's corresponding period.

The country's trade balance was \$1.0 billion negative in the mentioned four months, indicating a significant decline compared to the previous year's same period.

In the first four months of the previous Iranian year, the country's export of non-oil goods stood at nearly \$16 billion, while the imports during this period were about \$19.5 billion. The trade balance of the country was negative \$2.5 billion during this period.

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.

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

Referring to the growth of maritime trade in the country, Safaei continued: "Maritime trade increased from 215 million tons in [the Iranian calendar year] 1401 (2022-2023) to 237 million tons last year (ended on March 19, 2024)."

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

Loading, unloading of goods in Qeshm ports rises 50% in 4 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – The loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Qeshm island, in the south of Iran, increased by 50 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a local official announced.

Ali Ashtari, the director-general of Qeshm Ports and Maritime Department, said that 3,851,563 tons of goods were loaded and unloaded in the ports of this island during the mentioned four-month period.

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

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 unloading of goods,

Home appliances export up 11% in 4 months on year

TEHRAN – Iran's export of home appliances increased by 11 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Mohammad-Mehdi Baradaran, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister for public industries, made the remarks on the sidelines of the 24th edition of Iran's International Home Appliance Manufacturers Exhibition (HAMEX 2024), which is being held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during August 9-13.

In this exhibition, a variety of home appliances such as cooling and heating products, audio and video products, kitchen appliances, utensils and dishes, gas stoves and grills, barbecue and fryers, vacuum cleaners, irons, juicers, meat grinders, tea makers, and sewing machines are being showcased by over 300 domestic and foreign companies.

As reported, 28 foreign companies active in the field of manufacturing home appliance parts and equipment are also participating in this exhibition.

The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past few years, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant



share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production increased by 18 percent in the past Iranian year (ended on March 19).

In mid-June, the secretary general of the Association of

Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said the production of home appliances increased by 18.2 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year compared to a year before.

According to Omid Fazeli-Nia, production of home appliances reached 19.5 million units in the previous year from 16.5 million units a year earlier.

Back in January, the head of the Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said that over the past few years, the production of home appliances has increased from eight million units to more than 17 million units.

Alireza Mohammadi Daniali said that the industry has expanded by 25 percent.

Mentioning some of the challenges that manufacturers of home appliances are currently facing, the official said: "Produc-

ers have problems such as mandated pricing, lack of liquidity, lack of foreign currency supply, and exports, which need to be addressed and resolved."

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the country has exported non-oil goods worth \$17.5 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, registering an 8.0-percent growth, year on year.

Mohammad Rezvanifar put the total value of the country's non-oil trade in the mentioned four months at \$36 billion.

According to the official, Iran imported \$18.5 billion worth of non-oil products, about 6.0 percent less than the figure for the previous year's corresponding period.

The country's trade balance was \$1.0 billion negative in the mentioned four months, indicating a significant decline compared to the previous year's same period.

In the first four months of the previous Iranian year, the country's export of non-oil goods stood at nearly \$16 billion, while the imports during this period were about \$19.5 billion. The trade balance of the country was negative \$2.5 billion during this period.

Iran expanding export destinations for its oil: report

TEHRAN – Iran has been expanding its oil destination markets as the country is pushing to send more oil to the global markets in an attempt to neutralize western sanctions.

Iran has sent shipments of crude oil to new destinations such as Bangladesh and Oman, according to shipping sources and data cited by Reuters.

Oil sales are Iran's major revenue source and the country has been looking for ways to sidestep U.S. sanctions on its crude exports that former president Donald Trump re-imposed in 2018 over Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran, which is exempt from output quotas set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is striving to maximize production and exports.

Oil Minister Javad Oji said in July that Iran was selling crude oil to 17 countries, including those in Europe, according to Mehr News Agency.

In one new trade, the Golden Eagle tanker sailed near the port of Chittagong in Bangladesh earlier this year after receiving oil from another vessel that loaded it from Iran's Kharg Island according to available evidence based on shipping data, Claire Jungman, from U.S. advocacy group United Against Nuclear Iran, told Reuters.

The Golden Eagle offloaded parts of the cargo to smaller tankers in ship-to-ship transfer operations around Chittagong in April, said Jungman, whose organization tracks Iran-related tanker traffic via satellite data.

The shipment to Bangladesh was separately confirmed by another oil export tracking source.

An official with state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, which operates the country's main refinery, said it did not buy the cargo and it was difficult to establish who was the buyer.

The Golden Eagle's Liberia-based owner and manager listed in shipping databases could not be reached for comment.

Iranian officials did not immediately respond to a request for



comment.

Tehran's oil output has topped 3.2 million barrels per day this year, the highest since 2018, according to OPEC figures, after posting one of OPEC's biggest output increases in 2023 despite U.S. sanctions still being in place.

Iranian crude exports have reached new highs this year, with March-May being the strongest three-month period since mid-2018, according to Petro-Logistics, a Geneva-based firm which tracks tanker shipments.

"But volumes seem to be plateauing now," said Virginie Bahnik of Petro-Logistics.

At least eight cargoes of oil - mostly from Iran - were heading to Syria with some already discharged, shipping sources said. Shipments to Syria, however, were below their peak some years ago as Iran seeks other export destinations.

Iranian oil deliveries into Syria have av-

eraged 57,190 bpd in 2024 compared with a high of 147,000 bpd in 2022, according to export analysis from UANI's Jungman.

A separate tanker delivered a cargo believed to be Iranian crude oil into the Omani port of Sohar in June after loading the consignment via a ship-to-ship transfer with another vessel that picked up the shipment from Iran's Kharg Island earlier this year, UANI's Jungman said, citing shipping data.

The ship tracking source also confirmed the arrival of this cargo into Sohar.

Sohar Port and Oman's Maritime Security Centre did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Iran has also begun bringing cargoes into China's northeast Dalian port, adding another new destination for its crude.

Tehran's exports to China, which does not recognise U.S. sanctions, have been flowing into the port, helping sustain the country's oil imports at near record levels.

Tanker trackers and dealers say that traders re-brand Iranian oil destined for China as originating from elsewhere, such as Malaysia, Oman or the United Arab Emirates.

Iranian oil exports have now reached a peak and have stabilized around 1.5 million bpd, since February, said Homayoun Falakshahi, senior crude oil analyst with Kpler.



Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of Pedestal Crane needed for Belal Gas Field Development, Tender No. 952132

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Pedestal Crane needed for Belal Gas Field Development through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Mr Amir Nosrathzadeh with Tel: +9821-82841533 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Every 70 kg counts as one person

Israel turns a school in Gaza into a slaughterhouse, kills more than 100 people

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - A new Israeli massacre on a school in Gaza sheltering the displaced Palestinians has raised major question marks over Tel Aviv's lack of desire for any ceasefire in the enclave.

On Saturday morning, at least two airstrikes on the Tabeen school in Gaza City (northern Gaza Strip), killed over 100 people, according to the Gaza media office.

Women and children are among those brutalized when the munitions landed as Palestinians were gathering for morning prayers.

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) claimed to have used precision-guided munitions when launching the attack on the 309th day of carnage in the coastal strip.

The pictures on the ground indicate the IOF launched missiles or dropped bombs that were anything but precision-guided.

Witnesses and Palestinian officials at the scene of the carnage said they did not find a single body that had not had limbs severed by the Israeli attack at the school.

Hospital officials also said the identification of many victims is very difficult because their remains are badly disfigured.

Every 70 kilogram has been counted as one martyr because many body parts have been scattered.

Footage shows the IOF did not take any steps to mitigate civilian harm including aerial surveillance and intelligence gathering before the atrocity took place, further contradicting the Israeli military's narrative.

Other footage from the site of the massacre shows a scene of carnage with scores of bodies and body parts. Survivors and families look clearly distraught and traumatized at the loss of life and destruction.

The Israeli massacres against civilians have become so recur-



rent that Western media is failing to keep pace with them.

This is while the death toll from the genocidal war on the enclave that houses 2.3 million population is approaching 40,000.

Critics have criticized Arab states for their inaction in the face of the Israeli war crimes in Gaza that have been continuing for more than ten months. They say issuing statements of condemnation has proven ineffective.

Arab states have the means to press the West to end support for the Israeli genocide in their backyard by limiting the sale of natural resources or withdrawing the normalization deals with the apartheid regime.

Tel Aviv has banned Western media from entering Gaza in what is widely believed to be an Israeli attempt to avoid the documentation of the regime's war crimes, including the recent disturbing reports of systematic torture against Palestinians held in Israeli military prisons and detention centers.

Reporters on the ground from regional news networks have reported about the new massacre in the Tabeen school in the Daraj neighborhood of Gaza City.

The Gaza government media office confirmed the IOF carried out a massacre inside the Tabeen school, saying this act is part of a "clear crime of genocide and ethnic cleansing against our Palestinian people".

In a statement on Saturday, it

emphasized that the IOF directly targeted the displaced individuals while they were performing the Fajr (dawn) prayer, which "increased the number of martyrs rapidly".

"Due to the magnitude of the massacre and the large number of dead, medical teams, civil defense, and rescue teams have not yet been able to retrieve all the bodies." The media office said.

It also condemned the massacre in the strongest terms, calling on the world to denounce it and hold the Israeli occupation and the U.S. administration fully responsible.

The spokesman for the Civil Defense in Gaza said the occupation regime attacked two floors of the school, with the first floor sheltering women and the ground floor being a prayer area for the displaced.

He added that the Israeli bombing set fire to the bodies of Palestinians, and "teams are trying to control the fire to retrieve the martyrs' bodies and rescue the injured".

The spokesman also underlined that many of the bodies from the prayer hall bombing were "mangled and burned remains".

He noted that there are still large amounts of remains and dismembered bodies inside the Al-Ahli Hospital, and families are struggling to identify their loved ones as most of the injured transferred to the hospital are in very critical condition.

The Gaza Civil Defense stated that it believed the casualty figures have become mere numbers due to the international community's failure to pressure the Zionist occupation regime to stop its crimes.

One journalist told regional media that the IOF used three missiles, each weighing more than 2,000 pounds, in its attack on the school.

The latest atrocity has raised doubts again over whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is interested in a ceasefire.

Earlier this week, the United States, backed by its Western allies proposed a new round of talks supposedly aimed at ending the war in the Gaza Strip that has suffered daily aggression for more than 300 consecutive days.

Critics argue the ongoing round of talks, over the past months, has clearly outlined the terms of Hamas and Tel Aviv and that a ceasefire could have been reached many times before if Washington had restricted its regular arms shipments to the Israeli military.

These are the same U.S.-made munitions that have been dropped on more than a dozen schools, sheltering displaced Palestinians in July alone.

Earlier this year, Hamas agreed to a ceasefire deal that was rejected by the Netanyahu cabinet.

The U.S. proposal has raised eyebrows on whether Washington's real intentions are to end the Gaza genocide or lay the grounds to blame the Iranian retaliation for the assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Esmail Haniyeh in Tehran, for jeopardizing a ceasefire attempt.

Iranian officials have emphasized the response to Haniyeh's assassination is a separate matter from any ceasefire in Gaza, which would have the full backing of the Islamic Republic, should it actually materialize.

It's time to refer a case against the USA to the ICJ and ICC The USA is complicit in Israel's crimes and must be held accountable

From page 1 ▶ They get intelligence and political support at the UN and elsewhere, including arm-twisting of leaders around the world with threats that they had better support Israel or else. Yes, the United States says that it has asked Israel to prevent civilian deaths but then in the next breath Washington gives more bombs and twists more arms in support of Israel! America is openly complicit and guilty of a partnership in Israeli crimes.

The United States has irrationally attacked the South African case at the ICJ and the pending case at the ICC. It has even threatened justices and both international courts with sanctions. America says that it supports the international rule of law and then undermines and attacks the workings of international courts! Is this what a self-declared moral world leader should do?

Do Americans see how we are eroding every shred of our credibility? Do we believe that this is making friends for us around the world? Do we feel good about the slaughter of innocent women and children and our partnership therein?

What has Israel 'achieved' in Gaza? The reported figures are that Israel has killed around 40,000 Palestinians of which roughly 80 percent are women and children. American doctors who visit Gaza claim that there are thousands more buried under the rubble. Thousands more dead who do not appear in the casualty figures—those who have died from simple infections that were not treated or from other war-related wounds because of lack of everyday medicine. Hospitals have been hollowed out. Amputations are carried out without anesthetics. Food is so scarce that many are on the verge of starvation. Drinkable water is rationed. Israel cuts off the flow of food, water and medicines and blames the United Nations for shortages and

starvation. There are reported outbreaks of cholera and polio. An American doctor took several suitcases filled with medicines, but was barred from taking more than one of the suitcases into Gaza by Israel! Most Palestinians have no shelter to speak of. The people who are left in Gaza have been forced to move around about a dozen times, packing up their meager belongings and trekking with their children to another place to face yet another move. They live in squalor, reminiscent of the Dark Ages.

It is not just the war in Gaza, Israel has ramped up its carnage in the West Bank where Jewish settlers and Israeli forces have killed hundreds and imprisoned thousands. Horrific reports of torture have also been reported and documented. "When we got off the bus, a soldier said to us: 'Welcome to hell.'" Those are the words of 45-year-old Fouad Hassan, a father of five from Nablus in the occupied West Bank, who was recently held in Israel's Megiddo Prison. His words open a devastating report from the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem, exposing Israel's rapid conversion of Megiddo and eleven other prisons into a network of 'torture camps' following Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel."

How does Israel justify its actions and carnage? Arrogantly and inhumanely. Earlier senior Israelis claimed that all Gazans were responsible for the attack of October 7 and thus fair game, because they could have overthrown their government! So does Israeli logic mean that all Israelis are culpable for the carnage in Gaza and thus fair game wherever they are?

Are all Americans culpable for the horrors of Vietnam and Cambodia, and for other military incursions around the world? And today in Gaza, are Americans culpable for complicity in ongoing and past Israeli crimes given

the fact that the U.S. funded them? Are all Americans fair game to anyone who wants to kill them?

America's blind support for Israel's rogue actions is everywhere to be seen. In its latest threat in support of Israel, the U.S. has warned Iran that its newly elected government and economy could suffer a devastating blow if it were to mount a major attack on Israel in the aftermath of Israel's attack on Iran's consulate in Syria and its assassination of the Hamas leader, Haniyeh, who was on an official visit to Iran. Israel can do what it wants and the U.S. will support it, but others cannot defend themselves when attacked—a logic that is inexplicable.

Israel, feeling protected by America, does its own bidding too. Israeli Finance Minister Smotrich said that allowing 2 million civilians in Gaza to die of hunger is 'justified and moral.' There's much more: for instance, after Erdogan's statement in support of joining the case at the ICJ, a legal move that contained no threats, Israeli Foreign Minister Katz threatened Erdogan on X that he was "following in the footsteps" of Saddam Hussein by threatening Israel. "Just let him remember what happened there [in Iraq] and how it ended [for Saddam Hussein]," said Katz, referring to the Iraqi president's 2003 capture by United States forces and his later execution. Katz seems confident that the United States will always come to rescue Israel no matter what. Later Erdogan compared Netanyahu to Hitler, "Just as genocidal Hitler ended, so will genocidal Netanyahu," the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs added. "Just as the genocidal Nazis were held accountable, so will those who try to destroy the Palestinians," Turkey continued. "Humanity will stand by the Palestinians. You will not be able to destroy the Palestinians."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Global outrage erupts after Israel's deadly strike on Gaza school

From page 1 ▶ Gaza's Government Media Office also called on the international community and United Nations Security Council to pressure Israel to end this "cascading blood-bath".

US complicity



A spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the attack in Daraj district and took a jab at the United States for supporting Israel.

Nabil Abu Rudeineh called on the US to put an end to "blind support that leads to the killing of thousands of innocent civilians, including children, women, and the elderly".

He noted that "this heinous crime" comes on the heels of the Biden administration's allocation of \$3.5m to Israel for weapons, making Washington "directly responsible for this massacre, and for the continuation of the Israeli onslaught on the Gaza Strip for the tenth month running".

Heinous bloody massacre



The Palestinian Fatah movement slammed the Israeli strike as a "heinous bloody massacre" that represents the "peak of terrorism and criminality".

The Ramallah-based movement added in a statement, "Committing these massacres confirms beyond a shadow of a doubt its (Israel's) efforts to exterminate our people through the policy of cumulative killing and mass massacres that make living consciences tremble."

Israeli genocide



The United Nations special rapporteur on Palestine accused Israel of carrying out a "genocide" in Gaza.

Francesca Albanese described Gaza as "the largest and most shameful concentration camp of the 21st century."

"Israel is genociding the Palestinians one neighborhood at the time, one hospital at the time, one school at the time, one refugee camp at the time, one 'safe zone' at the time," she wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Albanese pointed to the use of US and European weapons in Israeli attacks in Gaza, expressing dismay at what she termed the "indifference of all civilized nations" to the situation in the Palestinian territory.

"May the Palestinians forgive us for our collective inability to protect them, honoring the most basic meaning of (international) law," Albanese said.

Extension of brutal massacres



The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) described the Israeli attack on the school as "an extension of the brutal massacres and genocide committed by the Israeli occupation for more than ten months in the Gaza Strip."

The OIC urged the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to oblige the regime to respect its obligations as an occupying power under international law and provide protection to Palestinians.

Horrors must end



The head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees also reacted to the Israeli carnage in Gaza City.

"It's time for these horrors unfolding under our watch to end. We cannot let the unbearable become a new norm. The more recurrent, the more we lose our collective humanity," Philippe Lazzarini wrote on X.

He added, "Schools, UN facilities and civilian infrastructure are not a target".

No justification for massacres



The EU foreign policy chief expressed horror at the deadly strike on the school.

"Horrorified by images from a sheltering school

in Gaza hit by an Israeli strike, with reportedly dozens of Palestinian victims. At least 10 schools were targeted in the last weeks. There's no justification for these massacres," Josep Borrell wrote on X.

New crime against humanity



The Turkish Foreign Ministry came down hard on Israel for the deadly bombing of the school in Gaza City describing it as a "new crime against humanity".

"This attack demonstrated once again that the Netanyahu government intends to sabotage the negotiations for a permanent ceasefire," the ministry said in a statement.

It noted, "International actors who do not take steps to stop Israel are complicit in Israel's crimes."

Human catastrophe



The Jordanian Foreign Ministry said Israel's strike on the school violates "all humanitarian values" and is "an indication of the Israeli government's attempt to block [peace] efforts and post-

ponement". The ministry said "the absence of a decisive international stance to restrain Israeli aggression and compel it to respect international law and stop its aggression against Gaza" was resulting in unprecedented killings, deaths and human catastrophe".

Brutal attack



The Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the attack on the school "constitutes a horrific massacre and a brutal crime against displaced unarmed civilians and their fundamental rights under international humanitarian law and the 2610 resolution of the UN Security Council".

The ministry also renewed its calls for an "urgent international investigation that includes sending independent UN investigators" into Israel's targeting of schools in the Gaza Strip.

Mass massacres



Saudi Arabia also spoke out against the bombing of the Tabeen school.

The Kingdom's Foreign Ministry condemned the strike in the "strongest terms", stressing that "mass massacres" in Gaza "need to stop".

It added that Gaza is "experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe due to the ongoing violations of international law".

Stop the Israeli killing machine!



The Syrian Foreign Ministry also denounced the Israeli attack on the school as a massacre.

The ministry said, "Israel has been continuing to commit crimes of genocide against the defenseless Palestinian people for more than ten months amidst a state of international inability and paralysis to take any action to stop the Israeli killing machine due to the Western protection for this criminal entity".

Disregard for intl. law



Egypt's Foreign Ministry called the strike on the school an "unprecedented disregard for international law and international humanitarian law".

"The ongoing large-scale crimes and the deliberate killing of these vast numbers of innocent civilians, especially amidst intensified efforts by mediators to achieve a ceasefire, is undeniable proof of Israel's lack of political will to end this brutal war," the ministry said in a statement.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Intl. Silk Road rallyists set foot in Tehran



TEHRAN – The second international Silk Road rally, currently traversing the route from Türkiye to Mongolia, has reached Tehran, the capital of Iran, after passing through several provinces.

This international event, which began on Tuesday in Istanbul, includes 23 participants from France, Italy, Belgium, Türkiye, and Germany, traveling in 10 cars, as *taci.ir* reported.

Participants of this year's Silk Road rally entered Iran on Thursday through the Bazargan border crossing in West Azerbaijan province. By Friday evening, they had traveled through the provinces of East Azerbaijan, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Alborz before arriving in Tehran.

The globetrotters paid visits to a number of places of interest across Tehran, including museum of historical cars of Iran, and the grand bazaar.

Nadir Sarin, who is leading the group, shared that this is his fifth visit to Iran. Re-

flecting on last year's positive experience in the Silk Road rally and travel to Iran, he stated that, "We included the country in our itinerary once again, confident in the warm hospitality of the Iranian people."

He described the Iranian people as hospitable and kind, noting that there is a lack of accurate knowledge about Iran in Europe and some other countries.

Sarin emphasized the need for more cultural and tourism initiatives to better introduce Iran, a country with thousands of years of history.

"The purpose of this rally is to promote a deeper understanding of the history and attractions along the Silk Road, as well as to foster peace, friendship, and unity among different nations and governments," Sarin brought to light.

Other participants also praised the hospitality and warmth of the Iranian people, as well as the delicious local cuisine and unique products such as saffron and pistachios.

After their stay in Tehran, the group will continue their journey through the provinces of Mazandaran, Golestan, North Khorasan, and Khorasan Razavi, exploring natural and historical attractions along the way.

The participants spend five days in Iran, and on Monday, they will exit the country via the Bajgiran border in Khorasan Razavi, heading towards Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and finally Mongolia.

Navasard festival celebrates Iran-Armenia cultural ties

TEHRAN – The third Navasard Festival, a vibrant celebration of the cultural and culinary ties between Iran and Armenia, commenced in Armenia's Sisian region on Saturday, marking a symbol of the longstanding friendship between the two nations.

The festival was inaugurated with the presence of cultural and artistic figures from both countries.

During a press conference, held in conjunction with the event, Mekhak Apresyan, the president of the Armenian Tourism Federation, highlighted the festival's role in strengthening cultural and tourism ties between Iran and Armenia and expressed gratitude for the support from the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan.

He emphasized the festival's success in previous years in promoting cultural tourism and introducing Iranian attractions to Armenian tourists, reinforcing the friendly relations between the two nations.

As announced by the event organizers, one of the festival's highlights is a cooking competition between Iran and Armenia, featuring over 20 chefs from each country, showcasing the culinary diversity and richness of both nations.

Moreover, Mohammad Asadi-Movahedi, the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran underscored the cultural and artistic diversity of the festival, noting the participation of groups from the provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Hamedan, Tabriz, and Khuzestan.

The attaché emphasized that the festival offers a valuable opportunity for mutual understanding of the cultures and traditions of the two nations.

"This year's festival features a wide range of activities, including cultural, artistic, and sports programs, as well as cooking demonstrations and an exhibition of Iranian handicrafts," Asadi-Movahedi noted.

Kordestan puts sports tourism on agenda



TEHRAN – Kordestan has the potential to become a hub for sports tourism through arranging athletic events, according to governor-general.

"While Kordestan may currently lack in infrastructure, the province boasts a high capacity for sports relative to its population and geographical size," Esmaeel Zarei-Kousha stated, during a meeting on Friday.

"Despite these challenges, Kordestan is rich in talent across various sports disciplines, and we believe that hosting sports events will help in identifying and nurturing these talents."

The province, the official underscored, has the necessary potential for the development of sports tourism, which is a key factor in attracting both domestic and international tourists.

He further elaborated that Kordestan, is already well-known for its diverse tourism attractions, adding that the province's sports

sector can serve as a platform to promote the offerings.

"The province needs to be better recognized so that its tourism capacities can fully blossom," Zarei-Kousha concluded. "Sports offer an effective avenue for achieving this goal."

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

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

Sports tourism generates substantial revenue for host destinations through spending on accommodation, food, transportation, and entertainment. It also creates jobs and stimulates investment in infrastructure.

Hosting sports events provides opportunities for local residents to engage in and benefit from tourism activities.

With the growing popularity of sports globally, more destinations are investing in facilities to attract sports tourists.

This trend is particularly notable in regions looking to diversify their tourism offerings. There is a rising focus on making sports tourism sustainable, ensuring that it benefits local communities while minimizing environmental impacts.

Semnan, where desert meets forest on the ancient Silk Road

TEHRAN – Semnan province, located in northern Iran, is a region of remarkable geographical diversity, offering a unique blend of natural landscapes, historical landmarks, and cultural elements.

The province, which spans the longest route of the ancient Silk Road, is a land where the desert meets the forest, creating a stunning contrast that captivates travelers.

Semnan's history stretches back to the Median era, and its position along the Silk Road has endowed it with a rich cultural heritage. The province showcases a lifestyle deeply adapted to its diverse environment, where ancient traditions and Persian dialects are still preserved.

Visitors to Semnan can experience the remnants of its past in architecture, local customs, and cuisine, reflecting the influence of various cultures that have passed along this historic trade route.

Natural wonders

One of the most striking features of Semnan is its varied ecosystem. To the north, the province boasts the lush Hyrcanian forests, part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. This area, particularly around Shahmirzad, is known for its moderate climate, picturesque villages, and fertile



rice farms.

The scenic beauty of the forested mountains, combined with the region's rich biodiversity, makes it a haven for nature lovers.

In contrast, the southern part of Semnan is dominated by the expansive Dasht-e Kavir desert, a destination renowned for its unique landscapes and ecotourism opportunities.

The desert's vastness, with its rolling sand dunes and saline patches, offers an otherworldly experience.

The vegetation and wildlife adapted to this harsh environment are a subject of interest for biologists and nature enthusiasts alike.

The collocation of the desert

with the nearby forests creates a surreal experience for travelers, epitomized by the Opert Wall, a natural barrier where the forest meets the desert.

Historical and architectural marvels

Semnan is also home to numerous historical sites that offer a glimpse into Iran's rich architectural heritage.

Tarikhaneh Mosque in Damghan, believed to be one of the oldest mosques in Iran, dates back to the Sassanid era. Originally a Zoroastrian fire temple, this mud-brick structure with its distinctive light brown color is a testament to the region's ancient history.

Another significant site is Darvazeh Arg ("Arg Gate"), an iconic structure representing Qajar-era

architecture. This historical gate stands as a symbol of the city's rich past and is a central point of interest for visitors exploring the urban heritage of Semnan.

Spiritual and mystical heritage

The province is also known for its deep spiritual roots, particularly in the town of Bastam, home to the tomb of Bayazid Bastami, one of the most revered figures in Islamic mysticism and Sufism.

Pilgrims and scholars visit his tomb to pay homage to his legacy and reflect on the profound philosophical teachings that emerged from this region.

A unique blend of nature and culture

Semnan offers a rare blend of natural beauty and cultural heritage, where visitors can explore the contrasts between the fertile forests and the arid desert, the ancient historical sites, and the living traditions of its people.

Whether you are wandering through the verdant landscapes of Shahmirzad, marveling at the architectural splendor of Tarikhaneh Mosque, or experiencing the serene spirituality at Bayazid Bastami's mausoleum, Semnan presents an unforgettable journey through one of Iran's most diverse and fascinating provinces.

Eastern Iranian villages nominated for UNESCO label

TEHRAN – Three villages in Iran's South Khorasan Province have been selected to vie with other candidates for UNESCO's "Best Tourism Villages" in 2025.

On Saturday, Hadi Shahverdi, the provincial tourism chief, announced that required dossiers for the villages of Afin, Khvor and Chenashk have been developed and submitted to the Ministry of Cultural Heritage for consideration as global tourism villages.

Shahverdi added that while many villages in the province have the potential to be recognized on a global scale, only three have been selected due to limitations.

"The villages were selected based on their unique characteristics, including their rural layout, accessibility, cultural, historical, and natural features, value chains, and economic sustainability."

The official continued, saying that one of the key factors in the nomination process was the unique stories and creativity involved in each village's sustainable development. Notably, Afin was recognized for its agricultural tourism and as the pilot site for the world's seedless barberry.

Khvor was highlighted for its semi-precious stones, and Chenashk was noted for its vibrant traditional wedding customs and its title as the "Land of Colors."

Shahverdi emphasized that the nomination of these villages on both national and global levels would promote tourism and local development in the province. He also urged relevant authorities to cooperate in enhancing the infrastructure of these villages.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official men-



tioned that the final nominations for of the 2025 global tourism villages will be made by the National Tourism Desk of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in April 2025, after which the dossiers will be sent to the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

He also pointed out that eight other villages, including Esfahak in South Khorasan province, Abyaneh in Isfahan, Kandelus from Mazandaran, have been earmarked for the same competition in 2024.

The results are expected to be announced in November, and it is hoped that Esfahak will be recognized as a global tourism village.

Situated in the eastern part of Iran, South Khorasan holds 14 approved target destination villages, which makes the province a delightful station for travel lovers.

Home to thousands of ancient villages, Iran offers an ideal destination for both domestic and international travelers seeking unique natural experiences and untouched landscapes. Visitors can stay in authentic accommodations, immerse themselves in the local lifestyle, and enjoy the rich cultural heritage of the region.

World's oldest calendar found at 13,000-year-old temple in Turkey

Carvings chiseled into a large stone pillar in Turkey nearly 13,000 years ago may be the world's oldest sun-and-moon calendar, a new study suggests. And the calendar may have been carved to mark a catastrophic comet strike.

Archaeologists discovered the markings at Göbekli Tepe, an archaeological site in southern Turkey that's known for its abun-

dance of temples with elaborately etched drawings, according to the study, which was published July 24 in the journal *Time and Mind*.

The newly studied pillar contains 365 V-shaped symbols. Researchers think each "V" represents a single day, with the entire calendar encompassing "12 lunar months in addition to 11 extra days," according to a state-

ment from the University of Edinburgh.

In addition to the "V" symbols, researchers analyzed a carving of a "bird-like beast" with a similar V shape carved around its neck. This drawing could represent "the summer solstice constellation at the time" it was carved, according to the statement. The drawings, which were likely made in about 10850 BC, were

a way to record a comet strike that took place during that time.

They show that these early inhabitants could "record their observations of the sun, moon and constellations in the form of a solar calendar," according to the statement.

(Source: Live Science)

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Lake Urmia's water volume increases by 1bcm yr/yr

TEHRAN –Despite the unprecedented increase in air temperature and water evaporation in summer, Lake Urmia has one billion cubic meters more water compared to the same period last year, an official with the provincial Department of Environment has said.

Lake Urmia in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province started to dry up in the 2000s. The lake is the largest in West Asia and the sixth-largest salt lake in the world with a water surface area of 5,000 to 6,000 square kilometers.

"The optimal state of Lake Urmia is attributed to the supply of water needed by the lake, IRNA quoted Saeed Shahand as saying.

Some of the wetlands in the West Azarbaijan province dried up in summer last year. However, they are filled with water now. Dargah Sanghi wetland, in the southwestern part of Lake Urmia, is an example of the wetlands that dried last summer but are in good condition now, Shahand further noted.

He also referred to Kani Brazan wetland, located near the city of Mahabad, saying that presently, at least, the wetland has a unique amount of one meter of water.

"Fortunately, despite the high temperature, no fire has broken out in the area, and the rangers



have made their best efforts to monitor the wildlife conditions," he highlighted.

According to the monitoring conducted in Lake Urmia National Park, the wild bird population in the lake has increased this year. The wild birds in West Azarbaijan province have chosen to pass the summer in Lake Urmia migrating less to the satellite wetlands, the official said.

Referring to the flamingos as the flagship bird of Lake Urmia, the official said currently, some 35 to 40 thousand flamingos live in Lake Urmia, while around 3 to 4 thousand other flamingos live in Dargah Sangi wetland and other satellite wetlands of the lake.

In April, Mohammad-Sadeq Motamedian, the secretary of the

national working group for Lake Urmia restoration said, "Thanks to a 43 percent increase in precipitation, the area of Lake Urmia basin reached 1,500 square kilometers."

The water area of the lake has increased by 350 square kilometers compared to the same time last year, IRIB quoted the official as saying.

The amount of rainfall in West Azarbaijan Province has increased by 27 percent as measured against the long-term average, Motamedian who is also the governor-general of West Azarbaijan province, added.

Since October 2023, 411 cubic meters of water per second have been released from dams to Lake Urmia. Around 50 million cubic meters of water have flowed into

the lake so far, he mentioned.

The current water level of Lake Urmia stands at 1270.38 meters, showing an increase of 9 centimeters compared to the same period last year. Since the beginning of the water year in fall 2023, it has increased by 55 centimeters.

"The volume of water now exceeds 1.9 billion cubic meters marking a rise of 250 million cubic meters compared to the same period last year.

It has increased by 1.3 billion cubic meters compared to the beginning of the water year in fall 2023," Motamedian added.

Lake Urmia's area expands year on year

Satellite images showed that the area of Lake Urmia measured on February 22 was equal to 2,061 square kilometers which has increased compared to 1,819 square kilometers on March 7, 2023.

Following the recent precipitations across the country and the importance of reviving wetlands and lakes, the country's mapping organization monitored Lake Urmia's area using satellite images from the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022- March 2023) to 1402 (March 2023-March 2024), ISNA reported.

The southern part of the lake has expanded notably.

Police dismantle drug trafficking gang in southeast

TEHRAN – The anti-narcotics police have disbanded a drug trafficking gang in Saravan county, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, Ahmad-Ali Goudarzi, Commander of the Border Police, has stated.

Some 735 kilograms of narcotics were discovered in the region, IRNA quoted Goudarzi as saying.

Border guards seized 465 kilograms of opium, 270 kilograms of hashish, a hand-held wireless device, a weapon, and some other items. Also, 2 smugglers were killed and a vehicle was confiscated, he added.

Being actively present in the borders, border guards will prevent illegal border crossing of foreigners and narcotics, that risk the health and life of the youth, into the country, Goudarzi highlighted.

Undeniable achievements

Given that there are over 1,180 types of narcotics in the world, Iran's accomplishments in the battle against illicit drugs are undeniable, an official with the anti-narcotics headquarters has said.

"According to a United Nations research, like poverty, weapons of mass destruction, and environmental crises, addiction is one of the most important global challenges, IRNA quoted Alireza Kazemi as saying.

The official went on to say that the country's efforts encompass fight, prevention, and treatment which have changed the world's attitude towards Iran in the fight against narcotics.

UNODC, Japan supports Iran

The trafficking routes affect many countries in the region, including Iran.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has established a robust partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, focusing on capacity building for Iranian law enforcement agencies. UNODC provides technical assistance to Iran in its efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking and the smuggling of precursor chemicals.

As part of these efforts, trained drug-detecting dogs will be deployed at border crossings and checkpoints with Afghanistan to conduct searches on trucks, containers, and cargo, passing through legal entry points, the UN website announced in a press release on August 1.

UNODC Iran, also provided training sessions for the Iranian ANP canine trainers, trained by international senior instructors, to use their knowledge during their daily work at border crossings to search vehicles, containers, and cargo.

The event was organized as part of the activities outlined in the framework of Sub-Programme1, specifically focusing on "Border Management and Illicit Trafficking". This initiative is supported through generous funds, provided by the Government of Japan.

Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Country Representative in Iran, acknowledged the significant achievements of the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police and their drug-detecting dog center. He expressed readiness to offer further technical and procurement support upon the availability of financial support from the donor countries.

In July, the UNODC in the Islamic Republic of Iran handed over 4 drug identification devices procured through generous support by the Japanese Government, in an official ceremony at the premises of the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) in Tehran.

These devices which will be used for controlling a wide range of drugs trafficked, especially at the eastern borders of Iran with Afghanistan, have been procured under sub-program 1 of the UNODC Country Partnership Program (CPP) 2023-2026.

This official event was organized at the Drug Control Headquarters in Tehran, with the presence of Tamaki Tsukada, Ambassador of Japan in Iran, as the representative of the Government of Japan.

Iran on the frontline

Iran has been the only country on the front line of the war against narcotics for over 45 years despite oppressive sanctions of the U.S., the economic problems ahead,



and the limited contribution of other countries.

With 4,000 martyrs in the fight against drugs, Iran is now self-sufficient in preventing addictions and has changed the balance of power in favor of the youth in the region, IRNA reported.

Their sacrifice has not only safeguarded the borders of the country but also the countries that claim democracy and human rights.

According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), about 35-40 percent of the drugs produced in Afghanistan are smuggled through Iran to enter Europe and west of Asia.

However, with the bravery and perseverance of anti-narcotics police, more than 75 percent of the drugs are discovered and destroyed.

If it weren't for necessary actions taken by Iran, this amount of illicit drugs would have caused disasters in European and American countries.

Logistical, equipment, and financial sanctions under the pretext of political sanctions, in practice, have left Iran alone in dealing with the world's largest drug trafficking axis.

Iran has been the only country on the front line of the war against narcotics for over 45 years.

According to official reports, Western countries have so far withheld even the slightest aid to Iran.

"The increase in sanctions has also cast a shadow on the fight against narcotics, but we warn them that sanctions on narcotics are the most unintelligent sanctions since it will lead to a decrease in world security," IRNA quoted Iran's Police Chief, Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan as saying.

Relying on the expertise of Iranian elites and researchers, as well as using up-to-date equipment and modern inventions of knowledge-based companies, the anti-narcotics police has been able to achieve good results in drug discoveries and arresting drug dealers.

Considering that drug-related crimes are considered transnational organized crimes, no single country can effectively tackle the fight against drugs alone.

On April 17, Alireza Kazemi, an official with anti-narcotics headquarters, said, "Iran is now self-sufficient in preventing addiction, treating addicts, and combating narcotics."

Despite unfair sanctions, knowledge-based companies have achieved significant scientific progress in dealing with the harms of addiction and drugs which has made the country independent from foreign aid.

Domestically-made products that are used to treat drug addiction can be exported to other countries, even advanced countries, he added.

The affordability and the minimal side effects of these products have made them competitive compared to foreign counterparts. In some cases, they have proved to be even much more effective.

Iranian students achieve success in RoboWorld Cup

TEHRAN – The 24 Iranian robotics teams that participated in the Federation of International Robosports Association (FIRA) 2024 RoboWorld Cup in Sao Luis, Brazil, have managed to win 17 awards.

The 29th edition of FIRA Robotics and Artificial Intelligence World Competitions was held from August 5 to 9.

A total of 1,300 participants from 18 countries including the United States, Germany, South Korea, Canada, Russia, Malaysia, China, India, Indonesia, Canada, Mexico, and Iran competed in four main categories of FIRA competitions (FIRA Air, FIRA Sport, FIRA Challenge, FIRA Youth) in the form of 11 junior leagues and 10 senior leagues in U14 and U19 divisions.

The FIRA RoboWorld Cup includes competitions in the following leagues. FIRA AIR includes the use of autonomous flying vehicles in urban and disaster scenarios.

The Iranian teams participating in the 2024 World Robotics and Artificial Intelligence FIRA won 9 championships, achieved 7 runner-up positions, and secured third place in these competitions.

In the flying vehicles league, two teams ranked first, and one ranked third.

In FIRA youth competitions, U14 division, two teams won second ranking in robosports league as well as innovation and business league.

Also, in the U19 division, two teams won

first ranking and in robosports league, another team ranked first in innovation and business in robotics.

Moreover, two teams ranked second in rescue and crisis management robots, and in robosports league.

Two more teams received the best student awards in innovation and business in robotics.

FIRA focuses on three goals: to provide challenging and motivating benchmark problems for state-of-the-art research in intelligent robotics; to give senior students valuable skills and experiences that allow them to be productive and develop their careers in the new economy; and to introduce junior students to the fundamentals of STEAM topics (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math).

The FIRA RoboWorld Cup includes competitions in the following leagues. FIRA AIR includes the use of autonomous flying vehicles in urban and disaster scenarios.

FIRA Sports was the goal of developing robot athletes that can compete against humans in Olympic events FIRA Challenges focuses on complex challenges in industrial, rescue, and service robot settings.

FIRA Youth are competitions for younger participants such as the mission impossible events.

Achievements in robotics competitions

The robotics team of Iran won a gold medal

and three silver medals in the Dubai International Inventions Show (DIS) 2023.

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

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

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

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

The competition was held both in person and online.

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

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

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

ENGLISH IN USE

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Water ambulances to join medical emergency fleet

Five water ambulances will be added to the current medical emergency fleet in provinces neighboring the Persian Gulf, southern coast of the country, head of Iran's Emergency Medical Services Organization Pir Hossein Kouliwand, said on Wednesday.

Since air emergency fleet have been developed, the Organization is looking forward to develop the marine medical fleet, he said, adding that in recent years, there were only five helicopters in service of the Organization, which have already added to 40.

شناورهای دریایی به اورژانس کشور می

پیوندند

رئیس سازمان اورژانس کشور با بیان اینکه در حال توسعه اورژانس دریایی هستیم، گفت: در حال حاضر اضافه کردن پنج فروند شناور دریایی اورژانس به استان های همسایه خلیج فارس در دستور کارمان قرار دارد.

دکتر پیرحسین کولیوند در گفت و گو با ایسنا، گفت: همانطور که ناوگان هوایی اورژانس را توسعه دادیم، در حال حاضر هم به دنبال تکمیل و توسعه ناوگان دریایی اورژانس هستیم. باید توجه کرد که در گذشته فقط پنج بالگرد اورژانس داشتیم، اما در حال حاضر با اقداماتی که انجام شده ۴۰ بالگرد و پایگاه اورژانس هوایی تامین و ایجاد شده که واقعا افتخاری برای کشور است.



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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: 19:19 Dawn: 3:47 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:20 (tomorrow)

Book on strategies for success in age of AI and automation available in Persian



Bill Bishop is an entrepreneur, author, keynote speaker, and BIG Idea coach.

He believes everyone has the potential, and the right, to overcome their internal and external barriers in order to get to the next level, achieve their full potential, and live their best life.

Using his advanced innovation and marketing process, he has helped more than 5,000 business leaders create a BIG Idea that excites and motivates them to build the future business of their dreams. He then provides the guidance, tools, and community support to turn their BIG Idea into a profitable and fulfilling reality.

He teaches and coaches them about future-forward business strategies that combine innovative marketing techniques, an innovation mindset, and leading-edge technology like AI and the Metaverse.

During the 1980s, he worked as the "technology explainer" for several technology-driven companies including Apple, Bell Canada, IBM, TD Canada Trust, and Kodak Canada. Using his knowledge of Apple desktop publishing technology, Bill started The BIG Idea Company in 1987, the first company in Canada to provide electronic desktop publishing services.

Bill founded a monthly entertainment magazine called The Uptown, and published more than 100 corporate newsletters and magazines.

In 1989, he also launched an internet services company called Bishop Information Group to provide dial-up Internet, email, and customized online BBS bulletin board services. Bill is one of the pioneers of digital marketing.

In the following years, Bill wrote more than 10 books. These books have been sold in 25 countries and translated into 12 languages.

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Dancing With Robots" by Bill Bishop has hit the bookstores across the country.

Doxa Publications in Tehran has brought it out with a translation by Misagh Shayegh. It suggests 29 strategies for success in the age of AI and automation and survive and thrive in a world being taken over by robots and other advanced technology, Mehr reported.

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, algorithms, blockchains, the Internet of Things, big data analytics, 5G networks, self-driving cars, robotics, 3D printing; In the coming years, these technologies, and others to follow, will have a profound and dramatically disruptive impact on how we work and live. Whether we like it or not, we need to develop a good working relationship with these technologies. We need to know how to "dance" with robots.

In "Dancing with Robots," the author describes 29 strategies for success in the New Economy. These new strategies represent a bold, exciting, unexpected, and radically different road map for future success.

Bishop also explains how our Five Human Superpowers - embodied pattern recognition, unbridled curiosity, purpose-driven ideation, ethical framing, and metaphoric communication - give us a competitive edge over robots and other advanced technology in a world being taken over by automation and AI.

Cartoon of Day



The Israeli Prisons

Cartoonist: Naser Jafari from Jordan

Documentary "Noqte" on Iranian calligraphy premieres on TV BRICS

TEHRAN- The documentary film "Noqte," which explores the art of Iranian calligraphy, is set to have its world premiere in Russia, presented by the TV BRICS International Media Network. This unveiling marks a significant milestone, as the film will reach audiences across the BRICS+ countries.

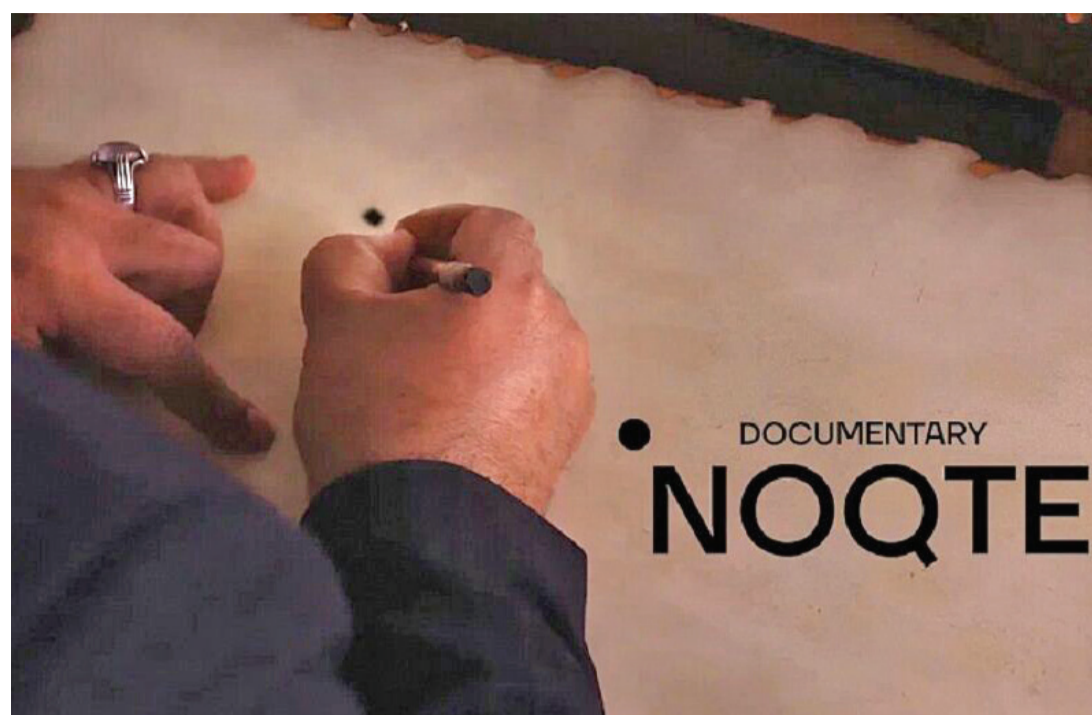
Directed by Amir Valinejad, "Noqte" adds to TV BRICS's diverse library of video content, which features original works from international producers representing Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Argentina, and Venezuela.

The television debut of "Noqte" will take place on TV BRICS on August 12, with a repeat airing scheduled for August 17. The film will also be available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese via the TV BRICS online portal.

"Noqte" delves into the rich history and intricate art of Iranian calligraphy, highlighting the importance of the 'noqte' (dot) as a fundamental element.

The documentary has already garnered acclaim, winning the XXXII International Film Forum Golden Knight award and being nominated for the XXI National Award Laurel Branch.

Amir Valinejad emphasized the



significance of the film, stating, "It introduces viewers to the exquisite genre of fine art that is calligraphy.

Iranian calligraphy represents a unique world and a sacred language rooted in the transcribing of the Holy Quran's texts. It has evolved into a cherished art form, influencing various disciplines such as architecture, painting, and miniatures. We are honored

that 'Noqte' will premiere on TV BRICS, and we hope it inspires viewers to explore the beauty of Iranian culture."

Produced in 2020 with support from the Ibn Sina Islamic Culture Research Foundation, the film aims to advance knowledge of Islamic culture, science, and philosophy among scholars and students.

TV BRICS is a 24-hour general-themed television channel

catering to audiences in BRICS+ countries.

It broadcasts in Russian across the Russian Federation through various digital platforms, online services, and social media channels. The channel reaches approximately 12 million subscribers and serves as a key platform for fostering multilateral information exchange among its media partners.

Veteran actor, Tazieh reciter Fathollah Taheri passes away



TEHRAN-The veteran Iranian actor and Tazieh reciter Fathollah Taheri passed away on Friday, August 9, at the age of 73.

An experienced theater, cinema and television actor, Taheri was hospitalized in the intensive care unit since July 29 due to digestive disease.

He died after 10 days due to his worsening condition, Mehr reported.

In addition to acting in various plays,

movies and series, Taheri had 60 years of reciting Tazieh in his artistic career.

Tazieh in Iran designates a traditional religious theatrical genre, essentially commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS) and the passions of the Ahlulbeyt (members of the family of the Prophet of Islam).

In this theatrical genre, the recitation of the lyrics, which are almost always in verse, takes precedence over the directing and the action.

Registered on UNESCO's List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010, Tazieh is a kind of drama that recounts the brave war and martyrdom of the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and other incidents that occurred on Ashura, the day Imam Hussein (AS) and his 72 companions were martyred by the oppressive Umayyad

dynasty in 680 CE.

Tazieh performance began during the Safavid era (1501-1736) and flourished during the Qajar era (1794-1925).

He began reciting in Tazieh performances when he was a teenager.

At the age of 20, he began playing in theatrical plays and 20 years later, he performed in his first movie.

"Parviz," "Yek Esm" and the series "Night Shift," "Siavash," "Special Conditions," "Amazing Troubles," "Kahr and Reconciliation" "Three in four" and "The Accused Escaped" are part of Taheri's career.

Taheri's most notable films include "Muhammad: The Messenger of God," "Blockage," and "Parviz." He also performed in the series "Lily's Turn," "Siavash," "Great Troubles," "3 by 4," and "The Accused Escaped" among others.

Iranshahr Theater to host Albert Camus' "Caligula"

TEHRAN-The play "Caligula" written by Albert Camus will go on stage at Iranshahr Theater Complex in Tehran from August 18.

Roya Asadi has directed the 80-minute play. The cast includes Mikail Shahrestani, Mohammadreza Mirhosseini, Ali Keshvari, Saeed Parsa, Raha Khodayari, and Farhad Etemadi reported.

published for the first time

in 1944, the play was later the subject of numerous revisions. It is part of what Camus called the "Cycle of the Absurd," together with the novel The Stranger (1942) and the essay The Myth of Sisyphus (1942).

A number of critics have reported the piece to be existentialist, though Camus always denied belonging to this philosophy. Its plot revolves around the historical figure of Caligula, a Roman Emperor

famed for his cruelty and seemingly insane behavior.

The play depicts Caligula, torn by the death of Drusilla, his sister.

In Camus' version of events, Caligula eventually deliberately manipulates his own assassination. (Historically, Caligula's assassination took place in AD 41.)

Albert Camus (1913-1960) was a French philosopher, author, dramatist, journalist, world

federalist, and political activist. He was the recipient of the 1957 Nobel Prize in Literature at the age of 44, the second-youngest recipient in history.

His works include "The Stranger," "The Plague," "The Myth of Sisyphus," "The Fall," and "The Rebel."

The play will remain on stage until August 25 at Iranshahr Theater, located in Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Iran-Brazil cinematic collaboration spurs carpet export boom, official says

TEHRAN- The screening of joint cinematic productions from Iran and Brazil has increased the export of Iranian handwoven carpets to Brazil, the Head of the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce has announced.

It also provided Brazilians with a more accurate depiction of Iranian society, ILNA quoted Fakhreddin Amerian as saying on Saturday.

Such cultural productions in television and cinema positively impact the enhancement of trade relationships between Iran and Brazil, he explained.

In recent years, the creation of several joint cinematic productions has contributed to the rise in the export of Iranian carpets to Brazil. He noted, "This phenomenon is not unique to Iran and Brazil; for instance, India and Brazil collaborated on a documentary, creating opportunities for both nations to better understand each other's products, which ultimately boosts exports."

He further elaborated that these joint films

feature artists from both countries and are screened in both nations.

"Notably, this offers a unique advantage for Iran, as it not only showcases Iranian goods but also presents a different image of Iranian society to Brazilians. Many Brazilians lack knowledge about modern Iranian life and sometimes struggle to differentiate between Iran and Iraq, even after visiting Turkey and the UAE, as Iran remains an under-visited destination for their tourism."

Amerian continued to explain that the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber of Commerce has been in discussions with several Brazilian television networks to produce a documentary focusing on Iran.

This documentary intends to highlight Iran's tourism potential and products that have export capabilities to Brazil.

However, details regarding the project, such as budget and permissions, are yet to be agreed upon.



A scene from Iran-Brazil co-production "Texas" by Iranian director Masoud Atyabi

"However, investment in such projects is beyond the capacity of the joint chambers. Nevertheless, the Iran Chamber of Commerce, with its substantial revenue, could provide the necessary resources for these initiatives, thus facilitating the introduction of Iranian products to global markets."

This, in turn, would support merchants in fulfilling their financial commitments to the Chamber of Commerce more effectively, he concluded.