

Gaza ceasefire talks in Doha end inconclusively

Negotiations amidst Genocide



Palestinian mourners carry the body of a victim of the war in Gaza at the cemetery in Deir al-Balah. The death toll in the Strip has reached 40,000.

Pezeshkian advocates for stronger Iran-Indonesia relations

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for stronger and more robust ties between Iran and Indonesia, emphasizing the potential for enhanced cooperation between the two nations.

This message was conveyed in a congratulatory note addressed to Indonesian President Joko Widodo, marking Indonesia's National Day.

In his heartfelt message, President Pezeshkian underscored the significance of deepening the relationship between Iran and Indonesia.

He noted that by strengthening their bilateral ties, the two countries could play a pivotal role in fostering greater unity and solidarity across the Islamic world. Furthermore, he highlighted that such cooperation would not only benefit the Islamic Ummah but also contribute to the broader goals of international peace and stability.

President Pezeshkian also reflected on the long-standing historical connections and shared interests between the two nations. He expressed optimism about the future of Iran-Indonesia relations, stating, "I am hopeful that we will witness a continued enhancement of our relations, characterized by stable friendship and mutual respect. The strengthening of these ties will undoubtedly lead to further collaboration across various fields." ▶ Page 3



Future energy perspective & investment opportunities in Iran's petroleum industry

By Mohsen Paknejad

TEHRAN - While the world continues to strive towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is determined to shift from reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources and implementing carbon reduction policies, the trilemma of energy security, climate change, and economic growth persist.

Population growth, increasing urbanization, and the need for countries to fulfill the "Right to Development" all point in the inexorable direction of significant increase in energy demand in the foreseeable future. Even the most optimistic energy outlooks indicate that by 2050, at least half of the world's energy needs will be met by oil and gas. ▶ Page 4

Supply of raw materials to production units rises 8%

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran has said the supply of raw materials for production and industrial units has increased by 8.0 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), and the production of final products will increase accordingly.

"With the coordination made with the petrochemical industries and related companies, the raw materials required by the production and industrial units in the field of steel and chemical products have been allocated through an optimization system," Baradaran told IRIB on Thursday.

According to the official, petrochemical companies provided 800 trillion rials (about \$1.6 billion) of bank facilities to production units for credit purchases, which is a significant amount, and in this way Industry Ministry has been able to solve the problem of supplying raw materials to production units to some extent.

Last week, the Industry Ministry announced that in line with supporting production and employment, 5,078 stagnant and semi-stagnant production units were revived in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), creating 51,951 jobs. ▶ Page 4

Pro-Palestinian coalition: Clock is ticking for Harris

A coalition of about 200 social justice organizations are planning to march at the US Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago on Monday, protesting one of the thorniest electoral issues – Washington's aid to Israel.

Hatem Abudayyeh, spokesperson for the March on the DNC coalition, told Reuters dozens of coalition group leaders met after President Joe Biden ended his campaign but decided to go ahead with the rally nonetheless.

The Abandon Biden campaign group believes his replacement, Vice President Kamala Harris, bears responsibility for Gaza's humanitarian crisis but is not yet launching an Abandon Harris campaign, spokesperson Hudhayfah Ahmad was quoted as saying by the agency.

The group will be in Chicago and watching for changes to the Democratic Party's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"We're going to give [Harris] a lot more grace than we gave Joe Biden," Ahmad said.

"However, I will emphasize, the clock is ticking and our patience is running out."

Hezbollah unveils new missile facility, warns Israel of 'unexpected destiny'

Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement has unveiled a sophisticated underground missile facility at the same time as addressing a strong warning to the Israeli regime.

The movement revealed the "Imad 4" facility in a video released by its Military Media outlet on Friday, Press TV reported.

The facility features a convoluted tunnel network, missile launchpads, and blast doors opening outwards that could be used for launching the projectiles towards predetermined targets.

Reporting on the footage, Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network cited sources as saying that the facility was also outfitted with a "secure communication network" linking it to the outside world. Using the network, the facility can "receive launch orders within minutes," it noted.

"Imad 4" also benefits from a "comprehensive logistics team, as well as dedicated construction, security, and backup launch teams," the network added.

"These teams operate based on predetermined coordinates for launching operations."

Death toll in Gaza exceeds grim milestone of 40,000

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The death toll from the ruthless Israeli assaults on the besieged Gaza Strip that started on October 7 last year has exceeded the grim milestone of 40,000. The United States of America has played a critical role in the staggering number of casualties.

The figure represents almost two percent of the tiny enclave's 2.3 million population. It has made the war on Gaza one of the deadliest in the 21st century. By a long distance, it is also the bloodiest in the decades-old Palestinian struggle for statehood.

The United Nations says the Gaza health ministry is a reliable source when registering data on casualties and has matched its own research and statistics following previous Israeli wars on the Strip.

The ministry only counts bodies that are received, registered and buried. It publishes the names, ages and ID numbers of all identified fatalities, which it says is based only on deaths that have been confirmed by medics or by a judicial process, and not for "media attention."

▶ Page 5

9 Iranian universities in Shanghai ranking 2024

TEHRAN – Shanghai ranking 2024 has placed nine Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is released by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

Since 2003, ARWU has been presenting the world's top universities annually based on transparent methodology and objective third-party data. It has been recognized as the precursor of global university rankings and the most trustworthy one.

This year, more than 2,500 institutions were scrutinized, and the best 1,000 universities in the world were published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran are among the top 500 universities in the world with a rank of 401-500, are placed top in the country. ▶ Page 7



Iranian pilgrims flock to Iraq for Arbaeen walk

TEHRAN - Pilgrims from across the country are heading to Iraq to participate in the Arbaeen pilgrimage.

This significant event commemorates the conclusion of the 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions, who were martyrs in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Last year, the pilgrimage attracted around 22.5 million attendees from around the world, highlighting its status as one of the largest religious gatherings globally.

Qatar informs Iran on Gaza ceasefire talks



TEHRAN – Qatar's Foreign Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, briefed Iran on the ongoing efforts to secure a ceasefire in Gaza, as reports indicate that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin is remaining intransigent on conditions unacceptable by Palestinians.

"In response to the phone call from the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Qatar regarding the latest developments in the discussions about halting the crimes of the Zionists in Gaza, a discussion and exchange of views took place.

Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani referred to today's meeting on the ceasefire negotiations hosted by Qatar and described the results of this phase of the negotiations as critical," announced Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani in a Friday post on X.

"I emphasized the necessity of continuing comprehensive efforts and practical actions, including diplomatic activities, to stop the genocide perpetrated by the Zionists in Gaza," he added.

Ceasefire talks took place on Thursday and Friday in Doha, with Egypt, Qatar, and the United States taking part as mediators.

Hamas refused to send a delegation after Israel killed its political Chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, saying it would only receive the results of the negotiations.

The Resistance group has called on the mediators to pressure the regime into committing to the draft agreed on during previous rounds of talks months ago.

Various reports show Israel has prevented the negotiations from progressing, by demanding concessions that Hamas considers unequivocally unacceptable. These demands include establishing military control over certain regions and corridors within Gaza, as well as gaining the power to veto Palestinian releases and dictate where they reside after their release from Israeli prisons.

Israel's war in the Gaza Strip, which began after a successful Palestinian operation inside the occupied territories in October, has so far resulted in the massacre of over 40,000 people.

The majority of the victims are women and children, with the devastating humanitarian toll expected to increase due to the complete

Pezeshkian to defend cabinet lineup on Saturday

TEHRAN – New Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to appear at the Iranian Parliament on Saturday to defend the list of 19 ministers he has presented to his former colleagues for approval.

The proposed ministers must secure a vote of confidence from a majority of lawmakers – at least 146 out of 290 – in order to take office.

Pezeshkian will be given 2.5 hours to defend his list before the MPs. 10 lawmakers will then deliver speeches on the proposed choices before voting begins.

The president submitted the list of his new cabinet members to Parliament on Sunday, less than two weeks after he was sworn in before the country's legislators.

The proposed list drew criticism from a number of individuals in Iran's Reformist camp. Some believe that the cabinet should contain more Reformist figures, as the faction was the main patron of Pezeshkian during his presidential campaign.

Pezeshkian, however, has defended his cross-party proposals, saying the proposed cabinet reflects the sense of national unity that he campaigned for during the snap presidential elections in June and July.

In a post published on his X page, the president described the public sensitivity to

decimation of medical facilities, and a lack of food, clean water, and medicine in the enclave.

Various rights bodies have accused Israel of committing heinous crimes against humanity, but the regime and its Western patrons insist everything Israelis have done in the past 10 months has been part of "self-defense".

Humanitarian disaster in Gaza direct result of Western actions

On Thursday, Yoko Kamikawa, the Japanese foreign minister, and the Iranian acting foreign minister engaged in a telephone conversation regarding their bilateral relations and significant regional matters, particularly focusing on the crimes and genocide committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza.

Iran's acting foreign minister highlighted the ongoing exchange of diplomatic missions between Tehran and Tokyo, noting the attendance of Japan's Prime Minister's special envoy at the inauguration of Iran's new president as indicative of the enduring and profound ties between the two nations.

Baqeri condemned the attacks on civilian infrastructure, including the bombing of schools, mosques, hospitals, and other urban facilities, as well as the brutal killings of civilians in Gaza over the past ten months, labeling these actions as clear instances of war crimes, crimes against human right, and genocide perpetrated by the Zionist regime.

The Iranian acting foreign minister attributed the dire situation to the support provided by the United States and certain Western nations to the ruling authorities in Tel Aviv, alongside the inaction and indifference of other Western countries towards the blatant atrocities committed by this oppressive regime.

During the recent United Nations Security Council meeting, Baqeri criticized the protectionist stance of Western nations, which he argued hindered the council's ability to effectively address and deter threats to international security and stability posed by the Zionist regime.

He remarked that past experiences indicate that remaining silent in the face of the Zionists' military and security aggression only emboldens their actions further.

In this discussion, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs also voiced concerns regarding the escalating tensions in the West Asian region, advocating for measures to de-escalate the situation in the interest of all involved parties.

Both Ali Baqeri and Yoko Kamikawa underscored the necessity of ongoing political and diplomatic dialogues between their nations to enhance bilateral cooperation and foster regional peace, stability, and security.

his choices for the list of 19 cabinet ministers as highly valuable and added that criticizing the conduct of politicians was much better than indifference.

"This means we have moved a step forward ... wait and then evaluate the cabinet based on its performance."

The new president's cabinet of choice consists of three ministers from the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration. Most of the figures on the list will be taking ministerial positions for the first time in their careers.

For the first time in over 13 years, a woman has been nominated for a ministerial position in Iran. The female politician in question has been put forward for the post of Minister of Road and Urban Development.

Among other notable figures suggested by Pezeshkian is Abbas Araqchi, a seasoned Iranian diplomat who led the JCPOA talks with the 5+1 group of countries.

He is currently the secretary of Iran's Foreign Policy Council, which is believed to be an influential body in determining Iran's diplomatic and foreign policy decisions.

Highlight: Masoud Pezeshkian will be given 2.5 hours to defend his list of proposed ministers before Iranian MPs

Iran has built extensive underground missile infrastructure, embassy confirms

TEHRAN – Iran's embassy in Lebanon has reacted to Hezbollah's recent unveiling of underground missile facilities, announcing that Iran has similar compounds scattered all across the country.

"Iran's missile cities instill fear among its adversaries," the embassy said in a statement released on Friday, adding such sites are "distributed across Iran, contributing to the apprehension felt by its enemies."

The statement also declared that Iran would be capable of attacking its enemies from "any point" on its territory.

Lebanon's Hezbollah Resistance movement released a video showcasing its underground missile city for the first time on Friday.

Al-Mayadeen also reported that the facility was constructed in secrecy and is well-camouflaged,



possessing significant resilience against enemy assaults.

The video features warnings from Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of Hezbollah, delivered in Arabic, Hebrew, and English, concerning any potential future conflict and the capability to target all occupied Palestinian territories.

Military assessments indicate

that Israel prioritizes cutting-edge technology in its defense strategy, exemplified by its fleet of over 25 of F-35 fighter jets within an air force comprising more than 600 aircraft.

Additionally, Israel employs advanced missile defense systems, including the Iron Dome and David's Sling, which provide a considerable edge in both aerial engagements

and missile interception, further enhanced by robust military assistance from the United States.

Conversely, Iran, operating with a military budget roughly \$10 billion lower than Israel, has not overlooked these strategic challenges.

It has concentrated on refining its deterrence capabilities, which encompass a stockpile of more than 3,000 ballistic missiles and numerous combat and reconnaissance drones.

Iran's commitment to asymmetric warfare utilizing Resistance groups and regional partners significantly amplifies its ability to pose a threat to Israel.

The presence of organizations like Hezbollah, estimated to possess between 120,000 and 200,000 missiles, adds further complexity to the regional security dynamics.

Iranian, South African navy commanders explore pathways to naval cooperation



TEHRAN – Commander of the South African Navy Admiral Monde Lobese has concluded a significant visit to Iran, aimed at strengthening military ties and exploring potential areas of collaboration between the two countries' naval forces.

Leading a high-ranking delegation, Admiral Lobese engaged in a series of strategic discussions and tours, underscoring the growing relationship between South Africa and Iran in the realm of maritime security.

The visit, which lasted from August 11 to August 16, was hosted by the Iranian Navy and included a comprehensive agenda. Admiral Lobese's delegation was warmly received at the headquarters of the

Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, where he held in-depth discussions with Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the Commander of the Iranian Navy. The two leaders focused on enhancing cooperation between their respective naval forces, sharing insights on operational strategies, and discussing regional security challenges.

In addition to his meeting with Rear Admiral Irani, Admiral Lobese also met with Brigadier General Alireza Tangsiri, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy.

These discussions further highlighted the strategic importance of maritime cooperation between Iran and South Africa, particularly in the context of safeguarding vital international sea lanes and addressing shared security concerns.

As part of his visit, Admiral Lobese was given a detailed tour of the Iranian Navy's Southern Fleet and the Noshahr Naval Sciences University. These visits provided him with a firsthand look at Iran's naval capabilities, including its advanced equipment, operational readiness, and academic initiatives designed to train the next generation of naval officers.

He expressed particular interest in the scientific

and educational aspects of the Iranian Navy, noting the potential for future collaborations in these areas.

A highlight of Admiral Lobese's visit was his tour of the First Naval Zone in Bandar Abbas, where he inspected the Dena destroyer—a fully Iranian-built warship that had previously docked in Cape Town during the 86th Naval Fleet's global circumnavigation. Admiral Lobese and his delegation also visited the Army's Command and Staff College, where they were briefed on Iran's military education programs and strategic planning initiatives.

Expressing his satisfaction with the hospitality and the well-organized itinerary provided by the Iranian Navy, Admiral Lobese voiced optimism about deepening the bilateral relationship.

The visit, which was part of an official invitation from the Iranian Navy, marks a significant step in enhancing the defense and security ties between Iran and South Africa. Admiral Lobese and his delegation departed Tehran for Pretoria on the morning of August 16, concluding a visit that has set the stage for future collaboration in maritime security and naval training.

Iranian diplomat hails Hamas' non-attendance in Doha talks in face of Western deception

TEHRAN – Mohammad Hossein Soltanifar, head of Iran's office for the protection of interests in Egypt, has lauded Hamas' decision to skip the latest round of ceasefire talks in Doha, Qatar, as analysts warn Washington is trying to buy time for Israel before Iran retaliates for the regime's assassination of Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh.

In a post on X, Soltanifar declared Hamas' stance "decisive and correct," arguing that participation in talks with Israeli officials would only serve to legitimize the Zionist regime.

He emphasized Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian nation and the Axis of Resistance, declaring, "Iran will stand firmly with the Palestinian people and their right to resist the occupation."

Soltanifar also addressed the recent assassination of Hamas' political chief in Tehran, stating, "Iran may forgo its right to revenge for Haniyeh's martyrdom if a ceasefire deal is reached and the displaced people of Gaza are returned, but only to save the Palestinian nation." However, he warned, "Iran reserves the right to respond to the Israeli prime minister and his 'clan,' who are like ferocious animals."

Referring to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and the leaders of the U.S., France, the U.K., Germany, Canada, Italy, and Australia, he continued, "They are responsible for the bloodshed in Gaza and must be held accountable for their crimes."

Soltanifar's statement echoes the sentiments of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah

Seyed Ali Khamenei, who has vowed a "harsh response" to Haniyeh's assassination.

The Palestinian leader was killed in a Tehran residence on July 31, hours after he attended the inauguration ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Meanwhile, Hamas has publicly denounced the Doha talks, with senior official Sami Abu Zuhri stating, "Going to new negotiations allows the occupation to impose new conditions and employ the maze of negotiation to conduct more massacres."

The latest round of talks held on Thursday and Friday, facilitated by mediators from Qatar, Egypt, and the U.S., "aimed to prevent a further escalation of tensions in the region" as claimed by some

American officials. However, it seems that the negotiations have failed to bear any results.

In a statement published after the conclusion of the latest round of negotiations on Friday, Hamas announced that it had received the results of the talks, condemning Israel for refusing to make any concessions. The Palestinian group said no progress was made during the two-day discussions. The mediators say they want to hold more talks in the future.

Analysts suggest that Washington's promotion of a new round of ceasefire talks, after the previous ones ended due to Israel's intransigence, is not driven by a genuine desire for peace in Gaza, but rather by a strategic attempt to delay Iran's retaliation against Israel for the assassination of Haniyeh.

Pakistan affirms Iran's right to self-defense

TEHRAN- A spokesperson for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry has commented on the assassination of prominent Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, emphasizing Iran's right to defend itself.

During the Pakistani foreign ministry weekly press briefing, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch condemned the ongoing actions of the Zionist

regime against the Palestinian population. She called on the international community to take decisive action against these violations and to work towards ending the conflict in Gaza.

Baloch reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering lasting peace in the region, while also highlighting the need for accountability for the Zionist regime's alleged crimes

against humanity in the besieged Palestinian territories.

On July 31, a predawn strike by the Zionist regime resulted in the death of Haniyeh, who had recently participated in the inauguration ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran. In response to the Haniyeh assassination, the Pakistani government announced a day of mourning.

Zionist regime committing crimes against humanity in occupied territories: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has asserted that the Zionist regime has been perpetrating crimes against humanity for decades, receiving unwavering support from Western nations, particularly the United States.

In a statement shared on his X page on Thursday, Nasser Kanaani

reported that over the past ten months, the Zionist regime has resulted in the deaths of 40,000 innocent Palestinian civilians, including approximately 15,000 children, in the Gaza Strip, with more than 100,000 individuals injured and many others unaccounted for.

"Simultaneously, U.S. officials labeling Palestinians and

Resistance groups as terrorists, while the U.S. government claims to be committed to protecting Israel from these so-called terrorists," Kanaani added.

Kanaani highlighted that the U.S. government is complicit in the financial, military, and political support of what he termed the Israeli genocide

against the Palestinian people, based on a flawed and nonsensical rationale.

He further characterized the Zionist regime as a racist terrorist entity that has systematically violated the fundamental, natural, and human rights of the Palestinian population.

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President Pezeshkian also reflected on the long-standing historical connections and shared interests between the two nations. He expressed optimism about the future of Iran-Indonesia relations, stating, "I am hopeful that we will witness a continued enhancement

of our relations, characterized by stable friendship and mutual respect. The strengthening of these ties will undoubtedly lead to further collaboration across various fields."

The Iranian leader's message comes at a time when both countries are exploring new avenues for cooperation, seeking to build on their historical ties and leverage their

shared values for the benefit of their peoples and the wider region.

Back on May 17, the Iranian Parliament ratified a preferential trade agreement with Indonesia. The lawmakers passed a bill on the preferential trade agreement between Iran and Indonesia after discussing a report from the Parliament's Economic Commission in that regard.

The PTA was signed between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo in Jakarta on May 23, 2023.

Iran's export to Indonesia in the last ten years shows an upward trend, as the exports to this country have increased from 60 million dollars in the Iranian calendar year 1392 to more than one billion dollars in 1400. This is a sign of the potential of relations between the two countries in the economic area.

Iran air defense to unveil advanced systems: commander

TEHRAN – The Commander of Iran's Army Air Defense Force, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard, has announced the imminent unveiling of new defense equipment and achievements specifically designed to counter modern threats.

His remarks highlight the critical role the Air Defense Force plays in safeguarding the nation's security and reflect ongoing efforts to enhance Iran's defensive capabilities.

In a recent meeting with graduates of the AJA Command and Staff University, Brigadier General Sabahifard spoke about the importance of the revolutionary spirit and dedication evident among the personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army (AJA).

He praised the Army's loyal and skilled workforce, describing them as a vital asset to the nation. According to him, the effective use

of this talent and dedication is a key factor in the Army's ongoing success. Brigadier General Sabahifard outlined the strategic steps that the Air Defense Force has consistently taken over the years to bolster Iran's defensive power.

He noted that the force has successfully integrated a wide array of domestically produced technologies into the national defense infrastructure. "These efforts have enabled the development of robust air defense capabilities, ensuring that the force remains prepared to confront any emerging threats," Brigadier General Sabahifard stated.

The Commander emphasized that the upcoming unveiling of new air defense systems is a testament to the force's commitment to staying ahead of evolving security challenges. "These new systems have

been developed with the latest technological advancements and are tailored to address the specific threats facing Iran today," he noted.

Furthermore, Brigadier General Sabahifard underscored the significance of collaboration and synergy among Iran's armed forces. He pointed out that such cooperation is crucial for successfully fulfilling their responsibilities and enhancing the overall strength of the country. "We have numerous capacities that, when synergized and aligned, will bring even greater strength to the nation," he stated, emphasizing the collective power that unity among the military branches can bring to Iran's defense strategy.

This announcement comes as Iran continues to prioritize the modernization and self-sufficiency of its military capabilities, particularly in the face of regional and global

security challenges. The upcoming unveiling of these new defense achievements is expected to further solidify Iran's position as a formidable power in the realm of air defense.

In recent years, Iranian military specialists and engineers have achieved notable advancements in producing a diverse array of domestically developed equipment, fostering self-reliance within the armed forces.

Officials from Iran affirm their commitment to enhancing the nation's military capabilities, emphasizing their defensive nature.

Iran unequivocally states that negotiations will not affect its defense capabilities. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, consistently emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing Iran's defense capabilities.

Iran, India ties on the rise: FM

and good wishes to Jaishankar and the citizens and government of India in celebration of their Independence Day. India commemorates its independence from British rule on August 15, 1947, each year.

In his message, Baqeri stated, "Congratulations and good wishes to S. Jaishankar, as well as the Government and People of India on their Independence Day. I am confident that the evolving partnership between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India will significantly contribute to the peace, stability, and development of our shared region," as reported by Tasnim News.

In recent years, Iran and India have been actively

working to enhance their bilateral relations.

In May, the two nations finalized a 10-year agreement concerning the operation and equipment of the southern Iranian port city of Chabahar, aimed at further strengthening their trade and economic ties.

According to the agreement, Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) will transfer portions of the freight and container terminals at Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar to India for a decade, during which India will invest \$120 million in strategic equipment for the port and an additional \$250 million in the transport infrastructure of Chabahar.



TEHRAN- Iran's acting foreign minister stated that the strengthening relationship between Tehran and New Delhi will positively affect the region, enhancing peace and stability.

Ali Baqeri Kani expressed these sentiments in a message directed to Indian Foreign Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, shared in a post on X on Thursday. He extended his congratulations

IRGC confirms officer martyred in U.S.-led airstrike in Syria

TEHRAN- A senior military adviser with the Aerospace Division of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has succumbed to injuries sustained during a recent U.S.-led airstrike in Syria, according to an official statement.

In a message released on Thursday, IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami confirmed the death of Colonel Ahmadreza Afshari, a respected officer and adviser within the IRGC's Aerospace Division.

"Colonel Afshari was martyred as a result of severe injuries incurred during an airstrike by the hostile

occupying forces between July 22 and August 5 in Syria," General Salami stated.

After the airstrike, Colonel Afshari was transported back to Iran for urgent medical treatment. Despite the efforts to save his life, he passed away on Thursday, General Salami revealed in his message. Expressing his sorrow and respect for the fallen officer, General Salami added, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of this honorable soldier. May the Almighty God elevate this dear martyr to the highest ranks and grant him the companionship of the

martyrs of Karbala."

Iran's involvement in Syria is part of an advisory mission requested by the Syrian government to assist in combating foreign-backed militants who have waged war against the country's government since 2011. Military positions within Syria, especially those affiliated with Resistance forces aiding the Syrian army, are frequently targeted by Israel and the United States. These attacks have intensified following Israel's renewed military campaign in Gaza, which began on October 7, 2023, escalating the ongoing conflict in the region.

At least 40,005 people have been killed and 92,401 wounded in Israeli military attacks on Gaza since October 7, the enclave's Health Ministry reported. The UN estimates that 60,000 to 70,000 people have been forced to flee under new Israeli evacuation orders covering the eastern part of the city.

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

Rescue of Sahand frigate a major achievement for Iran's navy: admiral

TEHRAN- The commander of the Iranian navy, has praised the recent successful operation to rescue the Sahand frigate, which capsized in Bandar Abbas during maintenance work.

Speaking to graduates from the Supreme National Defense University and Iran's Army's University of Command and Staff on Thursday, Rear Admiral Shahram Irani described the operation to recover the Sahand frigate last month as a significant accomplishment that yielded important scientific knowledge for the navy in fields such as logistics, engineering, and technology.

The commander noted that foreign firms had predicted a minimum of two months would be required to salvage the Sahand, with no assurances

regarding the vessel's safety.

"In contrast, the Iranian Navy completed the operation in just ten days, ensuring the ship sustained no damage and that there were no incidents," Irani stated.

"We have surpassed certain limits within the navy and are diligently working on enhancing and modernizing our equipment and facilities," he remarked, emphasizing that these improvements are vital for bolstering Iran's naval capabilities.

The Sahand lost stability on July 7 while undergoing repairs due to water entering its tanks, causing the ship to roll over, with only a portion of the hull and sonar dome visible above the water.

Sahand is the third frigate in the surfing class



developed and constructed by the naval forces of Iran. This frigate was officially revealed in September 2012 and launched in December 2018.

It is named in honor of the "Sahand-class Alvand" frigate, which participated in intense combat with the United States Navy fleet in the Persian Gulf in 1988 and ultimately sank during one of its missions.

SPORTS

Persepolis, Esteghlal learn opponents in ACL Elite League Stage

TEHRAN – Thrilling battle lines were drawn following the conclusion of the AFC Champions League Elite (ACL Elite) 2024/25 season League Stage draw on Friday.

In a pivotal change, the League Stage format will be utilized for the first time in an AFC club competition and features two leagues of 12 teams across the West and East regions.

United Arab Emirates' Al Ain FC, who won the final season of the AFC Champions League, will meet Qatar sides Al Sadd SC, Al Gharafa and Al Rayyan, Saudi Arabia trio Al Hilal SFC, Al Ahli Saudi FC and Al Nassr and Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor and Al Shorta of Iraq.

Two-time AFC Champions League winners Ulsan HD, will face China PR's Shanghai Port FC, Shanghai Shenhua and Shandong Taishan, Japan's Vissel Kobe, Yokohama F. Marinos and Kawasaki Frontale, Johor Darul Ta'zim of Malaysia and Buriram United of Thailand, the-afcs.com reported.

The line-up – comprising 22 teams that qualified directly and two Preliminary Stage winners – were placed into two pots within each region for the draw.

For each region, every club were drawn into their respective position in the Draw Grid – Pot 1 clubs occupied any of the top two rows (A1 to C2) and Pot 2 clubs the bottom two (A3 to C4), which ensured they play against eight different sides from the other columns (e.g. clubs in column A were paired against clubs from columns B and C).

The Pairings Grid ensures that each team will play four home and four away matches against an equal number of clubs from Pots 1 and 2. An identical process applies to clubs in the East region, which were classified from D1 to D4, E1 to E4 and F1 to F4.

The country protection principle was in force during the draw and a bespoke draw software was utilized to prevent any deadlock situations from occurring.

The top eight finishers of each League progress to the Round of 16, scheduled for March 2025, which will be followed by a unique centralized Finals that sees all matches from the Quarter-finals onwards being contested in Saudi Arabia between April 25 and May 4, 2025.

Teams

West: Pakhtakor (UZB), Al Sadd SC (QAT), Persepolis FC (IRN), Al Hilal SFC (KSA), Al Shorta (IRQ), Al Ain FC (UAE), Al Nassr (KSA), Al Rayyan SC (QAT), Esteghlal FC (IRN), Al Ahli Saudi FC (KSA), Al Gharafa SC (QAT), Al Wasl FC (UAE)

East: Ulsan HD FC (KOR), Shanghai Port FC (CHN), Johor Darul Ta'zim FC (MAS), Central Coast Mariners (AUS), Buriram United (THA), Vissel Kobe (JPN), FC Pohang Steelers (KOR), Shandong Taishan FC (CHN), Yokohama F. Marinos (JPN), Gwangju FC (KOR), Shanghai Shenhua FC (CHN), Kawasaki Frontale (JPN)

Sepahan, Tractor learn fate in 2024/25 AFC Champions League Two

TEHRAN – Exciting match-ups and titanic battles are on the cards after teams found out who their opponents are following the group stage draw of the AFC Champions League Two 2024/25 on Friday.

Four groups in the East and West respectively will house the 32 teams competing for the ultimate prize of being the inaugural winners of this brand new competition.

Group A saw Al Wakrah SC of Qatar drawn together with Iran's Tractor FC, Mohun Bagan Super Giant of India and Tajikistan's FC Ravshan.

Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun FC headline the Group B cast, with Iraq's Air Force Club, Al Khaldiya SC of Bahrain and Turkmenistan's Altyn Asyr their opponents.

In Group C, Sepahan SC of Iran will battle with United Arab Emirates' Sharjah FC, FC Istiklol of Tajikistan and Jordan's Al Wehdah while Shabab Al Ahli from the UAE, Uzbekistan's PFC Nasaf, Al Hussein of Jordan and Kuwait SC are the four teams in Group D.

Draw result

Group A: Al Wakrah SC (QAT), Tractor FC (IRN), Mohun Bagan Super Giant (IND), FC Ravshan (TJK)

Group B: Al Taawoun FC (KSA), Air Force SC (IRAQ), Al Khaldiya SC (BHR), Altyn Asyr FC (TKM)

Group C: Sepahan SC (IRN), Sharjah FC (UAE), FC Istiklol (TJK), Al Wehdah (JOR)

Group D: Shabab Al Ahli (UAE), PFC Nasaf (UZB), Al Hussein (JOR), Kuwait SC (KUW)

Group E: Sanfrece Hiroshima (JPN), Sydney FC (AUS), Kaya FC-Iloilo (PHI), Eastern (HKG)

Group F: Zhejiang FC (CHN), Port FC (THA), Lion City Sailors FC (SGP), Persib Bandung (IDN)

Group G: Bangkok United (THA), Nam Dinh FC (VIE), Lee Man (HKG), Tampines Rovers FC (SGP)

Group H: Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC (KOR), Selangor FC (MAS), Muangthong United (THA), Dynamic Herb Cebu FC (PHI)

Iran drop one spot in FIFA Women's World Ranking

TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team moved down one place to 64th in the latest FIFA Women's World Ranking released on Friday.

Twelve months after being ousted from the top of the FIFA Women's World Ranking, the U.S. (1st, up 4) have made a triumphant return to the summit following their victorious Women's Olympic Football Tournament 2024 campaign.

The Stars and Stripes claimed their fifth Olympic gold medal in Paris, and their first since London 2012, by edging past Brazil (8th, up 1) 1-0 in the final.

England (2nd, up 1) have climbed one spot at the expense of Spain (3rd, down 2), who are now in third after seeing their bid for Olympic glory ended with defeat to Brazil in the semi-finals, which was promptly followed by another reverse at the hands of Germany (4th) in the bronze-medal match.

The Germans, meanwhile, have held on to their position in the ranking, as have Japan (7th), who were beaten in the quarter-finals by the U.S.

The next FIFA Women's World Ranking will be published on Dec. 20, 2024.

Iran move down in latest FIBA World Ranking

TEHRAN – Iran dropped one spot to 28th in the latest FIBA World Ranking

The U.S. claimed gold at the Men's Olympic Basketball Tournament Paris 2024 and protected their lead at the top of the ranking, while Serbia jumped up two spots to get to the second spot with a total of 758.9 points, overtaking Germany.

The fourth place now belongs to France. An appearance in the Gold Medal Game of the Men's Olympic Basketball Tournament Paris 2024 pushed them up by five spots compared to March 2024, putting them just behind Germany in third, and making them the highest climbing nation in the Top 20.

Canada climbed up to the fifth spot after their first Olympic run in 24 years and are still reaping the benefits of their third-place finish at the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 last summer.

Energy expert calls for increasing CNG share in fuel basket



TEHRAN – Energy Expert Mohammad Hossein Keshavarz has stressed the need for increasing the share of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in the country's fuel basket as it is more clean and economically justifiable for the country.

Speaking to IRNA on Friday, Keshavarz said currently, more than half of the country's CNG capacity is not being used, and by using this capacity, gasoline consumption can be reduced by 20 to 30 million liters per day.

Underlining the importance of CNG in the country's fuel basket, the scholar said: "First, we need to address the energy imbalance in order to understand the importance of using CNG in the country's fuel basket. The energy imbalance in

the country is becoming more serious every day, and according to statistics, three billion dollars of gasoline was imported last year, and due to the increase in fuel consumption and the number of cars in the country, this figure is expected to reach more than four billion dollars next year."

"So, [if the current trend continues] it seems that we have to set aside billions of dollars to import gasoline every year to solve the gasoline shortage, while the same gasoline that we have imported will be smuggled out of the country and this vicious cycle continues," he regretted.

He put the country's current CNG consumption at 21 million cubic meters, which is equivalent to approximately 20 million liters of gasoline, saying: "This figure means that by using the CNG capacity, we were able to save its equivalent in gasoline. While the capacity of using CNG in the country is 50 million cubic meters."

Following the implementation of the gasoline rationing scheme in 2019, the government started promoting the use of CNG as a replacement for gasoline, and declared the mentioned fuel as the country's national fuel but the plan seemingly has failed to be realized to this day.

Home appliances production up 9% in 4 months on year

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

Mohammad-Mehdi Baradaran, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister for public industries, also has announced that Iran's export of home appliances increased by 11 percent during the first four months of this year, from that of the previous year.

The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past few years, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding.

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

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

In mid-June, the secretary general of the Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said the production of home appliances increased by 18.2 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year compared to a year before.

According to Omid Fazeli-Nia, production of home appliances reached 19.5 million units in the

previous year from 16.5 million units a year earlier.

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

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

Mentioning some of the challenges that manufacturers of home appliances are currently facing, the official said: "Producers have problems such as mandated pricing, lack of liquidity, lack of foreign currency supply, and exports, which need to be addressed and resolved."

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

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

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

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

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

Export from Bushehr province increases 4%

TEHRAN – The value of export from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, rose four percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Ali Soleymani, the head of the province's customs department, said that about 10.5 million tons of products valued at about \$4 billion were exported from the province in the four-month period, indicating also five percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

He said the products were exported to 37 countries and mentioned China, the UAE, India, Brazil, Turkey, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Oman, Qatar and Taiwan as the top export destinations.

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

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

CBI takes new measures to support stock market

TEHRAN – The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced the bank's new measures for supporting the capital market, IRIB reported.

Referring to the central bank's three new measures to support the stock market and small shareholders, Mohammadreza Farzin said these plans are mainly focused on financing listed companies to accelerate their development.

"The first step is to guarantee 3.6 quadrillion rials (about \$7.2 billion) of bonds of the operating banks to issue Riyal financing bonds to supply working capital to companies listed in the stock market," Farzin said.

The official also mentioned the issuance of 2.0 billion euros of



foreign currency sukuk bonds to support the development plans of listed companies active in the field of petrochemicals and mining as the second measure to support the stock market.

The third measure is to grant

1.5 billion euros in foreign currency loans to listed companies that have foreign exchange income and quick-return plans, in order to increase their exports, according to the CBI governor.

The head of Iran's Securitas

and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has also said the country's banks, major holdings and government organizations are going to collaborate in order to support the stock market.

Referring to the latest decisions made by the Supreme Council of the Stock Market, Eshqi said most of the measures that are going to be taken to support the market are focused on providing funding and capital via the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund (CMDSF), Tasnim News Agency reported.

"Such measures will be taken by holdings and investment companies in order to reassure shareholders about the future of their shares", the official said.

Supply of raw materials to production units rises 8%

From page 1 ▶ In the past few years, the deactivation of production and industrial units due to problems such as lack of liquidity, debt to the banking system, and lack of suitable machinery has become one of the main problems of the country; Therefore, the revival of stagnant and semi-stagnant production and industrial units was placed on the agenda of the government, and in this direction, the national movement for the revival of such units was formed, and

Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) paid special attention to solving the problems of these units and reviving them.

As reported by the ISIPO, 1,811 idle units were revived in the country during the previous year, creating 35,621 jobs.

Also, the production capacity of 3,267 units that were active with under 50 percent of their capacity was increased, and with this

measure, 16,330 jobs were created.

As reported, 24 percent of the inactive and semi-active industrial units inside and outside the industrial parks and zones of the country were metal material production units and 21 percent were chemical production units.

Other revived production units were active in food and beverage, cellulose, textile, electricity and electronics fields.

Future energy perspective & investment opportunities in Iran's petroleum industry

From page 1 ▶ At the same time, increase in demand in the post-COVID era, coupled with geopolitical developments and the imposition of cross-border sanctions on oil and gas exports in recent years, especially after the Russia-Ukraine War, has drawn global attention to the state of fragility of the global economy as regards energy security. The world now appears to look for a reliable increase in energy supply more than ever before. History has shown that the process of energy transition usually takes decades, if not longer. Moreover, history has also come to bear out the pattern that energy transition has seldom led to the complete elimination of an energy source from the global energy mix. Instead, a new emerging source has tended to enrich the existing energy mix. It is therefore, premature and unrealistic to assume or predict the elimination or total substitution of fossil fuels in the foreseeable future. Thus, the global energy security shall be ensured through a more realistic mix, albeit with a determined eye for incremental increase and consolidation of clean and renewable energy sources.

Turning from the global picture to the national scene, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks as the first country in terms of the total oil and gas reserves in the world (with 157.8 billion barrels of crude oil reserves and 32.1 trillion cubic meters of natural gas reserves), has pursued a principled approach to supplying more oil and natural gas to the global market with regard to contributing to global energy access and security, as well as environmental friendliness. However, it is a sad fact that the actual realization of Iran's full potentials in contributing to the provision of energy security and alleviating energy poverty, especially in energy-poor African and Asian countries with over a billion people suffering from ener-

gy poverty, can only be achieved through the lifting of unilateral sanctions imposed on the Iranian economy, including on the energy sector. These unilateral sanctions have hampered and slowed down the development process of the oil industry in various areas, including inadequate investment in clean energy technologies and or the desired level of participation in international climate agreements.

Nevertheless, despite the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States, Iran has managed to achieve significant progress by relying on its domestic capabilities and the development of foreign markets. That said, the unfolding developments in the world energy system makes it imperative for Iran to predict and plan for a more robust and secure future for our oil industry. The Ministry of Petroleum, energized by the new administration Dr. Pezeshkian, is set to actualize the full potentials of the country's oil industry based on an approach and policy premised on active engagement and mutually beneficial cooperation with all actors, close and far. Premised as such, Iran's 110-year-old oil industry, relying on its abundant skilled human capital and extensive infrastructure, is suitably set to welcome a wide spectrum



of cooperation from international companies and organizations such as OPEC, GECF and IEF, willing to engage with Iran in various areas of the industry, including in the area of investment.

Active collaboration with our petroleum industry could include such areas as exploration, enhanced oil recovery, and development of oil and gas fields under innovative, diversified and attractive contracts which has been implemented in oil and gas producing countries, development of joint oil and gas fields with the neighboring countries through unitization, construction and upgrading of oil and gas refineries, construction of petrochemical complexes, reduction of flared gas, reduction of energy losses in the

production, transmission, and distribution of oil, gas, and petroleum products, production of blue hydrogen, construction of liquefaction plants, and construction of subsea gas export pipelines.

Given the high reserve-to-production (R/P) ratio of oil and gas in Iran (140 years for oil and 128 years for gas), investment opportunities in Iran's oil and gas sector offer profitable opportunities for the wide range of parties interested in engaging with Iran in the coming years. Finally, Iran is in a position to export technical and engineering services and participate in oil, gas, refining, and petrochemical projects in other countries, in our neighborhood and beyond.



Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of Piping, Fitting & Flange (Cu.Ni, Inconel, S.S) for Belal Project, Tender No. 971073

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Piping, Fitting & Flange (Cu.Ni, Inconel, S.S) for Belal Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 14 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 Ms.Mahabadpour with Tel:+9821-82841057 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Gaza ceasefire talks in Doha end inconclusively

Negotiations amidst Genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- A new round of negotiations held in the Qatari capital aimed at halting Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip has been thrust into the limelight as the death toll from regime's onslaught in the besieged Palestinian territory passed the grim milestone of 40,000.

Senior American, Egyptian and Qatari officials held talks with an Israeli delegation in Doha on Thursday and Friday.

It has been reported that CIA director William Burns, White House Middle East coordinator Brett McGurk, Qatari Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani and Egyptian intelligence chief Abbas Kamel attended the talks.

They met with the Israeli delegation which included Mossad chief David Barnea, Shin Bet head Ronen Bar, and the Israeli military's captive chief, Nitzan Alon.

Israelis have launched a smear campaign against Hamas which did not join the negotiations. The resistance movement wanted mediators to discuss a ceasefire plan based upon earlier negotiations rather than starting fresh talks. However, mediators relayed messages to Hamas officials based in Doha.

Israel's excessive demands

Israel stands accused of adding new demands to a previous ceasefire plan presented by the US president on May 31.

On June 10, the United Nations Security Council approved a US resolution backing Joe Biden's three-phased ceasefire plan to which Hamas agreed in principle.

The first phase of the Biden proposal would include a "full and complete ceasefire" lasting six weeks, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from all populated areas of Gaza, and the exchange of some of the captives held in the enclave in exchange for the release of Palestinian inmates from Israeli jails.

The second phase would involve the release of all remaining captives and a "permanent end to hostilities". The third would see the start of a major reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip which has been devastated during the Israeli onslaught that was launched on October 7 last year.

Nonetheless, Israel now wants control of the land along Gaza's border with Egypt and the return



of displaced Palestinian civilians to northern Gaza.

A senior Hamas official told the BBC on Wednesday that Israel has "added new conditions and reneged on its previous agreement", including demanding that it maintain full control over the Philadelphia corridor and that displaced people returning to northern Gaza be screened to ensure they are unarmed civilians.

Hamas spokesperson Osama Hamdan also told the Associated Press that the resistance movement is only interested in discussing the implementation of Biden's proposal and not in further talks over its content.

Hamdan also told Al Jazeera on Friday that the movement has not seen any positive signals in the Doha talks.

He accused Israel of undermining the negotiations.

"Mediators are still talking about bridging the gaps, but it is clear that the Israeli side is adding more conditions, talking about new issues. I believe they are trying to undermine the process," the Hamas official said.

Hamdan pushed back on the prospect of Israel maintaining security control over the Philadelphia Corridor.

He stressed that the resistance movement wants Israel's "complete withdrawal" from the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu denies that Israel has made new demands but insists that the Israeli military retain indefinite control of the Philadelphia Corridor.

In fact, the Israeli premier is calling for additions to the Biden ceasefire plan that was supported by the international community. In this way, he tries to justify his exorbitant demands.

Domestic rifts

Netanyahu has also reiterated that he remains committed

to "total victory" against Hamas and the release of all captives.

Speaking during a closed-door hearing before a Knesset committee on Monday, Israeli war minister Yoav Gallant dismissed Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "nonsense" and "gibberish".

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

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 brutal war on Gaza.

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

Israel says 111 hostages are still being held in Gaza, 39 of whom are presumed dead. Most of them have lost their lives during Israeli strikes in Gaza.

The families of the remaining Israeli captives said the Doha talks were the last chance to secure the release of the captives. Over the past months, Israelis have staged protests calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, the release of captives, Netanyahu's resignation and early elections.

US looks the other way

The United States is well aware that Israel's demands in the Doha talks were against its own resolution endorsed by the UN Security Council. Nonetheless, the White House tried to look the other way.

"It's their proposal, and it requires compromise on both sides," U.S. national security spokesman John Kirby said on MSNBC on Thursday.

He added, "Not just one side, but both sides have got to show some leadership here and be willing to nail down these final

details. These gaps can be narrowed."

Doha talks statement

The United States, Qatar and Egypt issued a statement on Friday saying the Doha talks were "serious, constructive, and conducted in a positive atmosphere".

The statement said a proposal has been presented to Israel and Hamas that "narrows the gaps between the parties and is consistent with the principles set out by President Biden on May 31, 2024, and Security Council Resolution 2735."

According to the statement, officials from the three countries will meet again in Egypt before the end of next week to reach an agreement on the terms set out in Qatar.

US ulterior motives

Talks over a ceasefire in Gaza were suspended after Israel assassinated Hamas political leader and chief negotiator, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran on July 31. He had traveled to the Iranian capital to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

A day earlier, Israel also killed top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut.

Iran and Hezbollah have vowed to retaliate against Israel which has spread panic among Israelis over the past two weeks.

Washington hopes a likely ceasefire in Gaza would persuade Iran and Hezbollah to hold off on retaliating for the regime's assassinations and consequently stop the 10-month conflict spiraling into an all-out regional war.

However, Iran has promised a more severe response than the operation it carried out against Israel four months ago to punish the regime.

On April 13, Iran launched a salvo of more than 300 drones and missiles at Israel. The Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) dubbed the operation "True Promise".

It came after several Iranian military advisors including a top commander were assassinated in the wake of an Israeli strike against Iran's consulate in the Syrian capital Damascus on April 1st.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

AUGUST 17, 2024

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

5

WORLD HEADLINES

Over 100 illegal Israeli settlers attack West Bank town, killing a Palestinian

More than 100 illegal Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian town in the occupied West Bank, killing one person and setting fire to a home and several vehicles, according to multiple sources.

According to the witnesses, the settlers stormed the town of Jit, situated along the main road between Nablus and Qalqilya.

The attackers opened fire at residents, pelted stones at homes, and set fire to at least one house and several vehicles, they added.

The witnesses also said that Israeli forces provided protection to the illegal settlers and prevented Palestinian civil defense vehicles from entering the town.

Citing an Israeli security source, the Israeli army radio reported that more than 100 settlers stormed the town.

The source said that the settlers set fire to four homes and six vehicles owned by Palestinians, while hurling stones and Molotov cocktails at residents and their property.

"The incident ended without any arrests, while several Palestinians suffered from inhalation of tear gas" fired by Israeli soldiers, it added.

UN expert condemns sexual assault of Palestinians

The UN special rapporteur on torture has responded to the gang rape of a Palestinian by Israeli soldiers at the Sde Teiman detention facility in the Negev Desert in southern Israel, calling the case "particularly gruesome".

"There are no circumstances in which sexual torture or sexualized inhuman and degrading treatment can be justified," Alice Jill Edwards said in a statement. "This alleged sexual torture involving multiple offenders is particularly gruesome."

A video of the case shows the prisoner being selected from a larger group lying bound on the floor. The victim is then escorted to a wall, where guards, using their shields to

hide their identity from the camera, proceed to rape him.

EU urges Israel to end 'unacceptable actions' in West Bank

The EU foreign policy chief has called on Israel to immediately stop the "unacceptable actions" of its settlers.

"Day after day, in an almost total impunity, Israeli settlers fuel violence in the occupied West Bank, contributing to endanger any chance of peace," Josep Borrell wrote on X.

"I confirm my intention to table a proposal for EU sanctions against violent settlers' enablers, including some Israeli government's members," he added.

Hezbollah unveils new missile facility, warns Israel of 'unexpected destiny'

From page 1 ▶ The movement, meanwhile, warned the Israeli regime through a caption superimposed on the video that if it brought Lebanon under yet another war, "it will face a destiny and reality it didn't expect any day."

"War with us extends across all of Palestine, from the Lebanese border to the Jordanian border to the Red Sea...from Kiryat Shmona to Eilat," it added. The last two locations refer to two cities lying respectively in the northernmost and southernmost parts of the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Israeli regime has been conducting near-daily attacks against the southern parts of Lebanon since October 7, when it launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Hezbollah has been responding with strikes aimed both at retaliating against the regime and supporting the war-hit Gazans.

The regime, which waged wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006, has, meanwhile, been repeatedly threatening to expand its attacks into another wholesale military onslaught against the country.

Hezbollah has vowed to defend the Lebanese soil with all its resources.

Death toll in Gaza exceeds grim milestone of 40,000

US is directly complicit in Israeli genocidal war on Gaza

From page 1 ▶ Experts believe the figure is an undercount, indicating more than 10,000 bodies are buried under the rubble, concealing the untold horrors of a much larger death toll.

The Lancet medical journal published a report by academics on July 5, estimating indirect deaths as a result of other measures that Tel Aviv has imposed on Gaza, such as the all-out blockade.

The Gaza health ministry does not announce Palestinians dying from other causes such as diseases, hunger and thirst. According to The Lancet, the death toll is several times higher than official estimates and possibly above 186,000.

Most of the Palestinians killed by Israeli ammunition are women and children, according to the health ministry and at least 92,000 others have been injured so far.

The health ministry does not categorize traumatized Palestinians as injured. Many of the injuries that are registered are due to limbs being blown off, which can also increase the death toll later.

Many charities have said they are "heartbroken".

An unknown number of Palestinians have been rounded up by the Israeli occupation forces and taken to military detention centers where investigations have revealed systematic torture and cases of rape against prisoners.

Israeli actions in Gaza can be classified as

horror but also terrorism, under the UN definition of terrorism.

In public, America repeatedly calls for a "ceasefire" in Gaza and privately sends more weapons to Tel Aviv. In a new move, the U.S. has approved \$20 billion in arms sales to Israel, including scores of fighter jets and advanced air-to-air missiles, the State Department announced on August 14.

Some of these arms packages are declared publicly, others are shipped privately through loopholes to avoid any delays in Congress.

The United States has been calling for a ceasefire only after some of the most horrific massacres and war crimes have been carried out by the Israeli military in Gaza.

American media outlets have documented U.S.-made bombs landing on places of shelter for displaced Palestinians.

Among the 40,000 Gazans killed so far, at least 16,456 of them are children. This is in addition to children orphaned or maimed for life. Among the victims are over 11,000 women.

The Israeli military has also killed a record number of UN staff, humanitarian workers, and journalists. The regime also enjoys the political and diplomatic support of the veto holder U.S. at the UN Security Council.

The Gaza genocide, now in its 11th month and quickly creeping to one year, has witnessed many tragedies. Regrettably, there appears no end in sight.

Critics accuse the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden of not even imposing minor restrictions on arms shipments to the Israeli regime, the least Biden could have done.

Hypocritically, the United States is also engaging in another round of "ceasefire negotiations" in Doha without the Palestinians even being represented at the talks.

In a video address, the UN's human rights chief, Volker Turk said, "This unimaginable situation is overwhelmingly due to recurring failures by the Israeli (occupation) Forces to comply with the rules of war".

"On average, about 130 people have been killed every day in Gaza over the past 10 months. The scale of the Israeli military's destruction of homes, hospitals, schools and places of worship is deeply shocking," he lamented.

"International humanitarian law (IHL) is very clear on the paramount importance on the protection of civilians, and civilian property and infrastructure," Turk added.

IHL is what American officials advocate for in public but the past decades have shown America's total disregard for IHL and violations of it.

All the Palestinian lives lost, injured and scarred in Gaza could have been prevented, if the U.S. did not greenlight the Israelis to treat Palestinians as anything but human beings.

Why America's longest and most expensive war in history failed: analysis

TEHRAN - On the third anniversary of the U.S. exit from Afghanistan, three writers - Michael A. Cohen, a nonresident senior fellow at the Center for Strategic Studies at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University; Christopher Preble, also from the Fletcher School and senior fellow and director of the Stimson Center's Reimagining U.S. Grand Strategy Program; and Monica Duffy Toft, an academic dean and professor of international politics at the Fletcher School and Director of its Center for Strategic Studies - analyzed the failure of the U.S. war against Taliban after 20 years.

The text of the article published on the website of Foreign Affairs on August 15 is as follows:

Three years ago this month, the longest and most expensive war in U.S. history, a conflict that resulted in 2,459 dead American soldiers and 20,000 more wounded, had ended in spectacular failure.

Although accusations of American incompetence in Afghanistan now focus on those last days in August 2021, the real error had been made long before, at the moment of the United States' greatest victory there: the fall of the Taliban in December 2001. Flush with success, hungry for vengeance, and confident of the Taliban's complete defeat, the United States sought neither reconciliation nor compromise with Afghanistan's former

leaders. Instead, it sought to make an example of them. In doing so, the George W. Bush administration planted the seeds for the Taliban insurgency that would emerge and eventually wipe away two decades of sacrifice in Afghanistan.

Understanding what happened in Afghanistan in 2001—and how the United States snatched defeat from the jaws of victory—helps explain why the war lasted so long and ended so badly. But it also offers a broader lesson about war, one that applies universally: total military victory is an illusory, dangerous goal. More often than not, victory in war is achieved at the negotiating table, not on the battlefield—and demonstrating empathy toward a political adversary pays more dividends than recalcitrance.

An early win

Many forget it now, but the initial U.S. victory in Afghanistan was quick and overwhelming. The United States went to war on October 7, 2001, less than a month after al Qaeda terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 people on September 11. By December, the Northern Alliance, an anti-Taliban militia, had chased al Qaeda from its safe haven and routed the Taliban government, with the essential support of U.S. airpower and a few hundred U.S. special operators.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Greek audience gets to know Iran religious sites



TEHRAN – Iran has taken a significant step in promoting its rich heritage to a Greek audience by launching a new section dedicated to religious tourism on the “Iran Culture” website.

The new section, which features a selection of the top 100 religious destinations in Iran, aims to showcase the country's rich religious and cultural heritage on global stage, ISNA reported on Thursday.

The newly-launched section provides comprehensive information about various religious sites, including holy shrines, mosques, churches, synagogues, fire temples, and other sacred places, each with its own historical and spiritual importance, according to the report.

Visitors to the website can access detailed information about each location, including its history, religious significance, architectural features, and accompanying images.

This initiative not only aims to familiarize international tourists with Iran's tourist capacities but also seeks to promote the religious and cultural diversity present in the country.

Among the highlighted sites are the Imam Reza Holy Shrine in Mashhad, the Fatima Masoumeh Holy Shrine in Qom, the Imam Khomeini Shrine, the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, the Vank Cathedral in Isfahan, the Yousef Abad Synagogue in Tehran, the Chak Chak Zoroastrian in Yazd, and the Shah Cheragh Shrine in Shiraz.

The portal covers religious sites significant to Islam as well as those important to Christianity, Judaism, and other faiths.

Religious tourism, which marks one of the oldest forms of traveling, is strongly motivated by spiritual reasons. Historical places of worship around the world tend to appear on the bucket lists of many travelers and Iran with its vast array of inspiring centers of worship, draws devotees from all around the world.

Centuries-old bazaar in Shiraz undergoes restoration



TEHRAN – New restoration efforts have commenced on Bazaar-e Vakil, a centuries-old bazaar in the heart of Shiraz, southern Iran, renowned for its vibrant atmosphere and cultural significance.

The project, overseen by Fars province's tourism directorate, have been commenced simultaneously in various sections of the historical marketplace, IRNA reported.

The restoration of Bazaar-e Vakil has begun across 14 specialized workshops, the provincial tourism chief Mohammad Sabat Eqlidi said on Wednesday during his visit to the site.

The official underlined that the extensive project is part of a broader initiative to restore Shiraz's historical bazaars, ensuring that the cultural and architectural heritage of the area is maintained for future generations.

“The restoration work includes removing deteriorated mud plaster from the roofs to lighten structures [with loadbearing walls], repairing brick arches, waterproofing the roofs, and restoring brick reinforcements using traditional bricks that match the original construction.

Additionally, the installation of new vertical

gutters to improve rainwater drainage has also been initiated as part of the restoration efforts.

One of the focal points of this project is the restoration of Seray-e Gomrok, a caravan-serai from the Zand dynasty located in the northern part of Bazaar-e Vakil. Sabat Eqlidi detailed that the restoration of Seray-e Gomrok includes similar roof repairs and structural reinforcements, particularly on the southern and western sides of the building.

The restoration's expenses will be covered by the Oil Ministry's social responsibility fund, which reflects the growing recognition of the bazaar's cultural and historical importance, the official noted.

Bazaar-e Vakil, established in the 18th century during the Zand dynasty, remains a bustling hub of commerce and culture. With nearly 200 stores offering a variety of goods including carpets, handicrafts, spices, antiques, leatherwork, and clothing, it continues to attract both domestic and international visitors. The word “bazaar” is often described as “a city within a city,” encompassing not just shops but also mosques, madrasas, bathhouses, guesthouses, and even residential neighborhoods.

Shiraz, long celebrated for its literary heritage and stunning architecture, continues to draw increasing numbers of tourists. The restoration of Bazaar-e Vakil is expected to further enhance the city's appeal as a destination, preserving its rich history while accommodating the needs of modern visitors.

Qajar-era cistern joins national heritage list

TEHRAN – Ab-Anbar-e Hasht-Pakh, a Qajar-era cistern recognized for its bizarre architectural design in Lar, has been officially registered on Iran's national heritage list.

“The cistern dates historical roots back to the Qajar era and is distinguished by its unique architectural design,” said a local official in charge of cultural heritage on Thursday, “Hasht Pakh, named after its eight-sided (octagonal) exterior structure, features a remarkable combination of forms.”

Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi further elaborated that while the exterior of the water reservoir is octagonal, the interior design reveals a dodecagon, or twelve-sided shape, a rare architectural feature in the construction of water cisterns in the region.

This cistern, he highlighted, is likely one of the few in the region with differing shapes between the interior and exterior.

The “Hasht-Pakh” cistern, with an interior diameter of approximately 11 meters and an exterior diameter of about 16 meters, covers an area of roughly 205 square meters and features four asymmetrical openings, the official noted.

The structure remains in good standing today and is considered culturally, artistically, and architecturally significant, according to the director-general.

In his final words, Sabet-Eqlidi emphasized that the cistern holds substantial value for preserving and documenting the traditional architectural techniques of Lar's water reservoirs. “The distinct dome design and the twelve-sided plan of the dome add to its artistic and architectural merit, making it a unique example of its kind,” he wended up.

Lar county is situated in south-eastern Fars province, southern Iran.

Yan Cheshmeh petroglyph site made national heritage

TEHRAN – The ancient petroglyph site of Yan Cheshmeh, part of the historically significant Teymareh region, has been officially registered on Iran's national list of cultural heritage.

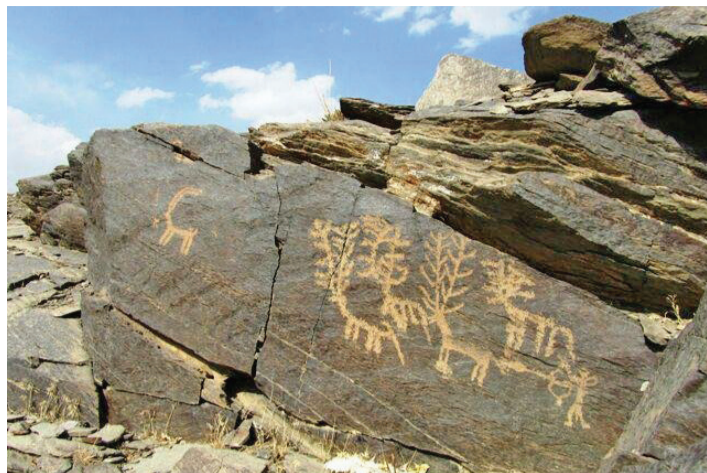
Yan Cheshmeh, located in the mountainous Gharagab area of Golpayegan county, spans over 16 hectares and is renowned for its vast collection of ancient rock carvings.

According to Mostafa Ghanouni, head of Golpayegan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, Yan Cheshmeh is one of the most significant rock art sites in the Teymareh region, which itself is celebrated for its extensive collection of petroglyphs that date back thousands of years.

The registration process for Yan Cheshmeh began in 2018, thanks to the efforts of the Teymareh Cultural Heritage Association, local activists, and researchers, the official said.

“After completing the necessary documentation and legal procedures, the site was successfully added to the national heritage list under registration number 34088.”

The Teymareh region, situated at the convergence of the Markazi, Isfahan, and Lorestan provinces along the Anarbar River, covers a stretch of approximately 300 kilometers and is home to an array of ancient rock carvings and historical sites. In recent years, other significant sites within this region have also been registered as national heritage sites, highlighting the area's rich historical and cultural significance.



Ghanouni emphasized that Yan Cheshmeh stands out within the Teymareh region due to the sheer abundance and variety of its petroglyphs, making it one of the richest rock art sites in the area.

Golpayegan county, located in the northwestern part of Isfahan Province, is home to 30 registered historical sites, reflecting its long-standing cultural heritage and historical importance.

Teymareh is home to an extraordinary collection of approximately 21,000 ancient rock carvings, some of which are estimated to be as old as 40,000 years. These invaluable artifacts, however, remain unprotected and neglected, raising concerns about their preservation.

Petroglyphs are among the oldest historical and artistic remnants of humanity. Tens of thousands of years ago, long before the development of specific languages or written scripts, humans used these carvings to com-

municate and record their presence and living conditions.

Today, Teymareh stands as one of the largest repositories of such prehistoric art. Yet, despite its significance, it receives minimal attention from authorities and lacks adequate protective measures. According to a recent report by ILNA, the neglect is so severe that no national initiative has been established to safeguard this cultural heritage, leaving these ancient artifacts vulnerable and unguarded.

Rasoul Majidi, director of the Teymareh Friends Association and a leading researcher and guide on the Teymareh petroglyphs, shared insights into the current condition of this vast archaeological site. “Teymareh was completely unknown until a few decades ago,” Majidi explained. It wasn't until the early 1990s, when Dr. Morteza Farhadi introduced Teymareh to Iranians and the world through his book, Museums in the Wind, that the site gained

any recognition.

Following the publication of Farhadi's book, more scholars began to write about Teymareh, gradually bringing its petroglyphs to light. However, Teymareh still hasn't received the recognition it truly deserves.

In 2005, four Italian tourists and researchers, inspired by Farhadi's work, visited the area. Unaware of where to find the petroglyphs, they were guided by Majidi, who revealed the extensive rock carvings to them. The visitors were astounded by the sheer number of petroglyphs and, upon their return, urged for the site's preservation, emphasizing the priceless value of these artifacts.

The petroglyphs of Teymareh range from abstract to realistic depictions, encompassing a wide array of subjects, including animals, plants, and human activities. Animal figures are predominant, particularly goats with large, pointed horns. Other animals depicted include felines, canids, horses, dromedaries, owls, fish, tigers, cows, and birds such as storks, hoopoes, and partridges. Plant figures include cedar, pine, and wheat. Additionally, there are images of martial arts, ritual dances, pregnant women, camel caravans, and people with large hands.

Despite the historical and cultural significance of these carvings, Teymareh continues to languish without proper recognition or protection. The ongoing neglect of this site underscores the urgent need for action to preserve these ancient artworks for future generations.

Tehran, Yerevan to facilitate cross-border vehicle travel

TEHRAN – In a significant move to enhance tourism and cross-border collaboration, Iran and Armenia have signed an agreement enabling Armenian citizens to easily obtain customs documents for their vehicles when traveling to Iran and beyond.

An agreement to issue Carnet de Passages en Douane for Armenian citizens' vehicles was signed between Iran's Touring and Automobile Club, the Armenian Automobile Club, and Amoud Seir Fartak Company during a ceremony held on Wednesday, taci.ir reported.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Mehdi Sobhani, the Iranian ambassador to Armenia; Mohammad-Hossein Sofi, the CEO of TACI, and Arsen Manukyan, the president of the

Armenian Automobile Club, the report added.

During the event, the Ambassador highlighted the importance of strengthening cultural relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries, emphasizing that tourism plays a crucial role in boosting economic growth and fostering connections between the Iranian and Armenian peoples.

Moreover, the CEO of TACI, stressed the importance of developing joint efforts to ease and accelerate travel between the two countries, viewing the signing of this agreement as a constructive step towards enhancing tourism and economic cooperation between Iran and Armenia.

As a result of this agreement, Armenian nation-

als will be able to obtain a Carnet de Passages en Douane—a customs document for their vehicles—through TACI for travel to Iran and other countries.

As revealed by the related officials, this initiative aims to streamline cross-border travel for Armenian vehicles, boost tourism, and strengthen transportation ties with neighboring countries.

The Carnet de Passages en Douane (CPD), is the international customs document which covers the temporary admission of motor vehicles. It is accepted as a customs declaration which makes it possible to identify a motor vehicle temporarily imported. It also incorporates an internationally valid guarantee to cover import duties and taxes and secures their payment should the vehicle not be re-exported.

Centuries-old watermill discovered following landslide

TEHRAN – The mudbrick structure of a centuries-old traditional watermill has been accidentally unearthed in the village of Qaleh Now, located in Torbat-e Heydarieh county of Khorasan Razavi province, northern Iran.

The discovery was made after a landslide exposed the remnants of the historic structure, bringing to light a piece of the region's rich past, ISNA reported on Thursday.

Ali Mohammadi, the head of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Office of Torbat-e Heydarieh, shared details of the find in an interview with ISNA.

He explained that the watermill's remains were revealed beneath one of the village's streets following a local subsidence event. “The street had shown signs of subsidence before,” Mohammadi noted, “and elder residents of the village confirmed that there was once a mill in the area.”

“After further examination, the roof and remains of the mill became visible.”

The discovered watermill is believed to date back to the Qajar era, a period known for its distinctive architecture and cultural achievements in Iran.

Mohammadi stated that efforts are currently underway to complete the excavation, clear the debris, and restore the watermill. “We are working as quickly as possible to fully uncover this structure from the earth,” he added.

The village of Qaleh Now is historically significant, with traces of Safavid-era structures and predominantly Qajar and early Pahlavi architecture.

In recent years, the village has seen the discovery of five cisterns, most of which also date back

to the Qajar period. These findings highlight the village's potential as a future tourist attraction.

Qaleh Now already boasts several historical remnants, including a tower, cisterns, and the recently discovered watermill in its southern district. To enhance the village's appeal, a traditional guesthouse and an ethnographic museum have been established, both of which have been warmly received by visitors and tourists.

First Announcement



Brief Notice For International Call No. 415004

Subject: Purchasing 3 Sets Converter's Refractory Materials

It is hereby notified that Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) intends to purchase 3 Sets Converter's Refractory Materials (with a guarantee for obtaining a heat strength greater than 6000 and without the slag splashing system) as per the required conditions and technical specifications through the international call. Accordingly, all the prospective bidders are kindly requested to visit ESCO's website www.esfahansteel.ir so as to obtain the tender document and upload their techno-commercial offer to ESCO's website (through Sourcing Field) from 07.08.2024 to 15.09.2024.

Yours Respectfully,

V.Hanaei Nejad,

Raw Materials & Energy Purchasing Manager

Esfahan Steel Company

9 Iranian universities in Shanghai ranking 2024

From page 1 ▶ Tarbiat Modares University (601-700) is placed second.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 701-800, share the third rank in the country.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tabriz (901-1000) are ranked joint fourth.

In the 2023 edition, ARWU placed 10 universities from Iran in the top 1,000 universities.

ARWU uses six objective indicators to rank world universities, including the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, the number of highly cited researchers selected by Clarivate, the number of articles published in journals of Nature and Science, the number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index in the Web of Science, and per capita performance of a university.

Harvard University tops the ranking list for the 22nd year, followed by Stanford and MIT. Other Top 10 universities are Cambridge (4th), Berkeley (5th), Oxford (6th), Princeton (7th), Caltech (8th), Columbia (8th), and Chicago (10th).

Global rankings

According to data released by Web of Science (WoS), Iran's ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum



technology fields.

Iran's best global ranking was in quantum remote sensing technology. The country was ranked eighth worldwide.

The country's other global ranking included photonic network technologies, 17; superconducting circuits, 18; spin qubit, 16; neutral (cold) atoms, 21; Trapped ions, 19; quantum key distribution, 24; quantum repeater, 26; quantum clock, 12; quantum imaging, 14; and quantum radar, 15.

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

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

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401-

ty of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) were 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.

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

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

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

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

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) were among the top 10 institutions in West Asia. They ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

The Research rankings of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran were 175 and 290, respectively, in the world.

Some \$65,000 allocated to support nano-tech researchers

TEHRAN –Since the beginning of the current Iranian year (March 20), the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has allocated some 39 billion rials (65,000 dollars) to support professors and students active in the field of nanotechnology.

The fund has been allotted to almost 1,400 researchers from 123 universities and scientific centers with the aim of enhancing scientific quality and fostering the development of efficient human resources, IRNA reported.

Iran a global leader in nano-tech

Iran's achievements in nanotechnology are noteworthy. The increase in scientific publications and sales of nano products proves Iran's rise as a global leader in this field.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the impressive fourth place worldwide.

According to StatNano, a leading nanotechnology website, Iran has made great

strides in the field of nanotechnology being ranked fourth in terms of nanotechnology publication.

This ranking proves the country's remarkable scientific development.

The site considers the number of scientific articles for comparing scientific progress in nanoscience, technology, and industry.

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on a near-atomic scale to produce new structures, materials, and devices. The technology promises scientific advancement in many sectors such as medicine, consumer products, energy, materials, and manufacturing. Nanotechnology refers to engineered structures, devices, and systems.

According to the latest statistics, Iran's nano-tech products are exported to 48 countries worldwide.

The first five export destinations are Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, Turkey, and Georgia, accounting for some 80 percent of exports, Mehr quoted Emad Ahmadvand, an official

with the vice presidency for science and technology, as saying.

Around 1808 nano-tech products were produced and marketed in 15 different industrial fields based on domestic technologies in the past Iranian calendar year that ended on March 19.

Based on the survey, the total sale of nano-tech products made in Iran is calculated to be more than 300 trillion rials (around \$500m), Ahmadvand pointed out.

The market's total value equals 1.125 billion dollars, with exports of nano-tech products accounting for 69 million dollars representing six percent of the entire market value.

Last year, the best-selling products were sanitary faucets, oil and gas nano-catalysts, automotive nano-catalysts, construction and decorative tiles, and optoelectronic products, respectively. The industrial fields of construction; automobile and transportation; oil, gas, and petrochemical had the largest share of the market, respectively.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$22m earmarked for equipping technical-vocational schools

A total budget of 900 billion rials (nearly \$22 million) has been requested to develop and equip technical-vocational high schools across the country in the current Iranian calendar year (ending March 20, 2019), Mohsen Hosseini, an official with the Ministry of Education has announced.

Describing some of the programs and priorities of the technical and vocational training organization affiliated to the Ministry, Hosseini pointed to improvement of technical and vocational training plans as the Ministry's main priority.

Competency-based education and assessment is among the most important programs of the technical and vocational organization, which must be well implemented in all career and technical education high school, he added, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان‌های کشور

مدیرکل فنی و حرفه‌ای دفتر متوسطه وزارت آموزش و پرورش از تخصیص ۹۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار برای تجهیز هنرستان‌های کشور در سال جاری خبر داد.

به گزارش خبرگزاری مهر، سیدمحسن حسینی مقدم در دیدار با مدیران هنرستان‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای شهر شیراز و برخی از مناطق استان فارس با تشریح برخی از برنامه‌ها و اولویت‌های وزارت آموزش و پرورش در بخش فنی و حرفه‌ای، گفت: کیفیت‌بخشی برنامه‌های دفتر فنی و حرفه‌ای اولویت اصلی آموزش و پرورش است.

حسینی مقدم اظهار کرد: آموزش و ارزشیابی مبتنی بر شایستگی از مهمترین برنامه‌هایی است که در آموزش‌های فنی و حرفه‌ای دنبال می‌شود و باید این شیوه آموزش به خوبی مراقبت شده و در همه هنرستان‌ها اجرا شود.

Pakistani pilgrims being screened for dengue at borders

TEHRAN –Pakistani Arbaeen pilgrims traveling through Iran are being screened at borders for dengue fever, an official with the health ministry has said.

Dengue is a viral infection transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. Transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, the disease was placed among the top ten life-threatening diseases by the World Health Organization (WHO) transmitted by local carriers in 2019.

"Health stations have been established in Mirjaveh and Rindan borders, in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, to screen Pakistanis to prevent the entry of travel-associated infectious diseases to the country," ISNA quoted Jafar Miadfar, head of Iran's Emergency Organization, as saying.

They will be checked for clinical symptoms such as fever, chills, low consciousness, and skin rashes. Also, needed laboratory tests are implemented and infected individuals will be prevented from entering Iran, the official added.

Thanks to effective border control measures and quality healthcare, the number of people entering the country having dengue fever has significantly decreased compared to the previous months.

However, a decrease in temperature accompanied by the rains in autumn can contribute to the resurgence of the mosquito density, particularly in the affected areas.

"The most important factor that contributes to dengue transmission worldwide is climate change; increase and change in temperature has led to the outbreak of various infectious diseases including dengue fever," IRNA quoted Hossein Farshidi, an official with the health ministry, as saying.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report, dengue fever cases in 2023 surged twofold globally, and the number of deaths caused by the disease also increased by the same factor.

Fortunately, since the outbreak of the disease, there has been no report of acute cases in Iran, and there is no reason to be concerned about the spread of the disease in the country, the official noted.

So far, Bandar Lengeh, southern Hormozgan province, has had the highest level of dengue-infected cases.

Luckily, the number of dengue cases has not increased in the area thanks to warm weather which is associated with a reduction in the Aedes density, Farshidi added.



The health ministry has implemented measures to address the probable increase in infected cases in autumn.

The ministry is also planning to develop a training package to inform individuals, particularly passengers, medical staff, and journalists of the ways to prevent, or manage dengue fever.

Sharp rise in cases

Cases of dengue fever have been so far identified in 128 countries, a sharp rise compared to 10 countries in 1960, Shahnam Arshi, an official with the health ministry has said.

Up to 400 people are affected with dengue fever each year, he said, adding that only 20 percent of patients have symptoms and 80 percent of dengue infections have mild or no symptoms.

A significant portion of transmission occurs through individuals with asymptomatic infections.

About half of the world's population is at risk, and this number is increasing annually due to global warming, climate change, and the rise in international travel.

About 70 to 75 percent of the cases are reported in Southeast Asia. Over the past years, the disease has spread to Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Singapore, and Thailand.

Aedes aegypti is a more invasive mosquito that is more common in Iran. Due to the physiology of this mosquito, people in contaminated areas are told to wear clothes that cover most parts of their bodies in the first two hours of the morning and two hours before the evening, Arshi noted.

Transmission occurs two days before showing symptoms and two days after the fever.

The disease can spread from mosquitoes to humans, from humans to mosquitoes, and from humans to humans through blood transfusion, organ transplant, and mother to child in pregnancy.

Global coordinated response is needed to mpox outbreak: official

TEHRAN –A coordinated response at the global level is needed to avoid scattered and contradictory decisions in addressing mpox (monkey-pox), halt the outbreak of the disease, and save human lives, Farshid Rezaei, an official with the health ministry, has announced.

Mpox is an infectious disease caused by the mpox virus. It can cause a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, and fever. Most people fully recover, but some get very sick.

Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions which can last 2-4 weeks accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes.

Following the outbreak of monkeypox in the African continent, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a public health emergency of international concern, ISNA reported.

WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, announced on Wednesday, August 14, that according to the International Health Regulations (2005), the surge in monkeypox cases in the Democratic Republic of Congo and an increasing number of African countries constitutes a public health emergency of International Importance (PHEIC).

The declaration was made based on the recommendation of the emergency committee of international health regulations composed of independent experts.

The committee declared that the increase in

cases of monkeypox is an emergency situation with the potential to spread further in African countries and possibly beyond the continent.

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, said, "Significant efforts are already underway in close collaboration with communities and governments, with our country teams working on the frontlines to help reinforce measures to curb mpox."

With the growing spread of the virus, we're scaling up further through coordinated international action to support countries bring the outbreaks to an end."

The current increase in monkey-pox in some parts of Africa, along with the spread of a new strain of monkey-pox virus which is sexually transmitted, is an emergency not only for Africa but for the whole world.

Surveys show that the monkeypox mortality rate this year is higher compared to the fatality rate due to the disease last year.

More than 156,000 cases of monkey-pox have been reported so far this year, of which 537 people lost their lives.

The monkeypox virus was discovered in Denmark (1958) in monkeys kept for research and the first reported human case of mpox was a nine-month-old boy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC, 1970).

Mpox can spread from person to person or occasionally from animals to people. A global outbreak occurred in 2022-2023.



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AUGUST 17, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A human being is a source of amazement; for, he sees by means of tallow, speaks by a little flesh, hears by a bone, and breathes by slit.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:10 Dawn: 3:55 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:26 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



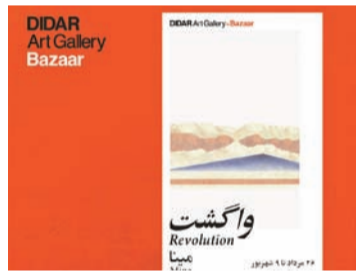
Painting

* A collection of paintings by Roya Ebrahim is on display in an exhibition at Artibition Projects Gallery.

The exhibit named "Somewhere's Residents" will continue until September 5 at the gallery located at 61 Rezaei Alley, Shariati St.

* A collection of paintings by Bahareh Khodai is on view in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "The Fish That Have Run with Me" will be running until August 28 at the gallery that can be found at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* An exhibition of paintings by Mina Moshajjari is currently underway at Didar Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Revolution" will run until August 30 at the gallery located at 10 Mobini Alley, Mofatteh St.

* A collection of paintings by Nikou Vaghri is currently on display in an exhibition at Ev Gallery.

The exhibition runs until August 30 at the gallery located at No.5, Arabi Alley, North Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.



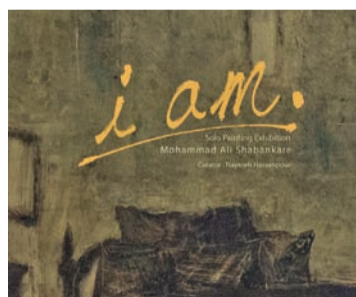
* Paintings by Hamed Khodabandelui and Behzad Mardali are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.

Entitled "Root", the exhibition runs until August 30 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Marjan Asgari is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

Entitled "Gesture", the exhibition will run until August 26 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.



* Paintings by Mohammad-Ali Shabankareh are on view in an exhibition at CAMA - Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery.

Named "I Am", the exhibit runs until August 21 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.

* An exhibition of paintings by Tofiq Nikkiah Bahrami is underway at Saless Gallery.

The exhibit named "End of Season" will run until August 27 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan Ave.



* Shahrouz Sadr is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Iranshahr Gallery.

The exhibit named "Undine" will run until August 27 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

* Paintings by Omid Masoumi are currently on view in an exhibition at Etamad Gallery 1.

Titled "The Scent of the Game of Life", the exhibition will be running until September 15 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.



Arbaeen theater festival to showcase ritual drama for pilgrims

TEHRAN- The 8th edition of the Arbaeen Pilgrimage International Theater Festival is scheduled to take place from Saturday until August 25 in Iraq and the border regions of Iran.

The initiative, which started in 2016 with 60 ritual theater artists at the Art Bureau's Center for Dramatic Arts, is expected to feature 150 to 200 participating artists this year, according to a report from the public relations office of the Art Bureau on Thursday.

The event will unfold in two main sections, along the Iran-Iraq border and on the Arbaeen pilgrimage route, the report added.

This international festival is held annually as a cultural vow by ritual theater artists without any form of payment or compensation.

Over the course of eight days, it will showcase various genres and forms of performance art along the Arbaeen pilgrimage route leading to Karbala, welcoming Iranian audiences as well as pilgrims from Arab countries.

In the Iran section of the festival, performances will include tazieh (Iranian passion play), in Persian and Arabic, street theater, Naqqali (Iranian dramatic story-telling), as well as anthem and poetry reading sessions at the Shalamcheh, Khosrovi, Chazabeh, Bashmagh,



and Mehran borders. Additionally, the presence of eulogists will further enrich the festival's atmosphere and spirituality.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians travel to Karbala to commemorate Arbaeen.

The "Narrative of the Pilgrims" segment in Iraq will commence

with two days of performances in Najaf, followed by four days along the Arbaeen Walk route and three additional days in Karbala.

These ritual performances will feature three tazieh groups and three street theater groups in both Persian and Arabic.

A choir well-versed in both languages will adapt their performances to the audience's needs, while poets will also recite works in both languages.

This year's festival stands out from past editions due to its focus on performances addressing the theme of Gaza, specifically highlighting recent

events and drawing parallels between the oppression of the Palestinian people and the tragedy of Karbala.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians embark on a journey to the Iraqi city of Karbala to observe the holy day of Arbaeen at the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the Shia, and his brother, Hazrat Abbas (AS).

Arbaeen, which will be observed on August 25 this year, marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions on Ashura.

Egyptian film "Clash" to be shown at TMOCA cinematheque

TEHRAN-The 2016 internationally co-produced drama film "Clash" directed by Mohamed Diab will be screened at the cinematheque of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on Sunday.

The film screening, from the program dedicated to showing movies about resistance, will start at 3 p.m. and will be followed by a review session in the presence of the film critic, researcher, translator and instructor Vahidollah Mousavi, ILNA reported.

The 97-minute war/thriller was officially selected by the 2016 Cannes Film Festival and was the opening film of the Festival's Un Certain Regard section that year.

It was selected as the Egyptian entry for



the Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards but it was not nominated. It won the award for Best Film at the 2016

International Film Festival of Kerala.

Set entirely in an eight-meter police truck in Cairo, a number of detainees from different political and social backgrounds are brought together by fate, during the turmoil that followed the ousting of former president Morsi from power in June 2013.

Mohamed Diab, 45, is an Egyptian screenwriter and director whose work often centers on pressing issues concerning Egyptian society.

He is known for his directorial debut film "Cairo 678," which was released a month before the Egyptian revolution, and for directing Disney's Marvel series "Moon Knight". TMOCA is located next to Laleh Park on N. Karegar St.

"Nonviolent Communication (NVC) Toolkit for Facilitators" published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Nonviolent Communication (NVC) Toolkit for Facilitators" written by Judi Morin, Raj Gill, and Lucy Leu has been released in the Iranian book market.

Akhtaran Books has published the title in 376 pages with a translation by Farah Abbasi, ILNA reported.

Internationally respected NVC trainers, Judi Morin, Raj Gill and Lucy Leu have come together to codify over 20 years of training experience in one hands-on nonviolent communication facilitator guide. Whether you're a new facilitator, a seasoned trainer looking to

incorporate a more experiential approach, or a team of trainers, the NVC Toolkit has a wealth of resources for you.

By breaking NVC down into 18 key concepts, this Toolkit provides succinct teaching tools that can be used on their own for shorter sessions, or combined for a long-term or multi-session training.

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is an approach to enhanced communication, understanding, and connection based on the principles of nonviolence and humanistic psychology.

It is not an attempt to end disagreements, but rather a way

that aims to increase empathy and understanding to improve the overall quality of life.

It seeks empathic dialogue and understanding among all parties. Nonviolent communication evolved from concepts used in person-centered therapy, and was developed by clinical psychologist Marshall Rosenberg beginning in the 1960s and 1970s.

NVC is a communication tool with the goal of first creating empathy in the conversation.

The idea is that once people hear one another, it will be much easier to talk about a solution which satisfies all parties'

fundamental needs. The goal is interpersonal harmony and obtaining knowledge for future cooperation.

Notable concepts include rejecting coercive forms of discourse, gathering facts through observing without evaluating, genuinely and concretely expressing feelings and needs, and formulating effective and empathetic requests.

Nonviolent communication is used as a clinical psychotherapy modality and it is also offered in workshops for the general public, particularly with regards to seeking harmony in relationships and at workplaces.

Iranshahr Theater to host Iranian adaptation of Chekhov's "The Seagull"

TEHRAN-An Iranian adaptation of Anton Chekhov's play "The Seagull" is to be staged at the Iranshahr Theater Complex from August 18.

The play has been written and directed by Mohammad Miraliakbari, who has changed the setting.

In his adaptation, the story happens in Bandar Anzali in north of Iran and deals with complex relationships of some theater and cinema artists, ILNA reported.

The cast includes Hossein Kashfi-Asl, Iman Mirhashemi, Mohsen Mirzakhani, Leila Shirmohammadi, Sharareh Ashouri, Mehran Moradi, Sheida Pahlevan, and Peyman Mohseni among others.

The original play by the Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov was written in 1895.

"The Seagull" is generally considered to be the first of his four major plays. The play deals with lost opportunities and the clash between generations.

The main characters, all artists, are guests at a country estate.

They are Mme Arkadina, a middle-aged actress; her lover, Trigorin, a successful writer; her son Konstantin, a writer; and Nina, a young aspiring actress whom Konstantin loves.

Like Chekhov's other full-length plays, "The Seagull" relies upon an ensemble cast of diverse, fully-developed characters. In

contrast to the melodrama of mainstream 19th-century theatre, lurid actions (such as Konstantin's suicide attempts) are not shown onstage.

Characters tend to speak in subtext rather than directly. The character Trigorin is considered one of Chekhov's greatest male roles.

This is Miraliakbari's fourth adaptation of Chekhov's works.

Previously, the Iranian director had staged Iranian versions of "Cherry Orchard," "Uncle Vanya," and "Three Sisters".

The 80-minute play will remain on stage for a month at Iranshahr Theater, located in Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.