

Iran's new president secures full cabinet approval from parliament

National Accord on Full Display



Iranian embassy criticizes UK parliament's dealing with MKO ringleader

TEHRAN – The Iranian embassy in London has said the cooperation of the British House of Commons with Maryam Rajavi, the ringleader of the MKO terrorist group, is an example of a “double standard” in dealing with the evil phenomenon of terrorism.

“On the International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism, it's important to highlight that a terrorist group (MEK), whose leader has been invited to the British Parliament multiple times, raises concerns about double standards,” said the embassy in a post on the X platform, IRNA reported.

The embassy also said dividing terrorism into “good” and “bad” is more annoying than the terrorism itself.

“More troubling than the existence of terrorism itself is the attempt to categorize it into “good” and “bad” forms. This distinction can serve as a justification for collaborating with terrorists,” the embassy stated.

Iran's retaliation against Israel will be timely: official

TEHRAN- The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s indicated that Iran has evaluated the consequences of its actions against the Israeli regime.

In an interview with CNN, Mohsen Rezaei addressed whether Iran would retaliate against Israel following the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's political bureau in Tehran, stating that Iran would respond at the appropriate time and location.

He underscored that under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, Iran is entitled to self-defense. Rezaei warned, “Without a response, Israeli aggression would continue, affirming that a reaction is inevitable.”

The commander also highlighted a critical issue in the region and stated, “The United States has obstructed all political and legal avenues to hold Israel accountable. On the other hand, the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where the number of bombs dropped on civilians has surpassed those during World War II, with one in every thirty Palestinians affected, leading to tens of thousands of casualties.” ▶ Page 3

ICCIMA calls for implementing Iran-China strategic agreement

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called for the implementation of the Iran-China 25-year strategic agreement in a meeting with China's Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu.

In the meeting, Samad Hassanzadeh emphasized the need to implement the provisions of the 25-year agreements between the two countries and said: “Iranian economic operators will be present at the China import exhibition that will be held in November.”

Noting that Iran and China can cooperate in various fields, Hassanzadeh stated: “There are suitable areas for cooperation including maritime transport and economic and commercial infrastructure.”

According to the ICCIMA head, Iran will have a strong presence at China's Import Exhibition which is going to be held in November, because this exhibition provides an opportunity for Iranian businessmen to get to know the possibilities and ways of cooperation with China.

Mentioning the beginning of the work of the 14th government in Iran and the changes that have occurred, Hassanzadeh said: “Iran's new president can add more depth to the economic and commercial relations between Iran and China.” ▶ Page 4

Probe called into Trump-Netanyahu dealings to prolong Gaza war

American Muckrakers, a super political-action committee in the US, has asked the Department of Justice and the Department of State to investigate reports that Trump was lobbying Netanyahu and influencing US efforts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza, Al Jazeera reported.

The super PAC cited a report by Axios News on an alleged phone call between the former US president and Netanyahu on August 14 during which the pair discussed the ceasefire deal.

It also referred to remarks by PBS journalist Judy Woodruff who said on Monday that Trump was speaking to Netanyahu “urging him not to cut a deal right now, because it's believed that would help the Harris campaign”.

It said the alleged interactions violate the Logan Act, which bars unauthorized private US citizens from negotiating with foreign governments.

Both Trump and Netanyahu, however, have denied reports of a phone call on August 14.

Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, has called on Netanyahu to put an immediate end to the war on Gaza, lamenting the civilian death toll.

Netanyahu regime has “lost the north”

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- After Lebanon's Hezbollah struck the Israeli settlement of Katzrin in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, the former premier and opposition leader, Yair Lapid, strongly condemned the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Lapid took to social media to post a map showing the areas where sirens sounded, saying, “A day in the north of the country, and now a direct hit in the city of Katzrin. The government has lost the north.”

Similarly, the head of the Golan Regional Council, Uri Kalner, posted a video of himself near a fire that broke out as a result of Hezbollah's strikes and said that this is the new reality, calling on the Israeli government to end it, in a reference to the ongoing Hezbollah attacks.

This comes as Hezbollah struck an Israeli target in the Hadab Yaroun military site using a one-way drone.

For ten months now, northern Israeli settlers have been expressing their discontent as the Israeli government has proven incapable of preventing the projectiles being launched from southern Lebanon, directing their anger and criticism at Netanyahu and his cabinet.

Ceasefire charade: Is the US bridging gaps or keeping up appearances?

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – The latest trip of the top American diplomat to the region has raised questions about the true intentions behind Washington's much-trumpeted ceasefire proposal that was outlined with the aim of ending Israel's brutal war on the Gaza Strip.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday night, the US secretary of state said his country's so-called “bridging proposal” for a ceasefire deal in Gaza “needs to get done, and it needs to get done in the days ahead”.

Antony Blinken made the comments in the Qatari capital where he wrapped up his regional tour which saw him visit Israel and Egypt.

He also reiterated his call for Hamas to accept the proposal which aims to narrow the gaps between the resistance group and Israel.

Washington, Cairo and Doha have been working to broker a truce between Israel and Hamas.

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German, Austrian scientists share Kazemi Prize

TEHRAN –The 6th Kazemi Prize – a major scientific award in recognition of the late Saeid Kazemi Ashtiani's efforts in the field of stem cells – has been awarded to two prominent scientists from Germany and Austria.

Professor Thomas Braun from Germany, and Nicholas Rivron from Austria, will officially receive the prize on August 28 at the 25th Congress on Reproductive Biomedicine which will be held at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran.

Kazemi Prize was established in 2010 to respect the efforts and revive the memories of Kazemi Ashtiani, the late founder of the Royan Institute.

Kazemi established the Royan Institute in 1991. This institute renders advanced medical services to infertile couples. ▶ Page 7



Arbaeen pilgrims going through Diwaniya City

Arbaeen pilgrims, on their way to Karbala, are passing through the paddy fields in Diwaniya City, Iraq. They will first reach the city of Kufa and then arrive in Karbala for Arbaeen, which commemorates the conclusion of the 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions, who were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Every year, the Arbaeen pilgrimage attracts millions of attendees from around the world, highlighting its status as one of the largest religious gatherings globally.

Tehran condemns 'double standards' in Australia and New Zealand's joint statement on Gaza crisis



TEHRAN – Nasser Kanaani, spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has condemned the joint declaration made by the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand regarding the ongoing crisis in Gaza for its selective coverage and disregard of realities on the ground.

"The call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, protection of civilians, and swift humanitarian assistance is a global demand," Kanaani stated. "The international community must take practical and effective actions to ensure its realization and compel the Israeli regime to accept them."

Kanaani further emphasized that the joint statement exemplified the double standards of Australia and New Zealand concerning fundamental human rights and international law. He remarked, "Open and covert support for a regime that has been committing war crimes and genocide against innocent Palestinian citizens for over ten consecutive months means encouraging this regime to continue its horrific crimes."

Highlighting the escalating violence, Kanaani noted, "The crimes of the Israeli regime in Palestine are taking on new dimensions

every day. Regional stability and security are threatened by dangerous behaviors that violate the UN Charter and international law."

He expressed concern that the statement from Australia and New Zealand represented a "true example of turning a blind eye to facts" and providing misleading information to the public.

Kanaani pointed out the paralysis of the UN Security Council, which has failed to issue a single statement condemning Israeli actions, attributing this inaction to "unconditional American support for the Israeli regime." He added, "The unreasonable request from Australia and New Zealand to Iran disregards our inherent right to punish aggressors and create deterrence against the Israeli regime's adventures."

Concluding his remarks, Kanaani asserted that "the main source of threats to regional and international peace and security is the racist Zionist regime." He warned that Australia's and New Zealand's selective approach to international norms would not only fail to reduce tensions but would also further embolden destabilizing actions by Israel in the region.

After a meeting in Canberra on August 16, Anthony Albanese and Christopher Luxon called on Iran to refrain from what they called destabilizing actions in West Asia. The two have also asked Iran in the joint statement to cease threats of a military attack against the Israeli regime, which assassinated Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh on Iranian soil last month. The statement does not make any mention of Israel and the crimes it has committed since October 7.

Iran condemns U.S. backing of Israeli terrorism

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has condemned the United States for its overt endorsement of what he describes as "state terrorism" perpetrated by the Israeli regime during its ongoing military campaign in the Gaza Strip.

Nasser Kanaani made these remarks on Wednesday during the eighth conference on Models of Patience, organized by the Association for the Defense of Victims of Terrorism to honor the victims of terrorism.

He emphasized that genuine global peace can only be realized through justice, which necessitates holding accountable those who commit crimes and oppress others.

As the world reflects on the impact of terrorism this year, Kanaani highlighted that the Israeli regime recognized as a leading state sponsor of terrorism continues to inflict severe violence on the Palestinian population, with support from nations such as the U.S. and the U.K. who claim to advocate for human rights.

He criticized the inconsistency of honoring terrorism victims while Palestinian children are killed daily by Israeli military actions, particularly as Western governments and international organizations remain largely indifferent to the extraordinary human rights violations occurring over the past eight decades.

Kanaani emphasized that while Western nations, especially the United States, profess to fight against terrorism, they have inadvertently

fostered one of the most perilous terrorist identities globally of the Israeli regime. He questioned the origins of ISIS and other terrorist organizations that threaten nations, particularly within the Islamic world, as well as the entities that provide the deadly weapons utilized by the Israeli military against Palestinians.

He highlighted the financial and military support extended to the Mujahedin Khalq Organization, a terrorist group responsible for the deaths of over 17,000 Iranian citizens during the 1980s, which continues to receive backing from certain Western governments.

Kanaani further denounced the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists by the Israeli regime as blatant acts of state terrorism and violations of international law, asserting that the killing of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. drone strike in Baghdad will permanently tarnish the reputation of the United States.

"Recently, the Israeli regime, acting as a protectorate and strategic ally of the United States, has executed the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of the Hamas Resistance movement, in contravention of all international laws and regulations," he noted.

In conclusion, Kanaani stated that the Iranian Judiciary and diplomatic entities will utilize all available political, legal, and judicial avenues to pursue justice for the victims of terrorism and their families, ensuring accountability for the terrorists and their backers.

Extremists in Israel have 'redefined concept of mortality' in Gaza, Iran says

TEHRAN- The Iranian permanent mission to the United Nations, while commemorating nearly 41,000 martyrs in Gaza since October 2023, stated that the atrocities committed by the Israeli regime are unprecedented.

On Tuesday, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the UN remarked that the so-called "moral" army has ruthlessly killed nearly 41,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, with over 10,000 of the deceased remaining unidentified.

The Iranian representative further emphasized that the actions of the Israeli regime are unparalleled in their severity.

"Observe how extremists have redefined the concept of morality," the statement concluded. According to a report from UNICEF, the



most recent casualties have raised the total number of deaths in the conflict to 40,223, with injuries reported at 92,981. Also, numerous unaccounted victims remain stranded in locations that are unreachable by ambulance services and civil defense units.

IRGC chief commander extends congratulations on Defense Industry Day

TEHRAN- IRGC Chief Commander Major General Hossein Salami extended his congratulations to the Iranian Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics in recognition of Defense Industry Day.

The message reads as follows:

"Dear Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Gharayi Ashtiani,

Esteemed Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

I wish to convey my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Almighty for the outstanding accomplishments of our nation's defense industry. Through the strategic planning of the Iranian Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces, coupled with a comprehensive understanding of our current and future operational environment, we have significantly enhanced the Islamic Republic's esteemed and formidable standing on the global stage, particularly within the West Asian region. The resilience of the resistance front



serves as a clear indication of this strength.

The advancement of our strategic capabilities, the modernization of our equipment, weapons, and infrastructure, as well as the increased readiness of our armed forces and the resistance front, have all been propelled by innovation and creativity derived from our indigenous technology.

This progress, particularly following the recent anti-Zionist operation termed Operation True

Promise has established the Islamic Republic of Iran as an emerging power, actively influencing a new global and regional order.

The undeniable truths and realities stemming from the pressures exerted by global powers and their regional allies spanning political, psychological, media, cultural, and economic domains, particularly regarding sanctions on defense and security technologies against the Islamic Republic of Iran are a direct outcome of the

committed and revolutionary initiatives of our nation's defense industry, especially within the ministry.

These initiatives establish a strong foundation for addressing a wide range of complex threats that utilize cutting-edge technologies across multiple domains, such as land, sea, air, space, cyber, biological, and contemporary warfare.

I extend my sincere congratulations, along with the officials, managers, scientists, specialists, and esteemed personnel of the Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, on the momentous occasion of Defense Industry Day.

I also wish for ongoing success and pride in the defense sector, particularly for the Ministry of Defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while paying tribute to the name, memory, and historic contributions of the revered martyrs of the Ministry of Defense and Logistics."

Iran's retaliation to be least expected for Israel: statement

TEHRAN- Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations has announced that the Islamic Republic will strategically plan the timing and method of its response to the assassination of Hamas's political leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

The statement from the UN mission in New York comes amid speculation regarding whether Iran has intentionally postponed its response until the results of ceasefire discussions in Gaza become clearer.

"The timing, conditions, and execution of Iran's response will be carefully coordinated to ensure it takes place at a moment of utmost surprise; potentially when their focus is on the skies and their radar systems, they may be caught off guard from the ground or possibly

through a combination of both," the mission stated in a release on Wednesday evening.

Two days of negotiations in Doha, facilitated by Qatar and Egypt and involving the United States and Israel, concluded on Friday without a resolution, although additional talks are scheduled for next week in Cairo. Hamas has opted out of these discussions.

The mission emphasized, "Iran will meticulously calibrate its response to prevent any potential negative consequences that could affect a possible ceasefire."

Furthermore, it noted that Iran's response will aim to achieve two main goals: punishing the aggressor and strengthening deterrence.

"Firstly, it is essential to penalize the aggressor for its acts of terrorism and violations of Iran's national sovereignty. Secondly, it must enhance Iran's deterrent capabilities to instill significant regret within the Israeli regime, thereby acting as a deterrent against any future acts of aggression," the statement concluded.

Haniyeh was martyred in a targeted attack at his residence in northern Tehran shortly after attending the inauguration of Iran's newly-elected president, Masoud Pezeshkian, on July 31.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has pledged to deliver a "harsh response" to this audacious act of terrorism on its territory as a means of punishing the Israeli regime.

Leader's representative visits injured Pakistani pilgrims following tragic bus accident

TEHRAN – In the wake of a devastating bus accident involving Arbaeen pilgrims traveling from Pakistan, Ayatollah Mohammadreza Naseri, the Leader's representative to Yazd province, made a compassionate visit to the injured victims.

The accident, which tragically resulted in the loss of 28 lives and left several others injured, has deeply affected both the Iranian and Pakistani communities.

Early Wednesday morning, Ayatollah Naseri arrived at Shahid Beheshti Hospital in Taft, where many of the injured had been admitted.

During his visit, Ayatollah Naseri personally checked on the well-being of the victims, speaking with them and the medical staff to ensure that they were receiving the best possible care.

Expressing his deep sorrow over the tragic event, Ayatollah Naseri extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims in both Pakistan and Iran.

He conveyed the greetings and sympathy of the Leader of Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, emphasizing the profound sadness felt by the Iranian leadership.

"The news of this accident, which claimed the lives of 28 people and injured many others, has deeply grieved us all," he stated. "We are committed to doing everything in our power to aid in the recovery of those injured."

====Iranian foreign ministry expresses condolences over Pakistani pilgrim bus tragedy

Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has also expressed deep sorrow over the tragic accident.

In a statement shared on X (formerly Twitter), Kanaani

conveyed his condolences to the people of Pakistan and the bereaved families of those who lost their lives in the accident.

"The death and injury of several dear Pakistani pilgrims due to the overturning of their bus has deeply saddened and affected us," Kanaani wrote on Wednesday.

Kanaani further assured that the relevant authorities and institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran are continuing their efforts with utmost diligence, focusing on rescue operations, relief services, and the provision of medical care to the injured.

UNHCR praises Iran's commitment to refugee welfare

TEHRAN- The officer overseeing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iran has praised the nation for its generous hospitality towards refugees.

Inna Gladkova, representing the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education, noted that the UNHCR acknowledges the Islamic Republic for the healthcare services extended to refugees.

She emphasized that Iran ranks among the

largest host countries for refugees globally.

Gladkova further mentioned that for the past forty years, the UNHCR has partnered with the Islamic Republic of Iran on various initiatives related to refugee welfare.

She emphasized Iran's substantial initiatives in addressing hepatitis C, particularly in providing treatment for refugees.

Regarding education, all Afghan children

in Iran have equal access to educational resources, comparable to those available to Iranian students.

As reported by the UN Refugees Agency, the Islamic Republic of Iran accommodates the largest refugee population globally, with 3.4 million individuals classified as refugees or in refugee-like circumstances. For over forty years, the nation has shown remarkable generosity in providing refuge to those in need.

Iran, Cuba discuss joint response to decry U.S. sanctions

TEHRAN- Representatives from Iran's Pasteur Institute and the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute convened with their Cuban counterparts to address the impacts and challenges posed by the illegal unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States.

This discussion occurred during the fourth meeting of the working group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC), held from August 19-23, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the meeting, officials from the Razi and Pasteur Institute highlighted Iran's advancements in biological sciences and its collaborative efforts with nations such as Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Uzbekistan, and Cuba in vaccine

and serum production, as well as the organization of various training programs.

They also emphasized the difficulties Iran encounters in exercising its international rights due to the sanctions imposed by the United States on the Islamic Republic.

Kayhan Azadmanesh, head of virology research at the Pasteur Institute, shared insights into the 104-year legacy of the Pasteur Institute and its pivotal role in controlling and eradicating diseases such as smallpox, plague, tuberculosis, and COVID-19. He underscored the significance of scientific collaboration and vaccine production, particularly the partnership with Cuba in

developing two recombinant vaccines for hepatitis B and COVID-19.

Azadmanesh highlighted the detrimental impact of sanctions on global health security and advocated for the establishment of mechanisms to promote scientific and health collaboration within the framework of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

Also, Raynak Qaderi, a representative from the Razi Institute, emphasized the production of over 80 varied biological products, including vaccines for livestock, poultry, aquatic species, laboratory animals, and diagnostic kits.

Qaderi recognized the Islamic

Republic as one of the leading nations in the eradication and management of numerous diseases in Iran and the surrounding region, such as bovine plague, polio, measles, and rubella.

The BTWC, an international treaty that prohibits the development and stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction, was enacted in March 1975 and has since been ratified by 187 countries.

Nevertheless, the United States undermines the rights of nations to engage in international cooperation and to leverage the advancements in biological sciences, as it imposes unlawful sanctions and disregards its international legal responsibilities in this area.

National Accord on full display

Iran's new president secures full cabinet approval from parliament

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The Iranian parliament has approved the president's proposed cabinet, marking the first time since 2001 that a full slate of ministers has been confirmed by lawmakers.

Voting began on Wednesday after 4 days of deliberation on the nominees. Three ministers from the late President Ebrahim Raisi's cabinet have been approved to maintain their positions for the next four years including intelligence minister Esmail Khatib who garnered more parliamentary votes than he did when first nominated by the late Raisi three years ago.

This cabinet marks a new chapter for many, with a majority of the 19 ministers assuming ministerial roles for the first time.

Notably, Frazaneh Sadegh's appointment as Minister of Roads and Urban Development marks a significant milestone, as she becomes the first woman to hold a ministerial position in 13 years.

President Masoud Pezeshkian said he was looking to create "national unity" when he presented his list of candidates earlier this month, 12 days after his own swearing-in-ceremony.

Pezeshkian is a figure close to the reformist faction. There was widespread speculation that his political leanings may give his proposed ministers a hard time getting approval from the conservative majority parliament, which was anticipated to nix at least two of the candidates.

"Those who wrote bleakly about the future of the cabinet predicted that the political divide would hinder the president's cabinet formation. However, we, the lawmakers, demonstrated that national interests supersede party politics.

We voted for what's best for



our country, not for our individual political affiliation," Shahrokh Ramin, a representative of Damavand and Firoozkoo counties in the parliament, told the Tehran Times.

Perhaps Pezeshkian's success with the MPs also has to do with the fact that his proposed cabinet did not solely consist of reformist figures. About 40 percent of his list is closer to conservative or neo-conservative factions, something that some prominent reformists took umbrage at.

Before voting began, Pezeshkian delivered a passionate speech to lawmakers, urging them to be less dogmatic and more open to the dissimilar views. "Today I am the president but I was once disqualified to run for a seat in parliament," the president said referring to his initial disqualification by Iran's constitutional council from the 2024 parliament elections held in March.

"That happened despite my deep respect and affection for

the revolution and Leader," he said before emphasizing that he is not asking the lawmakers to "change their viewpoints" but to consider the country's long-term policies and plans.

It is believed that Pezeshkian's last-minute plea with the parliament was effective in making history since 2001.

"There were some MPs that still had misgivings about who they should say yes to. Dr. Pezeshkian's words were extremely impactful and influenced the lawmakers' resolve to take the necessary actions," said Mohammad Saadaat Ebrahimi, a lawmaker representing Shooshtar and Gotvand. "The endorsement of all 19 proposed ministers marks a promising start for the president and heralds a strong partnership between the president and parliament over the next four years."

Iran's hand strengthened in global affairs

The fact that the new Iranian president managed to form his

cabinet with maximum cooperation from parliament, also holds significance in international politics.

Iran is poised to retaliate against Israel for the regime's assassination of Hamas Political Chief Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed hours after his presence at Pezeshkian's inauguration ceremony on July 31.

Tehran is also seeking to engage in talks with the West in order to terminate Washington's illegal sanctions.

"Iran has conveyed a clear message to the world: the various branches of government are united. The support of parliament for the president is crucial for fostering dialogue and engaging in international relations.

An administration backed by parliament operates with greater confidence, making it easier to tackle difficult decisions. I am extremely proud of how lawmakers have acted at this crucial time," expressed Ahmad Fatemi, an MP from Mazandaran Province.

Iran's retaliation against Israel will be timely: official



From Page 1 ▶ In addressing the inquiry regarding Iran's strategy to prevent its actions against the Zionist regime from escalating into a significant regional conflict, Rezaei remarked, "We have thoroughly evaluated the repercussions of our actions and will not permit Netanyahu, who is currently facing considerable challenges, to evade accountability. Our approach will be methodical."

He added, "We advise the Americans to exercise prudence. They should reflect on the reasons behind their unpopularity in the Middle East."

A member of the Iranian Expediency Council, Rezaei further explained, "The reality that the U.S. must confront and acknowledge is the necessity to reassess its policies in West Asia.

Also, U.S. foreign policy in this area is not formulated in Washington; it is orchestrated in Tel Aviv and subsequently executed by officials in the White House. Essentially, Israel dictates the agenda, and the U.S. complies. This represents a significant blow to U.S. authority."

Rezaei underscored, "In this context, the U.S. cannot even be considered a reliable ally for its other partners.

Consequently, nations such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and other U.S. allies in the region are

increasingly gravitating towards Russia and China, resulting in a diminishing trust in the Americans."

He emphasized that Washington cannot advocate for a decrease in tensions while simultaneously providing unwavering support to Israel, which is the main contributor to those tensions.

"The influence of the Islamic Republic of Iran is undeniable. Historically and geopolitically, Iran has played a crucial and impactful role.

We have stood against Saddam Hussein's aggressions towards both Iran and Kuwait, in addition to fighting terrorism in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

We view it as our duty to advance peace and security in the region.

The United States should not hinder Iran's initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the area," Rezaei concluded.

Iran, Afghanistan join forces to fight drug trafficking, expand cooperation

TEHRAN- The deputy head of Iran's anti-narcotics headquarters has announced a collaborative agreement between Iran and Afghanistan to enhance efforts in combating narcotics and drug trafficking through information exchange.

During a meeting with representatives of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban government in Kabul, Mohammad Zarei highlighted discussions focused on strategies for combating narcotics, including prevention, demand reduction, and treatment for drug addiction.

He noted, "The latest agreement includes the exchange of

information on anti-narcotics efforts, the provision of educational resources, and the establishment of joint committees."

Zarei emphasized that the issues of drug consumption and transit are not confined to a single area, suggesting that a regional and multilateral approach to information sharing is essential in addressing this crisis.

The two nations have committed to enhancing coordination to leverage their informational resources to effectively counter and dismantle drug trafficking networks, according to the Iranian anti-narcotics official.

In late June, a spokesperson



for the Iranian Foreign Ministry declared on the International Day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking that the Islamic Republic of Iran stands as a leader in the

worldwide battle against drug traffickers and those who deal in death, emphasizing its commitment to confront this global menace.

Iran basketball chief Davari provides details of Manolopoulos appointment

TEHRAN - Javad Davari, president of the Iranian Basketball Federation, provided some details about the appointment of Sotirios Alex Manolopoulos as the head coach of national team.

Manolopoulos, the 54-year-old former head coach of Romanian team Dinamo Bucuresti, has been appointed as the new head coach of the Iranian national basketball team. The Greek coach, with a distinguished career that includes stints at Panathinaikos, AEK Athens, and Peristeri Athens, replaced Turkish coach Hakan Demir.

"This appointment should have happened sooner, but due to the Iran league competition, we had to delay it a little bit. However, we acted very quickly after the end of the competition," Davari said.

Expressing gratitude to outgoing coach Hakan Demir, Davari said, "When you take over a team with an average age of 32 and reduce it to 25, it means you've done a great job of rebuilding. We thank Hakan for all his efforts in the national team."

Davari emphasized that the experience of new coach could be helpful for Team Melli.

"He was the head coach of the Greek national team and has participated in qualifiers with good results. But these are all on paper. We need to see what he can do. We must provide him with the necessary facilities. We should judge him after he starts working. The contract of the national team coach was signed before the federation's general assembly, but due to some circumstances, we announced it with a slight delay," he added.

When asked if the new coach could also work with club teams, Davari clarified, "No, he can only work with the Iranian national team."

Regarding Iran's chances of winning a medal at the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup with Manolopoulos at the helm, Davari stated, "If you remove the foreign players from teams like Jordan, Lebanon, Japan, and the Philippines, Iran will be the undisputed Asian champions. We are facing opponents with unequal power. If they take their foreigners, they will not be able to compete with us. Iran is the power of Asia, and they should have special respect for this team. This problem must be solved."

Davari also announced that the Iranian Basketball Federation will soon be collaborating with a coach from Montenegro for youth teams and talent development.

Iran's Jelveh joins Olympiacos SFP

TEHRAN - Iran international middle blocker Mahdi Jelveh has joined Greek volleyball club Olympiacos SFP.

The 23-year-old player was a member of Fenerbahçe Parolapara last season.

Jelveh was part of Iran national volleyball team in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League.

Olympiacos is the most successful club in Greek volleyball history, having won 32 Greek Volley League titles, 17 Cups, six League Cups, all national records, and two Super Cups.

Esteghlal French winger Yamga linked with Aluminum

TEHRAN - Arthur Kevin Yamga Tientcheu has been linked with a move to Aluminum football club.

The 28-year-old player suffered an eye injury in Esteghlal's training in January and has undergone surgery several times.

The media reports suggest that he has been deemed surplus to requirements in Esteghlal.

Yamga participates in Aluminum's training and will likely join the Iranian top-flight club.

Sitting volleyball chief determined to win eighth Paralympics gold: Bigdeli

TEHRAN - One of Iran's sitting volleyball team most decorated player Sadegh Bigdeli says that they are looking forward to win the eighth gold in the Paralympic Games.

Bigdeli won a silver medal in the 2004 Paralympics and also won three golds in 2008, 2016 and 2020 Paralympic Games as well one more silver in 2012 Paralympics.

Bigdeli, 40, is going to win his fourth gold in Paris. Iran's men's sitting volleyball team have won seven golds in the Games.

"We are going to win gold medal because we are well-prepared for the Games. However, we know that the best teams in the world will be there in Paris to stop us," Bigdeli told Tehran Times.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina are the most opponents but we are capable of defeating every opponents because Iran have very talented players," he added.

Iran sitting volleyball team were supposed to compete in a tournament in the Netherlands in July but were denied visas.

"After cancellation of the Netherland's tournament, we played several friendly matches with Kazakhstan in Iran and I think the friendlies helped the coaching staff to find out our own strengths and weaknesses," Bigdeli stated.

Donyamali approved as Iran's sports minister

TEHRAN - Ahmad Donyamali became the Iran's Minister of Sport and Youth.

Iran's parliament held a vote of confidence in the candidates proposed by new President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Donyamali became Iran's sports and youth minister with 253 votes out of 288.

He replaced Kioumars Hashemi, who had been appointed as sports minister in last year's September.

Donyamali served as head of Iran's Canoeing, Rowing & Sailing Federation from 2004 to 2010.

Rooney Eva Wankewai Joins Mes Rafsanjan

TEHRAN - Cameroonian forward Rooney Eva Wankewai joined Iranian football club Mes Rafsanjan.

He played for Chinese Super League club Meizhou Hakka last season.

Wankewai had played 6 times for Cameroon U-17 and scored one goal.

Mes Rafsanjan, headed by former Iran midfielder Moharram Navidkia, finished in 10th place in the Iran league's 16-team table.

Iran's national goalkeeper earns new Guinness record

TEHRAN - Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand has set a new Guinness World Record for the longest football (soccer) dropkick.

Born in 1992, Beiranvand is considered one of the key players of Iran's national football team, also known as Team Melli.

The keeper is known for his remarkable throws at the international level.

Beiranvand had already registered the farthest distance throw of a soccer ball in the Guinness World Records book.

Ceasefire charade: Is the US bridging gaps or keeping up appearances?

From page 1 ▶ Senior officials from the three countries held talks with an Israeli delegation in Qatar last week. But the negotiations did not make a breakthrough. They are expected to continue the talks in the Egyptian capital.

Hamas negotiators are not directly participating in these talks.

The movement says the latest US proposal veers too closely to demands made by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hamas agreed in principle to a ceasefire plan laid out by President Joe Biden on May 31 which was later endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. The three-phase plan would lead to the release of remaining captives held in Gaza and bring an end to Israel's genocidal war in the Palestinian territory.

Presently, Israel stands accused of hamstringing the ceasefire process by adding demands to the Biden plan which has become a major point of contention in negotiations.

These demands include Israeli presence on the Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors. The first corridor separates Egypt's Sinai from the Gaza Strip and the second one divides northern and southern Gaza.

Netanyahu said on Tuesday that the Israeli army will not



abandon the two strategic corridors, which clearly breaches the terms of the Biden ceasefire plan that was approved by the Security Council.

Earlier, a report in US publication Axios quoted Netanyahu as saying he may have convinced Blinken that Israel should keep troops in the Philadelphi corridor.

But the US administration has apparently rejected the report.

"The United States does not accept any long-term occupation of Gaza by Israel," Blinken said in Doha.

A White House spokesperson also said it is "totally untrue" that the Israeli premier had told the US secretary of state that his regime would never leave the Philadelphi and Netzarim corridors.

Netanyahu has publicly

stressed that he does not want a permanent end to the Gaza war. He is only after a temporary ceasefire to secure the release of the remaining captives in Gaza.

The US is also well aware of the Israeli prime minister's intention. Hence, Blinken's ninth regional visit is nothing more than a flight of fancy.

Netanyahu does not want a permanent ceasefire because it would lead to hardliners in his cabinet walking out and collapsing it. Then, he would be held accountable for failing to prevent the Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise military operation carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7.

More than 1,100 people were killed in the operation and about 250 others were taken captive. Hamas freed more than

100 captives following a swap deal in November. Dozens of the captives are still held in Gaza.

Israel's war on Gaza which erupted after the Hamas' attack has claimed the lives of more than 40,000 Palestinians so far.

Israel makes excuses and sets new conditions to prolong the war and shifts the blame on Hamas. The US also accuses Israel and points its finger at Hamas.

So, Blinken's ulterior motive for trumpeting the US ceasefire proposal is to keep up appearances as the Biden administration remains under domestic and international pressure to end its support for Israel's genocidal war and stop arming the regime.

Currently, the Democratic National Convention, which kicked off in Chicago on Monday, has been overshadowed by protests organized by anti-war and pro-Palestine demonstrators calling for an end to weapons transfers to Israel.

The US also fears that if talks completely collapse, the Gaza war could morph into a broad regional war. In that case, Washington would have to pay a heavy price amid rising regional sentiment against its unwavering support for Israel's onslaught

Netanyahu regime has "lost the north" Palestinian resistance in Gaza praises Hezbollah

From page 1 ▶ On Wednesday, Hezbollah announced it had targeted the Israeli Tsobar military base in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan with salvoes of Katyusha rockets.

Regional media outlets reported tens of Katyusha rockets targeted the site, striking the Israeli military's logistical base.

Hezbollah declared that the latest operation came in response to the overnight Israeli aggression on Bekaa, which killed one person and injured 19 others.

Among those who sustained injuries were five Lebanese children.

The Lebanese resistance also announced that it had launched an aerial attack using swarms of one-way drones on the reserve headquarters of the Northern Command and the reserve base of the Galilee Division, along with its logistical storage facilities in Ami'ad.

The attack targeted command centers and positions of officers and soldiers, with "precise hits".

This was the second operation on Wednesday to target the Ami'ad base, which is located 19 kilometers away from the Lebanese border.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah waged 12 operations, pounding Israeli military barracks with rockets and drones.

The daily exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli military has stretched into its eleventh month.

The Lebanese resistance movement says it is acting in solidarity with the people and

resistance in Gaza, which is facing a U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war.

In a letter, which has gone viral, the Palestinian resistance in Gaza has praised Hezbollah. The letter reads:

"Dear brothers in the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon,

Peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. Peace be upon His Eminence, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah. Peace be upon the martyrs and the wounded. Peace be upon the steadfast and enduring fighters, as firm as the steadfast mountains. Mountains may disappear, but their feet do not falter.

Dear brothers, You are truly brothers, supporters, loyal men, and a sincere resistance. For more than ten months, we have witnessed your jihad, patience, and sacrifices of what you hold most dear in the battle against this enemy, who fears facing you.

This foolish and defeated enemy, mired in the quagmire of Gaza, seeks to escape daily from the blows and ambushes of our fighters, which have grayed the hair of Zionist officers and soldiers. How can they confront and fight you?

Dear brothers,

From the heart of Gaza, amid the battles, dust of conflict, and the suffering of our patient and steadfast people, we send you these words during these critical moments in the history of the nation, amid the betrayal of both distant and near.

This terrified enemy, described by His Eminence Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as being weaker than a spider's web, now stands on the tips of its toes, consumed by fear and painful anticipation – both of days and nights and the battlefield.

The enemy has erred in its estimates and calculations, and we are confident that you will carry out your mission with merit. We will see your strength and jihad manifest, God willing.

You and our other brothers in the axis of resistance, from Islamic Iran to Arab Syria, to steadfast Iraq, reaching to the dear Yemen, which has etched in Islamic and Arab history the greatest meanings of belonging to Palestine and its cause with blood and gunpowder.

In conclusion, to those who share our struggle, patience, and dignity in our battle, the Battle of the al-Aqsa Storm, we say: Victory is near, and we have witnessed it through the blessed efforts of our noble fighters in our valiant sector and our heroic Gaza Strip. Patience until victory, the complete liberation of beloved Palestine and its holy sites. May Allah accept your jihad, patience, and sacrifices.

Indeed, it is a struggle, for victory or martyrdom.

Your brothers: The Palestinian Resistance August 20, 2024"

Later on Wednesday, Hezbollah published separate statements saying it had carried out at least ten operations against Israeli military positions.

Palestinians are being dehumanized to justify occupation and genocide

By Ahmad Ibsais

It has been more than a month since a former president of the United States, Donald Trump, used my identity as an insult in a televised debate. He called his opponent, current US President Joe Biden, a "very bad Palestinian" for his alleged failure to help Israel "finish the job" of killing everyone in Gaza and stealing the land. He received zero pushback. Biden, the person who is directly funding and supplying the weapons for the ongoing genocide of my people, clearly had no issue with our identity being turned into a slur. But the nation's liberal commentariat, always ready to call out Trump's racism, did not really care either. There were a few articles on how Trump's "racist insult" has upset human rights advocates, but in a matter of days if not hours, the incident was completely forgotten.

This came after months of Palestinians in Gaza being indiscriminately bombed, shot at, imprisoned and starved. After the complete decimation of the strip's hospitals and universities. After the despicable murder of six-year-old Hind Rajab with 355 bullets shot directly at the car she was in.

And since Trump used my identity as a slur on national TV, the killing, maiming and repeated displacement of Palestinians continued, not only in Gaza but all across Palestine. Various investigations concluded that Palestinians being held without charge or legal representation in Israeli prisons and detention camps, like the notorious Sde Teiman in the Negev desert, are being tortured, starved, raped and left to die. The official death toll of this latest round of Israeli slaughter in Gaza has surpassed 40,000 with many more thousands still buried

under the rubble. And after all this, the US government approved weapons sales to the genocidal state of Israel totaling \$20bn.

A brutal, systematic war is being waged on my people, in open view of the world, to deprive us of our land and our basic right to dignity. And yet, it seems, the global community has become numb to our suffering, our pain and the injustice we have been subjected to for many decades. Especially those in the West appear indifferent to what Israel, with the help of their governments, is doing to us. This is why Israel has been able to continue this genocide with impunity for 10 long months, and this is why no one even flinched when two of the most powerful men in the world casually used "Palestinian" as a slur on national television.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

Thousands flee as Israel orders more evacuations in Deir al-Balah

Thousands of displaced Palestinian civilians have begun evacuating their areas in eastern Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip after new Israeli evacuation orders, according to witnesses.

The area was previously designated as a "safe zone" for civilians, but the Israeli army ordered residents to leave it ahead of a new military operation there.

Last week, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said that Israel has reduced the so-called "humanitarian zone" in Gaza to just 11% of the territory, causing widespread panic and fear among displaced people.

According to Gaza's government media office, two million people in Gaza have been displaced by Israel's ongoing offensive on the enclave.

UN official: Death 'the only certainty' for people in Gaza

A UN official said death appears to be the "only certainty" for the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza, who have no way to escape Israeli attacks.

The UNRWA official recounted the growing desperation across the territory.

"It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge told AFP from Gaza.

For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in Gaza, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, the fear of death, and the spread of disease as the war continues.

"Nowhere in Gaza is safe. It's absolutely devastating. We are facing unprecedented challenges with the spread of disease and hygiene issues, largely due to the Israeli-imposed siege on the Gaza Strip," she added.

Russia rules out peace talks with Ukraine until enemy 'completely defeated'

Moscow will not hold talks with Ukraine after Kyiv's attack on the Kursk region, not until the enemy is completely defeated, Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said, Tass reported.

"Everything fell into place after the neo-Nazis carried out this act of terrorism against the Kursk region. Idle talk about wonderful peace by unauthorized mediators is over. Now, everyone understands - even if no one says it publicly - that there will be no talks until the enemy is completely defeated," he wrote on Telegram.

"In my view, the risk - albeit theoretical - of our country getting trapped in negotiations at some point, showed its face," Medvedev pointed out, adding that he was talking about "the premature and unnecessary peace talks proposed by the international community, which were imposed on the Kyiv regime." The Russian Security Council deputy chairman questioned the prospects of such talks, or what results they could produce.

Israel bombs UNRWA school in Gaza City

Israeli forces attacked the Salah al-Din School west of Gaza City on Wednesday, where hundreds of people had taken refuge, the Palestinian Civil Defense said.

"In an initial tally, two people have been killed and 15 wounded in the attack on the school," a spokesperson for the civil defense said.

The military acknowledged it carried out an attack. It, however, claimed Hamas fighters were targeted.

Israel kills another journalist in Gaza

Gaza's media office condemned the Israeli killing of journalist Hamza Abdul Rahman Murtaja.

It said Murtaja worked as a photographer and reported for several different media outlets, and called on "the international community and international organizations and those related to journalistic work in the world to deter the [Israeli] occupation and prosecute it in international courts" for the killing of journalists in Gaza.

The office added that Murtaja's death brings the number of journalists killed by the Israeli army in Gaza since October 7 to 170.

NRC: Israeli settler violence triggers largest forcible transfers since October

The largest wave of forcible transfers of Palestinian communities since October 7 has taken place in the northeast of the occupied West Bank, triggered by Israeli settler attacks, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) says.

The NRC said three communities comprising 119 Palestinians have been forced out over the past 10 days as Israeli settlers attacked community members in their homes, erected new settler outposts and blocked access to water, Al Jazeera reported.

Two communities, al-Farsiya Khallet Khader and al-Farsiya al-Zu'bi, have been completely depopulated while only one family remains in the third community, Ein al-Hilweh - Umm al-Jamal.

"These attacks, occurring in broad daylight under the watching eyes and the protective force of the Israeli military, highlight the unlawfulness of Israel's presence in the West Bank, as recently ruled by the International Court of Justice," said Allegra Pacheco, chief of party of the NRC-led West Bank Protection Consortium (WBPC).

Overall, 18 communities in the al-Maleh region in the northeastern West Bank, all of which are supported by the WBPC, have already been displaced or are at imminent risk of forcible transfer due to ongoing settler violence, the organization said.

Israel assassinated Khalil al-Maqdah to ignite regional war: Fatah

A senior official from the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, more commonly known as Fatah, has accused Israel of assassinating Khalil al-Maqdah to "ignite a regional war".

Tawfiq Tirawi, a member of Fatah's central committee in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, told AFP: "The assassination of a Fatah official is further proof that Israel aims to provoke a full-scale war in the region."

Maqdah played "a central role" in "supporting the Palestinian people and its resistance" during the Gaza war and had an "important role in supporting resistance cells" in the West Bank for years, Fatah said in a statement.

German, Austrian scientists share Kazemi Prize

From page 1 ▶ The center is also one of the most important and active research centers in Reproductive Biomedicine and Stem Cell Technology in West Asia. Kazemi and his colleagues at the Royan Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Technology achieved a breakthrough in 2003 by establishing the first human embryonic stem cell line in the region.

In 2010, the first Kazemi Prize was awarded to Professor Rudolf Jaenisch, one of the most innovative and creative scientists in the field of developmental biology, gene regulation, stem cell biology, and stem cell therapies.

In 2011, the second Kazemi Prize was awarded to Prof. Hans Robert Schöler, a world-renowned researcher who has made significant contributions to the field of stem cell biology over the past 40 years.

The third Kazemi Prize was awarded to Prof. Robert S. Langer, one of the most important individuals in biotechnology in the world and one of the best innovators worldwide.

In 2016, the fourth Kazemi Prize was awarded to Professor Hans Clevers, a geneticist, physician, medical researcher, and professor in molecular genetics who was the first to identify stem cells in the intestine and one of the world's leading researchers



on stem cells and their potential for regenerative therapy.

In 2018 the fifth Kazemi Prize was awarded to Professor Michele De Luca; the full professor of biochemistry, the director of the Centre for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, and the scientific director of Holotem Terapie Avanzate S.r.l.

He has reported lifesaving regeneration of the entire human epidermis of a Junctional EB patient by means of transgenic epidermal stem cells.

Professor Braun is the director of the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research.

He holds a PhD in Cellular Biochemistry. He became a full professor at the University of Hal-

le-Wittenberg.

From 1998 to 2000, he was director of the physiology department.

In 2004, he was elected as director of the Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, Bad Nauheim, Department.

His current focus is on molecular research of cardiac and skeletal muscle development, stem cells, and development of contractile tissue, as well as aging and adaptation of the cardiovascular system. His research group uses a wide range of advanced technologies to pursue research goals.

Professor Braun is also a lecturer at the International Max Planck Institute for Heart and Lung Research, jointly hosted by the Max Planck Institute and

the Universities of Giessen and Frankfurt.

He has published over 200 papers in leading international journals.

Nicolas Rivron is a principal investigator at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, Austrian Academy of Science in Austria.

Stem cell-based embryo models have emerged as powerful scientific and ethical alternatives to the use of embryos in research.

Rivron led the development of the first complete embryo model. It reflects the blastocyst in mice (2018, Nature) and humans (2021, Nature) and is named blastoid. Blastoids are unique in two respects: they are complete, and they represent the pre-implantation stage thereby enabling implantation in utero and ultimately the study of all subsequent stages (e.g. gastrulation, organogenesis).

Rivron is co-founder of dawnbio, a biotech company that leverages blastoids for human reproductive medicine.

He is contributing to drawing a roadmap for the gradual, justifiable use of embryo models, and for the dissemination of a sensible, accurate picture of contemporary human embryology that aims to maximize public support and societal benefit.

Iran, Iraq underscore enhancement of academic ties

TEHRAN – In a meeting held on Wednesday in Iraq, officials from Iran and Iraq highlighted the need to expand educational and research collaborations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the head of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's office for universities, Mostafa Rostami, and Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Naeem Al-Aboudi, explored potential ways to foster scientific cooperation between Iranian and Iraqi universities, IRNA reported.

Stressing the significance of enhancing cooperation in higher education, Al-Aboudi expressed Iraq's interest in utilizing Iran's educational expertise and experiences to improve its educational system.

Rostami, for his part, underscored the central role of universities in strengthening cultural and scientific relations between the two nations.

The official voiced Iran's readiness to share its knowledge and experiences with Iraq. Rostami went on to suggest conducting shared short-term research and educational courses for both students and professors. He further called for increasing the exchange of students and professors.

The officials also discussed ways to solve Iraqi students' problems in Iran and improve their learning conditions.

Iran, Iraq seek to boost educational cooperation

In June, an Iraqi delegation headed by Al-Aboudi met Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol, Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, in

Tehran to discuss the potential for enhancing educational cooperation.

Over the past three years, scientific and academic cooperation between Iran and Iraq has been promoted, leading to the signing of important memorandums of understanding, IRNA quoted Al-Aboudi as saying.

The Iraqi official considered the education of 100,000 Iraqi students in Iran as a great opportunity to promote cultural cooperation.

This substantial student population can play a significant role in teaching and learning respective languages and developing language exchanges, the Iraqi official added.

"Since 2003, education in Iraq has been free for students from Islamic and neighboring countries, and we are willing to grant one hundred scholarships to Iranian students," Al-Aboudi stressed.

Zolfigol, for his part, proposed cooperation in the fields of oil and gas research, climate, and environment.

The official also suggested the establishment of a university and a joint research center; the establishment of a science and technology park in Iraq; and the teaching of Persian and Arabic languages to increase cultural communication.

Iran is also ready to accept interested Iraqi professors to complete their studies in Iran and benefit from study opportunities in the country.

Moreover, the Islamic World Science Citation Center in Shiraz can advise Iraq on international indexing of scientific and research jour-

nals, Zolfigol noted.

Al-Aboudi welcomed the proposal to set up a science and technology park in Iraq and develop scientific cooperation based on the needs of the two countries saying "We are ready to hear Iran's proposals to promote scientific cooperation between the two countries."

Iraq welcomes Iranian universities branches

On June 8, Al-Aboudi welcomed Iranian universities to open branches in Iraq.

"We are interested in boosting collaborations in areas such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology. We also support sisterhood agreements between universities of the two countries," Al-Aboudi said.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with the head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour.

Al-Aboudi also expressed willingness to admit Iranian students to Iraqi universities, IRNA reported.

Imanipour, for his part, highlighted the significance of enhancing educational ties and conducting joint scientific research calling it essential for making a shared future.

Supporting knowledge-based centers is one of the ways to develop science and technology in Iraq, he stressed.

The official went on to suggest boosting cooperation between the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and the Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

ENGLISH IN USE

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'Organ donation rate grows 60-fold in 18 years'

Organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years, though the growth is not considerable compared to the global scale, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health has announced.

Some countries including China have grown 122-fold in terms of organ donation over the past 10 years, ISNA quoted Mehdi Shadnosh as saying on Monday.

Although, Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world, it can claim better ranks given some plans being implemented in this regard, he highlighted, adding, we will achieve better results certainly by the next year (March 2019-March 2020), as many barriers have been removed last year.

رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته ، ۶۰ برابر شده است

رئیس مرکز مدیریت پیوند و درمان بیماری‌ها وزارت بهداشت گفت: روند رشد اهدای عضو در ۱۸ سال گذشته در ایران ۶۰ برابر شده است البته در مقیاس جهانی شاخص قابل قبولی نیست. به گزارش ایسنا دکتر مهدی شادنوش اظهار کرد: کشوری مانند چین طی ۱۰ سال در زمینه اهدای عضو رشد ۱۲۲ برابری داشته است. وی خاطر نشان کرد: رتبه اهدای عضو ایران در رنکینگ جهانی ۲۶ است اما می‌تواند وضعیت بهتر داشته باشد و البته با توجه به فعالیت‌هایی که آغاز شده نتایج بهتری در انتظار خواهد بود و در سال ۹۸ نیز جهش خوبی را شاهد خواهیم بود چراکه چالش‌های موجود در سال ۹۷ رفع شده است.

Iran's healthcare services to refugees are praiseworthy: UNHCR official

TEHRAN – Inna Gladkova, the officer in charge of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iran, has lauded the healthcare services provided to authorized refugees throughout the country.

Iran is one of the major refugee-hosting countries, she highlighted while distributing medical supplies provided by international organizations to the health ministry.

Over forty years of cooperation between Iran and the UNHCR has resulted in conducting fruitful large-scale projects, Gladkova stressed.

Medical supplies are procured based on the needs of the host country and the refugees' needs. Lauding taken measures by Iran to eradicate hepatitis C, she said that these medical items will be of great help in managing communicable diseases.

"Donated supplies have been distributed with precision in healthcare centers nationwide to be used by both host country and refugees. We hope enhancement of cooperation in providing humanitarian aid further boost Iran's hospitality," she stated.



passport holders – many of whom have been in the country for an extended period and require support to strengthen their resilience.

Iran's generous and exceptional services for refugees despite unfair economic sanctions have exceeded expectations and international responsibilities.

The government of Iran has made a very generous effort to provide services to millions of refugees and foreign nationals despite difficult living conditions and oppressive economic sanctions imposed on the country.

Free health insurance for certain refugees

In February, the managing director of the Iran Health Insurance Organization said about 200,000 foreign nationals in the country have been provided with free health insurance with the financial support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Foreign nationals who are considered financially struggling can benefit from free health insurance services, Mehr news agency quoted Mohammad-Mehdi Nasehi as saying.

Stating that the number of refugees in the country is far more than the number of people who have been covered by free insurance, Nasehi added that legal refugees can enjoy insurance services by paying their insurance premiums.

In November 2023, Jamshid Shayanfar, an official with the Health Insurance Organization of Iran said some 95,000 foreign nationals who hold legal residence permits and are suffering from hard-to-cure diseases receive free health insurance annually.

Their insurance contract will be renewed every year in the month of Esfand – the last Iranian calendar month ending on March 19, Fars quoted Shayanfar as saying.

He added, "The insurance premiums for these people are covered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, and the insurance premiums for about 60,000 citizens are paid to the health insurance organization based on the government budget."

Shayanfar went on to say that around 800,000 non-vulnerable nationals also have to pay their own insurance premiums; once they pay the insurance premium, they will enjoy health insurance services for a year.

Some 12,000 non-vulnerable nationals have already been covered by health insurance, he concluded.

Over half of schools built by benefactors

TEHRAN – By financing 120 trillion rials (about \$200 million), school-building benefactors have contributed to the construction of 53 percent of the schools in the current Iranian year, which started on March 20.

In 1998, the Association of School-Building Donors was established, with donors allotting 170 billion rials (around \$284,000), IRNA quoted Mohammad Reza Jafari, the CEO of the School-Building Donors Association, as saying.

In the last few years, benefactors' contributions have tripled. They have undertaken the construction of more than half of the schools, the official added.

There are a total of 400 benefactors, both inside and outside of the country, involved in school building. They also work to improve the quality of education in schools, he further noted.

Benefactors' share increased by 300%

On July 2, the former Education Minister Reza-Morad Sahraei said over the past three years, the share of benefactors in building schools has increased by 300 percent.

If the same trend continues, constructing schools in areas where the per capita educational space is lower than the national standard, i.e., 5.30 square meters, will naturally become a priority, he said.

Over the past three years, more than 7,000 schools with 32,000 classrooms were built in

underprivileged areas, the official stressed.

The fact that 64 percent of schools are constructed in rural areas and underprivileged communities highlights efforts to expand educational equity and opportunities, Sahraei further noted.

Semi-finished projects

A sum of 60 trillion rials (around \$100 million) has been allocated to completing semi-finished educational projects by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025), an official with the Ministry of Education has said.

During the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration, 33,000 classrooms were built and retrofitted with benefactors contributing to half of the funding, IRNA quoted Hamid-Reza Khanmohammadi as saying.

Referring to the construction of schools for refugees, the official said 111 schools have been built by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the past 10 years.

Highlighting that 600,000 foreign students are currently utilizing the educational capacities of Iran's schools, Khanmohammadi said 22 schools are currently being constructed, and 6 projects are proposed in challenging locations, which are under review.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should help construct up to 50 schools per year, he stressed.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

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

Media forum in Astrakhan becomes platform for intercultural dialogue in Caspian Region

The theme "The Dialogue of Cultures as the Basis for Caspian Development" became the main topic at the IX Caspian Media Forum held in Astrakhan, Russia.

According to TV BRICS, the international media partner of the event, more than 100 statesmen, journalists, and representatives of the expert community from different countries discussed how cooperation in the field of culture can contribute to the development of the Caspian region at the event, held from August 16 to 17.

Over the years, the forum has evolved from a platform for cooperation between regional journalists to a major international event. This was stated by Pavel Pautov, head of Administration of the Governor of the Astrakhan Region.

"Last year, the central theme was the sphere of tourism; now it is culture. We attract the journalistic community to discuss specific issues of the region's development. We hold this event in order to create a common agenda for the dialogue among the five Caspian countries," he said.

Mikhail Petrakov, ambassador-at-Large of the Russian Foreign Ministry and head of the Russian delegation to the Multilateral Negotiations, believes that mechanisms of intercultural dialogue are indispensable in international relations.

"These tools allow us to understand the interests of our partners and treat them with respect. Accordingly, if we have established intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and trust, we will aim for success in all other spheres," the diplomat noted.

In an exclusive commentary for TV BRICS, Lana Ravandi-Fadai, an Iran specialist at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, stressed that effective interstate ties are impossible without cultural dialogue.

"One can build diplomatic relations for

centuries, but at the same time not know the mentality and culture of partners. When relations between different countries develop, such ignorance often pushes the parties away from each other," the expert explained.

Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, spoke at the plenary session "The Dialogue of Cultures as the Basis for the Caspian Development".

"For us, the Caspian Sea is a space of friendship and peace. Good-neighborly relations should be based on the cultures of ancient civilizations. Thus, the role of cultural figures and media plays a key role, so this forum is of great importance," the ambassador said.

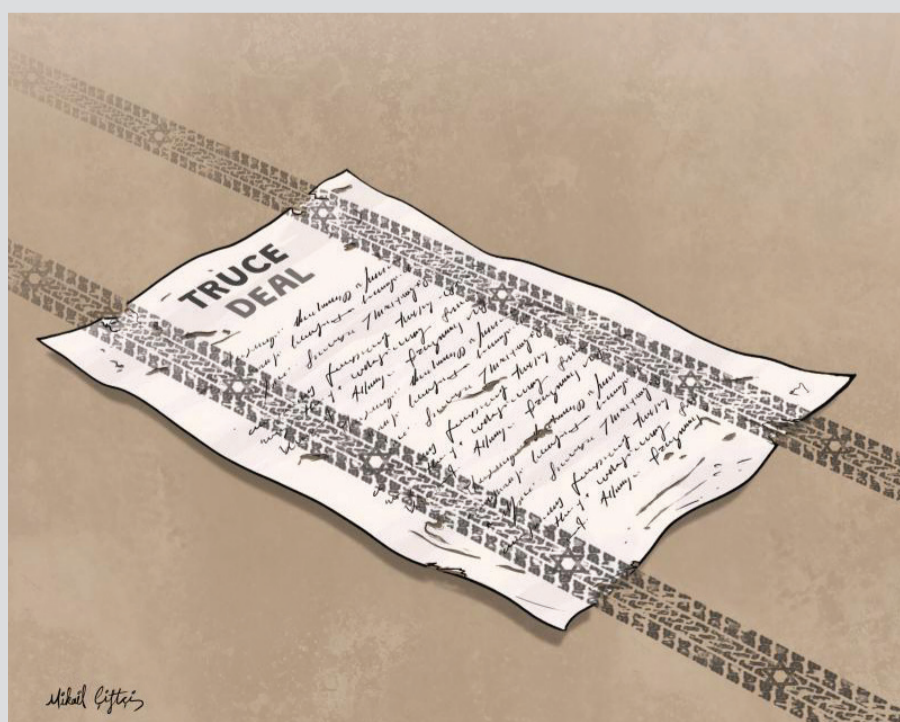
In addition, the Iranian consulate general in Astrakhan emphasized the role of the Caspian region in Tehran's foreign policy.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry has a department for the development of the Caspian region. This explains our interest in the media forum, in which our delegation takes part every year," the diplomat said.

Media interaction between the countries was also one of the key topics of the forum. This issue was discussed at the thematic sessions devoted to the role of media and information technologies. The parties proposed to create an international media platform, "Caspian Today," which will broadcast in Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Russian, Turkmen, and Farsi, the official languages of the Caspian region countries, as well as in English. Pavel Pautov, head of the Administration of the Governor of Astrakhan Region, suggested that the headquarters of the new media center should be located in the capital of the region.

The Caspian Media Forum has been organized since 2014. In addition to the main events, plenary sessions, and discussion sessions, the program of this ninth forum also included a master class for investigative journalists and awarding the winners of the Caspian Without Borders contest.

Cartoon of Day



Israel refuses to negotiate
 Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Iran art community loses two artists

TEHRAN—Two veteran Iranian artists, painter Sirak Melkonian and actor Houshang Harirchian, passed away earlier this week.

Melkonian, an Iranian-Armenian painter and one of the founders of the modern art movement in the country passed away on Saturday in Toronto, Canada at 93.

And Harirchian, a veteran actor of Iranian cinema and television died just nine days after celebrating his 92nd birthday, Honaronline reported.

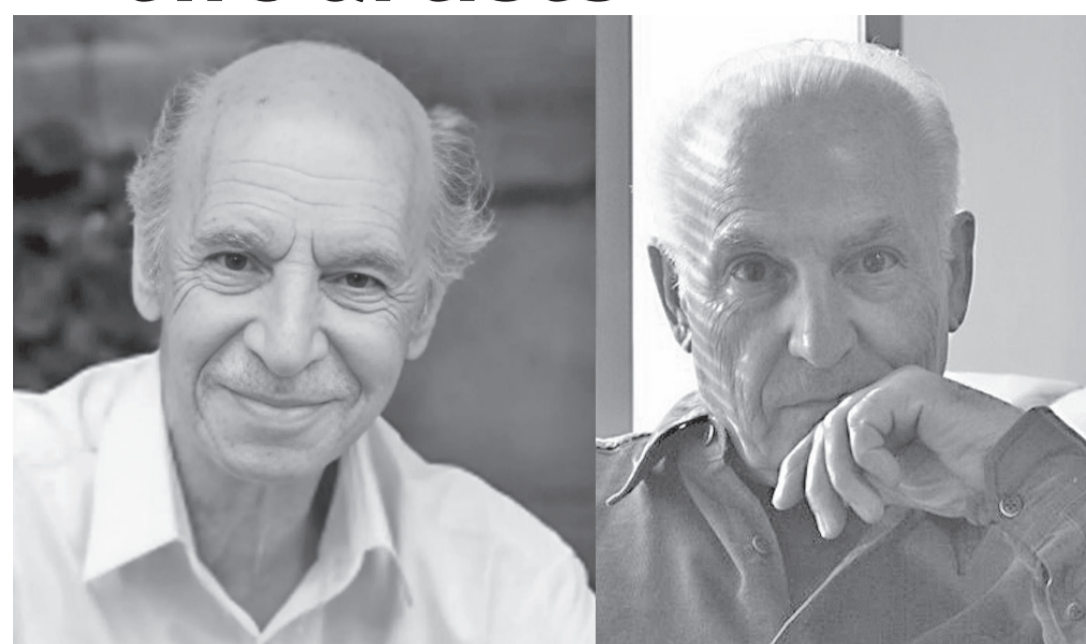
Born in Tehran, Melkonian met Marcos Grigorian after graduating from high school and learned modern European art and the art of the world from him. Melkonian's early works had a figurative and realistic approach.

In 1957, he won the Contemporary Iranian Artists Award at the Iran-America Society and in 1958 he won the Imperial Court Prize, Tehran Biennial. Grigorian encouraged him to move to Italy to study art at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma.

He quit studying there and continued learning art experimentally. He participated in the Venice Biennale and soon afterward won the Paris Biennale prize.

In the early 1960's Melkonian began focusing more specifically towards abstraction in his work, and became a leading figure in the Iranian art scene, due to his successes at home and internationally.

Melkonian founded the Azad Art Group in the early 1970's,



Houshang Harirchian

Sirak Melkonian

with some other important artists living and working in Iran at the time.

They were introduced formally

Melkonian exhibited his work in over 140 exhibitions worldwide, from Tehran to New York.

at the Tehran International Art Fair in 1974, pushing the boundaries and understanding of conceptual art and installation works in Iran.

Limited color palettes and the emphasis on line and form in Melkonian's works have always

been more important than the subject.

The figurative language of his works has found an expressionist and then abstract side over time. Melkonian's mastery of visual qualities of line and color has created a perfect cohesion and balance that may be considered the closest common feature of his works with pristine nature.

Melkonian exhibited his work in over 140 exhibitions worldwide, from Tehran to Paris, New York to Yerevan.

His works can be found in major public and private international collections; such as the Niavaran Palace, TMOCA, and LACMA.

Born in Isfahan, Harirchian's career began in 1947 on the theater stages. His talent quickly earned him a place in

the Sepahan Theater in 1953, and by 1959, he had established himself as a prominent figure at Isfahan Radio, where he worked as an actor, announcer, producer, reporter, director, and host of various programs.

In 1969, he made his television debut with the show "The Photographer". His cinematic debut was in Ali Hatami's "Jafar Khan".

Over the next six decades, Harirchian starred in films such as "Jafar Khan Returns from Abroad," "The Wind Carpet," "A Little Kiss," "The Rules of the Game," and "Two Sisters".

However, Harirchian is best known for his memorable comedic roles in popular series such as "Pejman," "Medical Building," and "The Chef".

Sandy Rustin's "Clue" on stage at Divar Art Home



TEHRAN—The play "Clue" by Sandy Rustin and directed by Sepehr Javidian is on stage at Divar Art Home in Tehran.

The play has Fatemeh Akbarpur, Golnoush Imani, Yashar Boroumand, Erfan Ranjbar, and

Behrouz Lesani in the cast among others.

"Clue" is a murder-mystery farce adapted from the 1985 film "Clue," itself based on the namesake popular board game. Sandy Rustin adapted Jonathan Lynn's screenplay for the stage, with additional material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price.

The tale begins at a remote mansion, where six mysterious guests assemble for an unusual dinner party where murder and blackmail are on the menu.

When their host turns up dead, they all become suspects. Led by Wadsworth – the butler - Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock and Colonel Mustard race to find the killer as the body

count stacks up.

"Clue" is the comedy whodunit that will leave both cult-fans and newcomers in stitches as they try to figure out who did it, where, and with what!

Sandy Rustin is a Broadway playwright and actress. One of the most produced playwrights in America, Sandy penned the adaptation of the cult-hit film, "Clue" which has enjoyed over 3,500 productions worldwide. The NY TIMES called it "a welcome throwback to an era of physical comedy!"

The play will be performed until Friday at Divar Art Home, which is located at No. 72, Sepand St., Nejatollahi St.

Jonathan Haidt's "The Anxious Generation" published in Persian

TEHRAN—The Persian translation of the book "The Anxious Generation" written by Jonathan Haidt has been released in the Iranian book market.

Ali Salami has translated the book and Mahkameh Publishing House has published it in 390 pages, Mehr reported.

After more than a decade of stability or improvement, the mental health of adolescents plunged in the early 2010s. Rates of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicide rose sharply, more than doubling on many measures. Why?

In "The Anxious Generation," American social psychologist Jonathan Haidt lays out the facts about the epidemic of teen mental illness that hit many countries at the same time. He then investigates the nature of childhood, including why children need play and independent exploration to mature into competent, thriving adults.

Haidt shows how the "play-based childhood" began to decline in the 1980s, and how it was finally wiped out by the arrival of the "phone-based childhood" in the early 2010s. He presents more than a dozen mechanisms by which this

"great rewiring of childhood" has interfered with children's social and neurological development, covering everything from sleep deprivation to attention fragmentation, addiction, loneliness, social contagion, social comparison, and perfectionism. He explains why social media damages girls more than boys and why boys have been withdrawing from the real world into the virtual world, with disastrous consequences for themselves, their families, and their societies.

Most important, Haidt issues a clear call to action. He diagnoses the "collective action problems" that trap us, and then proposes four simple rules that might set us free. He describes steps that parents, teachers, schools, tech companies, and governments can take to end the epidemic of mental illness and restore a more humane childhood.

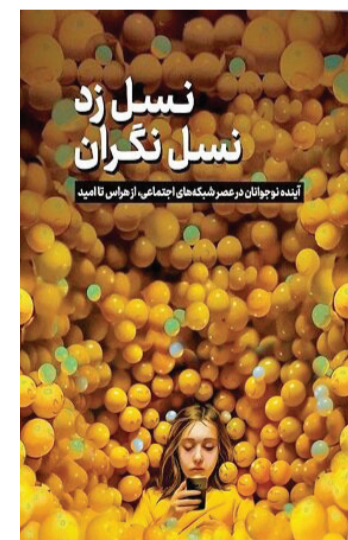
Haidt has spent his career speaking truth backed by data in the most difficult landscapes—communities polarized by politics and religion, campuses battling culture wars, and now the public health emergency faced by Gen Z. We cannot afford to ignore his findings about protecting our

children—and ourselves—from the psychological damage of a phone-based life.

Jonathan Haidt, 60, is the Thomas Cooley Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University's Stern School of Business. He received his Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1992 and then did post-doctoral research at the University of Chicago and in Orissa, India. He taught at the University of Virginia for 16 years before moving to NYU-Stern in 2011. He was named one of the "top global thinkers" by Foreign Policy magazine, and one of the "top world thinkers" by Prospect magazine.

His research focuses on morality – its emotional foundations, cultural variations, and developmental course. He began his career studying the negative moral emotions, such as disgust, shame, and vengeance, but then moved on to the understudied positive moral emotions, such as admiration, awe, and moral elevation.

He is the co-developer of Moral Foundations theory, and of the research site YourMorals.org. He is a co-founder of



HeterodoxAcademy.org, which advocates for viewpoint diversity in higher education. He uses his research to help people understand and respect the moral motives of their enemies. He is the author of "The Happiness Hypothesis: Finding Modern Truth in Ancient Wisdom," "The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion," and (with Greg Lukianoff) "The Coddling of the American Mind: How good intentions and bad ideas are setting a generation up for failure".