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Iran's 1953 coup:

First trial for U.S.-Orchestrated Putsch Held in Tehran



Iran says U.S. cannot be impartial mediator in Gaza peace talks

TEHRAN- Iran's acting foreign minister argues that Washington cannot serve as an impartial mediator in the conflict, given its role in obstructing ceasefire efforts and backing the Zionist regime's ongoing military operations.

During a phone conversation with Egyptian foreign minister Badr Abdelatty on Saturday evening, Ali Baqeri Kani emphasized that the United States support for Israel has revealed its complicity in the atrocities and highlighted its inability to mediate fairly.

He accused the United States of deliberately placing obstacles in the path of ceasefire negotiations, thereby enabling Israel's continued aggression.

Baqeri Kani further criticized the Israeli regime for "hypocrisy and deceit" in ceasefire talks while simultaneously committing atrocities in Gaza. He also addressed the recent assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, stating that Iran reserves the right to respond to this heinous crime.

Haniyeh, who had been in Tehran for the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's newly-elected President Masoud Pezeshkian, was killed alongside his bodyguard in an attack on July 31. ▶ Page 2

Russian defense minister highlights Iran's growing presence at 'Army 2024'

TEHRAN- The "Army 2024" International Military-Technical Forum, taking place near Moscow, has attracted high-level attention from global defense officials, including Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov.

Among the numerous international exhibits, the Iranian pavilion emerged as a focal point during the event, showcasing Tehran's latest advancements in military technology.

The Russian Ministry of Defense, in a statement, highlighted a range of showcased products, including FPV drones, electronic warfare devices, remotely operated platforms for small arms, and anti-tank guided systems.

Minister Belousov emphasized Russia's interest in the military capabilities of its global partners.

In addition to Iran, Belousov toured the displays of other key participants, including China, Belarus, and several other nations, highlighting the diversity of military innovations on display at the forum. ▶ Page 2

NED has replaced CIA covert activities

TEHRAN - The Chinese Foreign Ministry has issued a report elaborating on the conduct of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) that its programs are run under the guidance of the US State Department and embassies abroad.

The report titled "The National Endowment for Democracy: What? It Is and What It Does", said NED which claims to be an NGO supporting democracy abroad in fact carries out subversion, infiltration and sabotage across the world.

William Blum, an American scholar, wrote, "The idea was that the NED would do somewhat overtly what the CIA had been doing covertly for decades, and thus, hopefully, eliminate the stigma associated with CIA covert activities."

Philip Agee, a former CIA officer, also said on a 1995 TV show, "Nowadays, instead of having just the CIA going around behind the scenes and trying to manipulate the process secretly by inserting money here and instructions there and so forth, they have now a sidekick, which is this National Endowment for Democracy, NED." ▶ Page 5

Report: Hezbollah drone filmed Netanyahu's residence

An Israeli newspaper said on Sunday that a Hezbollah drone might have been used to photograph Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence in Qaysaria, south of Haifa.

According to Israel Hayom, a radar on an Israeli missile ship stationed offshore from Qaysaria detected a drone. This detection was interpreted as a Hezbollah surveillance drone intended to photograph Netanyahu's seaside residence.

However, the Israeli military suggested that this could be a "false alarm," noting that radar systems sometimes issue warnings even in the case of flocks of birds or other objects, which were previously considered "accurate."

The newspaper also reported that fighter jets were dispatched to the area after the detection, but were unable to locate the drone.

Hezbollah has previously released footage taken by its Hodhod drone showing Israeli military bases and critical infrastructure in northern Israel.

Fears have grown of a full-fledged war between Israel and Hezbollah amid an exchange of cross-border attacks especially after the July 30 assassination of Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut.

Israeli army loses more soldiers

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Israeli military has acknowledged one of its officers and a soldier have been killed in combat in the Gaza Strip, as the Palestinian resistance continues to confront the occupation forces across all battlefronts.

The Israeli army stated that a "company commander in logistics support was killed as a result of a bomb explosion in central Gaza," adding that a soldier was also killed during the clashes in the Strip.

The latest Israeli military fatalities in Gaza, according to Israeli occupation forces (IOF) figures, have now risen to nearly 700 officers and soldiers since the start of the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation. The figure includes 332 Israeli troops since the beginning of ground invasions in the enclave, in addition to around 10,000 others wounded, according to Israeli media reports.

The armed wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, announced the execution of a qualitative and complex operation targeting the IOF in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood, south of Gaza City. ▶ Page 5

Blinken's regional mission: Salvaging Israel, whitewashing genocide

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is set to hold talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel on Monday with the purported aim of facilitating a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip as the Tel Aviv regime continues its deadly assault on the Palestinian territory.

The top American diplomat's trip to the region comes after two days of talks over halting Israel's genocidal war ended in the Qatari capital on Friday without a major breakthrough.

The talks were mediated by the US, Egypt and Qatar. Senior officials from the three countries met with an Israeli negotiating team to hash out details for clinching a ceasefire deal.

The negotiations are expected to continue this week in Cairo.

Hamas did not attend the Doha talks, accusing Israel of adding new conditions to a proposal laid out by US President Joe Biden on May 31 that was later endorsed by the United Nations Security Council and welcomed by the resistance movement. ▶ Page 5

Netanyahu's thirst for blood is insatiable

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN - While a new round of ceasefire talks participated by Israel, the U.S., Egypt and Qatar was held in Doha on Thursday and Friday to end the Israeli carnage in Gaza, the bloodthirsty regime of Benjamin Netanyahu is continuing to kill Palestinians incessantly.

The slaughter of Palestinians is continuing while the participants at the talks issued a statement claiming the talks were "serious, constructive and conducted in a positive atmosphere" and agreed to resume the negotiations in Egypt this week.

Late on Saturday and even within the early hours of Sunday Israel conducted more deadly air strikes on residential houses in Gaza. The sleeping Palestinians were targeted without any warning. ▶ Page 5

Araqchi maps out diplomatic plans if confirmed as foreign minister

TEHRAN - Abbas Araqchi, the figure proposed by President Masoud Pezeshkian to become Iran's top diplomat, says he would focus on the "neutralization of sanctions" through "honorable means" if he receives a vote of confidence from the conservative majority parliament.

Araqchi, an experienced diplomat associated with Iran's reformist camp, presented his foreign policy agenda on Sunday while speaking to a gathering of lawmakers whose majority support is essential for his appointment as the country's foreign minister.

"The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has explicitly said that our priority is to neutralize sanctions," Araqchi stated, underscoring a dual focus on diplomatic engagement and the preservation of national dignity.

He further assured that any efforts to end the sanctions would be approached with dignity, emphasizing collaboration with Parliament. "There will be no haste nor will we fall into protracted negotiations," he said, indicating a cautious yet determined approach to diplomacy moving forward. ▶ Page 2



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© ISNA / Erfan Khoshkhou

Russian defense minister highlights Iran's growing presence at 'Army 2024'



From page 1 ▶ The Iranian exhibit was particularly notable for its introduction of the domestically-produced "Mohajer-10" drone. This advanced unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) quickly became a centerpiece of the forum, drawing substantial attention from military officials and experts.

The Mohajer-10, which represents a significant technological leap from its predecessors, underscores Iran's growing expertise in UAV development and its increasing self-reliance in defense technology.

According to Iranian media reports, the drone has an operational range of 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) and can fly for up to 24 hours. Its payload can reach 300 kilograms (661 pounds), double the capacity of the Mohajer-6, the reports have added.

This year marks Iran's third consecutive participation in the "Army" forum, and the country has made a strong impression with a wide array of defense innovations.

The Iranian pavilion not only featured the Mohajer-10 drone but also a variety of other key military technologies.

These included state-of-the-art radar systems, advanced air and naval defense platforms, ballistic missiles, and equipment from Iran's aerospace industry. Industrial and military-grade batteries also featured prominently in the exhibit, further demonstrating the breadth of Iran's defense capabilities.

The official opening of the Iranian pavilion was attended by a high-ranking military delegation led by Brigadier General Ali Shadmani, Deputy Coordinator of the Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters.

He was joined by Kazem Jalali, the Iranian Ambassador to the Russian Federation, in representing Iran at this prestigious event. Brigadier General Shadmani participated in the forum's opening ceremony as the representative of Major General Mohammad Baqeri, responding to an invitation from the Russian minister of defense.

During his visit, Brigadier General Shadmani toured various sections of the Iranian pavilion, examining the technologies and innovations

on display. His visit underscored the strong defense ties between Iran and Russia and highlighted Tehran's ongoing efforts to showcase its military advancements on the international stage.

Spotlight on Iran's missile capabilities

A key highlight of the Iranian exhibit was the display of Iran's export-oriented ballistic missile families. The Fateh ballistic missile series, including the Fateh-110C (export name BM-300) and the Fath missile (export name BM-120), were prominently featured, alongside the Zelzal missile series.

The Zelzal missiles, which have been upgraded by removing rotational thrusters and adding a guidance system, represent significant advancements in Iran's missile technology.

Also on display was the Arman missile system, a short-range system formerly known as Ababil, which utilizes two different guidance systems.

According to official reports, the Arman ballistic missile defense system is capable of engaging six targets at distances ranging from 120 to 180 kilometers.

Although no major changes were announced in the specifications of these systems, visitors noted modifications in the vehicle used to transport and launch the Arman missiles.

In the cruise missile category, Iran showcased a variety of systems, including the sea-based anti-ship cruise missile Ghader (CM-200), its air-launched variant (CM-200A), and the Qadir (CM-300).

For the first time, the Paveh cruise missile was introduced, marking its debut at the forum and signaling Iran's intent to market this new system internationally.

With high-profile visits from Russian defense officials and a strong display of military innovation, Iran's participation in the forum underscores its growing role in the global defense landscape.

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 Islamic Revolution, consistently emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing Iran's defense capabilities.

Iran says U.S. cannot be impartial mediator in Gaza peace talks

From page 1 ▶ The incident has provoked a stern warning from Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who vowed harsh retaliation against Israel. Ayatollah Khamenei described Haniyeh's assassination as a grievous loss but also a catalyst for retribution against the Zionist regime.

Egyptian foreign minister, on his part, underscored the ongoing efforts in Cairo to broker a ceasefire, expressing deep concern over the worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where food and medicine are scarce, and disease is spreading. He called for urgent international consensus to bring about an immediate ceasefire.

Israel showing "hypocrisy and deceit" in ceasefire talks

Cairo is preparing to host the next round of indirect negotiations between Israel and Hamas, following preliminary talks in Doha that have been labeled as promising by mediators from the United States, Egypt, and Qatar.

The conflict in Gaza, which escalated



on October 7 following Hamas's surprise Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, has resulted in devastating casualties.

Israel's subsequent military response has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, primarily women and children, and left tens of thousands more injured. Thousands of others remain missing and are feared dead under the rubble of destroyed buildings.

On Saturday, Gaza's Ministry of Health said Israeli attacks had killed 69 people and injured 136 in the last 48 hours.

Over nine months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

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.

Araqchi maps out diplomatic plans if confirmed as foreign minister



Abbas Araqchi, the proposed minister of foreign affairs, addresses Iranian lawmakers on Sunday. (ISNA)

From page 1 ▶ "There will be no haste nor will we fall into protracted negotiations," he said, indicating a cautious yet determined approach to diplomacy moving forward.

Reflecting on efforts to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Araqchi noted, "When the current U.S. President Mr. Biden took office and requested that the U.S. return to the JCPOA, the system's decision was to respond to this request while maintaining firm positions."

He recalled his previous involvement in these negotiations, asserting that the discussions adhered to the strategic directives set forth by the Iranian leadership.

Araqchi also reiterated strong support for the Resistance forces in West Asia, emphasizing unwavering backing for the Palestinian cause and other Resistance movements. "These issues will remain at the forefront of our agenda," he declared.

In his remarks, Araqchi highlighted the importance of leveraging Iran's political and diplomatic capabilities to advance the "goals of the Axis of Resistance" on the world stage. He expressed a commitment to enhancing regional cooperation and securing international recognition for these movements.

Discussing regional diplomacy, he asserted that a policy of good neighborliness would be vigorously pursued, transforming political and economic opportunities in neighboring nations into tangible benefits. He also emphasized the significance of partnerships with countries like China and Russia, stating,

"Emerging powers and new arenas in Africa, Latin America, and East Asia will be prioritized in our foreign relations."

Regarding relations with Europe, Araqchi conveyed a willingness to engage, provided European nations correct their "wrongful and hostile behaviors" toward Iran.

Addressing Iran's position on the United States, he explained that the country's approach would focus on the "management of conflict," not its "removal."

While Araqchi is a well-respected diplomat among his peers and analysts, he may face difficulty gaining the support of the conservative-majority parliament.

Some lawmakers who used to be active in Pezeshkian's defeated rivals' presidential campaigns have expressed strong opposition to Araqchi and his past tenures in the foreign ministry, specifically his role in leading the talks that led to the inking of the JCPOA.

'Intelligence forces in 53 countries targeting Iran'

Another proposed minister to speak to lawmakers on Sunday was Esmail Khatib, the proposed intelligence minister who has been serving the role for the past three years. Khatib

faced significantly less opposition compared to Araqchi.

That enabled the official to dedicate most of his time at the podium to making warnings about the security threats Iran is facing.

"The intelligence services of 53 countries have designated sections focused on Iran" he stated, highlighting that many acts of sabotage are carried out with the involvement of various actors.

He emphasized that the Ministry of Intelligence has recently thwarted several enemy plots through a series of anti-terrorist and counter-intelligence operations. "We have nullified some of these plots," he asserted, underscoring the ministry's proactive measures.



Esmail Khatib, the current and proposed minister of intelligence, talks to MPs on Sunday. (IRNA)

Khatib pointed out that the confrontation between the enemies and the Islamic Republic has persisted since the victory of the revolution.

He noted, "Today, the foes have put hybrid warfare on their agenda, using cognitive warfare to weaken the structure of the Islamic system."

He elaborated on the challenges faced by Iran, stating, "On the one hand, our country is situated in a region rife with numerous wars and tensions, including the emergence of Takfiri terrorism under the name of Daesh.

On the other hand, we contend with the state-sponsored terrorism of the Zionist regime, which resorts to the most brutal racist acts and the massacre of innocent people before the world."

Khatib also highlighted the Ministry's efforts to harness emerging technologies, noting that advancements in areas such as artificial intelligence and cognitive sciences have significantly enhanced intelligence operations.

"These developments in information collection and analysis have enabled the Islamic Republic of Iran to achieve great progress in this respect," he stated.

Zafarqandi says long medical career helps him understand what staff and patients need

The president's proposed ministers of interior and health also faced parliament's scrutiny on Sunday.

Mohammad Reza Zafarqandi pledged to ensure that the Iranian people endure no suffering beyond the pain of illness if he is approved as the health minister. "Today, I am ready to use all my strength, capacity, experience, and the broad support of the health community in the country to ensure that people endure no suffering other than the pain of illness," he stated.

He emphasized the critical nature of his

role, saying, "I have come to enter a critical management arena that is connected to human lives." Drawing from his four decades of experience in healthcare, he acknowledged the ongoing challenges faced by citizens despite advancements in medical services. "As a doctor, I have learned to support the people who, despite all the advancements made in health, still face serious shortages and limitations in some areas of the country," he remarked.

Reflecting on his extensive background, Zafarqandi noted, "For 40 years, I have lived among my colleagues and have been in contact with healthcare and treatment staff." He likened accepting responsibility in the current climate to being part of emergency teams during wartime, emphasizing the need for self-sacrifice and dedication to serving the nation.

Addressing the ongoing crises and challenges posed by international sanctions, he stated, "The country is grappling with various crises and facing unjust sanctions and financial limitations. In these circumstances, we must utilize all available capacities." He also highlighted a pressing issue: "We are currently facing a problem called the migration of healthcare personnel, which imposes significant costs."

Zafarqandi didn't shy away from discussing broader regional issues, mentioning the recent conflict in Gaza. "One of the crises is the unjust 300-day assault by the Zionist regime on the oppressed people of Gaza, resulting in the martyrdom of over 40,000 individuals," he said.



Mohammad Reza Zafarqandi, Pezeshkian's proposed health minister, defends plans in parliament on Sunday. (ISNA)

In closing, he reiterated his commitment to enhancing the health sector and reducing suffering among the populace. "The government's duty is to gain the satisfaction of the people, and the health sector is one of the most important pillars for achieving this satisfaction. I have come to dedicate all my efforts, strength, experience, and determination to enhance the health sector," Zafarqandi concluded.

Pezeshkian presented his cabinet nominations to Parliament on August 11, just under two weeks after his inauguration before his former colleagues. It will take several days until voting concludes on who will be allowed to take each ministerial position.

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

The dark legacy of Western interference: slavery, colonialism, and coups: Iran

TEHRAN- Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry, has criticized the United States and the United Kingdom for their meddling in the affairs of other nations, specifically highlighting their involvement in the 1953 coup in Iran that ousted the democratically elected government of Mohammad Mosaddegh.

Kanaani stated on his X account on Sunday, "The history of American and British interference is marked

by slavery, colonialism, coups, and military interventions, all of which reflect a dark and shameful legacy."

The Iranian spokesperson emphasized that the US and UK will always be accountable for their reprehensible actions in toppling Mosaddegh's government through the Coup d'état, as well as for their ongoing political, security, and military support for oppressive regimes.

Kanaani further remarked that,

given this troubling history, these Western nations are now backing the illegitimate and racist Israeli regime and the atrocities occurring in Gaza, all while claiming to champion democracy and human rights.

In 1951, Iran's prime minister, Mohammad Mossadegh, provoked significant anger in Britain by nationalizing Iran's oil industry. He contended that Iran should benefit from its extensive oil reserves, which had previously been under the exclusive control of the Anglo-

Iranian Oil Company, later rebranded as British Petroleum (BP).

After deliberating on military intervention, Britain ultimately decided to execute a coup d'état. President Harry Truman dismissed the proposal, but upon Dwight Eisenhower's ascension to the presidency, he instructed the CIA to initiate one of its earliest covert operations against a foreign government.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran's police seize 150k liters of smuggled fuel on Kish Island

TEHRAN- The police chief on Kish Island reported the seizure of over 150,000 liters of smuggled fuel.

According to IRNA, Ali Asghar Jamali expressed in an interview, "The Kish Island police successfully intercepted two vessels transporting the illicit fuel on Sunday."

"As a result of the operation, authorities apprehended seven individuals connected to the smuggling attempt," he stated. Jamali also mentioned that the fuel was loaded from the coastal areas adjacent to Kish Island.

Iran has persistently faced challenges related to fuel smuggling, primarily due to the lower

prices of its petroleum products compared to those in adjacent nations.

Consequently, in partnership with the Navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Army, law enforcement agencies have been proactively engaged in intercepting vessels and vehicles involved in fuel smuggling activities.

Iran's 1953 coup: First trial for U.S.-orchestrated putsch held in Tehran

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – An Iranian court has commenced the trial of the U.S. administration and its officials for their role in the 1953 coup against the democratically-elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh.

The first session was held on Sunday, marking the 71st anniversary of the coup, at the 55th branch of the court dealing with international affairs in Tehran's Imam Khomeini Judicial Complex.

This lawsuit, brought by some 402,000 Iranians, targets six American individuals and legal entities for their involvement in the ousting of Mosaddegh, which paved the way for the pro-Western monarchy of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Lawyer Shami Aghdam, representing the plaintiffs, stated that "documents show the U.S. spy agency CIA, with the help of its British counterpart MI6, planned the coup by using internal and external agents against the legitimate government of Iran on August 19, 1953."

Aghdam further explained that Washington and London "designed the military coup through violating international principles and rules, and interfering in the internal affairs of Iran, intending to maintain their influence and power in the government, securing their interests



and looting the country's property."

He added that the coup was carried out by military and political figures affiliated with the U.S. and UK governments, as well as "thugs." Aghdam concluded by stating that "In fact, the coup marked the beginning of Washington's complete domination over Iran to make it more dependent than before and prevent its independence and progress. The domination lasted for more than 25 years and inflicted costs, as well as material and spiritual damage, on the country and the nation."

Mosaddegh's ouster, the starting point of U.S. hostilities against Iran

The 1953 coup in Iran is known as Operation Ajax by the U.S. and its lesser-involved ally, the United Kingdom. The putsch happened after the Brits took umbrage at Mosaddegh's decision to nationalize the Iranian oil industry, previously controlled by the

Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC). This move angered Britain, which relied heavily on Iranian oil.

After failing to force the Iranian Prime Minister to walk back on his decision through an economic siege, London decided to seek direct help from Americans, who Mosaddegh believed could be a relying partner for Iran in the absence of Britain.

The CIA, under the direction of Kermit Roosevelt Jr., began planning the coup in early 1953. The operation aimed to create unrest and discredit Mosaddegh while rallying support for the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The CIA's main tool to incite public discontent against Mosaddegh was propaganda. Americans portrayed the leader as a communist threat, while also funding opposition groups and organizing violent demonstrations.

On August 19, 1953, the coup was executed. Initially, it faced setbacks,

but after some strategic adjustments and further riots, military forces loyal to the Shah took control of Tehran. Mosaddegh was arrested, and the Shah was reinstated with increased power.

As stated by many historians as well as top Iranian figures and politicians, the coup toppling Mosaddegh in 1953 opened the floodgates to decades of American meddling in Iran's internal affairs. The upheaval, though bitter in nature, also became the first lesson that Iranians learned in regard to Americans; that the U.S. cannot be trusted when it comes to respecting the sovereignty, integrity, and independence of other countries.

"There are some people who say that we should somehow compromise with the U.S. because this way, their enmities might decrease. No, [This is not right]. They have not even shown mercy to those who trusted, pinned their hopes on, and referred to the U.S. for assistance," Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei explained during a gathering in 2017. "Who for example? Dr. Mosaddegh. In order to fight and stand up against the English – this is what he wished to do – he turned to the Americans. He met with and negotiated with them and asked for their help. He trusted them. [But] The coup d'état of the 28th of Mordad (1953 coup) was not launched by the English, rather it was launched by the U.S. against Mosaddegh."

Turkey seeks Iran's involvement in Syria normalization efforts: envoy



TEHRAN – In an interview with Iranian media, Hicabi Kirlangic, the Turkish ambassador to Tehran, has emphasized the importance of Iran's involvement in Turkey's efforts to normalize relations with Syria.

As Turkey moves forward with its normalization efforts, Kirlangic, in remarks to Tasnim News Agency, expressed hope for collaboration with Iran. «We need to make our own decisions and establish and solidify peace in the region,» he concluded. «Iran and Turkey play a significant role in this regard, especially Iran's relationship with Syria can encourage Syria towards peace with Turkey.»

The ambassador acknowledged differing perspectives between Turkey and Iran on the Syrian issue but stressed the need for cooperation. «We must be mindful of other powers and examine the situation carefully,» he noted.

The diplomat addressed the complexities

of the situation in Syria, acknowledging the historical tensions between Turkey and the Syrian government. He remarked, "Syria is one of our closest neighbors and culturally one of the countries closest to us. In the past, we have had various problems with Syria, particularly related to terrorism, but subsequent events in Syria are well known to all." Kirlangic reiterated Turkey's commitment to Syria's territorial integrity, asserting, "The disintegration of Syria would mean an escalation of the crisis in the region. Maintaining Syria's territorial integrity has always been a priority for us; our stance on this matter is completely clear and evident."

The envoy's remarks come despite repeated and constant airstrikes by Turkey against positions within the Arab country, which have been met with scathing condemnation from the Syrian government. Turkey often claims it is targeting Kurdish groups it deems as terrorists, but Damascus accuses Ankara of using terrorism as a pretext.

'It is reasonable for Iran to respond to Haniyeh's assassination'

The Turkish envoy also addressed Israel's assassination of Hamas political Chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed on July 31 in a Tehran residence, saying it is reasonable for Iran to respond to the assassination.

"I think it is reasonable for Iran to react. Any

other country would show the same reaction. In some situations where countries lack power, they may not respond, but Iran is a large and powerful country with significant backing."

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, the ambassador stated, "Ismail Haniyeh was subjected to such a brutal attack and became a martyr while in Iran for the presidential inauguration, which is a grave incident, and that such an event occurred in the capital of Iran worsens the situation."

He continued, "In this regard, we cannot tell Iran to be patient and not respond harshly. Iran seems determined in this matter, but we cannot predict how they will respond."

Time will reveal this; it may be a response they do not expect. Whether it will be a military response, we do not know either. But the greatest response is that it should be answered in such a way that they retreat and come to their knees, which is not solely Iran's responsibility; all countries in the region share that responsibility. It is unreasonable to just wait for Iran to act."

Kirlangic also pointed out the international community's reaction to the incident, saying, "What was sacrificed here was the opportunity for a ceasefire." He criticized the approach taken by Israel, stating, "Here, one side has attacked and then says let's negotiate a ceasefire."

Iran to send back over 56,000 foreign nationals to their countries

TEHRAN – A local official has reported that a total of 56,356 foreign nationals have been repatriated to their home countries via the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchistan. According to the provincial authority, the Islamic Republic of Iran facilitated the return of these individuals between March 20 and July 21.

This number reflects a 23% increase compared to the same timeframe in the previous year, as stated by Gholamreza Bagh-Shirin. Additionally, he noted a 17% rise in the arrests of foreign nationals, totaling 29,902 since the Iranian calendar year

commenced on March 20.

Iranian authorities have consistently emphasized that foreign nationals must enter the country through official and legal channels, warning that those who do not will face strict consequences.

In late July 2023, the commander of the border guard police in Razavi Khorasan province reported the deportation of 7,563 illegal Afghan nationals from the Taybad border point.

For decades, Iran has been a destination for Afghan refugees, beginning with the conflict against Soviet forces in Afghanistan during

the 1980s. However, in recent years, Iranian attitudes towards Afghan migrants have shifted negatively, particularly as many have sought refuge following the Taliban's resurgence in 2021, coinciding with Iran's economic challenges.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that approximately 3 million Afghan immigrants reside in Iran, though this figure may be understated due to a significant influx of undocumented arrivals.

Afghan migrants encounter numerous obstacles due to both

governmental policies and prevailing societal perceptions. They frequently experience limited access to essential services such as healthcare and education. Immigration regulations have varied, alternating between the issuance of temporary work permits and large-scale deportations.

The Afghan government has raised concerns regarding the treatment of its citizens in Iran but has struggled to secure improved conditions. Concurrently, the Taliban's Ministry of Immigrants has indicated that between one thousand and over two thousand individuals are returning to Afghanistan from Iran each day.

Tehran embassy condemns British paper's false claims against Iranian officials

TEHRAN – The Iranian embassy in London has released a statement refuting The Telegraph's inaccurate assertions of internal discord among senior Iranian officials concerning retaliation against the Zionist regime following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

In its statement issued on Saturday, the embassy characterized the British newspaper's report as an act of psychological warfare aimed at undermining the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It underscored that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau in

Tehran, constitutes a breach of international law, and Iran maintains the right to defend its sovereignty and to take any necessary actions following international law in response to this incident.

The statement further highlighted a consensus among Iran's senior officials regarding the imperative of a strong response to the Israeli terrorist act. The embassy reiterated that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who chairs the Supreme National Security Council, has clearly articulated Iran's firm response during

discussions with European officials.

In response to the Israeli act of terror, senior Iranian officials have pledged to deliver an appropriate reaction to the Zionist regime. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei asserted that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh has set the stage for severe repercussions for the Israeli regime.

Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were martyred when their residence in Tehran was attacked on July 31, shortly after they attended Pezeshkian's inauguration.

Olfati expresses satisfaction with his performance in 2024 Olympics

TEHRAN – Iran artistic gymnast Mahdi Olfati continued his historic run at the 2024 Paris Olympics, qualifying for the vault finals. Despite facing numerous challenges, Olfati expressed optimism about securing a medal for Iran at the 2028 Olympics.

In an exclusive interview, Olfati discussed his Olympic experience: "It was a tough competition.

The pressure was immense. I was nervous, but I believe I performed well for my first Olympic appearance. The judges were a bit strict, but I'm glad I made it to the finals."

When asked about his mental preparation, Olfati revealed, "I had a few sessions with a sports psychologist before leaving Iran, but due to limitations, they couldn't accompany me. I don't think it made much of a difference in such a short time."

Addressing the criticism about his first vault attempt in the finals, Olfati clarified, "Most of the finalists had multiple Olympic experiences. And don't forget that there was the huge gap in our facilities.

I made it to the Olympics with almost nothing. It was God who got me there! Despite all that, I performed well in the finals. My speed helped me gain height, but I slipped a bit during landing."

Looking ahead to the 2028 Olympics, Olfati expressed his determination: "I'm aiming to bring home a medal for Iran. I'll be training harder with more up-to-date techniques. I promise to give my all for my country."

Despite the challenges, Olfati remains optimistic about the future of Iranian gymnastics. "We have talented gymnasts in Iran, but we lack the proper facilities. I'm confident that in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, we will see multiple Iranian gymnasts winning medals."

Olfati finished in seventh place in the 2024 Olympic Games. He scored 14.266 in the vault.

The gold medal went to the Philippines' Carlos Edriel Yulo, while the silver went to Armenia's Artur Davtyan and Briton Harry Hepworth seized the bronze.

Jalal Hosseini among Stars of AFC Champions League

TEHRAN – The thrilling AFC Champions League era has come to a conclusion as, after 22 years of top-class Asian club football, the tournament has been revamped to AFC Champions League Elite in the upcoming season.

From household domestic names to international stars, the competition has been lit up by a number of players who provided memories to cherish for lovers of Asian football.

Spanning East Asia to West Asia, the-AFC.com selects 10 of the biggest superstars the competition has witnessed in its illustrious history and former Persepolis defender Jalal Hosseini is among them.

A stalwart of Iranian football having earned more than 100 international caps and nine Iranian Pro League titles with three different clubs, it was not until 2018 that the center-back finally had his chance to shine on the AFC Champions League stage.

The Persepolis captain managed to score vital second-leg goals in the Round of 16 and the quarter-finals against the UAE's Al Jazira and Qatar's Al Duhail respectively, in addition to being a colossus in the backline, but was unfortunately on the losing side against Kwoun's Kashima.

Two seasons later, Hosseini again led his troops out in the final against Ulsan Hyundai with only Junior Negrao's second-half penalty being the difference as the iconic Iranian was once more denied at the death but his displays throughout his career made him one of the finest defenders to have graced the AFC Champions League.

Climber Alipour auctions his smart phone for charity

TEHRAN – Iranian speed climber Reza Alipour is auctioning his smart phone in support of charity.

Alipour finished in the fourth place in sport climbing at the 2024 Summer Olympics.

He lost to his American rival Sam Watson in the bronze medal match.

Watson won bronze with a time of 4.74 seconds. Alipour finished fourth with 4.88 seconds.

Nearly 17,000 athletes and Olympic family for Olympic and Paralympic Games received their Samsung Galaxy Z Flip6 Olympic Edition at the Olympics.

Now, Alipour is going to auction his smart phone in support of children, who work in his hometown Qazvin.

See-off ceremony held for Iranian Para athletes

TEHRAN – A see-off ceremony for Iranian Para athletes in the 2024 Paralympic Games was held in Mashhad on Sunday.

The ceremony was held at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (As), Khorasan Razavi Province.

Iran will send 65 Para athletes to the Games in 10 sports.

The 2024 Paralympic Games will be held in Paris, France from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8.

Para shooter Mohammadreza Mirshafiei and runner Hajar Safarzadeh will be carrying the Iran flag at the opening ceremony of the Games.

Iran delegation came 13th in the 2020 Paralympic Games with a total of 12 gold medals, 11 silvers and one bronze.

Persepolis eye Ali Gholizadeh: report

TEHRAN – Lech Poznań winger Ali Gholizadeh has been reportedly linked with a move to Persepolis football club.

The 28-year-old player started his playing career in 2013 with Saipa and has also played in Belgium Charleroi and Turkish side Kas?mpa?a.

Defending champions Persepolis are under pressure after they failed to sign a left-footed winger in the summer transfer window.

Persepolis were held to a 1-1 draw by Zob Ahan in Matchweek 1 of the 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Wrestling teams to compete at U17 World Championships

TEHRAN – A week after the 2024 Paris Olympics, the focus shifts to the U17 World Championships in Amman, Jordan.

The first World Championships of this season will be held from August 19 to 25 in the Jordanian capital.

The competition will see 576 wrestlers compete in 30 weight classes in Freestyle, Women's Wrestling and Greco-Roman.

In a two-day format, the tournament will begin with Greco-Roman followed by Women's Wrestling and finish with Freestyle.

Iran's Freestyle Roster:

45kg: Amir Abbas Ramezani, 48kg: Amir Abbas Alizadeh, 51kg: Sam Arshad, 55kg: Arian Mehrizadeh, 60kg: Ahora Khateri, 65kg: Yasin Tayebi, 71kg: Abolfazl Shamsipour, 80kg: Reza Afshar, 92kg: Amir Reza Alipour, 110kg: Abolfazl Mohammadnezhad

Iran's Greco-Roman Roster:

45kg: Ahmad Badraddini, 48kg: Armin Shamsipour, 51kg: Abolfazl Karami, 55kg: Amir Ali Heydari, 60kg: Abolfazl Ali Shiri, 65kg: Amir Saeidi Nava, 71kg: Mohammad Kazemi, 80kg: Emad Mohsennejhad, 92kg: Danial Izadi, 110kg: Ali Asghar Dadbakhs

Major issues of Iran's digital ecosystem discussed at TCCIMA meeting



TEHRAN - The 14th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Transformation, Innovation and Productivity Committee was held

on Sunday in which the main issues related to the country's digital ecosystem were explored.

During the mentioned meeting, the operators of the Tehran Province's digital economy gathered to discuss two important issues in this field, i.e. how to communicate with the government and governance, as well as the development of trade union activities, the TCCIMA portal reported.

As reported, the meeting provided an opportunity for startups and owners of online businesses to raise their concerns on the eve of the beginning of the work of the fourteenth government.

Tehran's comprehensive water supply project reaches 82% progress

TEHRAN - The head of Tehran Water and Wastewater Supply and Treatment Company has said the capital Tehran's comprehensive water supply project has reached 82 percent physical progress, IRNA reported.

"Tehran's comprehensive water supply plan is currently being implemented in two sites in east and west of Tehran, with a prog-

ress of 82 percent," Alireza Asghari said.

The executive operations of the western site are underway in Hemat and Shahid Bakri highways and will be completed and put into operation by late October, and in the eastern site, pipe-laying operations are underway in Shahid Shushtari highway, the official said.

Value of export from Semnan province increases 30% in 4 months on year



TEHRAN - As announced by a provincial official, the value of non-oil export from Semnan province rose 30 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.

Morteza Hajian-Nejad, the director-general of Semnan province, said that 9,000 tons of commodities worth over \$64 million were exported from the province in the four-month period, indicating also 50 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

He said the commodities were exported to 33 countries, and mentioned Iraq, Russia, Turkey, Afghanistan, and the UAE as the main export destinations.

Semnan province is one of the 31 Provinces of Iran. It is in the north of the country. Its capital is the city of Semnan.

The province of Semnan covers an area of 96,816 square kilometers and stretches along the Alborz mountain range, bordering desert in its southern parts.

The province is divided into two parts: a mountainous region and the plains at the foot of the mountains.

The province neighbors Golestan and Mazandaran Provinces to the north, North Khorasan Province to the northeast, Tehran and Qom Provinces to the west, Isfahan Province to the south, South Khorasan Province to the southeast, and Khorasan Razavi Province to the east.

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

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

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.

As previously announced by IRICA, the value of Iran's foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

According to Rezvaniyar, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

The official put the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical engineering services in the mentioned year.

Based on IRICA data, during this period, 48.8 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$19.4 billion were also exported, which shows a decrease of 11.32 percent and 28.59 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

During this period, liquefied natural gas with \$3.9 billion, liquefied propane with \$3.62 billion, and bitumen-oil with \$2.19 billion were Iran's top exported items.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$13.915 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$9.215 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$6.611 billion, Turkey with \$4.16 billion, and India with \$2.17 billion.

The official put the average customs value of each ton of exported goods at \$362 which has decreased by 17 percent compared to the preceding year.

During this period, 39 million tons of goods worth \$66.28 billion were also imported into the country, which shows an increase of 4.39 percent in terms of weight and 77.9 percent in terms of value, he said.

The country's top five sources of imports in the previous year were the UAE with \$20.782 billion, China with \$18.545 billion, Turkey with \$7.541 billion, Germany with \$2.155 billion, and India with \$1.917 billion worth of imports.

Corn, mobile phones, and gold ingots were the top three imported items followed by soybeans, automobile parts, sunflower seeds, and safflower were the five main items imported by the Islamic Republic.

Rezvaniyar said the average customs value of each ton of imported goods increased by \$5.16 and reached \$1,697.

IAC inks co-op MOUs with domestic investment companies

TEHRAN - In a ceremony on Sunday, Iran Airports Company (IAC) signed 26 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with domestic investment companies to cooperate in airport development projects across the country.

The signing ceremony of the mentioned MOUs was attended by AIC Head Reza Nakhjavani and the deputy head of the mentioned company Ali Abdi, IRNA reported.

Speaking at the ceremony, Nakhjavani said the profitability of airports is the priority for investors; Because for investment, the private sector can adjust its economic plans with the amount of capital and profit.

"The documents that are concluded today in the form of memorandums of understanding will be followed up in the next steps to be signed as contracts," the AIC head said.

Mentioning AIC's Investment Atlas which was unveiled in the ceremony as well, the official said: "This document can provide the platform and conditions for investment, and on the other



hand, it is in line with the government's plans for engaging people in the country's economy."

Also speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Abdi told the press that under the framework of the AIC Investment Atlas, the company has prepared 200 investment projects with a total value of 1.8 quadrillion rials (about \$3.6 billion) to be offered to private investors.

"This atlas has been prepared with the two-year effort of colleagues in the Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company, in which 200 investment opportunities worth 180,000 billion tomans are defined and airports are in-

troduced as a safe and profitable platform," he said.

According to Abdi, the AIC Public Relations Office has designed and prepared a site for introducing airport investment opportunities with full details of investment projects being showcased to interested parties.

Back in July, Nakhjavani had announced in a conference that AIC was offering new investment projects to interested investors.

Nakhjavani said a comprehensive roadmap has been compiled for the development of the country's airports.

Referring to the plans for

the development of Mehrabad Airport as the hub of domestic flights in the country, Nakhjavani said: "In the Seventh National Development Plan, it was proposed to transfer the maximum number of flights from this airport to Imam Khomeini Airport, but the proposal was rejected by a decisive vote of 95 percent of the parliament members."

"Currently, the primary studies on the development of this airport (Mehrabad) with an area of 120,000 square meters have been completed, and the estimated budget for completing the project is 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million)," he said.

According to Nakhjavani, the mentioned will be provided from the IAC internal resources and the company doesn't need government funding.

"Now the country's airports are in favorable conditions and even if domestic flights increase, we will be able to provide optimal services," the official added.

ICCIMA calls on new govt. to improve business environment

TEHRAN - The head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called on the new government to adhere to the business environment improvement law, especially the Article 25 of the mentioned law which includes compensating damages caused by energy shortage.

Speaking at a meeting of the ICCIMA board of directors on Sunday, Samad Hassanzadeh said: "The economy is facing many problems and we don't expect miracles from the new government. But we hope that the government will take steps to correct the problems and the private sector should also take some measures in this regard."

He mentioned energy imbalance and lack

of financial resources as the major problems of the economy and asked the new government to remain committed to the Law on Continuous Improvement of the Business Environment and especially its Article 25, which emphasizes compensation for damages caused by events such as power outages.

"We should increase the productivity of our economic units, but unfortunately, instead of increasing the productivity, some increase the facilities and machinery. However, this is not the right thing to do in the situation of electricity imbalance. Of course, industries must be modernized, if we don't adapt our industries to world technology, our units will be lost and we won't be able to do competi-

tive work," Hassanzadeh said.

The official noted that power outage for one or two days a week in July caused disruption in the activity of many private sector companies and especially the industrial sector which consequently led to in production.

"In the future, the Iran Chamber will try to bring the concerns of the private sector to the attention of the officials by inviting the ministers and heads of the responsible institutions to the chamber's meetings, and [this way] the views of the government and the private sector will come closer together than in the past," the official concluded.

Loading, unloading of goods in Kish port up 92%

TEHRAN - As announced by a local official, the loading and unloading of goods in the port of Kish Island, in the south of Iran, increased by 92.7 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.

Mehdi Emamdari, the director of Ports and Maritime Department of Kish, said that 744 TEUs of goods have been loaded and unloaded in the port of Kish Island during the four-month period.

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

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

was 24.494 million tons.

Totally, more than 26.434 million tons of oil- and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said four months, and over 49,896 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

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

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating the loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

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

Ports and Maritime Organization has put it on the agenda to attract 300 trillion rials (about \$600 million) of investment from the private sector in the country's ports by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Water inflow to dam reserves rises 6%

TEHRAN - Water inflow to Iran's dams has increased by six percent since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2023) up to August 17, 2024, compared to the same period last year, the new report released by the Water Resources Management Company shows.

According to the said report, during the mentioned period, 40.56 billion cubic meters of water entered the country's dam reserves, while the figure stood at 38.18 billion last

year, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Following the current year's perspirations across the country, the total volume of water in dam reservoirs has experienced an 11 percent increase compared to the previous year.

The report indicates that the volume of water in the country's dams from the beginning of the current water year up to August 17, has reached 27.77 billion cubic meters, while the figure stood at 25.1 billion cubic meters last year.

The amount of water outflow from the dams in the aforesaid period has also increased by seven percent to reach 34.82 billion cubic meters. Last year and in the same period, the amount of water outflow was 32.65 billion cubic meters.

The total capacity of the country's dams stands at 50.5 billion cubic meters, showing that only 53 percent of the dams' capacity is full.

Blinken's regional mission: Salvaging Israel, whitewashing genocide

From page 1 ▶ The potential deal would be carried out in three phases. It would lead to a ceasefire in Gaza as well as the release of Israeli and foreign captives held in the enclave in exchange for the release of Palestinian inmates from Israeli jails.

Israel's new demands include continued Israeli presence on the Philadelphia Corridor separating Egypt's Sinai from the Gaza Strip, and the establishment of checkpoints to monitor the movement of people from the south of the territory to the north. Netanyahu has been accused of hamstringing a ceasefire deal by introducing such new conditions.

While Israel's negotiating delegation expressed "cautious optimism" on the possibility of advancing an agreement, American officials have cited fresh optimism to bring the deal over the finish line.

In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Germany and Italy threw their weight behind the ceasefire talks that began on Thursday, urging all sides to avoid any "escalatory action".

But, in defiance of the call made by the four European countries, Israel continues its war of genocide on Gaza which has claimed the lives of about 40,100 Palestinians over the past



10 months.

At least 18 Palestinians from the same family were killed in an Israeli strike in the Gaza town of Zawayda on Saturday. An Israeli strike also killed six children in Deir-el Balah on Sunday. They were among dozens of Palestinians who were killed at the weekend.

Such continued attacks indicate that ongoing negotiations cannot stop Israel's killing machine and that the regime uses talks to divert attention away from its atrocities against Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Hamas has dismissed optimism about reaching a deal to end the Israeli war on the coastal enclave.

"To say that we are getting close to a deal is an illusion,"

Hamas political bureau member Sami Abu Zuhri told AFP.

He added, "We are not facing a deal or real negotiations, but rather the imposing of American diktats."

Blinken's visit to Israel marks his ninth trip to the region since the Netanyahu regime declared war on Gaza on October 7 last year.

During his previous trips, Israel has not only refused to end the Gaza war but it has also slaughtered more Palestinians and this time will not be different.

President Biden would just be one phone call away from ending the Gaza war if it wanted to do so. As a result, his administration's growing calls for a peaceful resolution of the Gaza war and Blinken's new regional visit have

raised suspicions.

In fact, the US claims it has a strong desire to clinch a ceasefire deal in Gaza to cover up its complicity in Israel's genocidal war in the territory.

Washington has provided unwavering military and political support for Israel since the start of the onslaught.

The latest trip of the top US diplomat also comes amid promises made by Iran and Hezbollah to launch retaliatory attacks against Israel.

Iran has vowed to retaliate against Israel for the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh. He was killed in an Israeli strike in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31.

Hezbollah has also vowed to retaliate against Israel for the assassination of one of its senior commanders in Beirut in late July.

Presently, another goal regarding Blinken's visit to the region is to make arrangements to salvage Israel in the face of an imminent attack by Iran and Hezbollah which could strike devastating blows to the regime.

The US hopes that a ceasefire deal in Gaza will dissuade Iran from attacking Israel. But Iranian officials have stressed that Israel must be punished for its heinous crime.

WORLD HEADLINES

US universities impose 'police state' to prevent protests over Gaza war

Universities across the US are planning tougher rules to restrict protests when students return from summer vacation, an effort to avoid the scenes of last semester when demonstrations against Israel's war in Gaza led to police crackdowns on campuses nationwide, the Guardian reported.

Columbia University students, who were at the vanguard of the movement, may encounter the most changes. The university president, Minouche Shafik, resigned a week ago in the wake of criticism for her handling of the protests, but not before overseeing the installation of fencing around the lawns of the school's quad – the heart of campus life and the site of large protest encampments.

The barriers are not the only novelty the university introduced as it seeks to avoid a repeat of last spring's showdown with protesters, which culminated in 109 arrests when Shafik called in the NYPD for a second time in April.

Students are already planning ways to get around new protest restrictions.

"It's going to be more of a police state than it was, but I don't think that means no one's going to do anything," said Ben-Menachem, the Columbia graduate student. "The war is still there ... nothing has changed in Palestine."

Thousands still missing in Gaza, many with 'disintegrated bodies'

The Palestinian Civil Defense said the true death toll in Gaza is likely much higher than more than 40,000 confirmed since thousands of people remain missing.

The organization confirmed that at least 10,000 Palestinians remain under the rubble of buildings destroyed by Israeli military attacks, and rescuers are unable to get to them due to the ongoing attacks, including the deliberate targeting of civil defense crews, Al Jazeera reported.

The organization said it has observed about 1,760 presumed-dead Palestinians in Gaza whose bodies "disintegrated" due to the use of high-intensity weapons.

Moreover, there are approximately 8,240 people who have been "forcibly disappeared" by the Israeli military, along with about 2,210 bodies that have disappeared from graves across the Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu 'refused to meet David Lammy over UK's ICC position'

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refused to meet British Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Friday during his trip to Israel, according to Israeli media reports.

The British government made multiple requests for a sit-down meeting with Netanyahu, Israel's Channel 13 News and The Times of Israel reported.

But the government was told Netanyahu had a scheduling conflict.

According to Channel 13 News, citing Israeli sources, the Israeli prime minister was angered by the new Labour government's recent decision to withdraw British objections to the International Criminal Court deciding on issuing arrest warrants for Netanyahu and war minister Yoav Gallant.

A Foreign Office source told Middle East Eye there had been no plans for David Lammy to meet Netanyahu.

Lammy visited Israel on a joint trip with his French counterpart Stéphane Sejourne. They met Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz and Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer.

Lammy called for a ceasefire and warned of a "dangerous moment" for the region.

Al-Quds Brigades attacks Israeli forces

The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement said its fighters bombarded Israeli troops and vehicles in the al-Matahin area in the north of Khan Younis with a barrage of mortar shells.

The al-Quds Brigades said on Telegram it bombed "a command and control headquarters in the 86th 'Kurd' Hill", northeast of the city, with rockets.

NED has replaced CIA covert activities

National Endowment for Democracy acts as American 'white gloves'

From page 1 ▶ It also says a report by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace has revealed that "almost all the NED's funds come from the US Congress."

In part of its report, the Chinese Foreign Ministry also says, "NED formed an information matrix against Iran together with Iran International, the Persian service of VOA and BBC, and other anti-Iran media. Negative information is provided to anti-Iran media by NED and its affiliated agencies to instigate intensive news coverage against Iran."

Following is the text of the report:

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) acts as the US government's "white gloves." It has long engaged in subverting state power in other countries, meddling in other countries' internal affairs, inciting division and confrontation, misleading public opinion, and conducting ideological infiltration, all under the pretext of promoting democracy. Its innumerable evil deeds have caused grave harm and drawn strong condemnation from the international community.

In recent years, NED has kept changing tactics and gone even further in acting against the historical trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation. It has become more notorious for its infiltration, subversion and sabotage attempts against other countries. It is imperative to unmask NED and alert all

countries to the need to see through its true colors, guard against and fight back its disruption and sabotage attempts, safeguard their national sovereignty, security and development interests, and uphold world peace and development and international fairness and justice.

1. NED—the US government's "white gloves"

NED claims to be an NGO that provides support for democracy abroad. In fact, it acts as the US government's "white gloves" in carrying out subversion, infiltration and sabotage across the world.

1. NED is the implementer of CIA covert operations. In the early days of the Cold War, CIA supported opposition activities in socialist countries in Eastern Europe via "private voluntary organizations" to advance "peaceful evolution." After such activities were exposed in the mid to late 1960s, the US government began contemplating cooperation with civil society organizations to conduct similar activities. Hence the idea of setting up an organization of this kind. As William Blum, an American scholar, wrote, "The idea was that the CIA had been doing covertly for decades, and thus, hopefully, eliminate the stigma associated with CIA covert activities."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Netanyahu's thirst for blood is insatiable

It is expected those Western leaders who have been backing the ultra-Orthodox regime of Israel to face justice

From page 1 ▶ Al Jazeera correspondent Tareq Abu Azzoum, reporting from Deir al-Balah, said a Palestinian mother alongside her six children were killed.

"We have seen really heartbreaking scenes this morning with dozens of bodies lined up in the morgue outside al-Aqsa Hospital. There has been a remarkable surge in Israeli strikes in Deir al-Balah where Palestinians were told to seek refuge. Also, we woke up to the sound of Israeli fighter jets breaking the sound barrier and carrying out more strikes in the eastern side of the city. We continued to hear explosions in the past couple of hours," Abu Azzoum explained.

He said, "This was not the only place that was targeted. Four others were killed in Khan Younis city where the [Israeli] army continued to blow up full residential buildings. Israeli forces are also targeting the north of the strip killing four Palestinians in Jabaliya refugee camp where a residential house was completely leveled to the ground. We are

talking about the grim reality of more than 40 Palestinians killed in the past 48 hours and this number is expected to rise given the new Israeli orders to evacuate al-Maghazi."

One is surprised if Netanyahu sends the Mossad and Shin Bet chiefs for talks in Doha, why his regime's killing machine is not waiting to see what will finally come out of the talks.

Western countries, especially the United States, who have been shipping arms to this brutal regime and protecting it diplomatically and politically, must feel shameful in the face of all these horrendous crimes which have been continuing since October 7, 2023.

The subservience of these Western countries to Israel is disgraceful. While the entire world has been expressing serious indignation over the continuous brutal acts of Israel in Gaza, sending weapons to this regime will be recorded in history as unforgivable.

Sending weapons for an ultra-orthodox regime whose thirst for blood is unquenchable

has proven that the United States, Germany, Britain and France are just hypocrites who only pay lip service to the right to life, the need to avoid violence, and many other empty slogans.

These die-hard supporters of Israel must notice that Israel is killing "human beings" and not insects and that Palestinians are not sub-humans.

Israel has so far killed more than 40,000 Gazans and more than a third of them are unprotected children. This figure does not include about 10,000 others who remain unaccounted for and are buried under rubble.

The murderous, mad, and ultra-Orthodox regime of Netanyahu is itself a shame for humanity and it is extremely expected that those Western leaders who have been helping the Netanyahu regime despite opposition by their own citizens face justice at international or local courts.

Israeli army loses more soldiers

From page 1 ▶ Hamas fighters managed to detonate two anti-personnel bombs in two Israeli military vehicles near the University College in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood, and then ambushed the remaining Israeli soldiers with automatic weapons.

Israeli media reported at least one soldier was killed in what was described as a "serious incident" while an Israeli media platform confirmed around a dozen soldiers were injured.

Meanwhile, additional information about the incident remains under military censorship, as part of the IOF's policy to obscure the extent of its losses.

This comes amid intense Israeli bombing of various areas of the Strip and preparations for further military operations, especially in the eastern parts of the central Gaza Strip and Khan Younis in the south.

In the ongoing resistance operations on the 317th day since the U.S.-backed genocidal Israeli war on Gaza began, al-Qassam's military media published footage documenting attacks on Israeli military gatherings east of Khan Younis.

The armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the al-Quds Brigades detonated a pre-planted explosive device on an Israeli military vehicle near a mosque in the southeastern Gaza City neighborhood of al-Zeitoun.

The al-Quds Brigades also reported fierce clashes with Israeli soldiers east of al-Qarara area, north of Khan Younis, and launched a rocket barrage at the Re'im military site in

southeastern Gaza.

Additionally, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades engaged in fierce clashes with Israeli forces east of al-Qarara and bombarded the invading forces northeast of the city with mortar shells.

The IOF continues to be accused of committing acts of genocide in Gaza, launching numerous airstrikes and artillery bombardments, and perpetrating massacres against civilians amidst a catastrophic humanitarian crisis due to the blockade and mass displacement.

Israeli forces have again forced Palestinians in some areas and refugee camps in the Gaza Strip to evacuate their homes, adding to the suffering of civilians.

The United Nations has called for a week-long pause in fighting for a polio vaccination campaign with disease spreading among the displaced.

A senior Western official, speaking anonymously, told news agencies there was at least one confirmed case of polio in the enclave, calling Gaza "a contagion time bomb."

Aid groups are also calling for an urgent pause in the Israel-Hamas war so they can ramp up polio vaccinations and prevent a full-blown outbreak.

The virus was detected in wastewater in six different locations in July, with at least one confirmed case and others suspected.

Polio was eradicated in Gaza 25 years ago, but the territory has become a breed-

ing ground for the virus, aid groups say, with hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians crowded into tent camps and lacking clean water or proper disposal of sewage and rubbish.

To avert a widespread outbreak, the groups are preparing to vaccinate more than 600,000 children but say the plans are impossible without a pause in the relentless Israeli attacks.

Any hopes of an immediate ceasefire deal last week have been dashed. Further discussions are scheduled for this week, but these appear to be more of an attempt to keep the process alive than offering a real chance of peace.

Months of detailed argument over the parameters of any agreement conceal the fact that a ceasefire can only be achieved when the most influential decision-makers on the Israeli side led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believe the time is right to end the ongoing massacres in Gaza.

At this moment in time that does not appear to be the case, despite the huge losses among the Israeli military.

The veteran war criminal, who is wanted in The Hague, has seen his popularity plummet to record lows among Israelis and internationally. A substantial proportion of Israelis are in favor of a deal to exchange the captives in Gaza for Palestinian political prisoners.

They are also demanding early elections.

Hotel industry grapples with low occupancy rate, says head of hotel association



TEHRAN – Iran's average hotel occupancy rate has fallen below 40 percent, warns the head of the hotel association, urging strong government action and international marketing to revive the struggling tourism industry.

"The low hotel occupancy rate is a significant issue for the industry, with many hotels struggling to cover expenses," Jamshid Hamzehzadeh stated in a recent interview with ILNA, warning that it could take years for hotels to reach full capacity again.

To mitigate these losses, he called for a clear, systematic, and comprehensive plan that involves cooperation from all relevant government bodies, which he believes is crucial for reviving the hospitality industry.

However, Hamzehzadeh criticized the current lack of coordination among these bodies, noting that some prioritize their own interests over national concerns. For instance,

the hotelier underscored, the tax authorities and insurance agencies show little flexibility or support for the tourism sector, which hampers efforts to attract foreign tourists.

"The mere opening of borders is insufficient to attract foreign tourists, as they are not waiting at the borders to enter the country," Hamzehzadeh pointed out adding that heavy advertising campaigns and strategic marketing efforts abroad are essential to draw international visitors.

Participation in major international tourism exhibitions and the simultaneous abolition of visa requirements are also necessary steps to encourage tourism, he emphasized.

According to Hamzehzadeh, the success of country's tourism industry is closely tied to its political relations with other countries. "The easier it is to establish political connections with a country, the easier it is for their tourists to visit your country," he stated.

He concluded by emphasizing the need for the ministry of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts to take a leading role in reviving efforts, stressing that everyone from the minister to managers and experts within the ministry must be fully committed to overcoming the challenges facing Iran's tourism industry.

Chehel Dokhtaroon cave: ancient rock paintings made national heritage

TEHRAN – Chehel Dokhtaroon cave in Jahrom, known for its ancient rock paintings, has been officially recognized as a national heritage site, marking a significant legacy milestone for Fars province.

The cave, which features 50 rock paintings depicting animals, humans, abstract shapes, and plants, has been inscribed on the national heritage list, according to a local senior cultural heritage official.

"The Chehel Dokhtaroon cave has evidence of habitation from the prehistoric era through the Sassanid period," Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi brought to light.

The official further elaborated that the most significant findings in the cave are the ochre paintings on the southern wall, including geometric, animal, human, and plant motifs.

Most of these paintings, he continued, are abstract geometric shapes, repeated throughout the cave. Some of the motifs feature a common design with two extended arms, a semicircle or sometimes a square at the center, and multiple points or animal figures depicted around them.

Sabet-Eqlidi highlighted that some of the animal figures, possibly depicting deer, are worn due to erosion, while others represent

hornless quadrupeds, depicted either individually or in groups, possibly suggesting hunting scenes. Interestingly, some abstract animals are drawn with circular heads, which could represent dogs, although such depictions are rare in the region.

"One of the standout depictions in the cave is a human figure riding an animal, likely a horse, which hints at the domestication of animals during the first millennium BC," the official noted. "The cave also contains a few human figures, along with symbols resembling the sun, fire, and star-like objects."

In addition to the intricate rock art, the cave features several stone basins at its end, used to collect spring water, he explained, adding that the irregularly shaped basins add further historical value to this remarkable site.

Chehel Dokhtaroon cave, located in the valley with the same name, extends 15 meters deep, covers an area of 200 square meters, and has a ceiling height of 12 meters at the entrance, tapering to 4 meters at the back due to the sloped floor. The cave is notable for its large entrance on the eastern side of the valley, nestled within the mountainous terrain.

Boundaries proposed for Qiz Qalasi for bolstered protection



TEHRAN – An archaeological team has conducted a field survey across Qiz Qalasi with the aim of defining and proposing legal boundaries to preserve the ancient site, which is situated in northern Iran.

Led by archaeologist Saeid Sattarnejad, this project, funded by Ardabil's provincial directorate of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts, involved carving 28 archaeological trenches around the site.

Qiz Qalasi, a significant historical site from the early Islamic centuries, played a crucial role in the region's historical events, partic-

ularly in the Azarbaijan area. Situated along the trade route connecting Azerbaijan with the South Caucasus, the site holds remnants from the Sassanid, early Islamic, and Seljuk periods.

Sattarnejad emphasized the importance of this survey due to threats posed by the expansion of a nearby village, which has already led to the destruction of parts of the site's architectural remains.

The archaeological work aims to establish clear boundaries to protect the remaining structures and lay the groundwork for more comprehensive future research.

Earlier this year, Rouhollah Mohammadi, head of the Archaeology Department at the provincial directorate, confirmed that the Qiz Qalasi site was registered as a national heritage site in 1966 under number 629. He added that the month-long excavation would help safeguard the site and better understand its historical significance and cultural sequence.

Archaeologists urge creation of 'anti-treasure hunting task force'

TEHRAN – A number of Iranian archaeologists have expressed their support for the establishment of an "anti-treasure hunting task force" aimed to preserve cultural heritage of the nation for future generations.

The archaeologists released a statement, urging judicial and law enforcement authorities as well as the Cultural Heritage Protection Unit to take firm action against those involved in the illegal excavation and trafficking of Iran's cultural heritage, Mehr news agency reported.

It was originally an initiative spearheaded by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the Archaeology Research Institute, and other related organizations, the report said.

In the statement, they highlighted the persistent threat that unauthorized excavations and the illegal



trade of cultural artifacts pose to Iran, a country renowned for its rich historical legacy in West Asia.

Furthermore, the archaeologists emphasized that despite numerous efforts, the measures taken so far have been inadequate in curbing

these activities, which continue to endanger invaluable historical sites.

The archaeologists also expressed concern over the misuse of social media platforms, where some individuals exploit the lack of regulation to promote treasure hunting and illegal

excavations. They stressed that the destruction of cultural heritage is irreversible and that immediate action is required to protect these irreplaceable assets for future generations.

The statement called for a coordinated effort among government bodies, including the judiciary, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and law enforcement bodies, to prioritize the fight against these activities. The archaeologists warned that the inconsistency in managing cultural heritage could lead to further damage, undermining the country's efforts to protect and promote its historical sites on an international level.

Their statement concluded with an added plea for urgent action from all relevant authorities to dismantle the networks that promote treasure hunting and ensure the protection of Iran's cultural heritage.

Over 16,000 Pakistani pilgrims enter Iran for Arbaeen journey to Karbala

TEHRAN – Over the past few days, a significant number of Pakistani pilgrims have entered Iran en route to Iraq's Karbala to participate in the Arbaeen religious rituals.

According to Iranian customs authorities, 16,538 Pakistani pilgrims have crossed into Iran through the Mirjaveh and Rimdan border points in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

These pilgrims, who are traveling by road, will continue their journey through Iran before crossing into Iraq at the Shalamchah border, Mehr news agency reported on Sunday.

The customs formalities for these pilgrims were



efficiently processed by the staff at the Mirjaveh and Rimdan customs offices.

Mohammad-Ali Khashi, the customs supervisor

for Sistan-Baluchestan province, provided further details, stating that during this period, customs formalities were completed for 6,058 pilgrims entering through Rimdan and 10,480 pilgrims through Mirjaveh.

Arbaeen, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, marks the end of a 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Each year, millions of Shia Muslims from around the globe undertake this pilgrimage to Karbala, walking hundreds of kilometers as an expression of their faith and devotion.

Shiraz, Zanzibar to become sister cities in near future

TEHRAN – A sister city agreement between Shiraz and Zanzibar is set to be inked in near future as part of the development of cultural diplomacy between Iran and Tanzania.

According to ISNA, Mohsen Ma'arefi, Iran's Cultural Attaché in Tanzania, and Khamis Hassan, the Mayor of Zanzibar, discussed the sister city agreement between Shiraz and Zanzibar on Saturday.

Ma'arefi, outlining Iran's cultural activities in Tanzania, said: "Given the historical and cultural commonalities between Zanzibar and Shiraz, signing a sister city agreement could

help develop relations between the two cities, and we are ready to cooperate in finalizing this agreement."

Khamis, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the growing relations between Iran and Tanzania. He welcomed the proposal and stated reaching sisterhood agreements to be signed between Zanzibar and other major cities has been a priority.

He continued: "I am originally from Kizimkazi in southern Zanzibar, and in my surname on my birth certificate, the word 'Shirazi' is mentioned," ISNA quoted the mayor as saying.

According to the report, Shiraz is

a well-recognized place in Zanzibar and Tanzania, where it has exported its rich culture for centuries through the migration of a group of Shirazis to that region.

The memory and good name of the Shirazis are still spoken of by the people of Zanzibar, and to this day, the descendants born from the unions of Shirazis with Zanzibaris take pride in their Shirazi heritage.

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, poetry, and crafts skills passed down from gen-

eration to generation. It was one of the most important cities in the medieval Islamic world and was the Iranian capital during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Furthermore, Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital. Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, Jameh Mosque of Atigh, and Persepolis are among the historical, cultural, and ancient sites of Shiraz that are of interest to domestic and foreign tourists.

South Khorasan to host seminar on eco-lodges

TEHRAN – South Khorasan will host a national scientific and practical seminar on eco-lodges in mid-fall, bringing together hundreds of industry insiders from across Iran, according to a local tourism official.

"The seminar will span two days and is expected to attract 400 to 600 managers of eco-friendly accommodations from across the country," said Hadi Shahverdi on Sunday, adding that Ferdows county is selected as the venue due to its suitable facilities and active eco-lodges.

He further elaborated that the seminar will feature educational workshops, discussion sessions, and experience-sharing activities centered on eco-friendly resorts.

Participants are encouraged to attend in traditional attire, reflecting the event's focus on cultural heritage, the official underscored.

In conjunction with the seminar, South Khorasan will also host local agricultural tourism events, including pomegranate and saffron festivals.

Home to diverse natural landscapes and cultural heritage gems, Iran has already taken steps to promote ecotourism that focuses on minimizing the negative impact of conventional tourism on the environment in

a sustainable approach.

Eco-lodges play a significant role in the tourism industry by offering travelers a sustainable and immersive experience in nature. As concerns about environmental conservation and responsible travel continue to grow, eco-lodges have become increasingly popular among eco-conscious tourists.

One key aspect of eco-lodges is their ability to attract travelers who are seeking authentic and environmentally friendly experiences.

Eco-lodges also cater to a niche market of travelers who are looking for unique and off-the-beaten-path accommodations. Unlike traditional hotels, eco-resorts are often situated in remote or pristine natural locations, offering guests a chance to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of urban life and reconnect with nature.

As the demand for sustainable travel continues to rise, eco-lodges are likely to play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of tourism.

Second 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

Intl. environmental exhibition slated for November

TEHRAN –The 22nd international environmental exhibition is scheduled to be held from November 19 to 22.

Considering the importance of environmental protection, the event aims to raise public awareness to protect Iran's ecosystem.

It also seeks to persuade industries, mining, and petrochemical units to support the preservation of plant and animal species, and encourage them to take steps towards enhancing air quality, IRNA reported.

The event focuses on 'economic environment, environmental economy', as well as the importance of social responsibility in protecting the environment.

The main objectives of the exhibition include raising public knowledge and awareness of environmental issues and providing an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and experiences among experts, specialists, and environmental activists.

Introducing and encouraging the use of innovative solutions and advanced technologies to reduce fuel and energy consumption and preserve natural resources is the other goal of the exhibition.

Moreover, it aspires to foster communication and cooperation between institutions, organi-



zations, and companies active in the field of environment and energy, promote the concepts of sustainability and social responsibility among the public, and encourage environmentally friendly behaviors.

7th development plan on environmental issues

In the Seventh Development Plan of I.R. Iran, whose general policies were announced on September 2022 and the text of the bill was sent to the Iranian parliament (Majlis) for approval on May 2023, the "environmental issues" are mostly cited under the heading of "infrastructural affairs".

The importance of Iran's environment and protection is not

taken considerably into account in the implementation of the 7th development plan of I.R. Iran, and we believe that various parts of Iran's life territorial stability, and national security will be exposed to more threats and gradual destruction.

Drought, population increase, air pollution, climate change, industrial and agricultural production, sanctions, inefficient use of water and natural resources, and non-implementation of existing environmental regulations fuel the existing environmental crisis.

Inadequate water resources force people to migrate and the problems of big cities increase with marginalization. The aquifers are being drained. Air pollution has made living conditions in

Iranian cities increasingly challenging.

Wind erosion increases the desertification of agricultural lands and creates a demand for more production in the remaining cultivable areas.

Biodiversity is under threat. On the other hand, the future of Iran's environment is greatly endangered by the development plans and annual plans that are implemented as emergency and urgent solutions one after the other.

Water transfer programs to the central plateau are a symbol of unsustainable development, and in addition to pollution and back-breaking costs for Iran's national economy, it will be the source of new environmental crises in the source and destination of water transfer.

The big challenge of the development programs in Iran is that without looking at a long-term strategic plan for the country and based on urgent and emergency cases at any point of time when the plan is being compiled, the list that according to the experts and executive managers has been reached as The clauses of the program have been paid.

No evidence of mpox reported in Iran

TEHRAN – There are no reports of monkey-pox (mpox) in the country, 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.

Following the report of confirmed cases of monkey-pox in Pakistan, medical teams at health stations are told to screen travelers entering the country from eastern and western borders for monkey-pox symptoms, as well, IRNA quoted Babak Eshtrati as saying.

Referring to the previous wave of the disease, which was about two years ago, he said only one case of monkey-pox had been reported, which was related to a patient who had traveled to the country.

Mpox initial symptoms include fever, muscle aches, and sore throat. The mpox rash begins on the face and spreads over the body, extending to the palms of the hands and soles of the feet, and evolves over 2-4 weeks in stages – macules, papules, vesicles, pustules.

People with mpox are infectious and can pass the disease on to others until all sores have healed and a new layer of skin has formed.

Children, pregnant people, and people with weak immune systems are at risk for complications from mpox.

The best way to prevent the spread of monkey pox to others is to isolate the patients. It is very important to separate pa-

tients, especially when skin lesions appear on the body because the disease is most likely to be transmitted at this stage, Eshtrati highlighted.

The official also suggested Arbaeen pilgrims observe personal hygiene practices, wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and avoid close contact with people who have mentioned symptoms.

Global, coordinated response needed

A coordinated response at the global level is needed to avoid scattered and contradictory decisions in addressing mpox, halt the outbreak of the disease, and save human lives, Farshid Rezaei, an official with the health ministry, announced on August 16.

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.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Rainfall increases Lake Urmia level

Recent rainfall has increased the level of Lake Urmia to 1,271 meters, a step closer to its ecological level of 1,274 meters.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program's office in West Azarbaijan province, said that the Lake's level is now 58 cm higher than it was last year.

According to the latest monitoring, the lake's water volume is estimated at more than 3.6 billion cubic meters.

He added that the lake surface area has reached 2,883 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 538 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

افزایش سطح تراز دریاچه ارومیه بر اثر بارش

بارش های اخیر تراز فعلی دریاچه ارومیه را به یک هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۸ سانتی متر رسانده است که در حال رسیدن به تراز اکولوژیک یک هزار و ۲۷۴ متر است.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رییس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه گفت سطح دریاچه ارومیه اکنون ۵۸ سانتی متر بیشتر از زمان مشابه سال گذشته است. طبق آخرین پایش صورت گرفته حجم آب این دریاچه بیش از سه میلیارد و ۶۷۰ میلیون مترمکعب برآورد شده است.

وی با بیان اینکه وسعت دریاچه ارومیه در حال حاضر به بیش از ۲ هزار و ۸۸۳ کیلومتر مربع رسیده، اضافه کرد: وسعت این دریاچه نیز نسبت به سال گذشته ۵۳۸ کیلومتر مربع افزایش دارد.

Organization for immigrant and refugee rights to take shape

TEHRAN – The establishment of a national organization responsible for protecting the rights of immigrants and refugees is in the final stages, the deputy chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said.

The organization will utilize a precise and managed approach to organize foreign nationals, deal with undocumented migrants, and maintain the security and peace of the country, Mehr news agency quoted Ebrahim Azizi as saying.

Deportation of undocumented nationals is the right of the people, and we must stand firm against illegal immigration to the country, the official stated.

The entry of immigrants without observing requirements for legal entry is against the national interests and security of the country, and all institutions are responsible in this regard.

Projects to be implemented

The National Organization for Migration is planning to implement an inclusive plan encompassing 40 projects to organize foreign nationals and refugees.

The projects include locating and returning unauthorized nationals; blocking borders; reforming passport issuance; intensifying deterrent fines; and seeking guarantees by employers, IRNA quoted Abdollah Mobini, the head of the National Organization for Migration, as saying.

Currently, the inclusive plan is being conducted in two provinces to identify the probable problems and the ways to deal with them.

Organizing nationals in other areas is also on the agenda.

The initiative to secure borders started in the Iranian calendar year 1379 (March 1990 - March 1991), with the aim of intensifying the security of borders in eastern regions of the country. It has been implemented in parts of the Iran-Afghanistan border in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

It was initially planned to be completed in the Iranian year 1399 (March 2020 - March 2021), but it was postponed due to inadequate funds. Now it is expected to be finished within the next two years.

The project is designed not only to fortify the border physically but also to incorporate cutting-edge technology to monitor and manage border security effectively.

This dual approach aims to create a robust defense system that can respond to various threats and challenges.

On August 14, Ahmad-Ali Goudarzi, Commander of the Border Police, announced that a new project for closing southeastern borders is scheduled to begin in the second half of the current Iranian year that ends in March 2025.

"Weekly meetings are being held, and needed funds are allocated to border police and other relevant officials. Initial steps such as signing contracts have been taken, and preparations are being made for the construction of watchtowers and stations, as well as purchasing sensors, cameras, and advanced weapons," ISNA quoted Goudarzi as saying.

No permission to stay

In October 2023, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said unauthorized foreigners have no permission to stay in the country and receive services, IRIB reported.

Paying a visit to a center for organizing immigrants in the city of Karaj, he added illegal foreign nationals would be identified and sent to specific camps and then returned to their homeland.

In November 2023, Mobini, said, "Iran has no longer the capacity to accept new immigrants, and if the international community does not bear the responsibility for supporting refugees in Iran, most of them will migrate to European countries."

The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees.

The country is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children - including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban takeover - are benefiting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

Young Scientists Festival to be held in December

TEHRAN – The 8th Young Scientists Festival will be held in the month of December aiming to create new and practical technologies in the field of basic sciences.

Held annually concurrent with Research and Technology Week (December 8-15), the festival also aims to identify new ideas and pave the way for manufacturing knowledge-based products.

It focuses on promoting entrepreneurship culture with the aim of turning intellectual assets into wealth.

The festival revolves around six fields of basic sciences including chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and computer science (artificial intelligence), geology, and environment; it is held in two sections: startups and research teams.

900 Iranians among 1% most-cited researchers

"A total of 938 Iranian researchers have been recognized among the world's top one percent most-cited researchers in 2023," the head of the Islamic World Science Citation (ISC) Institute said.

"The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology represents 40 percent, and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education accounts for 48 percent of the most-cited Iranian researchers," ISNA quoted Ahmad Fazelzadeh as saying.

In 2023, 938 top researchers affiliated with Iranian organizations were identified, which marked a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

Over the past decade, the number of highly-cited researchers in the country has been growing. Medicine and Health with a 33 percent share, Multidisciplinary with 23 percent, Engineering with 20.5 percent, Basic Sciences with 12 percent, Agriculture and Environment with 10 percent, and Social and Human Sciences with 1.7 percent held the highest shares of the most-cited researchers, respectively.



One of ISC's main responsibilities is to introduce highly-cited researchers and to provide the possibility to identify and introduce elite researchers and scholars. That is why scientific elites are the most important factor in the growth and development of scientific systems, and the number of institutions and highly-cited researchers is one of the criteria of scientific authority in the world.

The ISC Institute extracted and monitored the latest list of the world's top 1 percent most-cited Iranian researchers in 22 science subject areas based on the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database.

In 2023, the University of Tehran, Tarbiat Modares University and Amirkabir University of Technology from the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences from the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education had the highest number of one percent researchers.

Based on 22 subject areas, 23 percent of these researchers belonged to the field of Clinical Medicine. The field of multi-disciplinary subjects with 22.6 percent and engineering with 19 percent, were ranked second and third in terms of having the greatest number of highly-cited Iranian researchers. These three fields accounted for about 65 percent of all highly-cited researchers in Iran.



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AUGUST 19, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There are five activities that I won't leave off till I'm alive so that they would become part of my tradition. [One of them] is greeting children.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:08 Evening: 19:08 Dawn: 3:58 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:27 (tomorrow)

Sarajevo Film Festival awards honorary prize to Palestinian director Elia Suleiman

The 30th Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) was opened on August 16 at the Sarajevo National Theater in the Capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a solemn ceremony, in which the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo, was presented to the acclaimed Palestinian director Elia Suleiman in recognition of his outstanding contribution to film art, the festival website wrote.

"This is the right moment for me to receive the Heart of Sarajevo, because, as Jovan Marjanović (the festival director) said, we live in difficult times and we must give cinema the importance to make the world less violent. We need to share hearts and love. When I get home, I will transplant this heart," said Suleiman.

Speaking about the auteur, Marjanović said: "With his trademark wit, humor and profound insight, [Suleiman] navigates the complexities of our existence, shedding light on the absurdities of life with unmatched clarity and poignancy, portraying the spirit and identity of Palestine with a unique authorial style.

Now, in the darkest of times in his native land, his work serves as a beacon of understanding, reminding us of the power of storytelling to inspire meaningful dialogue."

The festival is also screening a retrospective of selected works by the filmmaker. Suleiman was a guest at the festival in 2019, where his film "It Must Be Heaven" was screened in the Open Air program. He also served as president of the jury in 2016.

Suleiman, 64, is a Palestinian film director and actor. He is best known for the 2002 film "Divine Intervention," a modern tragicomedy on living under occupation in Palestine which won the Jury Prize at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. Suleiman's cinematic style is often compared to that of Jacques Tati and Buster Keaton, for its poetic interplay between burlesque and sobriety.

Suleiman's first feature "Chronicle of a Disappearance" won the Best First Film Prize at Venice in 1996. In 2002, "Divine Intervention" won the Jury Prize and the Fipresci International Critics Prize at Cannes as well as the Best Foreign Film Prize at the European Awards in Rome.

The third film in his trilogy is called "The Time That Remains," which competed in the 2009 Cannes Film Festival. Suleiman won the Black Pearl prize for best Middle Eastern narrative film at the Middle Eastern Film Festival in Abu Dhabi in 2009. The film won the Critics' Prize from the Argentinean Film Critics Association at Mar del Plata International Film Festival.

His last feature film "It Must Be Heaven" won the Jury Special Mention in Cannes in 2019, and the Fipresci International Critics Prize.

Suleiman is often cited for his use of silence in his films, in both their acting and directing. Suleiman's films employ absurd, often dark humor throughout his work.

Suleiman was named Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by France's Ministry of Culture in 2020, and was the recipient of the European Achievement in World Cinema award in 2022. He also serves as an artistic advisor for the Doha Film Institute.

The overall death toll from the Israeli-US campaign of death, destruction and genocide in Gaza has surpassed the grim milestone of 40,000.

Civil defense workers say the true toll could be considerably higher given the fact that a large number of bodies remain buried under the rubble of buildings Israel has bombed.

In July, the Lancet, a leading general medical journal, estimated that the death toll could be 186,000 or even more.

The Lancet said the figure includes both direct and indirect deaths from the Israeli campaign and those still buried under the rubble.

Kazan film festival to open with Iran's "In the Arms of the Tree"

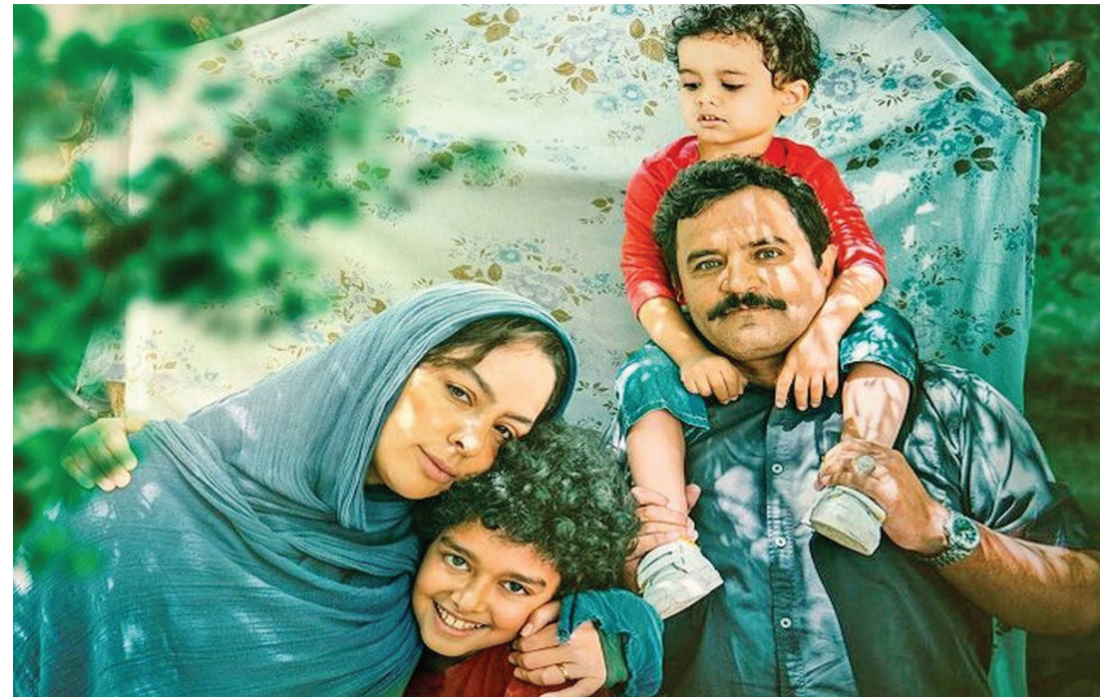
TEHRAN- The 20th edition of Kazan International Film Festival-Altyn Minbar is set to kick off with the premiere of "In the Arms of the Tree," by Iranian director Babak Khajepasha in the Russian city on September 6.

The film follows the struggles of an entrepreneurial family on the verge of collapse. At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance. Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

As Kimia and Farid's relationship deteriorates, their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, become unlikely heroes in this emotional turmoil. Taha, deeply caring and protective, is determined to shield Alisan from the fallout of their parents' crises. The boys' strong bond and friendship serve as a beacon of hope amid the tumult, highlighting the innocence of childhood and the power of familial love in the face of adversity.

The film captures the impact of marital discord on children, illustrating how their lives can be disturbed by their parents' struggles. Ultimately, it underscores the importance of love, connection, and the delicate balance needed to preserve a family in crisis.

This screening will mark the film's first showing in Russia,



specifically in Kazan.

Nina Kochelyaeva, head of the festival's selection committee, emphasized the significance of 2024, declared the Year of Family, which inspired the choice of "In the Arms of the Tree" as the festival's opening film. She remarked, "This psychological family drama was chosen as the opening film precisely because it explores themes of respecting children's choices and the importance of nurturing family bonds."

Deputy Mufti for Information Policy Rishat Khamidullin advocates for families to watch "In the Arms of the Tree" together, highlighting the extensive number of screening venues available.

He underscored the profound impact of cinema, noting its capacity to shape self-awareness and cultural identity. He cautioned, "In the wrong hands, film can distort values and erode our connections to our identity. It is crucial to uphold family values and mutual respect between men and women, as these principles are foundational in both Islam and Russian culture.

If we fail to promote traditional values, we risk allowing conflicting priorities to infiltrate our culture."

On September 6, the festival's opening day, the film will be screened at "Mir" and "Rodina" cinemas, with additional open-air screenings scheduled at the public

office of the Kazan Kremlin and along the scenic embankment of Lake Kaban.

As is tradition, the opening film will pave the way for the festival's overall tone and themes.

The 20th Kazan International Film Festival- Altyn Minbar will run until September 6. The Altyn Minbar festival receives support from the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation.

The Kazan International Film Festival is conducted under the auspices of Rustam Minnikhanov, the President of the Republic of Tatarstan, and the Ministry of Culture of Russia, in collaboration with the strategic vision group "Russia-Islamic World."

Iranian short wins award at Locarno Film Festival



A scene from Iranian director Melika Pazouki's short film "The Form"

TEHRAN- Iranian director Melika Pazouki's short film "The Form" has won an award at the 77th edition of Locarno Film Festival in

Switzerland.

The film received the Medien Patent Verwaltung AG Award at the international short film section of the festival, which came to an end on Saturday.

"The Form" tells the story of Eli, a 15-year-old teenager, who gets ready in the school restroom to go on her first date with someone she has never seen before.

In this section of festival "Washhh" by Mickey Lai from Malaysia won the Best International Short Film Award, while "May It Go Beautifully for You, Rico" brought American filmmaker Joel Alfonso the Best Director Award.

In the main section of the festival, Golden Leopard for Best Film was given to "Toxic" by Saule Bliuvaite from Lithuania and "Moon" by Iraqi-Austrian filmmaker Kurdwin Ayub received the special jury award.

The Locarno Film Festival was established in the wake of the Second World War, providing a platform for revival and artistic freedom for creators from around the globe eager to share their stories in fresh and unconventional ways.

Since its inception, Locarno has showcased the most daring, avant-garde, irreverent, and innovative films, presented in their uncut and uncensored forms.

Andy Warhol's painting in TMOCA treasured collection to be examined

TEHRAN-The seventh session from the series "One Work, One Session" will be held on Monday at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA), where a painting by the American pop artist Andy Warhol will be examined.

Lecturer, researcher, translator, and president of the Faculty of

Arts and Architecture at the Central Tehran Branch of Islamic Azad University Mohammadreza Sharifzadeh will speak at the session about one of Warhol's paintings titled "Suicide," also known as "Purple Jumping Man," Mehr reported.

"Suicide" is a 1963 silkscreen painting, which is currently in the

collection of the TMOCA. It depicts two images in sequence, recorded by a documentary photographer, silk-screened in black ink on a purple ground.

Considered one of the greatest works of Warhol, the painting's value is estimated at \$70 million.

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art aims to

critically review valuable artwork from its collection every Monday. These artworks have been less frequently exhibited in recent decades.

The session will be held at 3 p.m. at the cinematheque of the TMOCA, located next to Laleh Park, on North Kargar St. Admission is free for the public.

Cartoon of Day



Alarm Bell

Cartoonist: Monireh Ahmadi from Iran

"Hello Stranger" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of American author Katherine Center's "Hello Stranger" has recently been published by Amut Publications in Tehran.

Originally published in 2023, the book has been translated into Persian by Maryam Rafiei.

In "Hello Stranger," Sadie Montgomery's life takes an unexpected turn when she is suddenly diagnosed with prosopagnosia, or face blindness, right after celebrating her success as a finalist in a prestigious art competition.

This perplexing condition leaves her struggling to recognize faces, transforming her world into a confusing puzzle of disconnected features. As Sadie navigates through this daunting reality, she grapples with her artistic aspirations, unresolved family issues, and the care of her beloved dog, Peanut.

Amidst the chaos, Sadie's emotional landscape becomes even more complicated as she finds herself drawn to two very different men. These potential romantic interests present a welcome distraction from

her troubles but also complicate her life at a particularly challenging time.

While she tries to come to terms with her condition and the impact it has on her relationships and identity, she also reflects on love and the quest for clarity in her life.

Set against the backdrop of her artistic journey and personal struggles, "Hello Stranger" explores themes of perception, connection, and the unpredictability of love.

Through her challenges, Sadie learns that sometimes the things we seek come when we least expect them and that alternative perspectives can illuminate paths we had not considered.

With resilience and creativity, Sadie embarks on a journey to redefine what it means to truly see the world around her, finding beauty in the blurry edges of life and relationships. Ultimately, the narrative reminds readers that understanding and clarity may emerge in the most unlikely circumstances.

Katherine Center is an accomplished American author known for her contemporary fiction that she describes as "bittersweet

comic novels."

Her debut novel, "The Bright Side of Disaster" (2006), was successfully optioned for film by Varsity Pictures. Notably, her sixth book, "How to Walk Away" (2018), became a New York Times bestseller and was featured as a Book of the Month Club selection.

Similarly, her 2019 novel "Things You Save in a Fire" also achieved bestseller status.

In 2022, Center released "The Bodyguard," which debuted at #11 on the New York Times bestseller list and received recognition as a Book of the Month Club pick.

Aside from her novels, Center has contributed essays to publications like Real Simple and participated in various literary events, including the 2007 Houston Chronicle Book and Author Dinner and a TEDx Talk titled "We Need to Teach Boys to Read Stories About Girls."

Her work has also been adapted for film, with "The Lost Husband" (2020) and "Happiness for Beginners" (2023) both making waves on Netflix, with the latter reaching the global Top 10 in 81 countries.