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Iranian citizens participated in the funeral ceremony for Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on August 5, 2024.

'Dead Cat Diplomacy' Fails Here

Western calls, statements intended to tamper Iran's calculations ahead of retaliation against Israel

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Inside Israel's fractured leadership: From total victory slogan to gibberish talking

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Growing rifts within the Israeli establishment have turned the spotlight on the regime's frustrations, strategic miscalculations and military failures amid its brutal war in the Gaza Strip.

More than 10 months have passed since Israel declared war on the Palestinian territory but it has not been able to achieve its main goals which include the elimination of Hamas.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has time and again vowed to continue the onslaught until achieving "total victory" over Hamas.

But Netanyahu, known as Bibi, has not only failed to deliver on his promise but his army continues to suffer setbacks at the hands of resistance fighters on the battlefield in Gaza.

Bibi, Gallant lock horns

Such divisions have once again come to light amid a war of words between Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant.

Speaking during a closed-door hearing before a Knesset committee on Monday, Gallant dismissed Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "nonsense" and "gibberish". ▶ Page 5

Abbas Araqchi's vision for Iranian foreign policy

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian presented his list of proposed ministers to parliament on Saturday. Abbas Araqchi, a seasoned Iranian diplomat has been nominated to serve as Iran's foreign minister in Pezeshkian's administration.

Despite being a well-known face among politicians and the Iranian populace, the diplomat has proceeded to publish his potential modus operandi if approved to take the role of the top diplomat. Araqchi says his foreign policy will be "comprehensive, active and effective" and try to bring prosperity and power to Iranians in the next four years.

Below is a look at Araqchi's stated principles, missions, and priorities during his potential four years in the foreign ministry.

Principles

Araqchi's proposed foreign policy as the next foreign minister is anchored in several foundational principles. It is guided by the general lines of foreign policy established in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, along with the measures and directives of Imam Khomeini (the founder of the Islamic Republic) and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, emphasizing the strategic triad of "dignity, wisdom, and expediency." ▶ Page 2

Iran will respond harshly to Israel's assassination of Haniyeh: Hamas envoy

TEHRAN- A representative of the Hamas Resistance movement in Iran has declared that Iran will seek retribution against the Israeli regime for the assassination of the Hamas leader in Tehran, potentially escalating to a higher military response.

As reported by Tasnim News, Khaled Qaddoumi expressed his belief that Iran will retaliate against the Zionist regime for the killing of Haniyeh on July 31.

He noted, "The speaker of the Iranian Parliament assured that Tehran would deliver a 'different and decisive' reaction to the Israeli actions."

Qaddoumi emphasized, "The past experiences indicate that if the Zionist regime is not met with retaliatory action, it will continue its aggressive behavior."

He affirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose territorial integrity has been compromised by Haniyeh's martyrdom, will undoubtedly respond to Israel, highlighting that the response will not be proportional to the Israeli crime but will be of a greater magnitude. ▶ Page 2

Iran reserves rights to retaliate against Israel: acting FM

TEHRAN – Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, has declared that the Islamic Republic retains the "inherent right" to retaliate against Israel for violations of its sovereignty.

During a phone conversation with Italy's foreign minister, Antonio Tajani, on Tuesday, Baqeri Kani stressed that these acts of aggression are a blatant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria, Lebanon, and Iran.

He reiterated that while Iran continues its efforts to halt the Israeli onslaught on Gaza, it reserves the right to respond to these violations.

Baqeri Kani emphasized that Iran remains committed to supporting efforts aimed at ending Israel's genocidal war against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Baqeri Kani accused the Israeli regime of attempting to expand the conflict to other countries in the region, highlighting recent incidents as "clear examples" of Israel's provocations. ▶ Page 3

Tehran says it won't need 'permission' from other nations to defend sovereignty

TEHRAN – Iran has firmly reiterated its "recognized right" to defend its national sovereignty and establish deterrence against Israel, stating that the country does not seek permission from any nation to exercise this right.

On Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani responded sharply to a joint statement issued by the UK, France, and Germany, which urged Iran and its allies to "refrain from attacks" against Israel.

Kanaani criticized the three European nations for their failure to condemn Israel's actions, accusing them of "impudence" in demanding that Iran refrain from taking punitive measures against the regime that has repeatedly violated Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Kanaani described the Western countries' demands as politically illogical and contrary to international law. He argued that such positions effectively support and embolden the perpetrators of international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. ▶ Page 2

Iran ranks 2nd in RobotChallenge 2024

TEHRAN – Iranian students aged 7-17 finished second in the RobotChallenge 2024 which was held from August 9 to 11 in Beijing, China.

Over 5,000 contestants from 31 countries participated in the competition.

China and Romania ranked first and third respectively, IRNA reported.

A total of 16 groups, each made up of 3 students, represented Iran in the robotics competition.

The Iranian team competed in RoboSumo, Soccer, Innovation, Robot Rugby, and Technical Report leagues.

For the second year in a row, the Iranian team managed to claim second place in the Technical Report.

Two U12 Iranian teams won silver and bronze medals in the innovation league; China ranked first. ▶ Page 7



Ayatollah Khamenei, Haniyeh shared goal of unifying Muslims: Haniyeh's son

TEHRAN – The eldest son of Martyr Ismail Haniyeh has reaffirmed the unique and warm relationship between Ismail Haniyeh and the Leader of Islamic Revolution, underpinned by their shared goal of fostering unity among the Islamic nations for the sake of Palestine's liberation.

"The bond between the two leaders was not just personal, but also symbolic of a broader alignment in the struggle against oppression and occupation," Abdul Salam Haniyeh said in an interview with Al Mayadeen on Monday.

During the interview, he spoke extensively about his father's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause. ▶ Page 3

Economic council ratifies NIOC plan to boost oil production

TEHRAN – Iran's Economic Council has approved a plan proposed by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to boost oil production in 34 oil fields, Shana reported.

This plan, in principle, is slated to raise Iran's daily oil production swiftly by 250,000 barrels.

During a meeting of the mentioned council on Monday, the 14th administration's first vice-president Mohammadreza Aref referred to the important role and performance of the Economic Council in the framework of the decision-making processes in the country.

He noted the council was in charge of coordinating decisions made by different ministries and other governmental bodies amid planning and directing financial resources toward the country's largest developmental and infrastructural projects. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

European troika serving the Zionists

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

In a note, Jam-e-Jam addressed the joint statement of the three European countries Germany, England, and France. It wrote: These three countries asked the Islamic Republic of Iran and the resistance groups to give up attacking Israel.

Without pointing out the role of the criminal Zionist regime in the escalation of murder in Gaza and the continuation of their evils in the West Asia region, these countries have tried to replace the oppressed and the aggressor by giving the wrong address regarding the developments in West Asia.

They also tried to dissuade Iran from responding with the trick of "intimidation", and secondly, to instill in the public opinion that any response from Iran could have such consequences for the country. During the past 10 months, the troika has never tried to achieve a ceasefire and has not worried about the expansion of the war in the region. Therefore, it is obvious that their claims, which are more than a passing role in this scene, cannot be taken seriously.

Although the Europeans are doing the task assigned to them by their American-Zionist masters, they should know that Iran's decision to punish this criminal is definite and their deceitful efforts will have no effect in this regard.

Kayhan: The Zionists are panicking

In an analysis, Kayhan dealt with the issue of Iran's revenge against Israel and quoted Sadollah Zarei, an expert on international issues, as saying: There are two elements in the field of Iran's response to the assassination of martyr Haniyeh.

One element is revenge and the other element is surprise. The element of revenge indicates the certainty of our actions, and the element of surprise determines the uncertainty of the time, place, and way of our actions.

It means that we do not provide any information to the enemy about how to react to this issue. The result of such a policy is that it forces the regime to be on a state of alert in all areas. On the other hand, this situation will be costly for the enemy, that is, it will upset the regime and cause complete panic in its members.

Therefore, the Zionists want this incident to happen very quickly and be over so that their situation becomes normal, but this is not compatible with the policy of the Islamic

Republic, which wants to carry out the operation surprisingly.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: The prospect of renewing Iran's diplomacy with the United States and the European Union

In a commentary, Donya-e-Eqtesad wrote: In his inauguration speech, Masoud Pezeshkian undertook to normalize Iran's relations with the world, which reflects Tehran's need to reduce sanctions that have affected Iran's economy.

The most reasonable path for the European Union, especially the European troika, is to use the emergence of a new government in Iran for diplomatic re-engagement on the nuclear issue. The new agreement can create a space for changes in other Iranian policies. The reformers are probably looking to balance relations with Europe, not to cut ties with Russia, but to diversify the country's foreign relations.

One tangible step is for the European Union to help Iran meet the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog for combating money laundering and terrorist financing. During the campaign, Pezeshkian expressed interest in removing Iran from the FATF blacklist, which is important to improving Iran's business relations.

Etemad: The focus should be on bilateral diplomacy

In a conversation with Shoaib Bahman, an expert on Russian affairs, Etemad discussed the 14th government's attempt to balance between the West and the East. The paper said: The foundation of Iran's foreign policy is the pursuit of a balancing policy.

As a rule, Iran should be ready for extensive cooperation with all parties and send the message to all parties that Iran, as an independent country, is willing to cooperate and develop its relations both with countries like Russia and China and with Western countries, especially European countries.

In the current situation, Iran should not keep its potential and actual capacities suspended and should use all the opportunities that exist in the international system. We need very strong intelligence and diplomacy, and the new government should be demanded to be able to focus on different aspects of diplomacy, communicate with all parties, and ensure their interests. In the current situation, what the government can do is focus on multilateral diplomacy.

of the Islamic Revolution, has cautioned the Israeli regime of a "harsh response" to the assassination of Haniyeh, asserting that avenging the blood of the Palestinian resistance leader is a duty of the Islamic nations.

facilitate his extradition based on cooperation and reciprocity principles.

Gharib Abadi also urged Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's acting foreign minister, to take prompt and decisive action to ensure Sobhani is extradited and held accountable for his actions.

Mohammad Javad Sobhani, also known as Sasha Sobhani, is the son of Ahmad Sobhani, a former ambassador of Iran to Venezuela and Colombia. Sobhani earned a business management degree from UCAB University in Venezuela.

He has lived abroad for several years, running a website dedicated to online gambling and casino games.

His engagement in illicit financial practices, including fraud, moral corruption, and money laundering, has resulted in his inclusion on Interpol's blacklist.

Tehran says it won't need 'permission' from other nations to defend sovereignty

From page 1 ▶ He underscored Iran's commitment to defending its national sovereignty and security while striving to establish lasting stability in the region.

In what appeared to be a direct reference to Israel, Kanaani asserted that Iran is determined to counter the true source of insecurity and terrorism in West Asia.

The spokesman further stated that Iran will not seek anyone's approval in exercising its recognized rights. He urged the Western nations to focus their efforts on confronting Israel's aggressive actions and to stop the

ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.

Kanaani also highlighted that the primary reason for the escalating Gaza crisis is the failure of international bodies, including the UN Security Council, to address Israel's brutal actions.

He criticized the extensive political and military support provided by Western powers to Israel, arguing that this has only fueled the conflict.

The remarks follow the assassination of

Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, in Tehran by Israeli forces on July 31.

This act of terrorism occurred during Israel's ongoing military campaign in Gaza, which has claimed nearly 40,000 Palestinian lives, primarily women and children, since October 7 of the previous year.

In response to Haniyeh's assassination, Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, vowed "harsh punishment" against Israel, emphasizing that Iran considers it a duty to avenge the blood of the Palestinian Resistance leader.

Abbas Araqchi's vision for Iranian foreign policy

From page 1 ▶ This policy framework is also set to align with the overarching policies of the system regarding foreign and international relations, the Seventh Development Plan, and the resolutions adopted by the parliament regarding the Iranian nuclear program.

Additionally, it reflects the principles articulated in the "Second Phase of the Revolution" statement, while incorporating the views and approaches of Masoud Pezeshkian and his team.

Central to this foreign policy are fundamental principles that prioritize national security, national interests, the development and progress of the country, and the enhancement of Iran's international status and dignity for the country and its people.

Missions

Araqchi aims to secure national interests and enhance national wealth through a comprehensive and strategic approach to economic diplomacy.

This involves integrating foreign policy with the country's economic goals, prioritizing endogenous and outward-looking strategies, and leveraging regional opportunities, particularly in neighboring



countries and the Global South. Key initiatives include fostering strong relations with China and Russia, engaging with emerging economies, and maintaining dignified interactions with Europe. The minister will focus on countering U.S. sanctions, promoting foreign investment, and enhancing trade exchanges, especially in border areas.

Additionally, there will be efforts to address environmental challenges through regional cooperation and to manage immigration issues effectively. In short, Araqchi wants coordinated efforts to boost Iran's economic presence in global markets while navigating geopolitical complexities.

The diplomat wants to preserve national dignity and enhance Iran's international status

through various diplomatic strategies. Key initiatives include promoting parliamentary diplomacy by engaging members of parliament, employing informal and public diplomacy to shape a positive image of Iran, and countering negative narratives about the country.

The proposed minister aims to leverage Iran's cultural and civilizational strengths, combat Islamophobia, and support Iranians abroad while enhancing consular services.

Additionally, there will be a focus on tourism development and incorporating women and ethnic representatives in diplomatic efforts.

Priorities

Araqchi also aims to enhance the country's strategic position

regionally and globally through a multifaceted approach.

Key priorities include navigating sanctions effectively, promoting economic diplomacy to support GDP growth aligned with the "Seventh Development Plan", and fostering strong ties with neighboring countries to minimize differences and enhance infrastructure.

The proposed minister will focus on diversifying foreign relations across various sectors, maintaining connections with Iranians abroad, and redefining Iran's role in the evolving global order.

Active participation in international events and countering anti-Iran narratives are also essential.

Furthermore, there will be a concerted effort to synergize government economic sectors with foreign policy and strengthen the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through structural reforms and enhanced educational initiatives.

It seems that Araqchi's approach will be characterized by a balanced diplomacy that leverages opportunities while addressing threats, promoting public diplomacy, and ensuring that embassies effectively contribute to these goals.

Palestinian Resistance turned into global movement following Oct. 7: Baqeri Kani



TEHRAN - Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, announced that Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has significantly transformed Palestinian and regional Resistance into a worldwide movement against Israel.

Baqeri Kani made these remarks during a Tuesday ceremony in Tehran honoring Ismail Haniyeh, the politburo chief of Hamas, who was recently assassinated in the Iranian

capital.

"The Palestinian Resistance has now spread across the globe, driven by its bravery, courage, and self-sacrifice," Baqeri Kani stated. "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm has altered numerous global calculations and power dynamics, one of which is the transformation of Palestinian Resistance into a global force."

He emphasized that Resistance is now recognized worldwide as an effective solution, and has evolved into a dominant political discourse on the global stage. According to the top diplomat, Haniyeh's martyrdom has only strengthened the Palestinian cause internationally, making global Resistance an undeniable reality.

Haniyeh had traveled to Tehran to attend the inauguration of Iran's new President, Masoud Pezeshkian, along with other leaders from the Axis of Resistance. His assassination on July

31 occurred amidst Israel's ongoing military offensive in Gaza, which has claimed nearly 40,000 Palestinian lives, mostly women and children.

Baqeri Kani also took the opportunity to condemn Israel, labeling it a "cancerous tumor" deliberately established and supported by Western powers to foment discord and conflict among Muslim nations.

"The Zionist regime is not an independent entity but a malignant extension of American and Western policies in the region," he asserted. "Their goal is to implant an impure nucleus in a region populated by Muslim countries to incite tension, discord, and warfare."

He further added that preserving the Zionist regime's existence is a core principle for Western nations, and their broader policies are built upon this foundation.

'UN Security Council urged to immediately halt Zionist crimes': Qalibaf

TEHRAN- In a correspondence addressed to parliamentary leaders worldwide, the speaker of Iran's parliament emphasized the urgent need for the United Nations Security Council to take decisive measures to stop the atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli regime in Gaza.

Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf's message highlights, "It has been ten months since the Gaza crisis began.

During this time, there has been a persistent pattern of widespread crimes and deliberate attacks on innocent Palestinian civilians. This situation underscores the Israeli regime's apparent lack of political will to resolve

this devastating conflict and the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Gaza.

The recent brutal assault on

the Al-Tabin school by the Israeli regime, which resulted in the deaths of over one hundred individuals and injuries to many more innocent Palestinians, exemplifies the regime's malicious intent to continue its warfare and civilian massacres in Gaza, with an aim towards ethnic cleansing.

These relentless attacks on civilians constitute clear violations of international humanitarian law.

Therefore, the Israeli regime's blatant disregard for international regulations and its ongoing aggression in Gaza necessitate a coordinated and effective international response to support the Palestinian people.

The actions of the Zionist regime have crossed all boundaries by consistently targeting civilians and Palestinian officials, leading many to believe that these actions

are accelerating its decline and possible downfall. A particularly alarming recent incident was the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran claims that, following Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, it possesses the inherent right to defend itself against this aggressive act that jeopardizes its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it will respond accordingly.

Iran urges the international community to take necessary measures to put an end to such overt acts of aggression and repeated infringements on national sovereignty.

We call upon the global community and all individuals, particularly esteemed parliamentary leaders, to unequivocally condemn the actions

of the Israeli occupying regime and to fulfill their international, moral, and humanitarian obligations in support of the oppressed Palestinian people.

They must act to prevent the killing of Palestinian civilians, which constitutes clear war crimes and serious violations of international law and human rights, and ensure that the Zionist regime is held accountable through decisive and preventive actions, compelling it to comply with international laws.

In this regard, the United Nations Security Council must take immediate and serious measures to halt the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza, which are being executed with direct and extensive support from the United States and certain Western nations."

Iran will respond harshly to Israel's assassination of Haniyeh: Hamas envoy

From page 1 ▶ Haniyeh was in Tehran to participate in the inauguration ceremony of Masoud Pezeshkian when he was killed in an Israeli operation on July 31.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the leader

Iran demands extradition of convicted citizen from Spain

TEHRAN- The secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights has called on Iran's Foreign Ministry to take action for the extradition of Mohammad Javad (Sasha) Sobhani from Spain.

In a correspondence addressed to Iran's Foreign Ministry, Kazem Gharib Abadi highlighted Sobhani's offenses, which include involvement in gambling and betting, misleading Iranian youth, child abuse, and money laundering.

Gharib Abadi stated, "All pertinent information and documentation had been previously submitted to the Spanish authorities via diplomatic channels; however, no progress has been made by Spain."

Emphasizing the significance of Sobhani's case and the detrimental impact of his criminal activities on societal psychological security, he stressed the need for special measures to

'Dead cat diplomacy' fails here

Western calls, statements intended to tamper Iran's calculations ahead of retaliation against Israel

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The “dead cat diplomacy”, a tactic used to lay the blame at the opposing party and its allies' feet when negotiations are on the brink of collapse or have already failed, may have been a coercive tool to pressure regional countries back in 1991, the time Israel could still present itself as the victim.

In 2024, however, the growing awareness regarding Israel's true apartheid colors and the West's hypocritical approach to human rights, make it unlikely that the appearance of new dead cats at Iran's or Hamas' doorsteps would turn them into the culprits.

The term “dead cat diplomacy” was first coined by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who was struggling to persuade disillusioned Arab leaders to attend the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference with Israel.

The Madrid Conference, despite not producing any treaties at the time, became the stepping stone for Washington to importune regional countries to let their guards down against Israel.

It laid the groundwork for the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty in 1994 and even the Abraham Accords, according to which the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan normalized ties with Israel in 2020.

Arab leaders' hesitancy to engage in talks with Israel following the regime's blatant disregard of its commitments under the Geneva Conference of 1973, had become a real drain on Washington's time.

The U.S. needed to impose a solution on Arabs in the aftermath of the first Persian Gulf War, and at the same time make it look credible.

Since 1989, Baker had been attempting to engage Arab nations in discussions with Israel.

After struggling to achieve a significant progress, he decided it was time to adopt a new strategy. Between March and October 1991,



Baker made eight trips to West Asia, meeting with leaders from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and a Palestinian delegation.

During these meetings, he warned Arab leaders about the repercussions of refusing to negotiate with Israel.

Meanwhile, to shift blame for the lack of peace in the region, he publicly criticized the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians.

By leveraging the media, Baker created an environment where Arab nations felt they could not withdraw from negotiations without being seen as opposing peace, as noted by Aaron Miller, one of his advisors on West Asia.

Since Baker's successful pull at Arabs to concede to Israel, the so-called dead cat diplomacy became the strategy of choice for American politicians at any negotiating table.

Washington seems to believe that it is in a propitious position regardless of what's happening on the ground, due to its control over media and expertise at playing mind games. But what goes down in the field of diplomacy and optics, must eventually come down.

Iran's retaliation against Israel and an opportunity to absolve Israel

In recent days, the West has been trying to throw its weight behind Israel as the regime awaits an Iranian retaliation for the assassination of Hamas chief

Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil.

This support includes both military assistance and efforts to vindicate the Zionists and justify their latest terror acts.

In a joint statement released on Monday, the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy said they had expressed their support for “the defense of Israel against Iranian aggression” during recent discussions.

“We called on Iran to stand down its ongoing threats of a military attack against Israel and discussed the serious consequences for regional security should such an attack take place,” the statement added.

It did not, however, condemn Israel's killing of a Hamas leader on Iranian soil, which is considered to be a violation of Iran's sovereignty, as well as a blatant breach of international law.

Following the assassination of Haniyeh on July 31st, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei pledged to avenge his death, referring to him as a “dear guest” to Iran.

Multiple Iranian officials have reiterated the vow in the past days.

In their statement, the American and European politicians also expressed support towards efforts to “reach a ceasefire and hostage release deal in Gaza”.

However, their statement omitted any mention of the widespread reports and

allegations accusing Israel, particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, of hindering peace efforts in Gaza.

A day earlier, Germany, France, and Britain issued a similar statement, asserting that Iran would bear responsibility if the latest “opportunity” for a ceasefire in Gaza does not succeed.

The E3 concluded that any potential Iranian strikes on Israel could ultimately derail the ongoing negotiations between Hamas and the Israeli regime, after over 10 months of the regime's onslaught and decimation in Gaza, and its killing of a lead negotiator on the other side of the table.

“These statements are nothing new. The West has been a major facilitator of Israeli crimes against Palestinians and provides unwavering support to the regime across all fronts,” Mohsen Pakayeen, a former Iranian diplomat spending several years as an ambassador to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Thailand, and Zambia told the Tehran Times.

“The West knew Iran and Hezbollah would respond to the assassinations of top resistance leaders in Beirut and Tehran.

Washington and its other Western allies allowed Israel to move ahead with its dangerous plans, and are now attempting to insulate it against the consequences of its actions.

They are essentially asking Iran to refrain from responding to the aggression or risk being known as peace-blockers in Gaza, while they know very well that Israel is the one obstructing the establishment of a ceasefire,” the former diplomat explained.

However, Pakayeen added that the West's latest efforts to protect Israel's security and reputation are unlikely to be successful. “Iran will go ahead with its retaliation plans regardless of what the West says. Furthermore, public opinion is no longer as easily swayed as it once was, especially after everything the regime has done in the past ten months.”

Iran reserves rights to retaliate against Israel: acting FM



From Page 1 ▶ These incidents include Israel's April attack on the Iranian embassy in Damascus, its strike on a residential area in Beirut, Lebanon, and the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau, in Tehran last month.

Haniyeh had been in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's new

President, Masoud Pezeshkian, alongside other leaders of the Axis of Resistance.

His assassination has led to widespread outrage in Iran, with Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warning of a “harsh response” to avenge the death of the Palestinian Resistance leader.

“The criminal and terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest on our soil, leaving us in mourning,” Khamenei said, adding that this act of aggression would not go unpunished.

During the phone call, Tajani expressed Italy's concerns over the escalating tensions in the region and urged all parties to exercise restraint. He also emphasized the importance of advancing a new initiative by Egypt, Qatar,

and the United States to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza as soon as possible.

Earlier this month, these three countries issued a joint statement calling for the resumption of negotiations to secure a ceasefire and the release of prisoners and captives.

The ongoing conflict, which began on October 7 after Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in retaliation for Israel's long-standing campaign against Palestinians, has resulted in a devastating toll.

Israel's military offensive in Gaza has so far claimed the lives of 39,897 Palestinians, mostly women and children, with 92,152 others injured. Thousands more remain missing, feared dead beneath the rubble.

Ayatollah Khamenei, Haniyeh shared goal to unify Muslims: Haniyeh's son

TEHRAN – The eldest son of Martyr Ismail Haniyeh has reaffirmed the unique and warm relationship between Ismail Haniyeh and the Leader of Islamic Revolution, underpinned by their shared goal of fostering unity among the Islamic nations for the sake of Palestine's liberation.

“The bond between the two leaders was not just personal, but also symbolic of a broader alignment in the struggle against oppression and occupation,” Abdul Salam Haniyeh said in an interview with Al Mayadeen on Monday.

During the interview, he spoke extensively about his father's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause.

Ismail Haniyeh, the former head of the Hamas political bureau, was martyred in a terrorist attack in Tehran. His son, in an interview with Al-Mayadeen, shed light on the life and moral character of his father, emphasizing the deep connections that shaped his journey of

Resistance.

The funeral of Ismail Haniyeh, which saw millions of mourners from Tehran to Doha, was a powerful testament to the significance of the Palestinian cause within the Islamic world. Abdul Salam Haniyeh recounted the overwhelming turnout, noting that the massive participation was a clear message from the Islamic Ummah and all freedom-loving people around the globe: Palestine is an issue that belongs to everyone.

He emphasized that Ismail Haniyeh maintained a close and affectionate relationship with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

This bond, he explained, was rooted in a shared vision of uniting the Islamic Ummah in the fight for the liberation of Palestine. According to Abdul Salam, this unity was a cornerstone of the relationship between his father and the Ayatollah Khamenei, reflecting their mutual commitment to the Palestinian cause.



He further added that the enormous crowd, gathered to bid farewell to the martyred leader, reinforced the idea that no matter the challenges, Palestine and Jerusalem will always be the guiding compass for the Islamic Ummah.

This belief, Abdul Salam explained, was the driving force behind his father's lifelong work—ensuring that the Islamic world remains united in its quest to liberate Palestine.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Iran football league to kick off amidst venue and VAR controversies

TEHRAN – The 24th season of the Iran Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) is set to commence on Thursday, under a cloud of uncertainty, as venue and Video Assistant Referee (VAR) issues cast a shadow over the league's start.

Defending champions Persepolis will face Zob Ahan in an unusual situation. The match will be played in Arak, rather than their traditional home ground in Tehran's Azadi Stadium. This shift is due to ongoing renovations at the iconic stadium, a situation mirrored by many other clubs across the league. The Iran Football Federation's stringent standards for venues have left several teams scrambling to find suitable grounds.

The absence of VAR has also been a major point of contention. Despite promises from the federation to implement the technology this season, only one stadium – Arak's Imam Khomeini – is equipped with VAR, hosting the Persepolis and Zob Ahan match. The lack of VAR is expected to reignite debates over refereeing decisions, which plagued the previous season.

While venue and VAR issues dominate the pre-season narrative, the on-field action promises to be as exciting as ever. Perennial powerhouses Persepolis, Esteghlal, Sepahan, and Tractor are once again the favorites to clinch the title. With significant investments in their squads, these teams are poised for a thrilling battle.

Tractor, in particular, have made waves in the transfer market by acquiring three key players from rivals Persepolis: Alireza Beiranvand, Mehdi Torabi, and Danial Esmailifar. Coupled with the appointment of former Iran national team coach Dragan Skocic, Tractor are determined to dethrone Persepolis.

Sepahan, meanwhile, will be looking to bounce back from a disappointing AFC Champions League exit. The club's Portuguese manager, Jose Morais, is under intense pressure to deliver results from the outset.

A total of 16 teams will compete in the 2024/25 PGPL season. Chadormalu and Kheybar are debutants in the league.

PGPL Matchweek 1:

Thursday:

- Persepolis vs. Zob Ahan
- Esteghlal Khuzestan vs. Aluminum
- Malavan vs. Gol Gohar

Friday:

- Sepahan vs. Chadormalu
- Shams Azar vs. Esteghlal
- Mes vs. Tractor
- Havadar vs. Kheybar
- Nassaji vs. Foolad

Greek defender Chatziisaias joins Esteghlal Khuzestan: IPL

TEHRAN – Greek defender Dimitrios Chatziisaias joined Iranian football club Esteghlal Khuzestan.

The 31-year-old center-back played for Indian club Punjab last year.

Esteghlal Khuzestan had completed the signing of French forward Thievy Guivane Bifouma Kouloussa. The Ahvaz-based football team will start the 2024–25 Iran Professional League (IPL) on Thursday under leadership of Montenegrin coach Miodrag “Grof” Bozovic.

Iran volleyball federation linked with Tomaso Totolo

TEHRAN – Iran volleyball federation is going to hire Italian volleyball coach Tomaso Totolo.

Totolo was Vladimir Alekno's assistant in Iran national volleyball team during the 2020 Olympic

Games in Tokyo.

The federation parted ways with him after the Games. The 58-year-old Italian analyst has already worked as Serbia men's national volleyball assistant, Italy and Russian club Zenit Saint Petersburg. Iran is looking to find a big coach but wants to find a big assistant first and Totolo is the candidate to take the job.

Mehdi Abdi returns to Tractor: IPL

TEHRAN – Mehdi Abdi has become the fourth player to move to Tractor SC from reigning Iran Pro League champion Persepolis for the 2024–25 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Abdi was on loan to Tractor in the 2023–24 season, helping the team to finish fourth in the league but has now made the move permanent.

Abdi returned to Persepolis in the summer and participated in the training but left the team very soon.

The 25-year-old forward joins Alireza Beiranvand, Danial Esmailifar and Mehdi Torabi as those who have swapped the red of Persepolis for the red of Tractor ahead of the new season which kicks off on Thursday.

N. Korea to host Iran in Laos in 2026 World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – North Korea and Iran match in the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification – AFC third round will be held at the New Laos National Stadium in Vientiane, Laos.

The match has been scheduled for Nov. 14, 2024 in Group A.

Team Melli, headed by Amir Ghalenoei, will start the campaign on Sept. 5 with a match against Kyrgyzstan at the Foolad Shahr Stadium, Isfahan.

The third round of AFC matches for the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification will be played from Sept. 5 2024 to June 10, 2025.

Inter Milan forward Taremi fit for opener against Genoa

TEHRAN – Inter Milan football team Mehdi Taremi will be available for the team's Serie A opener against Genoa.

Milan-based newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport, via FCInterNews reported that Piotr Zleinski and Stefan de Vrij will have to wait a little longer, however Taremi, Hakan Calhanoglu, and Marko Arnautovic are available for the match.

Inter is now just a handful of days away from the first league match of the season.

The Nerazzurri travel to Liguria to face Genoa on Saturday.

Inter has all their preseason friendlies behind it. The team has been in training for right around a month, albeit with the squad filtering in piecemeal following the Euros and Copa America.

Iran opposite spiker Kazemi banned for two years

TEHRAN – Iran international opposite spiker Saber Kazemi has been banned from all volleyball for two years after he rejected to join the National Team for the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Middle blocker Mohammad Mousavi and opposite spiker Amir Ghafour had also rejected to join Team Melli due to the personal problems but the Disciplinary Committee of the Iran Volleyball Federation announced that Kazemi failed to convince them his rejection.

Kazemi is not allowed to play for any Iranian team and also abroad, the federation said.

The 26-year-old player has so far not reacted to the news.

Economic council ratifies NIOC plan to boost oil production



From page 1 ▶ "Regarding the role and performance of the Economic Council and prompting its status, it is necessary to avoid creating parallel councils and committees, so that the government will be able to realize the president's announced strategies, promises, and programs as soon as possible." The first vice-president said.

Earlier this month, a Reuters survey showed that Iran's oil production in July reached 3.22 million barrels per day (bpd), the highest level since the U.S. withdrew from the nuclear pact with Iran and re-

imposed sanctions on the country in 2018.

Based on the Reuters survey, Iran has been boosting exports in the last few years despite U.S. sanctions remaining in place.

OPEC in its latest report released in early July said Iran produced 3.251 million bpd of crude oil in June, registering a 13,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month.

Based on secondary sources, Iran produced 3.238 million bpd of crude oil in May, the report said. The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the second quarter of 2024 stood at 3.237 million bpd indicating a 58,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the first quarter of the year, the report said.

The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2022 at 2.554 million bpd, while the average output in 2023 was 2.859 million bpd.

These statistics show that the Islamic Republic has maintained its place as the third-largest oil producer among the OPEC members.

Iran plans to triple value of e-commerce exchanges in 5 years

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Center for e-Commerce Development has said the entity is targeting to triple the value of e-commerce exchanges in the country in the next five years, IRNA reported.

"It is planned to triple the value of e-commerce transactions at the end of the center's five-year plan, and we hope that the set goal of 90 trillion rials (about \$180 million) will be achieved," Amin Kolahdouzan said.

Back in October 2023, Kolahdouzan said the

volume of e-commerce transactions in the country increased by 75 percent in the first six months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22, 2023) as compared to the previous year's same period.

Speaking at a ceremony held on the occasion of National E-commerce Day in Tehran, the official said: "In the first six months of this year, we had a very significant growth in the field of e-commerce compared to the same period last year."

Iran's Qeshm and Russia's Krasnodar sign 'sisterhood' MOU

TEHRAN - The Iranian Qeshm island in the Persian Gulf and Russia's Krasnodar have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish sister-city relationships in a ceremony hosted by the Russian side.

The MOU was signed by Mayor of Qeshm Mirdad Mirdadi, and his Krasnodar counterpart Yevgeny Naumov on Monday evening, IRNA reported.

According to this memorandum, which was signed in the presence of regional officials and the head of the Russian Krasnodar city council, as well as the advisor of Qeshm Free Zone Organization, these two cities will interact with each other in the fields of construction, education and cultural exchanges.

The mayor of Qeshm emphasized the development of cooperation, referring to close relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation.

Referring to the geographical location of Qeshm as well as being the largest island in the Persian Gulf, Mirdadi noted its potential in playing a role in the North-South corridor that connects Russia to open waters through Iran.

He announced the island's readiness to

transport and load goods to Russia on the North-South international route.

This island hosts more than three million domestic and foreign tourists every year, Mirdadi said while highlighting Qeshm's tourist and natural attractions.

The mayor of Krasnodar during the ceremony talked about the potential of cooperation with Qeshm, saying the Iranian island is a free trade zone and also a tourist center, and by relying on these capacities, cooperation with this region can be strengthened in both tourism and construction sectors. Naumov also spoke about the possibilities of cooperation with Qeshm Island in the field of higher education institutions, continuous exchange of students and participation in commercial and cultural projects.

In April 2024, the mayors of Qeshm and Krasnodar discussed the prospect of bilateral cooperation during a video conference call.

Iran's Qeshm Free Zone Organization and Dubna Special Economic Zone (SEZ Dubna) of the Russian Federation recently signed a memorandum of understanding to attract mutual investment and enhance infrastructure development.

New energy minister must focus on renewables

Transition to renewable is a necessity and not a choice

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN - In a meeting with legislators sitting on the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Monday, the proposed energy minister, Abbas Ali-Abadi, elaborated on his plan to increase electricity production, if he gets the necessary votes from the parliamentarians to take over the ministerial position.

Ali-Abadi said the Energy Ministry must counter an imbalance of 18,000 megawatts of electricity through electricity production and efficient use, according to parliamentary committee spokesman Ebrahim Rezaei.

"Elaborating on his plan, Ali-Abadi said old power plants should be repaired, half-finished plants should be completed and renewable plants should be expanded and given priority," Rezaei quoted the proposed minister as saying.

It is widely believed that Iran is a wasteful country in terms of energy consumption and this excessive use is chiefly due to the cheap price of energy. Reportedly, Iran with 89 million population, consumes electricity as much as Egypt and Spain combined.

According to the 2024 censuses, Egypt has 116 million population and Spain 47 million. Extravagant use of energy is not just limited to electricity.

The excessive use of energy is much worse when it comes



to gasoline, diesel, and natural gas which the Oil Ministry is responsible for.

It is heartening that the proposed minister has said the priority in producing electricity is tapping renewables. We hope that the new Pezeshkian government and particularly the Energy Ministry have realized the importance of renewable sources of energy.

Transitioning to renewable energy is essential given the fact that carbon dioxide, mostly resulting from use of fossil fuels, is the main cause of global warming.

Though it is necessary to repair and complete thermal power plants to meet the current needs, transitioning to renewable energy is not a choice but a necessity.

Given its vast geography, which seems like a subcontinent, and its geographical location on the

earth, Iran is among the countries best suited for producing energy from solar panels.

On the other hand, citizens should be trained to use electricity efficiently. This can be achieved by imposing preventative fines on those who do not observe the standards in electricity consumption, stopping subsidizing electricity, and training citizens about the environmental importance of saving energy.

It should be acknowledged that the majority of people around the world, including Iran, don't know how much emissions are released into the atmosphere by power plants.

In addition to producing electricity through renewables, the government should compel certain ministries, organizations or companies to install solar panels on the roof of their buildings or other open spaces to generate at least part of their

electricity needs.

For example, Bimeh Asia Co. (Asia Insurance Co.) is rich enough to install solar panels to produce part of its energy consumption.

However, one of its branches in downtown Tehran uses a diesel-powered engine to produce electricity in the hot summer to produce electricity to compensate for the shortage of electricity.

Generating electricity through renewable sources, including sunlight and wind, is plentiful.

Given the pace of climate warming, which is a serious headache for the human race, it is essential to invest on renewables. Of course, it is quite clear that all countries should immediately turn to renewables and exchange knowledge as human-caused global warming recognizes no borders.

It is true that Iran is an oil and gas-rich country and producing power plants running on fossil fuels is currently easier and possibly more economical, but a failure to invest in renewable energy will do more harm than good.

We will wait to assess the performance of the proposed minister Ali-Abadi if he gets the necessary votes to run the Energy Ministry, especially as the new president, Masoud Pezeshkian, has said the performance of managers is important and not their political tendency.

Afghanistan welcomes Iran's investment in development projects

TEHRAN - Afghanistan has welcomed Iran's investment in the country's economic projects, IRNA reported.

In a meeting with an Iranian trade delegation in Kabul on Monday, Afghanistan's interim Deputy Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund said that his country is eager to attract Iranian investors in order to develop Afghan mining industry, generate solar electricity and expand railway connectivity.

The Iranian delegation also proposed to launch a joint special industrial zone with Afghanistan.

Noting that Afghanistan has turned into a good place for making investment, Mullah said that the relevant ministries and organizations there, will cooperate and work closely with the investors.

The Iranian delegation, made up of economic and trade players, also held a separate meeting with Afghanistan's acting minister of commerce Haji Nooruddin Azizi. They called for the formation of a joint economic-mining zone between the two neighboring countries.

Earlier this month, Iran's commercial attaché in Afghanistan said that in order to improve Iran's presence in Afghanistan's markets, the trade between the two countries should move towards newer models of cooperation.

"Afghanistan supplies more than 80 percent of its market needs through imports, and imports from Iran constitute 25 percent of this amount," Hossein Roustaei said in a meeting on opportunities and challenges of the Afghan market, held by Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Referring to Afghanistan's import priorities, including food, agriculture, fuel, basic goods such as flour, oil, eggs, day-old chickens, medicine, medical equipment, and construction equipment, he continued: "Iran exported more than 724 million dollars of goods to Afghanistan in the first four months of the current [Iranian calendar year] (March 20-July 21) which has increased by 28 percent compared to the same period last year."

"The establishment of national security and the central government in Afghanistan

over the past two years have improved the conditions of trade with this country," he added.

Afghanistan has prioritized the exploitation of the country's mines. Therefore, Iran's traditional economic relation with Afghanistan should enter into newer models of cooperation, he stressed.

According to Roustaei, investment and operation of mines, technical and engineering services, mechanization of agriculture and smart agriculture, construction of transportation infrastructure, and renewable energies are among the new fields that should be considered for cooperation between the two countries.

He further emphasized that the establishment of a joint economic zone between the two countries should be implemented as soon as possible, saying: "Considering the recent conflicts between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghanistan wants to use the opportunity of Chabahar port in the best way. Iran can increase its transit role in the import and export of Afghanistan from the current 50 percent."

Annual cereal exports reach 91,000 tons

TEHRAN - The head of the Board of Directors of Iranian Cereal Association said that 91,000 tons of cereals were exported from the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024).

Davoud Lapehchi put the annual consumption of cereals in Iran between 950,000 tons and one million tons, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a news conference, the official said: "According to the statistics, the per capita consumption of cereals in Iran stands at between eight and 10 kilograms, the rate of which stands at 13 kg in the global average."

Turning to the production of cereals in the country, Lapehchi noted that between 650,000 and 700,000 tons of different types of cereals were produced in the country last year (ended on March 19, 2024), the rate of which is expected to increase in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20, 2024).

According to the statistics, about

199,000 tons and 243,000 tons of cereals were imported into the country in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

He further pointed out that about 50,000 tons of cereals were imported into the country in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to July 22, 2024).

Back in June, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) forecasted an increase in Iran's grain output this year amid efforts by the government in the country to rely more on domestic farming rather than imports for the basic needs of the country.

Figures cited in a report from FAO's Food Outlook, a biannual publication focusing on developments affecting global food and feed markets, showed that Iran's cereal output is expected to reach 20.1 million metric tons (mt) in 2024.

Iran was the 10th largest grain producer in Asia in 2023 with 19.8 million mt of output. The country relied on

imports for 14.9 million mt of its grain needs.

The FAO report estimated that Iran's wheat output will reach 13.5 million mt this year, flat on last year.

Rice output in the country is expected to increase by 18 percent to 2.6 million mt in 2024, the figures showed.

Iran has introduced policies to encourage increased agricultural output in the country to prevent any shortage of basic foods that can be caused by U.S. sanctions targeting its foreign trade.

According to the FAO, Iran ranks third in terms of grain reserves among Asian countries. Only China and India have larger grain reserves than Iran. China's reserves stand at 414 million mts, while India has 65 million mts. In the current year, Iran's cereal reserves amount to 11.8 million mts. Of this, 8.8 million tons are wheat reserves.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)



Call for Tender 2nd Announcement for the Purchase of Pedestal Crane needed for Belal Gas Field Development, Tender No. 952132

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

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

Inside Israel's fractured leadership: From total victory slogan to gibberish talking

From page 1 ▶ Gallant also said Netanyahu's "total victory" goal amounts to a "beating of war drums" not backed up by actions.

According to the Jerusalem Post, the war minister also said that Israel is "at a crossroads" between a deal to return the captives, a ceasefire in Gaza, and lowering the flames on the northern front, versus continuing to pound Hamas but without receiving the captives and then full-out war against Hezbollah and possibly Iran. Gallant added that he supports the first option.

Gallant's comments that were leaked to media not only disparage Netanyahu's elusive goal of eliminating Hamas but also indicate his criticism of far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir. Both ministers have called for all-out war, including an invasion of Lebanon.

Some Likud lawmakers expressed shock at Gallant's statements and called on Netanyahu to give him the ax.

The Israeli premier did not hesitate to strike back.

"When Gallant adopts the anti-Israel narrative, he damages the chances to reach a deal to release the hostages," Netanyahu's office said in a statement.

"Israel has only one option: to achieve total victory, which means wiping out Hamas's military and governing capabilities and releasing our hostages – and this victory will be achieved. This is the clear directive of Prime Minister Netanyahu and the cabinet, and it is binding for everyone – including Gallant," the statement added.

Gallant is the latest senior official who has admitted the regime's military failures in the



Gaza Strip.

Israeli victory remains elusive

On Sunday, around 100 Israeli officers warned that the regime's army is "still far from victory".

Israeli military officials are growing more frustrated with PM Netanyahu amid the regime's military failures on the Gaza battlefield

"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," the officers said in a letter to military Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi.

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

The officers acknowledged that the Palestinian resistance fac-

tions still have cross-border capabilities such as UAVs, explosive drones and mortars as they took a jab at Netanyahu's warmongering.

"This is not what victory looks like!" the letter read.

Hamas cannot be destroyed

Divisions between Netanyahu and his army also hit the headlines nearly two months ago.

On June 19, the Israeli military spokesman cast doubt about whether Netanyahu's war aim of defeating Hamas can be achieved.

"The idea that it is possible to destroy Hamas, to make Hamas vanish – that is throwing sand in the eyes of the public," Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israel's Channel 13. He added, "Hamas is an idea, deeply rooted in the hearts of the residents of Gaza. To replace those who handle civil services and distribute or steal food, something else needs to be established. This is a decision for the political echelon, and the army will implement it."

Israeli warmongering

More than 1,100 people were killed and about 250 others taken captive when Hamas carried out the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation, a surprise attack in southern Israel

on October 7, which was followed by the regime's genocidal war on the besieged territory that has so far claimed the lives of nearly 40,000 Palestinians.

Hamas said the operation was a normal response to all Israeli conspiracies against the Palestinian people.

Over 100 Israeli and foreign captives were released following a swap deal between Israel and Hamas in November last year.

Over the past months, Israelis have been staging protests calling for a ceasefire, the return of the remaining captives, Netanyahu's resignation and early elections.

Bibi has suggested that he would only be open to a temporary pause in the war for several weeks. But Hamas has stressed that any ceasefire deal should include an end to the genocidal war on Gaza and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.

For now, comments made by Gallant, Hagari and Israeli officers clearly show that the army is growing more frustrated with Netanyahu's war strategy and miscalculations.

Netanyahu is well aware that his army cannot eliminate Hamas. Nonetheless, he spares no effort to prolong the war. This is because in the absence of any military achievements during the 10 months, which has so far claimed the lives of hundreds of Israeli forces, Netanyahu is seeking to create the impression that he has made gains.

But widening rifts between Netanyahu and the army indicate that such attempts have fallen flat.

Israeli military stuck in Khan Younis Hamas probes death of Israeli captive

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Palestinian resistance continues to target the Israeli military on various fronts in the Gaza Strip, as Hamas announced an incident involving the death of one captive and the injury of two others.

In its latest statement, the al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, said an Israeli tank of the Merkava type was targeted with a barrel bomb in the al-Zanah area east of Khan Younis city in the southern Gaza Strip.

In a separate operation, the al-Qassam Brigades, in conjunction with the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades, "shot an Israeli soldier and killed him in the al-Zanah area". This also happened east of Khan Younis.

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) invaded eastern Khan Younis, again, on Friday, forcing tens of thousands of displaced families to flee the area in what has become a similar pattern over the past ten months.

The IOF appears to be struggling to gain ground in its latest assault on the southern city amid a resilient resistance.

The military media of the al-Qassam Brigades published footage documenting three sniper operations against the IOF. The footage confirmed the successful sniper operation, which killed an Israeli soldier, showing a clear shot to his head.

Hamas says the operation carried out in co-

ordination with the al-Quds Brigades followed a period of monitoring and observation of the IOF.

Other video clips also documented a sniper attack on an Israeli soldier and other sniping incidents resulting in what appeared to be injuries among the IOF.

The Israeli military admitted the death of a sergeant and the injury of two others by sniper fire on Sunday, east of Khan Younis.

In the northeastern part of Khan Younis, the al-Qassam Brigades targeted IOF units trying to advance with mortar shells.

The al-Quds Brigades media also published footage of their fighters targeting Israeli soldiers and vehicles east of Khan Younis with mortar shells.

The footage showed the observation and tracking of the Israeli army positions and the preparation of the mortar shells by the fighters, with a message to the occupation and its soldiers.

The footage also shows Israeli helicopters arriving to evacuate wounded soldiers.

Earlier on Tuesday, the al-Quds Brigades announced that they had trapped Israeli soldiers and vehicles in a field of landmines and highly explosive devices in the Qarara area north of Khan Younis, resulting in casualties.

Additionally, the al-Quds Brigades targeted a gathering of Israeli soldiers and vehicles with a barrage of mortar shells in the al-Zanah area east of the city.

In another joint operation announced on the social media platforms of the al-Qassam and al-Quds Brigades, an Israeli Merkava 4 Baz tank was targeted with a guided explosive device in the Tel al-Sultan neighborhood west of Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

In other developments, Hamas is believed to be still probing the reasons behind an incident that saw one Israeli captive killed and two others injured.

In a statement, Hamas said:

"In two separate incidents, two soldiers assigned to guard enemy prisoners shot and killed a Zionist prisoner instantly, and also severely injured two female prisoners, with efforts underway to save their lives. The enemy government bears full responsibility for these massacres and the subsequent reactions that impact the lives of the Zionist prisoners. A committee has been formed to investigate the details, which will be announced later."

Hamas has previously blamed the indiscriminate Israeli bombardment for the death of many Israeli captives held in Gaza.

In mid-December last year, the IOF shot dead three of its own captives at point-blank range despite the captives emerging from a building, with their shirts off, their hands in the air, waving a white flag and shouting in Hebrew.

The deadly and embarrassing incident for Tel Aviv occurred near Gaza City in the northern part of the enclave.

Democratic primaries in Missouri. Bush, who championed Palestine justice issues in Congress, lost to St Louis prosecutor Wesley Bell on Tuesday. This followed AIPAC providing the unprecedented single-contest amount of \$17m to defeat another Palestine supporter, Congressman Jamal Bowman, in the Democratic primaries in New York.

After Bowman's loss, AIPAC declared the pro-Israel position in the US as "both good policy and good politics."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Tabeen School attack 'deliberately timed to cause maximum casualties'

Al Jazeera's Sanad verification agency has probed the details of Israel's Saturday morning attack on Tabeen School, which killed about 100 people, including women and children.

The investigation determined the attack was "deliberately timed to cause maximum casualties", with a "large number of displaced people deliberately targeted".

To reach its findings, Sanad examined survivors' testimonies, photos of the remnants of bombs used in the attack, images showing how the bombs penetrated the ceilings of the mosque attached to the school, and documentation of the explosion's immediate aftermath.

Based on the evidence, Sanad said Israel's military fired the two guided missiles used in the attack to coincide with dawn prayers. The missiles "penetrated the mosque's roof, passed through the first floor, where the women's chapel is located, and exploded on the ground floor, where the men's chapel is situated", said Sanad in its report.

Sanad challenged the Israeli military's claims that the attack targeted Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighters it said were in the men's prayer hall at the time. It pointed out that the strikes occurred during prayer time in a mosque serving displaced civilians.

"The evidence strongly suggests a deliberate and calculated attack aimed at causing widespread loss of life," Sanad said.

voking deliberately the feelings of hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world.

In a statement, he stated that the storming took place under the protection of Israeli occupation forces, who turned the Old City into a military zone and placed restrictions on the entry of worshippers. He added that Israel is fully responsible for this escalation.

He said these incursions into Al-Aqsa Mosque constitute a violation of the existing historical and legal status quo in Al-Quds and are part of a systematic policy of Israel to divide the mosque spatially and temporally.

He underscored that scoring political points by stirring religious sentiments and provoking Muslims is a dangerous and cheap strategy.

Putin calls for establishment of Palestinian state

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday told Palestinian Authority President Mahmud Abbas that Moscow was "concerned" about civilian deaths in Gaza.

"We are concerned above all about civilian losses," Putin said, Arab News reported.

"We are doing everything ... to support Palestine and the Palestinian people," he said.

The only way to create "long-lasting, reliable, stable peace in the region" is implementation of all UN resolutions and the "creation of a fully-fledged Palestinian state," he added.

Abbas told Putin: "We feel that Russia is one of the dearest friends of the Palestinian people."

Israeli airstrike kills four-day-old twins



Newborn twins in Gaza were killed with their mother and grandmother as their father went to collect birth certificates earlier Tuesday.

Aysal, a girl, and brother Aser were born over the weekend and were just four days old when father Mohammed Abu al Qumsan left their home in Deir al Balah, central Gaza.

By the time he returned on Tuesday morning, with the certificates, his family had been killed in an Israeli airstrike.

According to local media, the family had been displaced from northern Gaza and had sheltered further south.

Video shared on social media shows the hysterical father being consoled by others, as someone holds what look like birth certificates.

His cries grow quieter and he appears to faint while two other men try to hold him up.

Arab League denounces Al-Aqsa Mosque storming by Israelis

Secretary-General of the Arab League Ahmed Aboul Gheit has strongly denounced the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israeli extremists led by far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Tuesday.

Aboul Gheit said that these extremists are pushing the situation to the brink and pro-

Fitch cuts Israel's credit rating

Credit ratings agency Fitch said Monday that it downgraded Israel's credit rating to 'A' from 'A+', citing the ongoing war in the Gaza Strip.

"The downgrade to 'A' reflects the impact of the continuation of the war in Gaza, heightened geopolitical risks and military operations on multiple fronts," it said in a statement, Anadolu reported.

Fitch also kept its rating outlook negative as the conflict in Gaza could last well into 2025 and there are risks of it broadening to other fronts, it said.

"In addition to human losses, it could result in significant additional military spending, destruction of infrastructure and more sustained damage to economic activity and investment, leading to a further deterioration of Israel's credit metrics," the rating agency added.

UN agency: Very difficult to bring food into Gaza

The World Food Program's regional director for the Middle East and North Africa has said that it is "very difficult" for the agency to bring in enough food to the besieged coastal enclave.

Speaking to Al Jazeera from Cairo, Corinne Fleischer said, "We have had to cancel or reduce the rations that we provide. We provide assistance to about one million people every month ... but we don't bring in enough."

There are three reasons for that, said Fleischer, explaining, "First, there are not enough border crossing points open. Second, once we get through, there is a problem of law and order inside Gaza that makes us have to be very tactical [about] when do we bring food in so we aren't getting looted. Thirdly, it's a very complicated operation."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

AIPAC finding it harder to confront shift in American public opinion on Israel-Palestine conflict

TEHRAN - Writing on the Al-Jazeera website in a commentary published on August 11, a distinguished fellow at the American University of Beirut says the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is "finding it harder and harder to confront a growing shift in American public opinion" on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Rami G Khouri says a Data for Progress poll released in May revealed 56 percent of Democrats believe Israel is committing "genocide" in the Gaza Strip.

Following is the text of the article titled "AIPAC is growing desperate":

As we approach the November elections in the United States, political dynamics related to the Israel-Palestine conflict continue to influence key developments in the American political arena. Public opinion is no longer as dominantly favourable towards Israel as it used to be, which worries the Israeli government and its American supporters.

This is most apparent in the actions of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the leading pro-Israel lobbying group in the US. Over the past few months, it invested \$8.5m in a campaign to defeat progressive Democratic Congresswoman Cori Bush in the

Qeshm and Krasnodar named sister cities



TEHRAN - Qeshm and Krasnodar have been announced as sister cities, taking a step towards strengthening cultural ties between Iran and Russia.

The agreement was signed on Monday evening during a ceremony hosted by Krasnodar, with the mayors of both cities—Mirdad Mirdadi of Qeshm and Yevgeny Naumov of Krasnodar, putting pen to paper.

Based on the memorandum signed in the presence of regional officials, the head of Krasnodar's city council, and an advisor from the Qeshm Free Zone Organization, the two cities will collaborate in the areas of construction, education, and cultural exchange.

Speaking at the event, the mayor of Qeshm emphasized the development of cooperation, referring to close relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation, IRNA reported.

He further referred to the geographical location of Qeshm as well as being the largest island in the Persian Gulf, Mirdadi noted its potential to play a role in the North-South corridor that connects Russia to open waters through Iran.

Mirdadi reminded the attendees of the daily maritime trade between Qeshm and the southern Persian Gulf countries, including the United Arab Emirates, and expressed the island's readiness to facilitate the transfer and loading of goods to Russia along the North-South international corridor.

Qeshm hosts more than three million domestic and foreign tourists every year, Mirdadi said while highlighting Island's tourist and natural attractions.

Krasnodar's Mayor Naumov also expressed optimism about the broad areas of cooperation available with Qeshm.

He noted that Qeshm is not only a free trade zone but also a major tourist hub, which presents opportunities to strengthen ties in tourism and construction sectors.

Naumov also emphasized the potential for collaboration in enhancing contacts between higher education institutions, continuous student exchanges, and participating in joint commercial and cultural projects.

The sisterhood agreement follows an earlier discussion in April 2024, where the mayors of Qeshm and Krasnodar explored the prospects for bilateral cooperation via video conference.

As mentioned by IRNA, Iran's Qeshm Free Zone Organization and Dubna Special Economic Zone (SEZ Dubna) of the Russian Federation recently signed a memorandum of understanding attracting mutual investment and enhancing infrastructure development.

12 earthen vessels from Ilkhanid era under restoration



TEHRAN - A selection of 12 Ilkhanid-era pottery vessels is currently undergoing restoration in Zanjan, a local official announced on Tuesday.

These pieces have been unearthed during various archaeological seasons near the UNESCO-listed [Dome of] Soltaniyeh, said Abolfazl Aali, who presides over the World Heritage site.

The official added that the clay objects are being treated in the conservation section of Zolfaghari Mansion, which features the renowned Salt Men and their belongings.

After sediment removal and the restoration of damaged sections, these artifacts will be displayed at the Soltaniyeh Archaeology Museum, Aali said.

He further explained that the ongoing conservation and restoration project includes several stages, such as documentation, damage assessment studies, microscopic morphology studies, technological studies, as well as cleaning (both wet and dry), removal of harmful attachments and

labels, undoing past improper restorations through poultice and mechanical methods, injection-based consolidation, mending, reconstructing missing parts, color harmonization, and glaze harmony in the restored sections.

The 14th-century building, which supports the third-largest brick dome in the world, doubles as the Mausoleum of Oljaytu, a grandson of Hulegu, founder of the Il-Khanid dynasty.

Oljaytu was a Mongol ruler who, after dabbling in various religions, adopted the Shia name Mohammed Khodabandeh.

Soltanieh's decoration is so impressive that scholars, including A.U. Pope, described it as 'anticipating the Taj Mahal'. It is the earliest existing example of the double-shelled dome in Iran.

UNESCO says the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in Central and Western Asia.

Here, the Ilkhanids further developed ideas that had been advanced during the classical Seljuk phase (11th to early 13th centuries), during which the arts of Iran gained distinction in the Islamic world, thereby setting the stage for the Timurid period (late 14th to 15th centuries), one of the most brilliant periods in Islamic art.

Meaning "Town of the Sultans", Soltanieh was briefly the capital of Persia's Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century.

looked like, or where it would have been located."

The prison dates back around 1,600 years, to when the Roman Empire controlled the area and many people there had converted to Christianity. Larsen identified the prison by examining the site, its graffiti and records from an excavation back in 1901.

An important part of identifying the prison was the graffiti on the site's floor.

It contains pleas, written in Greek, such as "may the fortune of those who suffer in this lawless place pre-

vail. Lord, do not show mercy on the one who threw us in here."

The flooring contains cracks, and it was unclear whether the prison was once at another location and the flooring from it had been reused at this site.

Larsen found that all of the graffiti was written within the boundaries of the cracks.

This suggests that when the flooring was placed, there were already cracks there and that the prisoners wrote the pleas within the cracks, thus supporting the idea that this site was a prison.

Tehran festival delves into Arbaeen heritage among nations

TEHRAN - The first international event dedicated to Arbaeen heritage took place in Tehran, bringing together scholars, researchers, and experts to explore the cultural and historical significance of the religious occasion which marks the culmination of 40 days of mourning for Imam Hussain (AS), the third Shia Imam.

The event, organized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism under the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, featured two main components: specialized panels and an exhibition, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The discussions and displays focused on the heritage of Arbaeen in the past, present, and future, with an emphasis on how this monumental event can serve as a cultural bridge across West Asia.

RICHT Director Mustafa Dehpahlavan spoke at the ceremony, highlighting the immense potential of Arbaeen as a unifying event for a region filled with



challenges.

He proposed that with proper frameworks, Arbaeen could serve as a connecting link between various countries in the Middle East (West Asia).

Dehpahlavan also pointed out the diverse cultural and ethnic expressions of Muharram and Ashura across Iran, noting that these traditions could further strengthen ties between Iran and Iraq, especially through cultural and religious tourism during the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

Mahdieh Bod, the Scientific Secretary of the event, emphasized the deep historical and cultural roots of Arbaeen, which have resonated with believers and devotees of Imam Hussain for centuries.

She described Arbaeen as an extraordinary phenomenon that draws millions of pilgrims each year, with the annual pilgrimage to Karbala being a testament to its enduring impact.

The commemoration at Tehran's 19th-century Masoudieh

Palace included academic discussions, cultural exhibitions, and artistic performances, all aimed at enhancing global understanding of Arbaeen's legacy.

Scholars and religious figures at the event elaborated on the profound influence of Arbaeen, which commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussain and his companions in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Every year, millions of Shia Muslims embark on the Arbaeen trek to Karbala, which is seen not just as a religious observance but as a personal and introspective journey.

The event's focus was on how this pilgrimage, marked by a remarkable display of unity among people from diverse backgrounds, can serve as a powerful symbol of cultural and historical heritage.

MP calls for comprehensive restoration plan to preserve Dezful bridge and mills

TEHRAN - An Iranian member of Parliament has emphasized the need for a comprehensive restoration plan to preserve and enhance Dezful's historical bridge and the city's ancient watermills.

Abbas Papeyzadeh, who represents Dezful in Majlis, made the remarks on Sunday when he inspected the arch bridge and other historical monuments in the city.

Accompanied by Hamidreza Khadem, the head of the Dezful Cultural Heritage Department, Papeyzadeh highlighted the underutilization of Dezful's ancient bridge and watermills as cultural and tourist attractions.

He stressed that the watermills should be restored and transformed into a cultural and tourist corridor.

"For instance, by symbolically restarting the mills, demonstrating the traditional wheat grinding process, and baking bread in traditional Dezful attire, we can add a significant tourism appeal to these sites," Papeyzadeh suggested.

The MP urged the Dezful Cultural Heritage



Department to present a comprehensive restoration plan for the bridge and mills, which would help secure funding for their preservation and potential as major tourist attractions.

"The ancient bridge must retain its historical integrity," he said, proposing that the metal railings be replaced with more appropriate materials such as brick and clay."

He also suggested covering part of the bridge's foundation with a glass display to showcase the ancient architecture and historical identity of the structure.

During the visit, Khadem also pointed out several issues surrounding the bridge and called for greater coordination between the Dezful Municipality and the Cultural Heritage Department to maintain and clean the bridge's surroundings.

Constructed over the Dez River during the Sassanid era, the Dezful bridge, located in Khuzestan province, southwestern Iran, has been a vital structure for centuries.

While parts of the bridge still date back to the Sassanid period, other sections have been reconstructed in recent decades due to damage over the centuries.

The bridge, which was initially built by Roman prisoners of war following their defeat by Sassanid King Shapur I, has undergone extensive repairs and renovations to preserve its historical value.

Today, the bridge is closed to vehicular traffic due to its fragility and historical significance.

Ancient Jorjan undergoes restoration



TEHRAN - A local official has announced the commencement of a restoration and protection project for the ruins of Jorjan, an ancient city located in Gonbad-e Kavus county, northern Iran.

On Tuesday, Golestan province's deputy tourism director Morteza Hoseinqlizadeh stated that the project involves organization, protection, and

restoration of excavation fields and other sections of the ruined city.

The project is being carried out by contractors with a budget of 8 billion rials (some \$13,000) from national funds, the official said.

Hoseinqlizadeh highlighted that this phase of the project includes the organization and cleaning of excavation workshops, the repair of perimeter fencing around the site, the organization of the architectural spaces within the heritage base building, and the improvement of sanitation facilities and electrical and mechanical systems.

He explained that the ancient

city of Jorjan, once a vast and thriving center of Islamic culture, civilization, and art from the early Islamic centuries until the end of the 14th century AH, is located in the southwest of Gonbad-e Kavus, near the northern side of the Imamzadeh Yahya bin Zayd shrine.

Moreover, the official noted that this ancient city was registered as a national monument in 1938 under number 40 and has designated protective boundaries. The archaeological remains discovered at the site include brick-paved pathways, water channels, sewage wells, residential areas, a mosque, and more.

Jorjan (also known as As-

tarabad), lies at the southeastern corner of the Caspian Sea. The city, in existence since Achaemenian times, long suffered from inroads of the Turkmen tribes who occupied the plain north of the Qareh River, and it was subjected to incessant Qajar-Turkmen tribal conflicts in the 19th century.

It was renamed Gorgan in the 1930s after being devastated by an earthquake.

Furthermore, Gorgan is famed for being home to an ancient defensive wall of the same name ("The Great Wall of Gorgan") which stretched some 200 km in length and was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes.

'Lord, make them die an awful death': Prisoner's dark pleas found etched into Roman-era prison

An archaeologist in Corinth, Greece, has identified the remains of a Roman prison — one of the few prisons identified from the Roman world.

Historical records indicate that "prisons must have existed in almost every Roman town, at least those that had a forum," Matthew Larsen, an archaeologist and associate professor of New Testament at the University of Copenhagen, wrote in the journal *Hesperia*.

"Yet the archaeological remains of prisons have proven exceedingly hard to identify. There is scant evidence of what a Roman prison would have

looked like, or where it would have been located."

The prison dates back around 1,600 years, to when the Roman Empire controlled the area and many people there had converted to Christianity. Larsen identified the prison by examining the site, its graffiti and records from an excavation back in 1901.

An important part of identifying the prison was the graffiti on the site's floor.

It contains pleas, written in Greek, such as "may the fortune of those who suffer in this lawless place pre-

vail. Lord, do not show mercy on the one who threw us in here."

The flooring contains cracks, and it was unclear whether the prison was once at another location and the flooring from it had been reused at this site.

Larsen found that all of the graffiti was written within the boundaries of the cracks.

This suggests that when the flooring was placed, there were already cracks there and that the prisoners wrote the pleas within the cracks, thus supporting the idea that this site was a prison.

Additionally, Larsen noted what appear to be the remains of "olpai" (jugs) and lamps on the east aisle of the prison.

These would have provided prisoners with water and a bit of light. There was also evidence for a small latrine in one of the prison's chambers, and it may have been used by the prisoners or guards, Larsen said.

A dismal place

The conditions for the prisoners would have been awful, Larsen said. From the graffiti the prisoners wrote, "you get a sense that they're in a very dark space, that they cannot be given

a hearing," Larsen told *Live Science* in an email.

One inscription suggests that a group of prisoners spent an entire winter in the prison.

"Godbearer, repay [punishment given by] Marinos, the one who threw us in here and made us spend winter," one inscription says.

"This probably would have been an incredibly cold place in the winter," Larsen said.

A few inscriptions contain depictions of game boards, suggesting that prisoners may have played some sort of games to pass the time. Some

of the graffiti inscriptions contain pleas for the prisoner's release.

"Lord God and pure justice, ransom from this place the two brothers. Christ, safeguard both Boudis and John ..."

One inscription may allude to prisoners' lovers.

"The fortune of the beautiful girls who love the unmarried men prevails," it reads. Many inscriptions ask for vengeance on those who imprisoned them — "Lord, make them die an awful death," one inscription says.

(Source: *Live Science*)

Iran ranks 2nd in RobotChallenge 2024

From page 1 ▶ In the Innovation league, students aged 12-17 won fourth place for the first time.

The international robotics contest has been held annually since 2004.

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

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

Iran's under-17 team won second place at RobotChallenge 2023.

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

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

The teams were coached by Ma'ede Najafi, Nasrin Ashuri, Parisa Afshar, and Mohammad Hossein Na-



deri, with Ahmad Sami'ei as the head coach.

The Iranian team had also gained second place in the 2022 competitions in India, and third place in the 2019 competitions in Malaysia. The competitions were canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recent achievements

The 24 Iranian robotics teams that participated in the Federation of International Robosports Association (FIRA) 2024 RoboWorld Cup in

Sao Luis, Brazil, managed to win 17 awards.

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

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

senior leagues in U14 and U19 divisions.

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

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

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

In FIRA youth competitions, U14 division, two teams won second ranking in the robosports, innovation, and business leagues.

Also, in the U19 division, two teams won first ranking and in the robosports league, another team ranked first in innovation and business in robotics.

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

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

UN expo in Tehran highlights global environmental challenges

TEHRAN – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) have organized an exhibition in Tehran to highlight global environmental challenges, focuses on the interconnected issues of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

The exhibition opened for public on August 9 and will run until August 17, raising awareness on the triple planetary crisis that our world is facing today.

With the partnership of Ech Art Gallery and ArtUnity, the exhibition brings together 18 artists and 36 works of art.

Visitors will encounter thought-provoking pic-

tures – with accompanied information and statistics – that challenge us to reflect on our relationship with nature and our role in its conservation and preservation. These powerful artworks are more than just visual experiences; they are calls to action, urging us to acknowledge the severity of our environmental challenges as a global community and to work collectively towards sustainable solutions.

"The purpose of the exhibition is to raise public awareness about the severe environmental stress that our beautiful planet is exposed to," said the UN Resident Coordinator, Stefan Priesner, at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

"While the scope of environmental challenges is extremely concerning, the positive news is that

solutions exist, and humanity can tackle the triple planetary crisis. We need stronger commitment and increased resources to guide humanity towards a sustainable future," he added.

UNDP together with other UN sister agencies, funds, and programmes, works closely with national and international partners to promote the integration of environment-friendly policies into all sectors.

UN and its partners advocate for improved management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation and strive to increase national capacities to address climate action, including through international advocacy for climate finance.

Knowledge-based companies attend Technology Investment Meeting of D-8

TEHRAN – Attending the 6th Technology Investment Meeting (TIM) of D-8 Technology Transfer and Exchange Network (D-8 TTEN) held in Malaysia, Iranian knowledge-based firms showcased their capabilities.

They also actively participated in technical meetings in innovation and technology fields, IRIB news reported.

D-8 includes major Muslim developing countries namely, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

The main areas of cooperation of the member states include finance, banking, rural development, science and technology, humanitarian development, agriculture, energy, environment and health.

The 6th TIM meeting was held concurrently with the Malaysia Commercialization Year (MCY) Summit,

on August 12-13, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The objectives of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation are to improve developing countries' positions in the world economy, diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations, enhance participation in decision-making at the international level, and provide a better standard of living.

The 5th Technology Investment Meeting was held in Tehran on February 26-27, 2023, with participants from the group of eight Islamic developing countries.

TIM 2023 aimed at attracting capital to accelerate knowledge-based companies and startups and also attracting investors from D-8 member states.

Some 105 knowledge-based companies, startups, and technology centers from Iran, Turkey, Ar-

menia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kenya, as well as 52 investors and business delegations from Iran, Turkey, Armenia, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Syria, Afghanistan, Kenya, and Guinea, participated in TIM 2023.

Delegations from Mongolia, China, Ukraine, and Canada attended the event online.

Knowledge-based growth

The significant and fast-paced growth in the number of knowledge-based companies with over 200 percent increase in their number just over the past year (March 2023 – March 2024), shows the solid foundation, dynamism, and growth of the country in innovation and technology and the productive atmosphere which have been made available in line with the goal of boosting domestic production with public participation.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ENGLISH IN USE

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Educational projects worth \$330m to be inaugurated

A total of 1,015 educational projects worth 14 trillion rials (nearly \$330 million) will be inaugurated across the country, Mehrolah Rakhshanimehr, director of the organization for renovation, development, and equipment of schools, has announced.

The projects will be inaugurated by the next 10 days, on the occasion of the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, he stated, ISNA reported on Sunday.

According to Rakhshanimehr, the projects include 4,168 classrooms, 11 swimming pools, and 32 gyms.

About 14,000 classrooms have been built so far this year (started March 21, 2019), compared with some 10,000 last year, he concluded.

افتتاح ۱۴۰۰ میلیارد تومان پروژه آموزشی

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور گفت ۱۰۱۵ پروژه آموزشی با اعتباری به میزان ۱۴۰۰ میلیارد تومان در سراسر کشور به بهره‌برداری می‌رسد.

به گزارش ایسنا، مه‌راله رخشانی مهر افزود این پروژه‌ها طی ۱۰ روز آینده و به مناسبت چهل و یکمین سالگرد پیروزی انقلاب اسلامی افتتاح خواهند شد.

به گفته او، این پروژه‌ها شامل ۴۱۶۸ کلاس درس، ۱۱ استخر، و ۳۲ سالن ورزشی هستند.

رخشانی مهر ادامه داد تاکنون در سال ۹۸ حدود ۱۴ هزار کلاس درس افتتاح شده است در حالیکه در سال ۹۷ حدود ۱۰ هزار کلاس افتتاح شده بود.

Iranian universities to attend Higher Education Partnership Conference in Southeast Asia

TEHRAN – A total of 12 Iranian universities are scheduled to participate in the Higher Education Partnership Conference (HEPCON) which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, from August 28 to September 3.

Boosting strategic scientific-educational cooperation with Indonesia, the largest Muslim country, diversifying the country's international students, and showcasing Iran's educational attractions to recruit students from the East Asia region, as well as establishing links with higher education institutions in the region are among the goals of attending the conference, IRNA quoted Mohsen Sarraf, Scientific and Research Counsellor of Iran in Southeast Asia, as saying.

The official expressed optimism that the participant universities would have an effective presence in the international event by employing innovative methods to introduce Iran's academic attractions to millions of international students in the region and encourage them to study in Iran.

Iranian universities are also scheduled to attend Indonesia Educational Fair, participate in the meetings of the higher education network of the East Asian region, and sign scientific-educational agreements.

Bringing together over 100 universities and representatives from over 100 Indonesian universities, converge with representatives from more than 20 countries to explore opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and mutual growth in higher education.

The main goal of the HEPCON is to cultivate global partnerships, streamline student exchange programs, enhance the quality of higher education, foster global partnerships, and share scholarship opportunities through B2B setups.

It also aims to facilitate collaboration and international partnerships between higher education institutions across the globe.

Iranian universities advance in intl. rankings

The status of Iranian universities has increased in the latest versions of the Times High-

er Education (THE) and the QS World University Rankings, according to the head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC).

World university rankings demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of universities, as well as their scientific positions relative to one another.

However, They can contribute to boosting science diplomacy and attracting international faculty members and students. It can also shape policies that develop international competitions and lead to the globalization of universities.

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

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

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951-1000) were other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 included 73 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas with 2 universities namely the Institute of Higher Education of Scholars and the University of Sanat Naft, (listed as Reporter).

Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 301 – 350 ranked first in the country. Amirkabir University of Technology was ranked second, while Science and Technology University as well as the University of Tehran were placed third. All the universities moved up.

ISSA technical commission elects Iran as vice-chairperson

TEHRAN – Mehdi Maskani, the head of Iran's Civil Servants Pension Fund, has been elected as the vice-chairperson of the Technical Commission on Organization, Management, and Innovation of the International Social Security Association (ISSA).

Effective delivery of social security to citizens depends on social security institutions having solid management and organizational structures, and this is the focus of the Technical Commission on Organization, Management, and Innovation.

Social security institutions play a significant role in the lives of citizens. They constitute the core of governments' capacity to design, implement, and deliver adequate social security benefits and services. To do so, institutions must run efficiently and reliably, provide services to the public that are clear to understand and effective for various population groups, provide confidence about members' rights and obligations, and provide benefits and services even in the most extreme situations.

Currently, 17 insurance organizations worldwide are members of the Technical Commission.

ISSA has 13 commissions and two specialized working groups, whose members are composed of insurance organizations around the world.

The roots of the ISSA lie in mutual insurance, the collective response of 19th-century European industrial workers to illness, unemployment, disability, and old age.

In the space of nine decades, the ISSA has expanded into a truly worldwide Association, bringing together more than 320 social security organizations in over 150 countries.

With the immense challenges the world is facing, its commitment to promoting social security will be needed more than ever to secure social justice for all.

Health Insurance services

The number of health centers that have concluded contracts with the Health Insurance Or-



ganization has increased by seven percent in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) compared with the past year.

More than 53,000 centers have concluded contracts with Health Insurance Organization so far in the current year, IRNA quoted Keivan Tajbaksh, an official with the Organization, as saying.

Health insurance contracts have been signed with government, non-government, private, and charity centers for services.

The centers include doctors' offices, hospitals, pharmacies, rehabilitation centers, and all medical centers.

"We hope to witness an increase in the number of health centers that are parties to the contract with Health Insurance Organization as new forms of the contract, approved by the Supreme Council of Insurance, are announced," Tajbaksh said.

He stated that 13,931 pharmacies, 20,804 doctor's offices, 2,049 clinics, 2,446 independent laboratories, and 4,261 rehabilitation centers, both independent and affiliated with other organizations, have concluded contracts with the Health Insurance Organization.

Health Insurance Organization also offers a variety of services from medical equipment to medicine for infertile couples.

The services include 28 items of medical equipment, 56 laboratory services, 63 drugs for special diseases, 20 surgical services, four subspecialty treatments, and seven medical imaging services, Mohammad-Esmaeil Kameli, an official with the Organization, said.



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AUGUST 14, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Why should a human being boast? His beginning is a sticky embryo, and his end a terrible corpse. He can neither secure his subsistence, nor ward off death.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:09 Evening: 19:14 Dawn: 3:51 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:23 (tomorrow)

Audio edition of “Friendship” available for Persian audience



TEHRAN-The audio version of the science writer and journalist Lydia Denworth's acclaimed work “Friendship” has recently become available for Persian listeners.

Narrated by Bahman Vakhshour, the audiobook has been crafted at Avaye Chirok, a major Iranian institute that produces audiobooks.

Translated by Shadi Hamed Azad, the audiobook features the voices of Shiva Rakhshani and Hura Emadi.

The Persian print edition of “Friendship” has been published by Gusheh Publications in Tehran. The book explores profound concepts related to the formation of friendships, illuminating how our evolution and biology play crucial roles in fostering these essential connections, offering valuable insights into the nature of companionship and its significance in our lives.

In her groundbreaking book “Friendship,” science journalist Lydia Denworth embarks on a revelatory investigation into the essential role that friendship plays in the lives of both humans and animals. This compelling exploration dives deep into the biological, psychological, and evolutionary foundations that underpin these vital social bonds, positioning friendship as not just a pleasant aspect of life but an essential component for thriving throughout the lifespan.

Denworth traces the roots of friendship back to early humans on the African savannas, where the social structures of tribes allowed individuals to seek social fulfillment beyond their immediate families. This innate urge to connect is echoed in the animal kingdom, where Denworth visits

a monkey sanctuary in Puerto Rico and a baboon colony in Kenya. Here, she examines the social bonds that offer insight into our own relationships, illustrating that the essence of friendship transcends species.

Throughout the book, Denworth collaborates with leading scientists in brain and genetics research to uncover the neural and physiological underpinnings of friendship. She highlights how social connections are reflected in our brain waves, genetic makeup, and even our cardiovascular and immune systems, emphasizing that loneliness is detrimental to health and can significantly shorten lives. This comprehensive perspective affirms that social connections are vital to overall wellness and longevity.

Blending field biology with neuroscience, Denworth paints a vivid picture of how our bodies and minds are intrinsically designed for friendship at every stage of life. She delves into the processes that foster healthy social bonds and examines the evolving nature of friendship in the digital age, where social media is reshaping how we connect.

“Friendship” ultimately illuminates the profound and multifaceted aspects of companionship, weaving together science and storytelling to present a refreshingly optimistic view of human nature. Denworth's message is clear: to achieve a fulfilling life, we must prioritize positive relationships. The book serves as a powerful reminder that friendship is not merely an accessory to our existence, but a necessity that enriches our lives and strengthens our communities.

Lydia Denworth is an acclaimed science writer and contributing editor for Scientific American. She is the author of several popular science books, including “I Can Hear You Whisper: An Intimate Journey Through the Science of Sound and Language”. Denworth's work delves into the intricate relationships between science and everyday life, making complex topics accessible and engaging to a broad audience.

Cartoon of Day



U.S. to Provide More Military Aid to Israel Amid War on Gaza

Cartoonist: Omar Al Abdallat from Jordan

Exploring role of patterns in architecture and art in Patternitecture 4

TEHRAN-The 4th edition of the biennial art event Patternitecture is underway at the Niavaran Cultural Center in Tehran.

Patternitecture 4, titled “Boundaries That Expand; Where We Stand,” places the focus of its projects and programs on the exploration of the world of new patterns. Through this lens, it aims to study the relationship of patterns with the city, nature, society, and people within the context of the contemporary world, ISNA reported.

In this edition of the event, 46 works in the form of volumes, installations, paintings and digital arts from prominent visual and architectural artists have been exhibited.

Architect, graphic designer and visual artist Mohammad Hassan Forouzanfar is the visual arts manager of the event, which has been curated by architect and researcher Ghazal Rafalian and art director and architectural designer Bita Shekari.

Designing pattern, either as a surface treatment or a logic of assembly has always engaged both art and science. Moreover, by exploring many complexities of the nature, we can discover simple or intricate patterns, that structure an amazing or even at times an unexpected product.

Chronologically studying the Iranian art and architecture, numerous valuable instances of formal, structural and conceptual application and design of patterns can be noticed.

However, since a few centuries ago, the endemic capabilities of Iranian designers have been reduced to repetition and unproductive adaptation of what has already been developed by their ascendants.

Accordingly, they failed to make an efficient and practical use of the technological advances in order to approach the matter in a meaningful way.

In spite of that, exploring and representing the formal and conceptual aspects of pattern has remained a priority for the Iranian designers.

This dispute is the main driver of an exhibition that explores the application of pattern in the built environment in contemporary Iran. Inviting designer of various backgrounds, it is an effort to unwind the multifold meaning of pattern and represent the various



approaches towards it and its capabilities. This event reflects a part of direct and indirect endeavors by the contemporary Iranian designers who tried to generate and regenerate these patterns and hopes to address the historical evolution of formal and conceptual development of pattern in Iran.

Patternitecture is a review over how artists, architects and urbanists in Iran construe patterns and its application in the built environment and tries to initiate a debate among them.

Patterns are a medium to recognize and redefine the world. They enable us to establish meaningful connections with objects and ideas.

A structured, controllable, and replicable connection that shapes our environment and provides a foundation for extending our perceptions and creating new forms.

The pursuit of discovering and establishing order, and controlling chaos in this environment, has not only been an endeavor in the realm of knowledge but has also been embraced by many artists to create mirrors of the world they perceive.

Through the creation of abstract worlds, they celebrate this manifest order.

Although we discuss the extension and repetition of structures, replicable patterns are not condemned to eternal repetition; rather, they possess a highly dynamic and living nature.

Like living beings, they are born, grow, mature, and ultimately give

way to new patterns.

Today we witness that advanced tools related to artificial intelligence are erasing the boundaries of knowledge production and toolmaking across all fields, altering the previous structures of society.

Yet, the average user has not clearly defined their relationship with digital tools.

We face a new generation of knowledge and technology that has redefined our interaction with subjects and, now, with the accelerating emergence of innovative tools, the question arises: how can the modern human redefine their relationship with new patterns?

Patternitecture has always been devoted to exploring patterns that have been effective in shaping the built environment, providing not only a space for reflecting contemporary designers' efforts but also an opportunity to create new patterns that pave the way for addressing the contemporary human's demands from their living environment.

This event invites all enthusiasts as an opportunity for idea exchange and discussion about the role of patterns in architecture and art. It encourages participation in this shared quest, creating a unique, inspiring, and transformative space.

Patternitecture project was initiated in 2015, due to an invitation from Rafalian and the collaboration of a dedicated group of curators and activists in

the realm of art and architecture.

This collective effort included individuals like Shekari, Sina Mostafavi, Delagah Dadbeh, and many other like-minded people.

The core focus of this initiative was to explore and document the concept of pattern or repetitive elements, that produce a higher meaning by extending themselves during time and space and affect the built environment.

Patternitecture strives to become a credible, autonomous hub for fostering interdisciplinary research, generating synergies, and offering a platform to recognize, uncover, develop, and critique patterns in our surroundings through art and architecture medium.

Its activities encompass documenting existing works, ideation, robust discussions, research-based education, and the exploration of cutting-edge technologies.

Each Patternitecture event follows a structured format, consisting of an exhibition and lateral events.

The exhibition segment comprises a general open call as well as a curated section featuring special guests.

The lateral events, tailored to the project's needs, encompass meetings, discussion panels, educational workshops, and various related activities.

The 4th edition of Patternitecture will run until Friday, August 16, at Pate galleries 1 and 2 of Niavaran Cultural Center located in north of Tehran.

“Smoke” appears at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of Spanish author José Ovejero's “Smoke” (Humo) has recently been published by Ofoq Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Arman Amin.

“Smoke” is a post-apocalyptic narrative that explores the themes of isolation, survival, and the fragility of human connections.

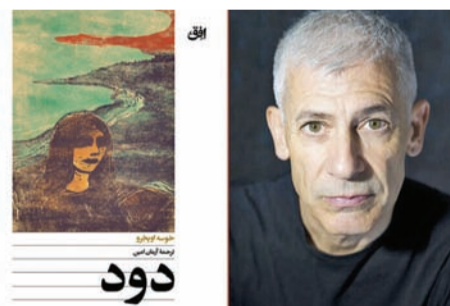
The story centers on a woman, referred to as Andrea (though this may not be her real name), and a child who coexist in a secluded cabin deep within a forest after an unspecified catastrophe.

Their relationship, devoid of familial ties or deep emotional bonds, evolves purely out of necessity as they navigate a hostile and deteriorating world.

Set against a backdrop that feels detached from time—almost mythic—the novel immerses readers in the poignant struggles of these two characters.

The dehumanization stemming from their loneliness shapes the fabric of their existence, illustrating an unsettling reality where survival takes precedence over relational intimacy.

For a fleeting period, a cat named Miss Daisy provides a semblance of companionship, while a man occasionally arrives with provisions. However, these encounters lack depth, reinforcing Andrea's belief in the importance of maintaining emotional boundaries to protect herself from vulnerability.



“Smoke” is a powerful exploration of isolation and the human spirit's resilience in the face of despair, making poignant observations about the nature of relationships and the devastating impact of solitude in a world ravaged by catastrophe.

José Ovejero masterfully portrays the emotional depth of these solitary figures, urging readers to contemplate survival, trust, and the fundamental connections that bind us in times of crisis.

José Ovejero, born in 1958 in Madrid, is a prominent Spanish writer known for his extensive work across various genres, including poetry, drama, essays, short stories, and novels.

Despite his Spanish origins, he has lived abroad for much of his life, which has influenced his writing perspective. His novel “La invención del amor” (Inventing Love) earned him the prestigious Premio Alfaguara in 2013, marking a significant milestone in his literary career.

His accolades extend beyond the Alfaguara, including several other major literary prizes. In 2018, he showcased three of his stories in a one-man stage show titled “¿Qué raros son los hombres!” (Men Are So Strange!), which toured theaters across Spain, Latin America, New York, and various European cities, including London, as part of the Festival of Spanish Theatre (Festelón).

Ovejero's bibliography is extensive, highlighting his versatility.