

Pezeshkian's Cabinet: 19 Nominees Seek Parliamentary Vote



Israel will be held accountable for 'destabilizing' crimes: Iran

TEHRAN – Iran's interim foreign minister says Israel would be held accountable for its "crimes" under international law.

In a series of diplomatic communications, Ali Baqeri Kani emphasized that Iran will respond "legitimately" and "decisively" to Israel's recent actions, including the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

During a phone call with Belgian foreign minister Hadja Lahbib on Saturday, Baqeri Kani condemned Israel for its destabilizing actions in West Asia, citing the strikes on Gaza and Lebanon and the "cowardly" assassination of Haniyeh on Iranian soil.

He reiterated that Iran, in defense of its national sovereignty and security, would take necessary measures to make Israel "pay the price" for its actions, adhering to the principles outlined in the UN Charter.

Belgian foreign minister expressed deep concern over the escalating situation in the region, warning that the lack of control could lead to a "full-blown war." She reaffirmed Belgium's support for Palestinian self-determination and condemned the ongoing construction of illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories. ▶ Page 2

IRGC spokesman repeats vow for retaliation against Israel

TEHRAN – The spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) has reiterated Iran's determination to punish Israel for its assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran after U.S. President Joe Biden said "don't" in a plea to Iranian officials urging them to refrain from attacking the occupied territories.

In an address to reporters on Sunday, Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini condemned Israel's assassination of Hamas' former political chief as a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter, asserting that the regime would face serious consequences for its "folly."

"The enemy thinks it can compensate for its defeat on the battlefield with assassination, while the existence and identity of the usurping Israel have become more vulnerable to collapse following the assassination of martyr Haniyeh," the spokesman noted, adding that the fear of Iran's retaliation has "permeated the occupied territories."

Haniyeh was assassinated in a Tehran residence on July 31, hours after he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The IRGC official's remarks come after Biden directly addressed Iran's upcoming response to the regime. "Don't," Biden responded to reporters on Saturday before entering his vehicle, when he was asked: "What's your message to Iran?" ▶ Page 2

Ban on Al-Mayadeen: Part and parcel of Israel's hostility

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT - The government of the Israeli occupation entity has approved the proposal of the Zionist Minister of Communications, Shlomo Karhi, which stipulates the banning of the Al-Mayadeen media network - screen and electronic platforms - and the confiscation of the equipment of its correspondents, in addition to blocking its websites in Arabic, Spanish and English.

The arbitrary decision is read as an Israeli acknowledgment of Al-Mayadeen's success in exposing the occupation's fabrications to the world, and providing the Palestinian people a space to freely express their grievances.

It is noteworthy that the approval of the decision now specifically came after Al-Mayadeen covered the "Majdal Shams" massacre exposing the lies and fabrications of the pro-Israel media.

According to the Israeli media, the minister worked on "issuing a new decision by the government" after obtaining a "professional opinion" from security agencies and the approval of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Gaza City carnage: How US and its allies cover up Israeli crimes

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israel's Western and regional allies are scheming to paper over the regime's weekend carnage in Gaza City.

More than 100 people were killed after Israel bombed a school building sheltering displaced Palestinians in Gaza City's Daraj neighborhood on Saturday.

The Israeli army carried out an airstrike against the building, which also served as a mosque, during dawn prayers.

The extent of Israel's sheer savagery following the bombing of Tabeen school keeps unfolding with more horrific testimonies.

Videos released in the aftermath of the attack show a large number of bodies strewn on the ground.

Dismembered body parts at the scene of the massacre are indicative of Israel's appalling atrocities.

Hamas ambushes more Israeli troops

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The armed wing of Hamas, al-Qassam Brigades, has announced new deadly operations against the Israeli occupation as Tel Aviv acknowledges over a dozen injured troops in Gaza.

More than 300 days after Israel launched its genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, there appears to be very little signs that Hamas is anyway near being weakened, let alone, eliminated.

This was the officially stated goal of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's regime on October 7, 2023.

The al-Qassam Brigades published its latest operations against the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) in various fronts across the besieged enclave where the Israeli military is attempting to invade for the umpteenth time.

Al-Qassam underlined that its fighters in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood, west of Rafah in southern Gaza, are engaged in intense battles at close range against the occupying forces and their invading vehicles.

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NIDC digs 7 oil, gas wells in 4 months

TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed the digging operations of seven oil and gas wells during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), an official with the company said.

According to Gholamreza Mahmoudi, the director of on-shore drilling operations at NIDC, 20,000 meters of drilling were conducted for digging the mentioned wells through, Shana reported.

Mahmoudi said three of the drilled wells was development and the rest were workover ones.

The official stated that the digging of the mentioned wells was carried out despite the severe hot temperatures of the region.

Earlier this year, NIDC Managing Director Hamidreza Golpayegani announced that the company dug and completed the digging operations of 195 oil and gas wells since the government of late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

Golpayegani said the wells were discovery wells, development-delineation wells, and workover wells. ▶ Page 4



Taekwondo athlete Salimi wins gold in 2024 Paris

TEHRAN – Taekwondo athlete Arian Salimi of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 2024 Olympic Games Saturday night.

Salimi defeated Caden Cunningham of Britain 2-1 in the final match of the Men's +80kg.

Salimi, 21, had defeated Uzbekistan's Nikita Rafalovich, Mexican Carlos Sansores and Ivan Šapina of Croatia on his way to the final.

The Iranian battled valiantly after being one round down in a cagey but fascinating contest in the men's heavyweight category. The second round saw Salimi land frequently before the Olympic title was decided in the last seconds of the final round as Salimi scored the decisive blows.

Cuban Rafael Alba and Cheick Sallah Cissé from Ivory Coast had won bronze medals earlier in the day.

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

Mehran Barkhordari had also won a silver medal in the men's -80kg.

Iranian inventors shine at SVIIF, KIWIE competitions

TEHRAN – Iranian inventors won medals and special awards at the International Invention and Innovation Competition for the Silicon Valley International Invention Federation (SVIIF) and Korea Intl. Women's Invention Exposition (KIWIE).

The SVIIF was held from July 26 to 28 in California, USA.

Amir-Masoud Asadi and Reza Fakhar won silver medals at SVIIF for the invention of the Dacryocystography Injection Device.

SVIIF is under the patronage of the International Federation of Inventors Associations – IFIA, and the World Intellectual Property Organization – WIPO and is supported by the United Inventors Association. ▶ Page 7

TEHRAN PAPERS

The fear and nightmare of the criminal regime

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

In an interview with Nasser Qandil, a Lebanese politician and journalist, Jam-e-Jam addressed the disturbing situation for Israelis and wrote: While the Zionist regime and the United States are trying to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm and decisive response to the assassination of Martyr Haniyeh through actors and intermediary countries, Tehran and the resistance front emphasize the certainty of this revenge. Many analysts of regional issues and the international system believe that the resistance front's revenge will be massive and decisive, and the Zionist regime and its supporters will regret the recent crime. The current situation is a difficult situation in which the Zionists are placed, and they are paying for it every day and hour that passes. They are waiting for punishment, but they don't know exactly when and how it will be done against them. On the one hand, the occupying regime does not have the power to accurately calculate the resistance front's retaliatory operations and its dimensions and depth, and on the other hand, it cannot show itself indifferent to this definite issue for a moment. This situation is part of the resistance front's revenge against the Zionists for the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The Zionist regime cannot be trusted

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz focused on Israel's endless crimes and said: The usurping regime recently bombed al-Tabin school where hundreds of displaced people had taken refuge. It must be said that there is no hope of reforming the behavior of the Zionist regime and its supporters, and they should only be dealt with by force, for them, negotiation is just a tool to continue the crime. Based on this, the Islamic Republic of Iran has only one more option, and that is to hold the Zionist regime and its supporters accountable in hard revenge. The al-Tabin school tragedy showed that there is no way to cease fire.

In the meantime, the countries of the region, the Islamic world, and the freedom seekers of the world, who call themselves supporters of the oppressed Palestinian people, can play a role in this revenge by supporting the harsh revenge of Iran and the resistance front. Today, the world is facing a big test. One way is to choose the right side of history to be with Iran to hold the Zionist regime to account, or to be on the wrong side of history to be a partner in the Gaza genocide.

Haniyeh assassination in Tehran violation of sovereignty: official



TEHRAN- The deputy head of International Affairs of Iran's Judiciary and the secretary of the Human Rights Headquarters wrote to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights about the assassination of martyr Ismail Haniyeh.

Kazem Gharibabadi has asserted that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of Hamas, represents a prime example of unlawful extrajudicial execution.

Gharibabadi noted, "This incident, which led to the deaths of both the Hamas leader and his bodyguard, has elicited profound grief among the populations of Iran and Palestine, as well as among Muslims and advocates of the Resistance movement. It has ignited significant protests and denunciations from various governments, political figures, international representatives, and human rights organizations."

He remarked that this act of terrorism, aimed at the political leader of a highly regarded Palestinian Resistance

Javan: Netanyahu is pushing Iran towards nuclear weapons!

In its editorial, Javan investigated a part of the American National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) and wrote: In this assessment, the official comments of Iranian officials about the possibility of changing the nuclear doctrine are important, and concern has been expressed that the construction of nuclear weapons among Iranians is getting out of the state of being "taboo". The key point of this report is the warning about Iran's 90% enrichment in "response to additional sanctions, (possible) attacks or blame for its nuclear program". The second option, that is, the effect of possible attacks on the acceleration of Iran's nuclear program, is not something new. For a long time, arms control researchers have been warning that military action will force public opinion and the strategic community in Iran to back supporters of credible strategic deterrence. However, it is important that the "attack on Iran" as a catalyst for the development of Iran's nuclear program has entered the public estimation of the American intelligence community for the first time. NIE 2024 is a warning to actors like Israel not to easily push Iran towards nuclear weapons.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: Riyadh, the first destination of the new Iranian president's trip?!

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtesad wrote: Analysts want Pezeshkian to make his first foreign trip to Saudi Arabia and use this opportunity to benefit from Saudi diplomacy. Diplomacy has been effective in helping to reduce tensions in the region. The reality is that Iran's priority may be to strengthen relations with neighboring countries before re-engaging with the West. For now, however, an important indicator of Tehran's intentions will be its behavior in the region, particularly its stance on the Yemen deadlock. In the case of Saudi Arabia, it is certain that they welcome the visit of the new Iranian president and will support Tehran if it finds out that Tehran is serious about improving relations this time. Such support depends on Iran showing its willingness to serve regional interests, promote conflict resolution, and try to strengthen relations with neighboring countries. However, if Tehran's regional policies do not change, such desires will face challenges. The new chapter in relations begins only with Iran's concrete steps, especially regarding the crisis in Yemen and the situation in Iraq.

organization, constitutes a blatant infringement of Article 48 of the Additional Protocol 1 of the Geneva Conventions, which forbids assaults on civilians, their property, and individuals.

Gharibabadi asserted that the full accountability for this criminal act rests with the Zionist regime, emphasizing that Iran possesses the inherent right to legitimate self-defense as outlined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

The deputy head of International Affairs of Iran's Judiciary expressed disappointment regarding the ineffectiveness of the United Nations Security Council, attributing this largely to the unwavering support provided by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France to the Israeli regime.

He pointed out that the Council has faced challenges in even passing a resolution to condemn Israeli actions and has frequently extended political and military support to them.

Security sources reported that the Zionist regime executed the assassination of Haniyeh during a terrorist operation at dawn on July 31, 2024.

Haniyeh was present in Tehran to participate in the inauguration ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian, the newly elected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran who was martyred alongside his bodyguard.

Israel will be held accountable for 'destabilizing' crimes: Iran

From page 1 ▶ Lahbib also emphasized the importance of imposing sanctions against extremist Israeli settlers and called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

She further noted that due to the possibility of the deterioration of the situation in the region, all parties must exercise maximum restraint, emphasizing the need for the continuation of consultations between Tehran and Brussels.

Top Iranian, Dutch diplomats discuss regional developments

Baqeri Kani also engaged in a similar discussion with Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp.

The conversation focused on Israel's assassination of Haniyeh and the recent Israeli airstrike on a school in Gaza City, which killed over 100 Palestinians and left dozens injured.

Baqeri Kani criticized Western nations for their silence on Israel's actions, which he argued would have drawn widespread condemnation had they been committed by any other entity.

He underscored Iran's right to respond to these provocations, calling on the Dutch government to condemn Israel's actions.

Veldkamp echoed concerns about the rising tensions in West Asia, describing the attack on the school as "heartbreaking" and calling for immediate humanitarian aid and a ceasefire.

Tehran urges Islamic nations to take effective measures against Israel

In another conversation with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Baqeri Kani urged Muslim nations to unite against Israel's actions.

Marsudi condemned the assassination of Haniyeh, calling it a violation of Iran's sovereignty and a threat to global peace. The ministers agreed on the need for a unified stance among Islamic countries to support Palestinians and counter Israel's aggressive actions.



Baqeri Kani highlighted that the assassination of Haniyeh on July 31 in Tehran represented a serious breach of Iran's territorial integrity and national security. He asserted that Iran would take reciprocal measures in accordance with international law and the UN Charter.

Marsudi also expressed regret over the significant loss of life in Gaza, where Israeli airstrikes have resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinians. She stressed the necessity of unity among Islamic nations to achieve a ceasefire and maintain stability in the region.

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.

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

Israel has also killed more than 39,790 Palestinians, mostly children and women, in Gaza since October 7 of the previous year.

Iran, Hamas discuss Israeli airstrike on Gaza school

Baqeri Kani also held a telephone conversation with Khalil al-Hayya, Deputy Chief of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Resistance

movement Hamas, to discuss Israel's recent airstrike on a school in Gaza, which resulted in the deaths of over 100 Palestinians, including many women and children.

During the call, Baqeri Kani condemned the Israeli attack, describing it as a brutal and unjustifiable act of aggression. He emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran is actively working to mobilize international and regional organizations to denounce this latest atrocity.

He expressed Iran's commitment to bringing global attention to the situation, pushing for a united response against Israel's actions.

Khalil al-Hayya, in turn, highlighted the horrific impact of the airstrike, particularly the loss of innocent lives, including children and women.

He called on the international community to recognize and condemn the attack as a terrorist act.

Al-Hayya also underscored the importance of continued consultations with Iran, stressing that collaboration is crucial in addressing the ongoing crisis and ensuring that the voices of the Palestinian people are heard on the global stage.

The Israeli airstrike, which targeted a school in Gaza's Daraj area during morning prayers, has drawn widespread condemnation and increased calls for international intervention.

The al-Tabin School sheltered many displaced people who were performing the dawn prayer when attacked, causing a large number of casualties, the Gaza media office said in a statement, adding that medical, civil defense, relief and emergency teams were not able to recover the bodies of all the victims.

Israeli warplanes bombed the school in the east of Gaza City, northern Gaza Strip, with three rockets and most of the injured that were transferred to the Ahli Arab Hospital in the city are in a very serious condition, the Palestinian official news agency WAFA reported.

On Friday, the United Nations and humanitarian partners estimated that at least 60,000 Palestinians had been forced to leave their shelters and head towards western Khan Younis, following three Israeli evacuation orders over the past week.

China reaffirms Iran's right to defend its sovereignty

China's foreign minister Wang Yi strongly denounced the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh.

According to an official statement released on Sunday, Wang Yi had a phone conversation with Ali Baqeri Kani and reiterated China's firm condemnation of the killing, which Beijing views as a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty and a destabilizing act in the region.

Wang Yi stressed that the assassination has serious repercussions, particularly in undermining the ongoing ceasefire negotiations in the Gaza Strip and threatening broader regional peace and stability.

He underscored China's stance in supporting Iran's efforts to defend its sovereignty, security, and national dignity in line with international law. Furthermore, Wang Yi reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to maintaining close diplomatic ties with Tehran and supporting Iran's role in promoting regional stability.

Iran dismisses accusations of involvement in hacking Trump's campaign



had started receiving emails from an unidentified account that included documents related to the internal operations of the Trump campaign.

The mission's statement addressed the claim made by Politico, asserting, "We do not attribute credibility to this news, as the Iranian government lacks both the intent and motivation to intervene in the American presidential elections."

Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for the Trump campaign, asserted that internal documents were obtained from an anonymous source, which was designed to disrupt the 2024 election and create disorder within the democratic process.

Additionally, the Trump campaign referenced a June report from Microsoft, which indicated that hackers associated with Iran attempted to infiltrate the account of a senior official from an undisclosed presidential campaign, highlighting that the breach was executed using the email credentials of a former senior advisor.

The Iranian mission to the United Nations

provided clarification on Friday, addressing inquiries regarding the Microsoft report.

Iran's mission to the UN stated, "Iran is a victim of numerous cyber-attacks aimed at its infrastructure, public service facilities, and industrial sectors. The nation's cyber capabilities are primarily defensive and correspond to the threats it encounters."

This accusation related to the elections emerged shortly after another media narrative suggested Iran's involvement in a shooting incident at a rally for Trump, a claim that Iranian officials dismissed as nonsensical, unfounded, and prejudiced.

Earlier on August 9, a spokesman for Microsoft company declared, "Iran was involved in cyber activities aimed at interfering with the U.S. electoral process."

After these accusations, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has officially declared that it has neither the intention nor the plan to carry out cyberattacks against the United States during its upcoming presidential elections.

IRGC spokesman repeats vow for retaliation against Israel

From page 1 ▶ The American government has engaged multiple countries in recent days to dissuade Tehran from giving a harsh punishment to Israel's latest terror attack on Iranian soil. Iranian officials, however, have all repeated the same position Leader of the

Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei took on the day of Haniyeh's killing.

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

this bitter, tragic event... it is our duty to take revenge." The Leader said in a statement. Washington is accused of being the main force behind Israel's capability and audacity to commit heinous crimes.

Another high-ranking official to emphasize Ayatollah Khamenei's

stance on Sunday was Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf. "Zionists are a disgrace to humanity, they understand nothing but the language of force," the speaker said. "The Israeli regime's crimes have no boundaries. Zionists should prepare for a harsh response."

Iran VP accuses international organizations of supporting Zionist crimes

TEHRAN- Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref has accused international organizations of complicity in the atrocities perpetrated by the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

In a post on the X social network on Saturday, Aref stated, "The immense humanitarian disaster that has unfolded in Gaza represents yet another

instance of the longstanding infringement upon the rights of the oppressed Palestinian nation and the overt application of force against the rightful inhabitants of the territories seized by the usurping Zionist regime."

In a recent social media post, he expressed his outrage regarding the violent pre-dawn assault on a school located in the Al-Daraj neighborhood,

which serves as a refuge for displaced Palestinians, leading to the tragic loss of over 120 lives among the refugees. The Israeli military launched an attack on Palestinian worshippers during their morning prayers at Al-Tabin school in Gaza City on Saturday, resulting in numerous fatalities, including more than a dozen children and women, and leaving many others injured.

Pezeshkian's cabinet: 19 nominees seek parliamentary vote

TEHRAN— New Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has unveiled his cabinet nominees in a list presented to the Iranian parliament for approval.

The list, consisting of 19 figures proposed for 19 ministerial positions, will be scrutinized by the parliament's specialized commissions before getting discussed in plenary sessions as of August 17.

Noteworthy highlights from the proposed cabinet include an average age of under 60 years, with the youngest minister born in 1976 and the oldest in 1957. A woman has been nominated for a ministerial position after over 13 years. Additionally, 14 out of the 19 individuals presented are stepping into ministerial roles for the first time, bringing fresh perspectives to governance.

The following are brief profiles of the proposed ministers:

Ministry of Education:

Alireza Kazemi



Alireza Kazemi (born in 1965 in Mashhad) is an educated figure in both religious studies and academia and a faculty member at Farhangian University. Throughout various stages of his career, he has held numerous responsibilities in this sector, one of the most significant being the supervision of the Ministry of Education of the Islamic Republic of Iran in September 2021.

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology:

Sattar Hashemi



Sattar Hashemi, born in 1976 in Yasuj, is a distinguished academic with a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering. He currently serves as a full professor in the Computer Engineering Department at Shiraz University. Between 2019 and 2021, he held the position of Deputy Minister of Technology and Innovation in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Ministry of Intelligence:

Esmail Khatib



The figure nominated as the Minister of Intelligence has been holding the position since 2021 when he was appointed as the head of the Intelligence Ministry by the late President Ebrahim Raisi. Before becoming a minister, Esmail Khatib spent several decades serving in different intelligence ranks within the IRGC, Iran's Leader's office, and the presidential office.

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance:

Abdolnaser Hemmati



Abdolnaser Hemmati served as the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran from 2018 to 2021. He represented the Reformist faction in the 2021 presidential election, securing third place. Before his role at the CBI, Hemmati held key positions within the Iranian government, including Vice President

of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and Governor of the Central Insurance of Iran.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Abbas Araghchi



Abbas Araghchi, a seasoned Iranian diplomat, joined the Foreign Ministry in 1989. He served in various roles, including chargé d'affaires in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, ambassador to Finland and Japan, and political deputy at the Foreign Ministry from 2017 to 2021. In his most memorable role, Araghchi led Iran's nuclear negotiations with the P5+1 during President Hassan Rouhani's administration.

Ministry of Health and Medical Education:

Mohammadreza Zafarghandi



Mohammadreza Zafarghandi is a vascular surgeon and a distinguished professor at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. He currently holds the position of Secretary-General of the Islamic Association of Iranian Medical Society. He served as the President of the Iranian Medical System Organization for two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. Zafarghandi did volunteer work as a surgeon during the Iran-Iraq war.

Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare:

Ahmad Meydari



Ahmad Meydari, a prominent Iranian economist, served as Deputy for Social Welfare at the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare during President Rouhani's administration. He has a diverse background in government, academia, and research, including serving as Deputy Minister of Labour, a member of Parliament, and an advisor to the Deputy Minister of Economy.

Ministry of Agriculture Jihad:

Gholamreza Nouri Ghezlecheh



Gholamreza Ghezlecheh, a representative from Bostanabad in the Iranian Parliament, holds a Master's in Agricultural Engineering and is pursuing a PhD in Agricultural Policy and Development. He's had positions in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Governor's office of West Azerbaijan, and the Economic Coordination Office of East Azerbaijan Province, contributing to economic development in the region.

Ministry of Justice:

Amin Hossein Rahimi



Amin Hossein Rahimi, a seasoned jurist with over 35 years of experience, has been nominated to serve a consecutive term as the Minister of Justice. He previously served in various high-level positions within the Judiciary, including Deputy for

Human Resources and Cultural Affairs, Prosecutor General of the Court of Audit, and advisor to the head of the Judiciary.

Ministry of Defence:

Aziz Nasirzadeh



Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh has served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran since 2021. Nasirzadeh's distinguished military career spans over four decades, including a critical role as a pilot during the Iran-Iraq War, leadership of the Army Air Force Coordination Headquarters, and the Deputy Commander of the Army Air Force.

Ministry of Roads and Urban Development:

Farzaneh Sadegh



Farzaneh Sadegh has dedicated her 28-year career primarily to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, holding various positions including Deputy of Urban Planning, Director General of Architecture and Urban Design, and Deputy for Architecture and Urban Planning. Currently, she serves as an urban planning and architecture advisor to the Minister of Roads and Urban Development.

Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade:

Mohammad Atabak



Mohammad Atabak holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering and has extensive experience in various industrial sectors. He has held leadership roles in numerous important companies, including Tehran Cement Company, Ekbatan Company, and Kavir Pars Mining Industries Holding, as well as served as Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce. Atabak is currently the Chairman of the National Cement Association.

Ministry of Science, Research and Technology:

Hossein Sarraf



Hossein Simaei, a legal expert with a PhD in Private Law, served as Secretary of the Government Board from 2019 to 2022. His extensive experience includes various executive roles within the Ministry of Science, as well as positions in the Judiciary and the Office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Simaei has been praised for his strong legal and administrative background.

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance:

Abbas Salehi



Abbas Salehi has an extensive experience in academia, cultural institutions, and government. He majored in philosophy and religion and has taught at various Iranian universities. He is currently the CEO of the Ettela'at Institute and Newspaper, as well as the president of the University of

Islamic Denominations. Salehi used to be a deputy at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Ministry of Interior:

Eskandar Momeni



Brigadier General Eskandar Momeni holds a PhD in National Security. He has extensive experience in law enforcement, having served as head of the Traffic Police, advisor to the President, and Secretary of the Anti-Drug Headquarters. Momeni's background includes service in the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps during the Iran-Iraq War and command of the Law Enforcement Force in Khorasan Province.

Ministry of Sport and Youth:

Ahmad Donyamali



Ahmad Donyamali is a seasoned sports administrator who currently serves as the representative for Bandar-e Anzali in Iran's Parliament, a position he has held since 2020. His career includes significant roles such as Chairman of the Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran and President of the Canoeing, Rowing & Sailing Federation. Donyamali holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the Islamic Azad University.

Ministry of Energy:

Abbas Aliabadi



Abbas Aliabadi is a university professor with a robust executive background, holding a Ph.D. in Control Engineering from K. N. Toosi University of Technology. He has held key academic roles, including Assistant Professor at Imam Hossein University and President of Malek Ashtar University of Technology. Aliabadi has also served as CEO of the MAPNA Group for over 15 years.

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts:

Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri



Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri is a seasoned politician with a Ph.D. in Public Administration and a long history of public service. His extensive experience includes serving as President of the National Olympic Committee, Deputy Mayor of Tehran for Social and Cultural Affairs, and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance in Iran's 11th administration.

Ministry of Petroleum:

Mohsen Paknejad



Mohsen Paknejad holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tehran and a master's degree in Industrial Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology.

His career includes serving as Deputy Minister of Petroleum for Supervision of Hydrocarbon Resources and holding key leadership positions in both the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Naftiran Intertrade Company (NICO).

Iran freestyler Zare collects silver in 2024 Olympics

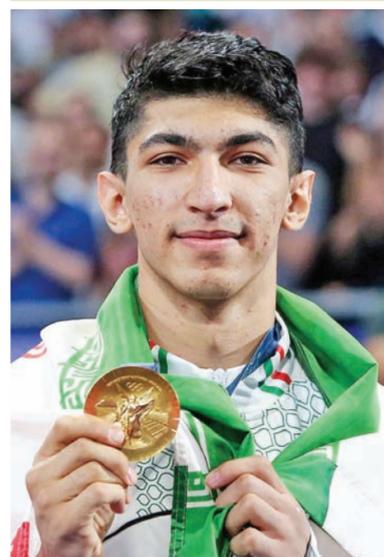
TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Amirhossein Zare lost to Georgian Geno Petriashvili in the men's 125kg final of the 2024 Olympic Games Saturday night.

Zare could have won gold after coming back from 10-1 down to 10-9 but failed to win the match after the time was over.

Zare had defeated Aiaal Lazarev of Kyrgyzstan, Canadian Amar Dhesi and Turkey's Taha Akgül on his way to the final.

Earlier in the day, Akgül and Azerbaijan's Giorgi Meshvildishvili had won bronze medals.

Salimi aims for next three Olympic Games



TEHRAN – Arian Salimi of Iran fought to an impressive victory over Great Britain's Caden Cunningham in the taekwondo men's +80kg event at Paris 2024 on Saturday.

He is going to compete in the next three Olympic Games

The Iranian battled valiantly after being one round down in a cagey but fascinating contest in the men's heavyweight category.

The second round saw Salimi land frequently before the Olympic title was decided in the last seconds of the final round as Salimi scored the decisive blows.

"I am 20 years old and sure I have planned for the next three Olympic Games," Salimi said as he looked forward to a bright future in the sport. "I am going to start step-by-step [towards] Los Angeles 2028 and then the other Olympics."

Silver medallist Cunningham can leave Paris with his head held high after the 21-year-old went on an excellent run that only ended in defeat after a highly competitive final.

"To come and beat three world champions and three Olympic medalists and to come up against a fighter like that, it is a good day," he said.

"It is the start of whatever I want it to be. If I stay in this, I will be the king of taekwondo in the next four years."

Earlier in the evening, Cuba's Rafael Alba took the first bronze medal in the category, defeating Ivan Sapina of Croatia in two rounds.

"I still haven't realized I won another medal," an emotional Alba said after his bout.

"In Tokyo, I already won a bronze medal, but this one, for me, this has a much more important value.

"People only see the beautiful part of sports: the athlete that wins, the athlete that stands tall in the middle of a stage under the lights with the audience cheering him on.

But many don't see the dark side of sport: the injuries, in my case operations, being far from home without being able to do a lot of things that steal your youth.

American climber Watson hails his legend Reza Alipour

TEHRAN – American climber Sam Watson lauded Iran's Reza Alipour, former fastest vertical man.

Watson, 18, smashed the world record he set just two days earlier during the small final race in the men's speed climbing final in the 2024 Olympic Games.

Watson's 4.74-second run rewarded him with an Olympic bronze medal.

"The games have been such a beautiful platform for such a beautiful sport. I'm so honored to share this stage with everyone that's joined me here, it's truly changed my life," Watson posted on his Instagram account.

"Breaking a world record in the bronze medal match meant a lot, against one of my childhood hero's, 'the fastest vertical man in the world' for many years.

I want to give my deepest respect to Reza Alipour such a legend of our sport.

Everyone, including all of the medalists at these games would not be where we are without your contributions.

You are a hero to me, sport climbing, speed climbing, Persia, and the entire world. Thank you," he added.

"I'm happy for speed climbing, the most beautiful community in the in all of the Olympics.

I will change the color of my medal, in front of my home crowd, I will go under 4.5. I will continue to lift others as I climb," Watson wrote.

Azarpira wins bronze in 2024 Olympic Games

TEHRAN – Amirali Azarpira claimed a bronze medal in Men's Freestyle 97kg of the 2024 Olympic Games on Sunday.

Azarpira defeated two-time Olympic medal winner Kyle Snyder 4-1 in the bronze-medal match.

Azarpira lost to Bahrain's Akhmed Tazhudinov 4-3 in his first match but defeated Kazakhstan's Alisher Yergali 6-1 in repechage.

Iran's Hassan Yazdani in 86kg, Amirhossein Zare in 125kg and Rahman Amouzad in 65kg have previously won three silver medals.

Maziar Zare named Malavan coach: IPL

TEHRAN – Maziar Zare was appointed as new head coach of Malavan Bandar Anzali football team.

He had stepped down as the head coach of the Shams Azar football team last week.

Zare, who had been appointed as Shams Azar coach in July, replaced Saeid Daghighi in Malavan. Daghighi will likely return to his former club Shams Azar.

Didier Ibrahim Ndong signs for Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Iran's Esteghlal completed the signing of Didier Ibrahim Ndong on Sunday.

The 30-year-old Gabonese midfielder played for the Saudi Arabian club Al-Riyadh last season.

Ndong announced his retirement from Gabon national football team last year due to his dispute with the Gabonese federation.

He started his playing career in Tunisian club CS Sfaxien in 2011 and has also played for English sides Sunderland and Watford.

Esteghlal have previously completed the signing of French winger Gael Kakuta.

Pezeshkian calls for multipolar world order, criticizes U.S. policies

TEHRAN— The Iranian president emphasized the urgent need to establish a multipolar world order, criticizing U.S. policies and actions that pressure countries like Iran and seek to strip them of their rights and benefits.

In a phone conversation with European Council President Charles Michel on Sunday, Masoud Pezeshkian described these efforts as an attempt by the U.S. to block the emergence of a new global order, thereby hindering global peace and stability.

During the call, Pezeshkian reiterated Iran's long-standing commitment to global peace, stability, and tranquility for all nations, stressing that any process threatening these values must be halted. He criticized the U.S. and some Western countries for applying double standards, which, as he argued, have emboldened the Zionist regime to commit horrific acts of terror and violence in Gaza, further endangering regional and global security.

Pezeshkian, responding to Michel's interest in reviving nuclear agreement talks, emphasized

that mutual trust and the safeguarding of reciprocal benefits are crucial to any successful agreement. He added that if both parties honor their commitments and rebuild trust, it would open the door to discussing other issues as well.

The President of the European Council expressed hope for renewed and effective engagement between Iran and the European Union, based on mutual benefit. Michel also highlighted the desire of European countries to enhance their relations with Iran.

NIDC digs 7 oil, gas wells in 4 months



TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed the digging operations of seven oil and gas wells during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), an official with the company said.

According to Gholamreza Mahmoudi, the director of on-shore drilling operations at NIDC, 20,000 meters of drilling were conducted for digging the mentioned wells through, Shana reported.

Mahmoudi said three of the drilled wells was development and the rest were workover ones.

The official stated that the digging of the mentioned wells was carried out despite the severe hot temperatures of the region.

Earlier this year, NIDC Managing Director Hamidreza Golpayegani announced that the company dug and completed the digging operations of 195 oil and gas wells since the government of late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

Golpayegani said the wells were discovery wells, development-delineation wells, and workover wells.

The official also announced that 158,410 meters of drilling were conducted for digging the mentioned wells through 9,562 operations over the past two years.

As announced by the deputy managing director of NIDC for drilling operation, the company dug and completed the digging operation of 99 oil and gas wells during the Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20, 2023).

According to Masoud Afshar, the drilled wells consisted of 15 development, five exploratory, and 79 workover ones.

He said that 77 of the mentioned wells were drilled in the operational zone of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), eight wells were drilled in the fields under

the supervision of the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), eight in the fields under the operation of the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), two wells in the framework of project, and four in the operational zone of the drilling management department of National Iranian Oil company (NIOC).

Over 67,000 meters of drilling were conducted for drilling the mentioned wells, the official announced, and noted, "Comprehensive planning has been done to speed up the drilling operations and it is expected that with the reconstruction and modernization of the drilling machines and equipment, in the current year we will see the use of more drilling machines of the company in the oil-rich areas of the country."

Stating that 63 of the 73 light, heavy and extra heavy drilling rigs in the company's fleet are in operation or being moved, he put the number of rigs being moved at 20.

The NIDC managing director has declared the company's infrastructure improvement in line with the programs of the Oil Ministry as the most important achievement of NIDC in the past year.

Speaking at the company's annual board meeting, Golpayegani said NIDC's performance in various operational, technical, engineering, support, services, and headquarters departments has been significant and improved in the previous year compared to the preceding two years.

"According to the statistics of our planning department, the productivity index [of the company] reached 62 percent past year, while this figure was 48 percent in 1400," Golpayegani said.

Pointing to the company's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, the official stated: "Although the past year's performance in all sectors shows growth and an upward trend, we should not be satisfied and try to get the company to an even better position this year."

Considering the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s strategies for strengthening the presence of domestic companies in the development of the country's oil fields, NIDC, as a major NIOC subsidiary, has been supporting such companies by lending them drilling rigs and other necessary equipment.

time," Eshqi stressed.

According to the SEO head, development of IT infrastructure is also considered one of the priorities of the stock exchange organization.

"We will have serious improvements in the transaction system and follow-up processes," he noted.

Later in January 2024, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) stressed the need for diverse financing tools in the country, noting that such tools are currently being provided by the stock market.

"To reduce the speculative and profit-seeking activities of dealers in the country, financing tools should be diversified," Mohammad Shirjijan said.

"The capital market is an institution that directs capital to production in an efficient manner. Now, to accelerate the process of resource transfer and high productivity, the financing should be directed to the enterprises," the official explained.

Shirjijan called on the government and the parliament to pay more attention to the stock market, saying: "If the government and parliament pay more attention to the capital market, we will see the withdrawal of resources from non-productive markets and the reduction of the bubble in other parallel markets (such as currency, coins, gold, housing, and cars)."

Regarding the important ways to secure financial resources in the stock market, Shirjijan said: "Sukuk bonds and investment funds are among the most important financing tools of the capital market because they are designed based on the needs and risk-taking levels of enterprises and individuals."

According to the official, the capital market could be very suitable for long-term financing of construction projects and with proper implementation; such funding will lead to sustainable economic growth and development.

ISIPO renovates 33 small-scale production units since late March

TEHRAN - The Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Farshad Moghimi said his organization has renovated 33 small-scale idle and semi-active production units in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

According to Moghimi, ISIPO plans to renovate and revive 300 small-scale production units in the current Iranian calendar year, IRNA reported.

"Renovation and reconstruction of industrial infrastructure and equipment of industrial enterprises is one of the main programs pursued by the Industry Ministry, which is specifically followed up by the ISIPO," he said.

Earlier in June, Moghimi said that 116 idle and semi-active production units were revived in the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year up to the mentioned month.

The official also announced



that 10,000 economic units were revived during the late President Raisi's administration of which 4,600 units were industrial ones.

In the past few years, many of the production units across Iran have been wrestling with financial issues as well as the problem of supplying their raw materials, so that, many have been forced to shut down or decrease their activities.

The Industry Ministry's pro-

gram for reviving such units has tried to identify major problems and issues that the production units are facing in order to bring them back into the production cycle by resolving such problems.

Back in May, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi inaugurated 20 industrial, infrastructure, and development projects valued at 294.8 trillion rials (over \$60 million) in industrial parks and zones

across the country through video conferencing.

Put into operation in 11 different provinces, the mentioned projects were inaugurated on the occasion of the national day of supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

The projects include nine infrastructure projects with a total investment of 1.88 trillion rials (about \$3.82 million), seven industrial projects with an investment of 18.35 trillion rials (over \$37.8 million), and the revival of four idle industrial units with an investment of 9.24 trillion rials (over \$18.9 million).

As reported, the inauguration of the mentioned projects has created direct job opportunities for 723 people.

The projects were carried out in the provinces of Kermanshah, Markazi, Zanjan, Yazd, Alborz, Lorestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Golestan, Isfahan, Qazvin, and East Azarbaijan.

Developing petro-refineries, a must for completing oil industry value chain: expert

TEHRAN - Oil Industry Expert Reza Mokhtar believes developing petro-refineries is a necessity for competing the country's oil industry value chain, IRIB reported.

"Our road map in the oil industry should be, first of all, to solve the energy imbalance, and then, to build petro-refineries. Of course, by using the equipment of the current petrochemical complexes and refineries and turning them into petro-refineries," Mokhtar said.

Underlining the importance of completing value chain in the oil industry, the scholar said: "As we move towards the completion of the value chain, the number of products with high added value increases and, as a result, we become more invulnerable to sanctions. In the current situation, as the country's legislators have also determined, it is very necessary to move towards completing the value chain."

Back in February, Iran's Deputy Oil Minister for Planning Affairs said constructing petro-refineries across Iran is going to increase

the country's refining capacity by 30 percent, which is from 2.3 million barrels to 3.0 million barrels.

"Creating capacity and completing the value chain in the oil industry is one of the most important priorities of the Oil Ministry in the 13th government with the aim of preventing crude sales and creating added value for the country," Houshang Falahatian said.

International energy companies predict that the demand for petrochemical products will increase significantly in the coming years, and therefore the development of petro-refineries seems a necessity in Iran.

Due to the country's benefit from oil and gas resources, the development of petro-refineries is much easier and relatively cheaper in Iran than other countries in the world, and the country can play a role in regulating the price of petrochemical products in the world due to its proximity to energy sources and its capacity for the development of petro-refinery.

And most importantly, if the country's petro-refinery capacity can be expanded to the level of crude oil feed produced in the country, the sanctions on Iran's oil industry will be practically nullified.

It is why Iran is now serious and determined to develop its petro-refineries, although in previous years, despite the country's upstream economic plans based on preventing the sale of crude oil and natural gas, and developing refining capacity instead to boost production of export products, there seemed to be no will to build petro-refineries.

In order to encourage the government and investors to work hard on the development of petro-refinery industry, the Petro-Refinery Development Law was drafted in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and then amendments to this law were drafted in the parliament in January 2022.

Transport minister stresses need for following CAO aviation strategies

TEHRAN - In a message to Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, the Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash praised the performance of the organization and stressed the need for following CAO's four-fold strategy for developing the coun-

try's aviation industry.

"The Civil Aviation Organization, as the main policy-making body in the country's aviation industry, played an effective role during the 33 months of the 13th government administration and these policies should be continued," Ba-

zrpash said in his message.

He emphasized his full support for CAO's four approved strategies and stated: "These strategies are seriously put on the agenda and should be followed with detailed planning."

The minister also emphasized

that the modernization and development of the aviation fleet, along with safety, with the aim of improving services to people and supporting knowledge-based companies in the industry, should also be prioritized and pursued seriously.

Loading, unloading of goods exceeds 3m tons at ports of west Hormozgan

TEHRAN - As announced by a provincial official, 3,000,901 tons of oil products and non-oil goods were loaded and unloaded at the ports of the west of Hormozgan province, in the south of Iran, during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21).

Morteza Salari, the director-general of Ports and Maritime Department of the west of Hormozgan, said that of the mentioned figure, 1,985,295 tons were oil products and 1,915,707 tons were non-oil goods.

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 re-

ported 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, especially basic commodi-

ties, 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.

TEDPIX drops 466 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 466 points to 2,003,375 on Sunday, which is the second day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB). The head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the capital of the companies active in the stock market increased by 5.0 quadrillion rials (about \$10 billion) in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Majid Eshqi, the capital of listed companies increased from 15 quadrillion rials (about \$30 billion) two years ago to 20 quadrillion rials (about \$40 billion) in the previous year, IRNA reported.

He expressed hope that by formulating the necessary guidelines and setting up the institutions that are seen in the production financing law, the government will be able to address the issue of capital formation, which is one of the serious challenges of the economy."

Back in June, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said financing through the stock market in Iran increased by 100 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year.

According to Khandouzi, the stock market supplied 500 billion rials (about \$1.0 million) of capital for funding various projects in the previous year, while the figure was 250 billion rials (about \$500,000) a year earlier.

Eshqi had said in June 2023 that attracting capital for the companies active in the stock market is a priority of the organization which is being seriously pursued.

"Funding through the capital market should be facilitated and achieved in a short period of

Gaza City carnage: How US and its allies cover up Israeli crimes

From page 1 ▶ One woman, known as Um Ahmed, said she was unable to find her husband in the aftermath of the Israeli bombing of the building.

"I went to look for my husband and I didn't see anybody, they were all in pieces," she told CNN.

Um Ahmed added that the mosque was full of young people who were "all in pieces and dismembered" in the aftermath of the strike.

Others also shed light on the terrifying scene as the tragedy occurred.

"There were people praying, there were people washing and there were people upstairs sleeping, including children, women and old people. The missile fell on them without warning. The first missile, and the second. We recovered them as body parts," Abu Anas, who helped rescue the wounded, told the Associated Press.

Fadl Naeem, head of al-Ahli Hospital, where many of the casualties were taken also said the remains of many victims were so badly disfigured that identification was difficult.

UNICEF also described the attack as "really outrageous" stressing that such schools house civilians.

Salim Oweis, spokesman for the UN children's agency, told the BBC, "All those schools are really packed with civilians, chil-



dren, mothers and families, who are taking refuge in any empty space whether it's a school or it's a mosque, whatever it is, even in hospital yards."

Justifying barbarism

Israel has claimed that it hit resistance fighters in the attack on the school. The Israeli army has accused Hamas of using the building as a cover to carry out operations against the regime.

It has made similar accusations against Hamas since declaring war on Gaza on October 7 but has failed to provide any evidence to back up the claims.

Unsurprisingly, the administration of US President Joe Biden echoed Israel's narrative.

US National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett accused Hamas of using schools "as locations to gather and operate out of."

Washington expressed concern about the loss of civilian life

following the attack on the Gaza City school but fell short of condemning Israel for perpetrating the massacre.

Britain also followed suit. British Foreign Secretary David Lammy said he was "appalled" by Israel's bombing of the school but accused Hamas of endangering civilians.

Both the US and the UK have tried to demonize Hamas by accusing it of using the school as a command center.

Nonetheless, according to the BBC, Tabeen school housed Palestinians who had recently been displaced from the town of Beit Hanoun, after the Israeli army ordered them to leave their homes.

US bombs kill Gazans

Since the start of the Gaza war, the US has thrown its full weight behind Israel. It has provided the Benjamin Netanyahu regime with unwavering political and military support.

According to CNN, Israel used at least one US-manufactured precision-guided bomb during the strike on the Gaza City school on Saturday.

The weekend Israeli deadly attack has led to growing pressure on the US to stop arming Israel.

But, supporting Israel is among key principles of the US foreign policy and some other Western countries.

Ridiculous charade

In order to appease domestic opposition to Israel's crimes in Gaza, Washington and its allies have called for increasing efforts to establish a ceasefire in Gaza following the attack on Tabeen school.

Some countries in West Asia which have established covert and over ties with Israel have also demanded that Israel and Hamas spare no effort to reach a truce deal.

However, Israel's Western and regional allies are well aware that the Netanyahu regime does not want to end the Gaza onslaught.

Hence, growing calls for ceasefire in Gaza are aimed at diverting attention away from rising opposition to Israel's genocidal acts in the Palestinian territory.

Israel will continue to perpetrate back-to-back massacres in Gaza as long as the US and its Western and West Asia allies refuse to take practical measures against the regime.

Hamas ambushes more Israeli troops Israeli helicopters evacuate wounded soldiers

From page 1 ▶ Among the latest footage published by the armed wing of Hamas, is clear documentation of an Israeli special force unit being ambushed with an explosive device planted underground.

At least three IOF troops are struck by a large blast, in the al-Farahin area, east of Khan Younis, south of the Strip.

The footage captures the moment when the troops are carried on stretchers and rushed away for urgent treatment. Their fate is unknown but the video continues, capturing an IOF helicopter evacuating the troops.

A tank is blown up at close range in the same area of eastern Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip that the IOF invaded again on Friday but appears to be facing stiff resistance.

On Saturday, the al-Qassam Brigades targeted a gathering of the IOF east of Khan Younis city with 107 rockets, igniting fires at the targeted location.

Among the other flashpoint regions in the strip has been the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood, west of Rafah in the south.

In a statement published on Sunday, the al-Qassam Brigades said it had "managed to target a Zionist force that had fortified itself inside the Indonesian hospital in Tel al-Sultan with a TBG anti-fortification missile and an anti-personnel missile, causing casualties among the force. The fighters also observed helicopters landing for evacuation."

The military media of the Qassam brigades also showed footage documenting the target-

ing of a building where Israeli forces were fortified, using TBG missiles.

The footage clearly showed the occupying soldiers taking cover in the building, followed by an Israeli helicopter arriving to evacuate the dead and wounded soldiers from the targeted building.

Al-Qassam confirmed that its snipers were able to hit an Israeli soldier in an area, southwest of Tel al-Sultan.

An Israeli military bulldozer, of the D9 type, was targeted with a Yassin 105 missile in the Zallata area, east of Rafah.

Another ambush, shown by al-Qassam in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood, was executed as another building where an Israeli force of nine soldiers were holed up was targeted.

The al-Qassam Brigades declared in a statement that its fighters targeted the building, which was fortified by Israeli soldiers, with TBG missiles in Tel al-Sultan.

The statement noted that the operation resulted in casualties among the Israeli forces and that al-Qassam fighters observed the landing of helicopters to evacuate the dead and wounded.

Other videos released by the armed wing of Hamas shows yet another barrage of missiles being launched from the enclave.

As the U.S.-backed genocidal war waged on Gaza by the Israeli military enters 310 days, reports have surfaced that Hamas has managed to recruit 5,000 more fighters over the

They searched the rooms, intimidated his wife, and temporarily arrested his two sons, Basil and Basil, who were beaten with rifle butts.

Even guests on Al-Mayadeen's programs had their share of Israeli hostility, as occupation forces surrounded the home of Jamal Huwail, a professor of international relations at the Arab American University, who received a threat from Israeli intelligence while speaking live on air.

In southern Lebanon, while Al-Mayadeen's team was covering the Israeli attacks on the Lebanese-Palestinian border, on November 12, an Israeli drone pursued the channel's broadcast vehicle.

In the same month, Israeli occupation drones targeted Al-Mayadeen correspondent Farah Omar and photographer Rabie Al-Maamari while they were covering the aggression against South Lebanon, leading to their martyrdom.

past months in defense of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The Israeli military has admitted at least a dozen soldiers had sustained injuries in the ongoing battles in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours.

Since the beginning of the indiscriminate Israeli war in October last year, 4,284 Israeli officers and soldiers have been injured, including 2,190 since the start of the ground operation, according to the Israeli military's statements.

Tel Aviv has also allowed the publication of data that reveals 689 officers and soldiers have been killed and 639 have sustained severe injuries since the beginning of the war, with 213 officers and soldiers still undergoing treatment in hospitals, including 29 with serious injuries.

Experts believe the IOF announces low casualty levels to avoid the embarrassing losses it is incurring.

Despite strict censorship on Israeli news coverage on genocide in Gaza, Israeli news reports have emerged indicating a tally of 10,000 disabled troops as a result of combat in a totally blockaded Palestinian territory.

Military analysts say if 10,000 Israeli soldiers have been disabled and taken out of service, then the number of serious and moderate injuries would logically be much higher.

Hamas says it has enough fighters and ammunition to continue what has become a war of attrition for years to come, if needed.

Ali Mortada, Al-Mayadeen correspondent in southern Lebanon, commented at the moment of their martyrdom: "We [Al-Mayadeen] will not leave the media arena even if we are all killed."

In turn, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Al-Mayadeen Media Network, Ghasan Ben Jeddou, mourned the martyrs Farah Omar and photographer Rabie Al-Maamari, saying:

"It is natural to grieve for this deep and gaping wound that has afflicted us due to the loss of our two brothers [Farah Omar and Rabie Al-Maamari]. It is natural to scream in the face of this treacherous and cowardly occupation. At the same time and as a media outlet, we are, nevertheless, proud to annoy this occupation. We are proud that Al-Mayadeen has become the sworn enemy of the occupation in the Arab and Islamic regions."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Israeli officers: Army still far from victory in Gaza

The Israeli army is "still far from victory" in the Gaza Strip as Tel Aviv continues its deadly offensive on the Palestinian territory, dozens of Israeli reserve officers said in a letter on Sunday, Anadolu reported.

"In the past few days, we have been astonished by repeated statements from senior army officials that victory is within reach and it is possible to move to the stage of pinpoint raids," reads the letter signed by around 100 officers to Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi.

"We, who came from the field, know very well that the situation is still far from victory."

The army officers said that Palestinian resistance factions still have cross-border capabilities such as UAVs, explosive drones and mortars.

"This is not what victory looks like!"

In February, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told ABC News that "victory is within reach."

Hamas: US responsible for horrific massacres in Gaza

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement said war crimes and genocide perpetrated by Israel in the besieged coastal enclave "would not be ongoing if it weren't for the support of some Western capitals, led by Washington".

In a post on its official Telegram channel, Hamas said the US has provided Israel with political and military support, making it "a direct accomplice in [al-Tabin school] massacre and other crimes and violations".

UN: Over 75,000 displaced in southern Gaza

More than 75,000 Palestinians have been displaced in southwest Gaza in the past few days, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said on Sunday.

"Over the decades, Palestinian civilians have been caught up in wars and conflicts, far too many times," Philippe Lazzarini, the UNRWA commissioner-general, said on X.

"Just in the past few days, more than 75,000 people have been displaced in south west Gaza," he added.

Lazzarini noted that the Israeli authorities issued additional orders overnight forcing more people to flee, "again and again."

Some of the fleeing Palestinians are only able to carry their children with them, "some carry their whole lives in one small bag," he added.

"They are going to overcrowded places where shelters are already overflowing with families. They have lost everything and need everything," Lazzarini said.

"Unlike in other wars, the people of Gaza are trapped and have nowhere to go," he added.

Ben-Gvir: Israel should occupy Gaza permanently

Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir has called for the permanent occupation of the Gaza Strip.

He spoke out against a US-backed mediation effort and said Hamas "must be crushed" until it "completely surrenders". The transfer of all humanitarian aid and fuel should be stopped until all captives held by Hamas are released and Israeli authorities must "encourage immigration and occupy the territories of the Gaza Strip in order to keep them in

our hands permanently", he wrote on X.

Earlier, Ben-Gvir told Israel's Channel 14 that Israel taking part in ceasefire negotiations would be "a serious mistake".

Health Ministry: Israel has killed 500 medics since Oct. 7

The Palestinian Health Ministry said about 500 healthcare workers have been killed and hundreds of others injured since the start of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7.

In a statement, the ministry said more than 310 other health workers have been arrested, while 130 ambulances have been destroyed in Gaza by Israeli forces, Al Jazeera reported.

Health facilities and workers in the occupied West Bank have also been subjected to more than 340 attacks, it said, adding that a deliberate targeting of medical infrastructure by Israel has deprived Palestinian citizens of access to basic healthcare services.

The ministry said poor water and sanitation conditions, along with overcrowding, have led to an increase in diseases and early deaths, noting that Gaza is facing a public health disaster.

Nearly 2% of Gaza's population killed by Israel

Israel has killed around 1.8% of Gaza's population since October 7 amid a devastating war on the enclave, according to figures released by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) on Sunday.

In a statement, the bureau said more than 39,000 people have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza over the past ten months.

"This constitutes around 1.8% of the total population in the territory," it added.

According to the bureau, around 24% of the Palestinian victims in Gaza were young people.

The figures also showed that famine has killed 34 people in Gaza, with around 3,500 children at risk of death due to malnutrition and food shortages.

According to the bureau, around 70% of the injured people in Gaza are women and children, while some 10,000 people are still missing and around two million have been displaced.

It said 620 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in the occupied West Bank.

Russia vows 'tough response' to Ukraine attacks

Russia has vowed a "tough response" to Ukraine's latest reported attacks on several regions in the country, in addition to the Moscow-controlled part of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the BBC reported.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has said in a statement: "The Kyiv regime is continuing its terrorist activity with the sole purpose of intimidating the peaceful population of Russia."

She adds that Ukraine "understands perfectly well" that the recent attacks "make no sense from a military point of view".

Zakharova mentioned several attacks in the past 24 hours, including what she said was a "massive" overnight strike on the regional capital Kursk.

Earlier, the local governor for Kursk said 13 people had been injured when the wreckage of a Ukrainian missile fell on the multi-story building in the city.

Ban on Al-Mayadeen: Part and parcel of Israel's hostility

From page 1 ▶ Indeed, this arbitrary decision is linked to Al-Mayadeen's brave coverage of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" epic since October 7, 2023.

Last November, the Israeli "Security Cabinet" approved a ban on Mayadeen in the occupied Palestinian territories following a joint statement by Communications Minister Shlomo Karai, on the grounds that Al-Mayadeen harms "Israel's security," and an attempt to prevent it from broadcasting what war minister Yoav Galant described as "dangerous propaganda".

In the same month, Hanaa Mahameed, Al-Mayadeen's correspondent in occupied Jerusalem (al-Quds), was threatened by settler gangs as part of a systematic campaign of intimidation against the media network.

At the end of October 2023, Israeli occupation forces also stormed the home of Al-Mayadeen's office director in occupied Palestine, Nasser Al-Lahham, in Bethlehem.

RICHT inks cooperation agreement with Ataturk University



TEHRAN - Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism has signed a cooperation agreement with Turkey's Ataturk University in a bid to enhance scientific collaboration in the fields of cultural heritage and tourism.

The agreement was signed by Mostafa Dehpahlavan, the head of RICHT, and Omer Comakli, the president of Ataturk University, IRIB reported on Saturday.

The new collaboration is aimed at strengthening scientific ties, focusing on the preservation and study of cultural heritage, which is considered a crucial element of human civilization and cultural identity.

According to its pillars, the agreement seeks to help promote the shared cultural heritage between the two nations in several key areas, including:

Archeology and interdisciplinary studies: focused on the exploration and analysis of ancient sites and cultural artifacts.

Archaeometry, conservation, and restoration: collaborative efforts in the conservation and restoration of archaeological sites and museum collections.

Historical research: in-depth research into

archival documents, libraries, and historical records.

Architectural history and cultural landscapes: studies on historical architecture, gardens, and cultural landscapes.

Linguistics, particularly ancient languages: joint linguistic research with an emphasis on ancient languages.

Epigraphy: collaborative studies of inscriptions and ancient texts.

Anthropology: focused on ethnography, visual anthropology, and urban anthropology.

History of art and traditional arts: comparative studies in the history of art and traditional arts.

The cooperation is guided by UNESCO's principles for the protection of cultural heritage, emphasizing mutual respect and adherence to the laws and regulations of both countries.

This agreement comes at a time when both Iran and Turkey are increasingly recognizing the importance of preserving and studying their rich cultural heritage. Both nations have ancient civilizations with deep historical roots, and their cultural landscapes are filled with significant archaeological sites, historical monuments, and intangible cultural heritage that contribute to the global understanding of human history.

Turkey, with its strategic location bridging Asia and Europe, has been a crossroads of civilizations, making it a vital area for archaeological and cultural studies. Similarly, Iran, with its millennia-old history, is home to some of the world's most important archaeological sites, such as Persepolis and the ancient cities of the Persian Empire.

2000-year-old gold mask recovered in southern Iran



TEHRAN - Authorities in Bushehr province have seized some relics including a 2,000-year-old gold mask in a crackdown on antique smugglers, according to a local official.

"The seized artifacts include a gold mask and several pottery items," Esmaeel Sajjadi-Manesh stated on Sunday. "Which experts from the provincial office have dated back to the Parthian and Elamite periods."

He further elaborated that the smugglers were tracked and monitored closely, leading to their capture last Friday in Fars province,

just as they attempted to sell the artifacts. The operation, Sajjadi-Manesh explained, was the result of a comprehensive surveillance work by local officials.

The official highlighted that the group was attempting to smuggle these ancient items from the southern provinces to Shiraz for sale. However, their plans were thwarted thanks to timely intervention of the Bushehr authorities, said Sajjadi-Manesh, adding that the recovered artifacts have been returned to Bushehr.

"Among the items recovered, one of the most valuable is the gold mask, estimated to be over 2,000 years old," he noted. "The mask was reportedly being sold for several billion tomans during the illegal transaction."

In his final words, Sajjadi-Manesh emphasized that relics are vital components of the nation's history and culture. "Anyone attempting to exploit or damage this heritage would inevitably face the full force of the law," he wended up.

Protests over mass tourism could spread beyond Spain, says Unesco official

Surging visitor numbers, soaring housing prices and the rise of selfie-seeking tourists have helped to create situations that are "totally out of balance," a Unesco official has said, adding that a failure to address these issues could see the Spanish wave of protests against mass tourism extend across Europe.

In recent weeks tens of thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in Spain's most popular destinations, calling for curbs on mass tourism and a rethink of a business model that they say has pushed up housing prices and driven local people out of cities.

From Málaga to Mallorca and Gran Canaria to Granada, organisers have stressed that the protests are not against tourism, per se, but rather a call for a more balanced approach.

It's a sentiment echoed by Peter DeBrine, Unesco's senior project officer for sustain-

able tourism. "What we're seeing is that we're breaching a threshold of tolerance in these destinations," he said. "It's really trying to rebalance the situation. It's totally out of balance now."

He pointed to a myriad of factors to explain why many in Spain - long one of the world's most popular tourist destinations - were now leading the backlash against the industry. Chief among them was the housing crisis, he said, describing it as the "straw that breaks the camel's back".

Tourism has exacerbated existing concerns over the affordability of housing, as the spread of short-term accommodation squeezes local residents out of the market. "I think that added a lot of anxiety and frustration for people who are living in these destinations," said DeBrine.

(Source: The Guardian)

Archaeologists probe ancient mysteries in Farahan Pian

TEHRAN - An archaeological survey is underway in Farahan Pian to investigate and identify Islamic-era elements in the ancient cultural region, which is situated in central Iran.

The primary focus of this project, led by archaeologist Ahmad Sohrabinia, is to uncover sites associated with the production of cultural materials, such as pottery, Mehr news agency reported.

Sohrabinia stated that the survey was initiated with permission from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, and primarily intended to shed new light on the region's history from the early Islamic period to the Safavid era.

The study area is located in Markazi province, encompassing the counties of Arak, Farahan, and parts of Tafresh and Ashtian.

Sohrabinia described the Farahan as one of the country's most significant intermontane and transitional plains, situated between the eastern edge of the Central Zagros and the central Iranian plateau.

Covering an area of 90 by 90 kilometers at an elevation of 1600 to 1900 meters above sea



level, the plain has long supported various human settlements due to its seasonal rivers and qanat systems.

A key natural feature in this region is Lake Meighan, which acts as a catchment area for surface waters during the winter, contributing to the area's unique ecological and cultural landscape, the archaeologist explained.

The research focuses on understanding the factors that influenced the continuity of settlement from the Sassanian period into the early Islamic centuries. It seeks to determine whether political or environmental factors played a more significant role in

this transition.

Additionally, the team is examining historical texts, such as the 10th-century "History of Qom" by Mohammad bin Hassan Qomi, to locate and verify the sites mentioned within these works. So far, evidence such as kiln supports and kiln balls has been uncovered, indicating the existence of pottery production sites.

Sohrabinia emphasized that beyond uncovering the historical context, the survey aims to assess the current state of these sites and the threats they face. The findings will help inform efforts to protect and preserve these invaluable cultural heri-

tage sites from further degradation.

Covering an area of 90 by 90 kilometers at an elevation of 1600 to 1900 meters above sea level, the plain has long supported various human settlements due to its seasonal rivers and qanat systems.

The Farahan plain, located in the heart of Markazi province, is a fertile region of agricultural importance and lies strategically between the Iranian plateau and the Central Zagros Mountains, contributing to its significance both geographically and historically.

Isfahan's iconic Gaz heritage celebrated

TEHRAN - The skill of making Gaz, a nougat that originated in Isfahan centuries ago, was marked at a special ceremony held in the Iranian city on Saturday evening.

The event was attended by Deputy Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, Isfahan's Mayor Ali Qasemzadeh, Mehdi Toghiani, a member of Iran's Parliament representing Isfahan, along with several other officials, travel insiders and cultural heritage enthusiasts.

The event took place at the Abbasi Hotel as part of the third annual celebration of Gaz's registration as a national intangible cultural heritage of Iran.

In his address, Shalbafian expressed deep respect for those who have preserved and promoted Gaz as a key element of Isfahan's intangible heritage.

He emphasized the unique hospitality of Isfahan's residents, noting that Gaz has become a symbol of this tradition.

"Isfahanis prepare Gaz for their guests, and the preservation of this cultural identity over the years is truly commendable," Shalbafian remarked.

He further highlighted that cultural events like the national registration of Gaz help in



familiarizing people with the lifestyle and attractions of a city, thus contributing to tourism.

Qasemzadeh, also spoke at the event, underscoring Gaz as an essential part of the city's cultural heritage.

He warned that without proper recognition and registration, such intangible heritage could be at risk of being lost or appropriated by others.

Toghiani, praised the collective effort that led to Gaz receiving that national recognition. He noted that three years ago, there was little acknowledgment of Gaz's cultural significance, but today it stands as a proud emblem of Isfahan's identity.

Gaz, often referred to as Persian Nougat,

originates from Isfahan and is a beloved traditional sweet in Iran.

It is made from ingredients like pistachios, almonds, rose water, egg whites, and the sap of the Persian manna plant.

Gaz is typically enjoyed with tea or sherbet, especially during festive occasions such as Nowruz, the Persian New Year.

Isfahan was once a crossroad of international trade and diplomacy during the Safavid era and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world", meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world.

Private investors bring Qajar-era mansions back to life

TEHRAN - Two antiqued Qajar-era houses in Damghan have been handed over to private investors, aiming to preserve and restore these cultural landmarks while enhancing tourism and local heritage.

The Seddiq and Lotfi mansions, both registered as national heritage, have been transferred to the private sector through an auction, with the aim of restoration, renovation, and utilization, CHTN reported

on Sunday.

The initiative seeks to breathe new life into these cultural landmarks, promoting tourism and hospitality services for locals and tourists, the report added.

By leveraging the capabilities and investments of the private sector, the project aims to revive and restore these structures, potentially leading to significant and lasting benefits.

Of particular note, the courtyard of the Lotfi House, currently functioning as the Damghan City History Museum, will retain its museum status, according to the officials.

As revealed by the local authorities, the investor is required to preserve the museum's function and enhance its properties while utilizing additional spaces and courtyards for cultural and hospitality purposes.

This approach aims to ensure that these structures are maintained and brought back to life in a way that serves modern needs, such as tourism and cultural activities.

This initiative reflects a broader trend in heritage management, where public-private partnerships are increasingly seen as essential for the sustainable preservation of historical sites.

Fairy-like castle made national heritage

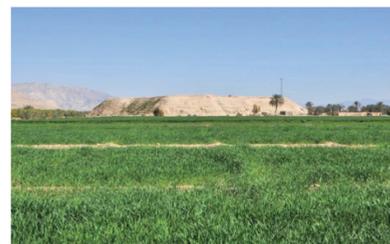
TEHRAN - The ruined Pargoo castle, located in Evaz county, Fars province, has been inscribed on the national heritage list, said a local official.

"The structure dates historical roots back to the early Islamic period," Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi brought to light.

"The name 'Pargoo,' as per oral history, is derived from 'Pari Goon,' metaphorically referring to the hill's beautiful and fairy-like appearance."

The castle, he highlighted, is located at the foot of a mountain on a relatively flat surface of the plain, composed of soil and gravel.

Topographically, it has an almost rectangular plan, measuring 120 meters in length and



110 meters in width, with its highest point reaching 2.5 meters above the surrounding ground level, according to the director-general.

Sabet-Eqlidi further elaborated that the castle features a central courtyard where

the remnants of a water reservoir can be observed.

It is believed that the Pargoo hill was originally the site of a fortress protected by a moat, indicating its probable military and defensive function, especially given its strategic location along the roadside, he pinpointed.

The official emphasized the historical significance of the Pargoo castle, highlighting its unique architecture and military use in the past.

"The remains of the fortress are valuable for studying the design and architecture of various plains-based fortifications," Sabet-Eqlidi wended up.

'Literate village' project to be implemented

TEHRAN – A national program for enhancing the literacy rate in rural communities will be implemented in ten pilot provinces of the country.

The program is scheduled to kick off on August 22, Gholamreza Borouji, an official with the Literacy Movement Organization has announced.

"In line with the development plans of the Literacy Movement Organization to accelerate the literacy movement in the country, it has been decided to select 10 prioritized provinces of the country as pilots to implement the project," ISNA quoted Borouji as saying.

According to the law, the literacy support council, in each province, and all relevant parties including government bodies will cooperate to carry out the program successfully, the official stated.

The village administrators are responsible for conducting the literate village project, and locating illiterate or poorly literate individuals with the help of teachers and local people in the village, the official added.

Accordingly, a database will be established to register them in the literacy system.

Borouji highlighted that the Literacy Movement Organization will support the provision of all stationery and other items needed by targeted individuals in pilot provinces.

'Student movement' to help promote literacy

The Literacy Movement Organi-



zation also plans to benefit from the capacity of students to improve the country's literacy rate in the near future.

"In an effort to promote literacy and make illiterates more interested in learning, we will engage students and leverage their capabilities and knowledge in tackling illiteracy," Pana quoted Borouji as saying.

High school students who are interested in teaching can volunteer to be chosen as teachers, he added.

They will primarily identify illiterate people in their families and relatives, and then register them in a system designed by the Literacy Movement Organization. Once the recorded information is confirmed, they can start teaching, the official said.

Finally, the learners will sit for an exam and get a certificate in case they successfully pass the exam, he added.

Before the Islamic Revolution, a great number of children were deprived of attending school. With the population growth back then, the number of illiterate people increased.

Literacy Movement Organization's goals

Eliminating illiteracy in the country, promoting cultural independence, and educational justice, were among the most important goals in the formation of the literacy movement.

The gap between literate males and females was 23.4 percent, which has decreased to 6 percent.

The implementation of the general mobilization plan for literacy in 1990 increased the literacy rate to 97 percent in 2023.

In 1990, more than 4.1 million illiterate people were educated within a decade, and in 1996, the literacy rate in Iran reached 79.5 percent (an 18 percent increase).

In 2015, 2016, and 2017, the figures reached 84.6 percent, 84.8 percent, and 87.6 percent respectively.

In 2021, the figure was 90.5 percent (in the age group of six and older).

These figures show a 42.5 percent increase in literacy rate after the Islamic Revolution. In 1976, 48.8 percent of those aged 10-49 (about 51 million people) were literate, while the figure was 94.7 percent in 2016, a 46 percent growth, reaching 97.1 percent in 2021.

The main objectives of the plan are to lower the illiteracy rate in the country, make students more engaged with society by enhancing their interactions with others, and develop their communication skills. The students will also gain job experience which will serve as a valuable addition to their résumé.

Iran's literacy growth rate 2.5 times the world's average

In the past four decades, the growth of literacy in the world has been about 18 percent, while in the same period, this figure in Iran has been 50 percent, IRNA reported.

Nearly one year after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Literacy Movement Organization was established by the order of Imam Khomeini with the aim of eradicating illiteracy.

At that time more than half of Iran's population, over the age of six, was illiterate. Now, Iran is on the verge of removing illiteracy.

UNODC boosts Iran's capacity to prevent drug trafficking

TEHRAN – A total of three X-ray Body Scanners crucial for efficiently identifying narcotic drugs concealed in the body or swallowed have been installed in three international airports of the country, namely Imam Khomeini International Airport, Gorgan International Airport, and Ahvaz International Airport.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Iran has procured and installed these devices with the aim of preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs through the air border of Iran, the UN website announced in a press release on August 7.

On August 4, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the Islamic Republic of Iran in an official ceremony handed over one X-ray Body Scanner.

The official event was organized at the Imam Khomeini International Airport, with the presence of representatives from UNODC Iran, the Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ), and the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Office also provided pertinent specialized training for end users of each device, under the guidance and supervision of professional technical engineers.

Due to its geographic proximity to Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran serves as both a destination and a transit route for illicit drug trafficking, especially opioids and recently methamphetamine produced in Afghanistan. In response to this challenge, the UNODC Iran under its Sub-Program 1 "Border Management and Illicit

Trafficking" continues to support, both technically and financially, the national drug control efforts, through the implementation of various activities.

Mahdi Javaheri, Director General of the International Relations Office of DCHQ, in his statements, expressed his gratitude to the UNODC for continuous support extended to the Iranian controlling entities and hoped the support will continue and increase in the future, considering the high demand for provision of controlling equipment, especially X-ray devices.

Procurement of controlling equipment is among the main activities of UNODC Iran under its Sub-program 1 "Border Management and Illicit Trafficking".

This initiative has been incorporated into the UNODC Iran Country Partnership Program (CPP) based on needs assessments and proposals from national counterparts.

This outstanding achievement is an indicator of successful cooperation between UNODC Iran and its national counterparts, and also clearly highlights the positive and significant role of UNODC in the process of drug control and border management.

On July 24, UNODC in Iran handed over 4 drug identification devices, procured through generous support by the Japanese Government, in an official ceremony at the premises of the 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.

The government of Japan has been supporting UNODC Iran's activities on Drug Supply Reduction for many years.

The Ambassador of Japan in Iran, Tamaki Tsukada, has expressed his willingness to support trilateral cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNODC, and the government of Japan.

He also commented on the successful achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran and stated that the level of activities and seizures by Iran, at the frontline of the fight against drugs, is very impressive.

ALSO, UNODC handed over 10 fully trained drug-detecting dogs, specially modified canine trailers, and ancillary supplies, procured under a generous Japanese fund.

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 in Afghanistan to conduct searches on trucks, containers, and cargo, passing through legal entry points.

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.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Further measures required to preserve forests'

Iran's forest area is approximately 12 million hectares with 0.2 hectares per capita, which is one quarter of the world average, so attention to preserve the forest areas must be four times the global attention, faculty member of the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands has said.

Mohammad Darvish made the remarks on the occasion of the National Tree Planting Day, in which people are encouraged to plant trees across the country, held on the first day of the National Week of Natural Resources annually observed on March 6 to 13.

حفظ جنگل ها نیازمند اقدامات بیشتر

بر اساس آخرین آمار موسسه تحقیقات جنگل ها و مراتع، وسعت رویشگاه های جنگلی ایران حدود ۱۲ میلیون هکتار و سرانه هر ایرانی از جنگل، کمتر از دو دهم هکتار است که یک چهارم سرانه جهانی می شود بنابراین باید توجه ما به حفظ رویشگاه های جنگلی، ۴ برابر توجه جهانی باشد.

محمد درویش روز چهارشنبه همزمان با روز درختکاری و آغاز هفته منابع طبیعی در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: به نظر می رسد در کشور آن طور که باید به درختان و حفاظت از آنها توجه نمی شود؛ نابودی دو میلیون هکتار از جنگل های شمال از دهه ۳۰ تاکنون گواه این ادعاست.

Iranian Biology Congress slated for September

TEHRAN – The 11th international and the 23rd national Iranian Biology Congress (IBC) is scheduled to be held at University of Tehran from September 11 to 13.

Being held biennially, the congress is considered the most important biological science event in the country.

It serves as a platform for national and global scientists, researchers, students, and scholars to feature their latest scientific and research achievements, ISNA reported.

The 2024 congress will focus on six conferences including the Microbial Biology Conference; the Environmental Biology and Conservation Conference; the Plant Biology Conference; the Cell and Molecular Biology Conference; the Biennial Conference of Teachers; and the Animal Biology Conference.

Being held biennially, the congress is considered the most important biological science event in the country.



The Hyrcanian ecological zone covers the green belt, the southern margin of the Caspian Sea, and the northern profile of the Alborz Mountain range.

The forested areas of the region stretch to 2.4 million hectares covering Astara in Gilan province to Glidaghi in Golestan province.

The area of forests in the Iran-Turani ecological region, which covers most of the central plateau of Iran, is 4,666,941 hectares. Based on topographic and altitude conditions, this region is divided into two mountainous regions with a cold climate and a desert with a hot and dry climate.

Arasbaran forests, which are among the semi-humid forests of the country, are located in the province of East Azarbaijan and northwest of Ardebil province, which covers 174,838 hectares.

Some sources date the Zagros oak forests to 5,500 years.

The creation and expansion of these forests are due to rainfall raised by the Mediterranean system and the Black Sea, which extends from the Sardasht area of West Azarbaijan to Firoozabad city of Fars province covering an area of 5,440,494 hectares.

The forests of the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological region include part of the southwest and all southern coasts, covering 2,039,963 hectares. Due to ecological differences, the main vegetation is divided into two territories: the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Iran shines at IBO 2024

Iranian students won two gold medals and two silver medals at the 35th edition of the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from July 7 to 14.

IBO 2024 hosted more than 800 students, leaders, observers, and guests from over 80 countries.

Arash Samadi and Pourya Nouri-Niarki won gold medals, while Sepehr Chachi and Mohammad-Reza Yazdkhasti secured silvers, IRIB reported.

The IBO 2023 was held in the United Arab Emirates. The Iranian team ranked third winning two gold and two silver medals.

Iranian inventors shine at SVIIF, KIWIE competitions

From page 1 ► The SVIIF was created to publicize state-of-the-art inventions around the world and provide a unique opportunity for inventors to receive internationally recognized awards of excellence as a result of their efforts.

The Festival is a unique gateway between East and West for inventors and investors to promote products and cultivate markets across borders — a link between the world and the United States.

***KIWIE competition

The 17th Korea International Women's Invention Exposition (KIWIE) took place both online and offline in Goyang, South Korea from June 20 to June 22.

Iranian teams succeed in winning three gold medals, three silver medals, as well as two bronze medals.

The team also won a special award from the WIPO, four special awards from the Research and Innovation Center of Thailand, and a special award from the Association of Polish Inventors.

The event successfully highlighted and celebrated the remarkable achievements of women inventors from around the globe.

This year's KIWIE featured 400 innovative inventions and patent technologies developed by women from 20 countries, including



Poland, Peru, Sri Lanka, Russia, Iran, Thailand, China, and many others.

The expo provided a unique platform for these talented female inventors to present their groundbreaking work, foster international exchange, and establish a robust global network.

Increasing the interest in invention activities by women and strengthening the foundation for women's invention; facilitating the exchange of women inventors at home and abroad and establishing their global network; evaluating patent technologies and inventions developed by women at home and abroad and awarding; and promoting outstanding inventions developed by women and their distribution are main objectives of the competition.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A person who analyzes himself receives a benefit, and he who neglects it, is a loser. He who learns a lesson from others, finds insight, and with such insight comes understanding and avoiding ignorance, and he who understands, will be well aware.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:09 Evening: 19:16 Dawn: 3:49 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:22 (tomorrow)

Tehran theater to host reading performance of “Barefoot in the Park”

TEHRAN- A group of actors will perform a reading of American playwright and author Neil Simon's 1963 play “Barefoot in the Park” at Tehran's Da Theater on August 17.

Amir Mohammad Shavali will be the director of the reading performance, which will be read by a cast composed of Mehri Sadat Aleaqa, Zahra Shojai, Mehdi Mohammadi and Mehran Imanipour.

“Barefoot in the Park” is a romantic comedy stage play that premiered on Broadway in 1963, featuring Robert Redford and Elizabeth Ashley in the leading roles. The play was adapted into a film in 1967, with Redford co-starring alongside Jane Fonda.

The play became Neil Simon's longest-running success and ranks as the tenth-longest-running non-musical play in Broadway history.

The story follows newlyweds Corie and Paul Bratter as they navigate their first days in a top-floor apartment in New York City.

Corie is enthusiastic about their future, while Paul, more pragmatic and cautious, is troubled by the apartment's many quirks, including a hole in the skylight and a leaky closet.

As they settle in, Corie attempts to introduce her mother to their quirky neighbor, Mr. Velasco.

Over a span of four days, the couple learns to coexist amidst the typical challenges of new marriage, with Corie encouraging Paul to adopt a more carefree attitude—encouraging him to enjoy life “barefoot in the park.”



The play received mixed reviews from critics. Theater historian Jordan Schildcrout noted that many commentators remarked on its “dime-a-dozen premise” and minimal plot, but also acknowledged Neil Simon as a “highly skilled professional writer” who crafted “one of the funniest comedies ever.”

Critics pointed to director Mike Nichols' ability to elevate the material, resulting in a production that was “consistently funnier than its modest dialogue might suggest.”

Strong reviews and positive word-of-mouth led to a sold-out run, prompting the Biltmore Theatre to increase box-office staff to meet the demand for tickets.

In 1967, Simon adapted his play into a feature film starring Robert Redford, Jane Fonda, Mildred Natwick, and Charles Boyer, directed by Gene Saks.

A television adaptation aired on ABC in September 1970. This African American sitcom ran for twelve weeks, featuring Scoey Mitchell and Tracy Reed as a young couple navigating the early years of marriage in a New York City apartment. This was one of two Neil Simon adaptations debuting on the network that month.

In late 1981, “Barefoot in the Park” was staged at the Moore Theater in Seattle, recorded for an HBO made-for-TV movie.

The cast included Richard Thomas as Paul, Bess Armstrong as Corie, Barbara Barrie as Mrs. Banks, and Hans Conried as Velasco, with the film initially airing in March 1982.

Cartoon of Day



Torture in Israeli dungeons!

Cartoonist: Mikail Ciftci from Turkey

“Patterns of Friendship” exhibition of Russian, Iranian artists to debut in Moscow

TEHRAN- The art exhibition “Patterns of Friendship” will come to life on August 16 in Moscow, marking a historic cultural exchange between Russia and Iran.

Organized by the Iranian Embassy, the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka, and supported by the Russian Ministry of Culture, the festival aims to pay tribute to the late Russian artist Sergey Andriyaka.

TV BRICS has also been named the general media partner of the event.

Over 600 artists from around the world have registered for the competition, with Iranian participants dedicating their works to Russia and Russian artists showcasing their vision of Iran.

The exhibition, curated by Sare Art Gallery in Russia and Artibition Gallery in Iran, will feature 200 works by young talents and 40 pieces by renowned masters. This platform will provide an opportunity for budding artists to enter the art market and make a name for themselves.

At the opening ceremony, the winners of the competition will be awarded, with one work selected from each country. The winners will receive cash prizes, while the finalists will receive trips to Russia and Iran, as well as professional gifts.



The exhibition will be held at the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka in Moscow for a month before traveling to other cities in Russia and Iran, including St. Petersburg, Kazan, Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz.

Sergey Andriyaka (1958-2024) was a watercolor artist. He is known as one of the leading masters of modern watercolor painting. The artist began the creative activity with oil paints, gouache, and tempera. He was engaged in mosaics, stained-glass windows, etching, and signature on porcelain and enamel. His

acquaintance with the cultural heritage of Western Europe has played just as important a role. However, his favorite technique was always watercolor painting.

The Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka was founded in 2002. It is the first institution in Russia that provides an educational program “Painting and Fine Arts”. Along with learning thoroughly the art of drawing and painting, which is essential for every professional artist, students try different techniques and types of fine art including watercolor, tempera and oil painting, pastel,

etchings, monumental painting, stained glass, Roman and Florentine mosaic, sgraffito, sculpture, ceramics, pottery, porcelain modeling, porcelain and ceramics painting, enamel miniatures, jewelry, book illustrations, etc.

The academy has many exhibition spaces as well as one of the few Museums of Watercolor in Russia. The former presents the visitor with a unique collection of masterpieces, watercolors, drawings, and book illustrations made by Russian and European artists.

Bitra Farrahi’s statue to be unveiled at Tehran’s Cinema Museum



TEHRAN-The statue of the late Iranian actress Bitra Farrahi will be unveiled at a commemoration ceremony in the Cinema Museum in Tehran on Wednesday.

In the ceremony, which will be held with the presence of artists, her treasured possessions including awards, documents, and memorabilia will also be unveiled along with her statue, ILNA reported.

Farrahi, renowned for her prominent role in Dariush Mehrjui's celebrated film

“Hamun,” passed away last November due to complications stemming from lung and heart failure. She was 65.

Born in Tehran in 1958, Farrahi pursued her passion for acting by enrolling in the John Robert Powers Modeling and Acting School in the United States. Upon her return to Iran in 1980, she made her debut in the film industry with her notable performance in “Hamun” in 1989. It was through musician Nasser Cheshmazar's recommendation that she caught the attention of director Dariush Mehrjui, landing her the pivotal role of Mahshid.

The success of “Hamun” propelled Farrahi into the limelight, leading to collaborations with esteemed Iranian directors such as Ahmadreza Darvish, Bahman Farmanara, and Masoud Kimiai in the subsequent years of her career.

Farrahi's versatility as an actress is

particularly noted for her willingness to portray complex and independent female characters who grapple with familial and psychological challenges throughout her career.

She has left an indelible mark with her performances in numerous notable films, including Ehsan Biglari's “My Brother, Khosrow,” Alireza Raisian's “Time of Love,” Ahmadreza Darvish's “Kimia,” Masoud Kimiai's “Protest,” Bahman Farmanara's “A House Built on Water,” Rakhshan Banietemad's “Mainline,” and Rasul Sadr-Ameli's “Waiting for A Miracle”.

In addition to her film credits, Farrahi also showcased her talent in several noteworthy television series. Among them are Bijan Birang's “Green Land,” Mehdi Fakhimzadeh's “Reign of Love,” Dariush Farhang's “The Enchanted,” Mohammadreza Varzi's “Iran-Dokht,” and Kamal Tabrizi's “Motherland”.

Iranian short animation “Piano” to compete in Turkish festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short animation “Piano,” directed by Marjan Keshani and Shahab Shamsi has been selected for the competition section of the 6th Directed By Women Turkey, due to be held from September 13 to 15 in Istanbul.

A production of the Documentary, Experimental, and

Animation Film Center (DEFC), “Piano” will compete in the Best International Short Film competition alongside 11 other films, ILNA reported.

“Piano” is a 7-minute animation that explores the themes of poverty and the hardship of life. It tells the story of someone who dreams of buying a Piano

but their dream is shattered when a war erupts, leaving them struggling to acquire even the most basic necessities of life.

Directed By Women Turkey which will bring together the directors and films of women in the national and international level in Istanbul.

There will be a universal festival

where short films from women with different perspectives and stories from each language and culture meet.

Directed By Women Turkey is the Turkish organization of the festival, which has been held in many countries around the world, especially in New York and Spain, for six years in September.

“Myths of Management” published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book “Myths of Management: What People Get Wrong About Being the Boss” written by Cary Cooper and Stefan Stern has been released in the bookstores across the country.

Farshid Abdi, Mehرداد Hosseini Shakib, and Zahra Mostafai have translated the book and Pouyesh-e Modam Publications has brought it out, Mehr reported.

The book tries to answer certain questions: Is it really true that working longer hours makes you more successful? Do you really need to hide your emotions in order to gain respect as a manager? Does higher pay really always lead to higher performance?

The world of management is blighted by fads, fiction and falsehoods. In “Myths of Management,” Cary Cooper and Stefan Stern take you on an entertaining journey through the most famous myths surrounding the much-written about topic of management.

They debunk false assumptions, inject truth into over-simplifications and tackle damaging habits head-on.

Fascinating insights from psychology, leadership theory and organizational behavior provide you with a compelling and practical guide to avoid falling into the trap of cliché, misinformation and prejudice.

This engaging read offers you authentic insights into the reality of work, drawn from extensive research and real-world business examples, to give you the essential knowledge you need to become a better manager.

Whether cheesy, naïve or even destructive, management myths could be holding you back and stifling your team's potential. “Myths of Management,” originally published in 2017, is the guide you need to become an enlightened manager.

Sir Cary Cooper, 84, is an American-born British psychologist and professor of

organizational psychology and health at Lancaster University Management School.

Prior to working at Lancaster University, Cooper was Head of the Manchester School of Management (within UMIST) from the early 80s.

In 1995 he became Pro-Vice Chancellor and then Deputy Vice Chancellor of UMIST until 2002. From 1979 to 1980 he was chairman of the Management Education and Development Division of the Academy of Management and was elected as Founding President of the British Academy of Management.

He was the founding editor-in-chief of the Journal of Organizational Behavior. Stefan Stern has been writing about management and leadership for over two decades.

He has worked for the BBC, Management Today magazine and the Financial Times, where he was the management columnist between 2006 and 2010. He continues to write for the FT, the Guardian and other publications.