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Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah exposes Israel's lies

Arbaeen Operation

Hezbollah successfully targets Unit 8200 HQ near Tel Aviv

People watch Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah delivering a televised address, as they sit at a cafe in Sidon, Lebanon, August 25, 2024.

Iran emphasizes 'legitimate right' to retaliate against Israel

TEHRAN- Iran's foreign minister has declared Tehran's intention to respond decisively to the assassination of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed in Tehran on July 31.

During a phone call with Egypt's foreign minister, Badr Abdel Aati, on Saturday, Abbas Araqchi emphasized Iran's "legitimate right" to retaliate against the terrorist act by the Israeli regime.

Araqchi's statement comes amid heightened tensions following the attack, which is attributed to Israel. Haniyeh was in Tehran to attend the inauguration of President Masoud Pezeshkian when he was assassinated along with one of his bodyguards.

Araqchi's remarks were underscored by strong statements from Iranian leaders, including the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Pezeshkian, both of whom have vowed to avenge Haniyeh's death.

The conversation between Araqchi and Aati also focused on the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Araqchi praised Egypt's significant efforts to establish a ceasefire, which is reportedly being considered by Hamas. ▶ Page 2

Iran's agricultural products export up 33% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 33 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 2.657 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.453 billion in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 22 percent rise in terms of year on year.

Also as previously announced by the IRICA, Iran exported about 2.226 million tons of agricultural products valued at \$1.18 billion in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), registering an increase of 32 percent in value year on year.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, the exports of the mentioned products also increased 22 percent in terms of weight.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade has said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous year. ▶ Page 4

British Airways, Wizz Air halt UK to Tel Aviv flights

Flights between the UK and Tel Aviv have been canceled after an escalation of hostilities overnight.

British Airways halted its flights between London's Heathrow and Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airports from Sunday to Wednesday, the airline said.

Wizz Air also said it is "temporarily suspending" flights to and from Israel "due to the escalating situation in the region".

The cancellations followed the Lebanese Hezbollah's attacks deep inside Israel in response to the assassination of its senior commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut in late July.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) has praised Hezbollah for "succeeding in launching courageous and bold attacks" on Israel "that confirms its adherence to its stated positions and its fulfillment of its promises".

"These attacks have confirmed that the enemy only understands the language of power and cannot be deterred except by the resistance and its fighters," the PIJ said in a statement on its Telegram channel.

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi warned the US chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who arrived in Egypt on Sunday, of the dangers of a major conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

Katz must stop inventing pretexts

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN - Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on Friday that Israel won't permit the establishment of a Palestinian state, claiming that such a state would pose a security threat to Israel.

In a post on X, Israel Katz said, "Iran and Hamas have taken over the Palestinian issue."

He added, "A Palestinian state would mean an Iranian base in Gaza and Judea and Samaria, just like in Lebanon, Yemen, Syria, and Iraq - threatening population centers, flight paths, shipping routes, and economic hubs in Israel."

These statements by Katz are just pretexts.

The Gaza Strip has been under Israeli complete siege since 2007. It has been controlling entry and exit from Gaza by land, sea and air. It also has been controlling Gaza's population registry, telecommunication networks and many other aspects of daily life. But it suffered the greatest blow from the Gaza-based Hamas since its 1948 establishment on Oct. 7 last year.

The Oct. 7 attack proved that Israel could not escape the accumulated anger of a small population, no matter that they were under the strictest control to the extent that the Gaza territory got the title of the biggest open-air prison on the earth.

5 more Israeli troops killed in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Israeli military has announced the death of more soldiers during confrontations with the Palestinian resistance forces in the Gaza Strip.

Over the past 24 hours, the Israeli occupation forces (IOF), as reported by Hebrew media, announced the death of at least five soldiers in the besieged enclave.

More than a dozen others have sustained injuries, some in critical condition.

On Sunday, the IOF said a soldier was "killed in combat" amid clashes with the armed wing of Hamas. No further details were revealed.

This comes on the backdrop of an IOF announcement that four Israeli soldiers had been killed and 12 others injured, four of whom are in critical condition in the Zeitoun district.

The injured soldiers have been transported to hospital for treatment, according to the IOF and the Israeli Broadcasting Corporation.

The Israeli military claims the soldiers died following an explosive device being set off by armed groups, but there is no way of independently verifying this claim. ▶ Page 5



Ruholamin unveils new painting at Karbala to mark Arbaeen

TEHRAN- Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin has created a new artwork beside the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and his brother Hazrat Abbas (AS) in Karbala, to commemorate Arbaeen.

Ruholamin's latest painting, completed in the sacred atmosphere of Karbala during the preparations for Arbaeen pilgrimage, captures the perspective of Hazrat Zainab (SA). ▶ Page 8

Imam Hussain's battle with oppression never-ending: Leader

TEHRAN- On Sunday, August 25, 2024, a solemn Arbaeen mourning ceremony, organized by students, took place at the Imam Khomeini (ra) Hussainiyah. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The ceremony concluded with Ayatollah Khamenei leading the noon and afternoon prayers. ▶ Page 3



IRGC chief reiterates commitment to avenging Haniyeh's assassination



TEHRAN- The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to taking action against the Zionist regime in response to its offenses on Iranian territory.

Major General Hossein Salami made these remarks during an inspection of the Khosravi border crossing with Iraq on Saturday.

When questioned by reporters about Iran's reaction to the Israeli assassination of Hamas

leader Ismail Haniyeh, the senior IRGC official stated, "You will hear good news about revenge, God willing."

General Salami was at the Khosravi border in Qasr-e Shirin, Kermanshah province, overseeing the influx of Arbaeen pilgrims. He was accompanied by a crowd of pilgrims who were chanting slogans such as "death to Israel" and demanding justice for the martyrdom of Haniyeh, while also engaging in discussions about the quality of services offered to the pilgrims.

After the assassination of Ismael Haniyeh in Tehran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has pledged a harsh response to the Israeli regime for this audacious act of violence on Iranian territory.

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

Iran congratulates Ukraine on Independence Day

TEHRAN- Iran's foreign ministry has extended congratulations to Ukraine on its Independence Day.

On Saturday, August 24, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its congratulations to the people and government of Ukraine on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day through a message shared on its X user account.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran congratulates the government and people of Ukraine on their Independence Day," the message read.

Ukraine's Independence Day is observed every year on August 24, commemorating the moment in 1991 when Ukraine proclaimed its independence from the Soviet Union, following a failed coup in Moscow. This pivotal event holds profound significance for Ukrainians, representing the nation's sovereignty, cultural identity, and liberation after centuries of external domination.

The day is celebrated with a variety of events nationwide, including military parades,

concerts, and cultural exhibitions. In Kyiv, the capital, a grand military parade highlights the capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces, showcasing the nation's pride and resilience. Across the country, citizens engage in ceremonies, partake in traditional folk activities, and proudly display the national flag as a demonstration of unity and patriotism.

In recent years, the significance of Independence Day has intensified due to the ongoing conflicts in eastern Ukraine the annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014, and the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022.

These circumstances have underscored the value of independence for Ukrainians, transforming the day into not only a celebration of historical achievements but also a poignant reminder of the continuous fight for the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Ukraine's Independence Day stands as a powerful emblem of national pride, encapsulating the country's journey toward freedom and its unwavering resolve to uphold its independence amid challenges.

Tehran, Havana pledge to strengthen cooperation in combatting crime

TEHRAN- The Iranian ambassador to Vietnam, Ali Akbar Nazari, and Vietnamese Minister of Public Security Luang Tem Quang have emphasized the need to enhance collaboration in crime prevention efforts.

During their meeting on Saturday, Nazari highlighted the mutual recognition of the significance of fulfilling existing agreements, facilitating delegation exchanges, and working together to address criminal activities.

Nazari also took to social media to announce that Quang congratulated Iran on the successful presidential elections and the election of Masoud Pezeshkian as president, underscoring the potential for strengthening bilateral relations in alignment with national interests.

Additionally, both officials reaffirmed their dedication to implementing cooperation agreements focused on the exchange of delegations to effectively combat crime.

Iran and Vietnam have established a collaborative relationship in crime prevention through various bilateral agreements and joint initiatives. Since 1979, both nations



have formalized their commitment to combat transnational crime, addressing issues such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and money laundering.

Vietnamese Law Enforcement has engaged in training sessions facilitated by Iranian Law Enforcement Forces (LEF), focusing on counter-terrorism and organized crime. Furthermore, the two countries have exchanged delegations of police and law enforcement personnel to deliberate on shared concerns, including the extradition of offenders and the transfer of inmates.

Intelligence minister dismisses foreign operatives' involvement in Haniyeh assassination

TEHRAN - Iran's intelligence minister, Esmaeil Khatib, announced on Saturday that there was no involvement from foreign intelligence operatives in the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas political leader, in Tehran.

Khatib stressed that reports from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) confirm that no external agents were involved in the attack that led to Haniyeh's death.

Haniyeh, along with one of his bodyguards, was killed when their residence was struck

on July 31, according to an official statement from the IRGC.

The IRGC has attributed the assassination to the Zionist regime, accusing Israel of orchestrating the attack with the support of the U.S. government.

In response, high-ranking Iranian officials have vowed to avenge Haniyeh's death, asserting Iran's right to retaliate against this violation of its sovereignty by Israel.

Iran emphasizes 'legitimate right' to retaliate against Israel

From page 1 ▶ According to Araqchi, Egypt's role is crucial in mediating a resolution to the violence that has devastated the region.

On Saturday, Hamas announced that a delegation led by senior official Khalil al-Hayya would travel to Cairo to listen to the results of the ceasefire negotiations, which have been facilitated by Egyptian and Qatari mediators.

The Gaza conflict has already resulted in the deaths of over 40,300 Palestinians, primarily women and children, since October 2023. Over ten months into the Israeli war, vast tracts of Gaza lie in ruins amid a crippling blockade of food, clean water and medicine.

The Egyptian foreign minister updated Araqchi on his country's diplomatic efforts to halt the war in Gaza and deliver international humanitarian aid to the besieged territory. Both ministers agreed on the need to prevent the conflict from escalating further and spreading across the region.

They also pledged to continue political consultations on regional developments and mutual relations.

Iran, Turkey vow to strengthen ties amid regional tensions

In a separate conversation, Araqchi spoke with Turkish foreign minister Hakan Fidan on Saturday, highlighting the importance of increased collaboration between Muslim nations, particularly Iran and Turkey, in countering Israel's destabilizing actions in the region.

Araqchi expressed concern over the growing crises in West Asia, which he attributed to Israel's efforts to provoke tensions and spread instability.



Araqchi also emphasized the need to enhance bilateral relations between Iran and Turkey, expressing Tehran's readiness to engage in constructive dialogue aimed at strengthening cooperation in various fields. This collaboration is seen as essential for addressing the ongoing challenges and ensuring regional stability.

Turkish foreign minister Fidan congratulated Araqchi on his recent appointment as Iran's new foreign minister and reiterated Turkey's commitment to continuing political consultations with Iran.

He stressed Turkey's interest in working closely with Iran on regional and international developments, particularly the current tensions in West Asia.

Iran pursues deep strategic relations in Latin America

Iran's outreach extended beyond the West Asia, with Araqchi engaging in a phone conversation with Venezuela's foreign Minister Yvan Gil Pinto on Saturday.

Araqchi reaffirmed Iran's strategic commitment to deepening relations with Latin American countries, underscoring Venezuela's special significance in Iran's foreign policy.

He also highlighted the recent

congratulations from Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro following his victory in the presidential election.

Araqchi condemned any external interference in Latin America's internal affairs and stressed the importance of respecting the sovereignty of nations in the region.

Both Araqchi and Pinto expressed their readiness to advance bilateral cooperation by exchanging high-level delegations and implementing agreements aimed at strengthening ties.

They also discussed exploring new areas of cooperation to further enhance the relationship between Tehran and Caracas.

Tehran, Baku discuss strengthening bilateral ties

In another telephone conversation on Sunday, Jeyhun Bayramov, the foreign minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, congratulated Araqchi on his appointment as the new foreign minister of Iran.

During the call, Minister Bayramov extended his best wishes for Araqchi's success in his new role.

Bayramov highlighted Azerbaijan's strong interest in fostering

and expanding friendly relations with Iran, grounded in the principles of good neighborliness.

He expressed optimism that under Araqchi's leadership, the cooperation between Tehran and Baku would grow even stronger, ushering in a new era of enhanced bilateral ties.

In response, Araqchi expressed his gratitude to the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister for his warm congratulations. He emphasized that deepening friendly relations based on mutual interests with Azerbaijan is a key priority for Iran's foreign policy.

Araqchi also underscored the importance of fully leveraging the existing potential for collaboration between the two nations.

The conversation also covered significant regional and international developments, with a particular focus on the Caucasus region. Both ministers shared their perspectives on the evolving situation and discussed potential areas for further cooperation.

To cement their commitment to stronger bilateral relations, the two ministers extended mutual invitations for official visits to their respective capitals.

They agreed on the necessity of revitalizing bilateral relations through the continuous exchange of high-level delegations and maintaining regular consultations between their foreign ministries.

Additionally, they emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between their representatives in regional and international forums, aiming to further solidify the partnership between Azerbaijan and Iran on the global stage.

Pezeshkian pledges to pursue social justice for all Iranians

TEHRAN- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has committed to advancing social justice through his administration's focus on "national unity."

According to IRNA, in a speech delivered on Saturday at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, Pezeshkian stated, "We will be honest with people and act according to truth and justice."

He highlighted that true unity requires all officials to diligently work towards promoting truth and justice, guided by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, in alignment with the national vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, its overarching policies, and the 7th National Development Plan.

The 7th National Development Plan (NDP) of Iran is a five-year initiative established by the Iranian government in 2021. This plan delineates the nation's objectives and strategies for economic, social, and cultural advancement from 2021 to 2026.

Pezeshkian also expressed gratitude to

Iran's parliament for endorsing his proposed cabinet members, describing this approval as a significant advancement towards the national unity slogan.

"Since the inception of the Islamic Revolution, the global community has attempted to undermine and destroy our Islamic ideology, yet they have failed because of our unity and resilience," he remarked.

The president also addressed the actions of the Israeli regime in the region, asserting that regional unity is essential for overcoming the Zionist regime.

Pezeshkian further reiterated the responsibility of all regional governments to back the Palestinian Resistance and oppose the crimes of the Zionist regime.

During his visit, Pezeshkian and his cabinet reaffirmed their commitment to the principles established by the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

Government pledges to rely on domestic capabilities to overcome challenges: VP

Iranian First-Vice President Mohammad

Reza Aref stated that the government will rely on domestic resources to address the challenges facing the country.

During a speech at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, on Saturday, Aref emphasized that the issues within society can be resolved through local expertise and capabilities.

He also highlighted the significance of leveraging international knowledge to confront Iran's social and economic problems.

Citing Imam Khomeini's belief that the people are the true pillars of the Islamic Revolution, Aref underscored the importance of serving the nation as a fundamental responsibility.

Iran's vice president remarked that unity and collaboration are essential for identifying and resolving these challenges.

He also expressed optimism that the Iranian populace would see advancements in the domestic economy, assuring that all authorities would make every effort to address societal issues.

Palestinian victory inevitable in struggle against Israel, Iran says

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign ministry spokesman has expressed strong confidence that the Palestinian people will ultimately prevail in their ongoing struggle against the Israeli regime.

In a message shared on X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday, coinciding with Arbaeen Day, Nasser Kanaani emphasized that the sacrifices of innocent Palestinians, who have been killed by Israeli forces, will pave the way for their eventual triumph.

Arbaeen marks the 40th day

following the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hossein (AS), the third Shia Imam, revered by Muslims for his stand against the tyranny of his era, Yazid.

Kanaani drew parallels between Imam Hossein's fight for justice and the current plight of the Palestinian people, underscoring that the spirit of resistance and righteousness embodied in Arbaeen should inspire support for Palestine.

Kanaani further highlighted that the lesson of Arbaeen is to

stand firmly on the side of justice and to oppose oppression, drawing a direct connection to the current situation in Gaza.

He pointed out that over the past 11 months, Israeli actions have resulted in the deaths of more than 40,000 Palestinians, the majority of whom were women and children.

The ongoing tragedy, Kanaani argued, only strengthens the resolve of the Palestinian people to resist and ensures that they will eventually emerge victorious

against their oppressors.

Since the outbreak of war on October 7 last year, large swathes of Gaza have been reduced to rubble under a devastating blockade that has cut off essential supplies of food, clean water, and medicine.

Repeated attempts at negotiations have so far failed to secure a ceasefire in the relentless Israeli assault on Gaza.

Iran, Turkey officials hold friendship meeting in Istanbul

TEHRAN- A meeting focused on the friendship and cooperation between Iran and Turkey took place in Istanbul, featuring a message from Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who praised the enduring relationship between the two nations.

As reported by IRNA, this gathering, held in a hotel located in Istanbul's Beşiktaş district on Saturday, was organized to honor Pezeshkian, who assumed the presidency of Iran last

month.

Pezeshkian's message emphasized that the relationship between Iran and Turkey has achieved an acceptable level of stability, which has been maintained despite various domestic, regional, and international challenges over the years.

Pezeshkian attributed this stability to the numerous shared interests and the rich historical ties between the two countries.

Additionally, a message from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, was presented during the meeting. Erdogan congratulated Pezeshkian on his recent electoral victory and expressed his hopes for the prosperity of the Iranian people.

Erdogan also conveyed confidence that the collaboration between Tehran and Ankara will continue to strengthen throughout Pezeshkian's presidency.

Imam Hussain's battle with oppression never-ending: Leader

From Page 1 ▶ The Leader of the Islamic Revolution delivered a brief speech between the two prayers, highlighting the themes of Ziyarat Ashura pertaining to the importance of friendship with the friends of Imam Hussain (PBUH) and enmity towards his enemies until the Day of Judgment. "The battle between the front of Imam Hussain (PBUH) and the front of people like Yazid [oppressors] is a never-ending, ongoing battle," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the goal of Imam Hussain's (PBUH) uprising was to fight against oppression and injustice. "This war has taken place in various shapes and forms.

It was carried out in one form in the era of swords and spears, and in another form in the age of atomic [technology], artificial intelligence, and so on. But it continues.

In the era of propagation using



poetry, odes, hadith, and spoken words, it was carried out in one way. And [now] in the era of quantum [physics], the internet, and the like, it is carried out in another way," he remarked.

He pointed out that this duty manifests differently during one's years as a university student compared to the period when a person assumes greater

responsibility.

"The fight of the Hussaini front against the Yazidi front does not always mean taking up arms; [rather,] It means thinking correctly, speaking properly, understanding things accurately, and hitting the target with precision," he said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized that

pursuing this path would provide life with meaning and purpose. "Young people should appreciate the current era, in which the Islamic Revolution has opened a way before them.

They need to act promptly with proper planning, study, and correct thinking, which requires familiarity with the Quran and pondering over it," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei underscored that this timely action may sometimes find meaning within the university environment, at other times in social or political spheres, and at certain moments on the path of Karbala and Palestine, as well as the pursuit of lofty goals.

He concluded by asserting that the youth's use of this historical opportunity will signify success and salvation while failing to seize this opportunity and fulfill their responsibilities will lead to failure.

Reviving the JCPOA not as easy as it may have been: Iran FM



TEHRAN - Iran's new Foreign Minister, Abbas Araqchi, who served as the lead negotiator during the talks that resulted in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), has indicated that reviving the deal will be more complex than it once seemed.

"Reviving those negotiations is not as easy as it was in the past," Araqchi remarked during an interview on national TV.

The foreign minister said significant events, including the ongoing war in Ukraine and its impact on European security, have

fundamentally altered the geopolitical landscape. "The Gaza war, the attack by the Israeli regime, and the massacre that has taken place there have also completely transformed the regional conditions," he explained.

The JCPOA was inked in 2015 between Iran and the 5+1 group of countries namely the U.S., UK, France, Germany, China, and Russia. The deal limited Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the termination of sanctions, which Washington reimposed against Iran when it unilaterally left the deal in 2018. Since the start of the Biden administration, Iran and the remaining signatories to the pact have held multiple rounds of negotiations to revive the JCPOA, all to no avail.

Reports suggest that Washington and its European allies are seeking to expand the nuclear pact and limit Iran's defensive military programs as well.

"New negotiations need to take shape; of course, as I mentioned, the conditions in

Europe are tough, and in America, they are caught up in elections, so it will not be easy," Araqchi added.

The top diplomat previously said that while Iran will be seeking to terminate the sanctions, its top priority is to neutralize them as is not guaranteed that Tehran and the West would eventually manage to revive the JCPOA.

During his Saturday interview, Araqchi emphasized that the JCPOA, in its current form, is no longer viable.

"Some of the dates that were set have already passed, and therefore, the JCPOA in its current form cannot be revived," he asserted before calling for a reevaluation of the agreement, stating, "In a sense, this document must definitely be reopened, and parts of it must be amended."

In the past, some Iranian officials have stated that Tehran seeks concrete guarantees from the U.S. ensuring that Washington will not withdraw from the nuclear deal again.

Army chief holds meeting with defense minister

TEHRAN- The commander-in-chief of Iranian Army, accompanied by a team of commanders, deputies, and Army officials, convened with the Iranian Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

As reported by the Army's public relations, Major General Seyyed Abdulrahim Mousavi, the commander-in-chief of the Iranian Army, along with Mohammad Hasani, the head of the Army Political and Ideological Organization, and other Army leaders and deputies, met with Brigadier General Aziz Nasir Zadeh, the newly appointed Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, to extend their congratulations.

During this meeting, participants explored avenues for strengthening collaboration between the Army and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics.

It was agreed that a follow-up

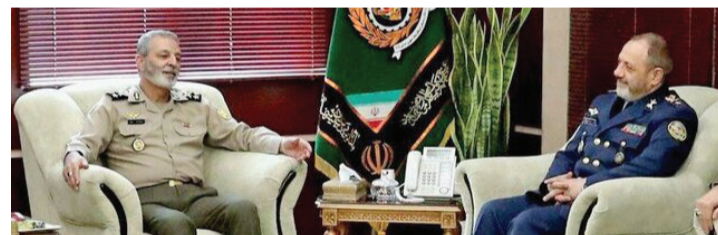
meeting would be scheduled soon between the Minister of Defense and the commanders of the forces to enhance mutual engagement and establish targeted cooperation, enabling the development and implementation of effective solutions.

Nasir Zadeh held the position of deputy chief of staff for Iranian Armed Forces from September 2021 until 2024. Before this role, he served as the chief of staff of the Iranian Air Force.

Army chief holds meeting with interior minister

Major General Seyyed Abdulrahim Mousavi also held a meeting with Eskandar Momeni, Iranian Minister of Interior, accompanied by a delegation of Army commanders and officials.

Through the Army's public relations, Major General Mousavi extended his congratulations to Momeni for receiving a vote of confidence from the



representatives of the Iranian Parliament during their meeting at the Ministry of Interior.

During the discussion, General Mousavi acknowledged Momeni's extensive managerial experience and his significant contributions to the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressing confidence that Momeni would continue to excel in his role at the Ministry of Interior.

Mousavi underscored the Army's growing readiness to collaborate with the Ministry of Interior on various missions, including border security, disaster response, and crisis management, noting the shared responsibilities between the two entities.

In response, Eskandar Momeni, the Minister of Interior, conveyed his appreciation for the presence of the Army's commander-in-chief and other officials, highlighting the Army's proactive involvement and support in joint operations with the ministry, particularly in securing the eastern and western borders and managing crises, which he deemed commendable.

In 2018, Momeni was appointed by Hassan Rouhani, the former president of Iran, to serve as the secretary of the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters, thereby establishing himself as an influential member of Iran's security framework.

Iran, Spain highlight importance of expanding legal and judicial collaboration

TEHRAN- Senior officials from Iran and Spain have highlighted the importance of enhancing legal and judicial collaboration between their nations.

As reported by IRNA, Kazem Gharibabadi, the secretary of Iranian High Council for Human Rights, met with Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar, the Spanish ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During their discussion, they explored ways to strengthen bilateral relations across various sectors, particularly in legal and judicial matters.

Gharibabadi expressed Iran's willingness

to further develop its relationship with Spain moving forward.

He noted that specialized dialogues on human rights and the sharing of judicial expertise could benefit citizens of both countries.

The Iranian official cautioned Spain against becoming a refuge for fraudsters and criminals.

In response, the Spanish ambassador indicated that he would relay Tehran's positions regarding the extradition of offenders to Madrid.

Iran and Spain have developed formal legal

and diplomatic ties. The nations have entered into multiple bilateral agreements, notably the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation established in 1977, which outlines the basis for collaboration across various sectors.

Regarding legal cooperation, both countries have engaged in the exchange of judicial delegations and have made efforts towards the extradition of offenders and the transfer of inmates.

They have also formalized agreements concerning extradition and legal assistance in criminal cases. Furthermore, Iran and Spain collaborate in areas such as trade, investment, tourism, and cultural exchange.

Bam defeat Royal Thimphu College at AFC Women's Champions League



TEHRAN - Bam Khatoon FC came from behind to defeat Royal Thimphu College FC of Bhutan 2-1 in their opening AFC Women's Champions League 2024/25 Preliminary Stage Group D tie on Sunday.

Ritu Porna Chakma put the hosts ahead but Bam Khatoon fought back through efforts from Mona Hamoudi and Shahnaz Jafari as they boosted their hopes of progressing to the group stage.

Bam Khatoon were the quicker to settle and would have been in front in the 14th minute if not for the crossbar as Mona Hamoudi's rasping drive from outside the box bounced off the woodwork with Royal Thimphu goalkeeper Sangita Monger well beaten.

Spurred on by the home crowd at Changlimithang Stadium, Royal Thimphu started to find their way forward, looking dangerous on the wider areas albeit without causing too much trouble for the Iranians.

However, that changed in the 27th minute when Chakma latched onto the ball from almost 30 yards out and her goal-bound effort was inadvertently pushed into her own net by Bam Khatoon custodian Mahdiyeh Molaei.

Parity was restored seven minutes later with Samaneh Chahkandi - sent through on the right - finding Hamoudi who side-footed the ball into the net past a rooted Sangita.

After the break, Royal Thimphu had a golden opportunity to retake their lead but Molaei reacted brilliantly to deny Monika Chakma from close range in the 53rd minute.

As the second half went on, both sides adopted a safety first approach, leading to minimal clear goalscoring chances created.

But there was to be a final twist to the game in the 75th minute when the influential Zahra Ghanbari floated a free-kick into the box that was nodded home by Jafari for the winner.

Bam Khatoon will complete their Group D fixture against Hong Kong, China's Kitchee FC on Saturday but will have the opportunity to watch their next opponents in action on Wednesday when they face Royal Thimphu.

Albanian forward Sokol Cikalleshi to join Tractor

TEHRAN - Albanian striker Sokol Cikalleshi has arrived in Tabriz to finalize his deal with Tractor football team.

He has most recently played at Saudi Arabian side Al-Khaleej.

Cikalleshi has been a member of Albania national football team and has scored 13 goals in 60 matches for his national team.

Tractor, headed by Dragan Skocic, are one of the favorites to win 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Taremi starts for Inter in Serie A against Lecce

TEHRAN - Inter Milan forward Mehdi Taremi started the match against Lecce, where the host won the match 2-0.

The Iranian international striker made his first ever Serie A start.

Taremi had come off the bench against Genoa - but this time he played from the start.

He assisted Matteo Darmian to scored the first goal in the fifth minute.

Hakan Calhanoglu scored the second goal in the 70th minute at the San Siro.

Azmoun helps Shabab Al Ahli to beat Al Bataeh

TEHRAN - Shabab Al Ahli clinched a dramatic 2-1 victory over Al Bataeh in the UAE Professional League opener at Rashid Stadium in Dubai on Saturday.

Anatole Bertrand gave the lead Al Bataeh in the 66th minute but Munas Dabbur canceled out his goal two minutes later.

Sardar Azmoun then sealed the win with a decisive goal in injury time and Shabab Al Ahli won the match 2-1.

Iran sweep Tunisia at FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World

TEHRAN - Iran eased past Tunisia 3-0 (25-13, 25-12, 25-16) at the 2024 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U17 World Championship on Sunday.

Iran's Kamyab Abdollahifar scored eight points and Omar Hfaiedh led the Tunisian team with eight points.

Arash Sadeghiani's team will face powerhouses Egypt in Pool B on Monday.

They had defeated Libya 3-0 in their first match.

The maiden edition of the U17 World Championship is being held in Sofia, Bulgaria from Aug. 24 to 31.

The top eight teams in four groups will move forward to the quarterfinals, while the losers play the playoffs from ninth to 16th place.

Esteghlal escape defeat against Malavan thanks to VAR

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team were awarded two penalties against Malavan in Matchweek 2 of the 2024/25 Iran Professional League (IPL) thanks to VAR intervention on Friday.

Esteghlal and Malavan shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw.

In the match held in Qazvin's Sardar-e Azadegan, Reza Ghandipour found the back of the net for Malavan just seven minutes into the match but Ramin Rezaeian levelled the score from the penalty spot in the 32nd minute.

Reza Jafari scored Malavan's second goal in the 63rd minute but Rezaeian once again was on target from the penalty spot with seven minutes left.

In Khoramabad, Sepahan came from a goal down to beat Kheybar 2-1, Chadormalu and Shams Azar shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw and Zob Ahan was held to a goalless draw against Havadar in their home match.

Kaveh steps no longer Iran wrestling coach

TEHRAN - Mohsen Kaveh resigned from his post as head coach of Iran freestyle wrestling team on Friday.

He was named as Iran head coach in December 2023 as Pejman Dorostkar's replacement.

Iranian freestylers won three silver medals and one bronze in the 2024 Olympic Games under his leadership.

Rahman Amouzad in 65kg, Hassan Yazdani in 86kg and Amir Hossein Zare in 125kg claimed three silvers and Amirali Azarpira won a bronze medal in the 97kg.

Fishery export increases 24% in 5 months on year



TEHRAN- The value of Iran's fishery export increased by 24 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

According to the IRICA report, the country exported 68,000 tons of fishery worth \$138 million in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 32 percent rise in terms of year on year.

Also as previously announced by the director general of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Quality Improvement, Processing, and Aquatic Market, the value of Iran's fishery export increased by over 30 percent during the first quarter of this Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mokhtari said that the country exported 73,369 tons of fishery valued at \$121.4 million in the first quarter of this year, while the figure was 52,282 tons worth \$93.1 million in the same time span of the past year.

Abbas Mokhtari said that the country exported 73,369 tons of fishery valued at \$121.4 million in the first quarter of this year, while the figure was 52,282 tons worth \$93.1 million in the same time span of the past year.

The official also announced that the quarterly fishery export indicates over 40 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has announced that Iran's fishery exports in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) increased by three percent and exceeded \$310 million.

The IRICA said the weight of exported fishery products in the last Iranian fiscal year was 149,000 metric tons, which shows a 12 percent increase compared to the previous year.

During the last Iranian fiscal year, shrimp exports also reached \$98.5 million, accounting for 32 percent of the total export value among Iran's fishery products.

Russia, the United Arab Emirates, and China were the main destinations for Iran's exported shrimp during the mentioned period, showing a decrease of 26 percent in terms of value compared to the previous year.

According to the report, fisheries exports account for less than 70 percent of Iran's total exports, with the UAE, China, Russia, and Iraq being the largest markets for Iran's fishery products.

Iran imported 24,000 metric tons of fishery products worth \$72 million last year, indicating an increase of 121 percent in terms of weight and an increase of 113 percent in terms of value.

The growth and development of Iran's aquaculture industry has reached the point where the country has become a model for the countries of the region and the world.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) believes that Iran plays a responsible and central role in the fishing and aquaculture industry in the region, and for this reason, it can be considered a model for the countries of the region.

Now the world markets have become the target of the export of the country's fishery products, so that, the value of fishery exports also increased by 67 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1400 compared to the preceding year.

In addition to the executive role of the IFO, the role of research and knowledge-based activities in this field is very important, and the entry of young specialists and knowledge-based experts in various sectors of the fishery industry has made the sanctions ineffective.

In mid-April, the Head of Shrimp and Ma-

rine Aquatic Affairs of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Ghabad Mokarami said the country's fishery production is expected to reach 206,000 tons in the next two years.

"If we double the number of breeding pools in the next two years, we will reach more than 206,000 tons of fishery production, which is a significant number," Mokarami said.

In early April, a cooperation agreement was signed between 12 companies and groups of stakeholders in the field of fish farming to create a value chain for caged fish farming in the Caspian Sea region in northern Iran.

a total number of 12 influential companies and groups with a long history in various sectors of the industry, including the production of hatched eggs, baby fish nursery as the primary production input, health, nutritional and executive management of fish farms in cages, fish farms on land, export and trading of products, fishing unions and feed production factories, have agreed to create a value chain with a production capacity of 1,500 tons of fish by using all the country's hardware and software technologies to accelerate the development of the cage fish farming industry in the Northern waters of Iran.

The most important projects identified for the creation of this chain value include the completion of the technological equipment of the caged fish farm, including imaging, farm management software, etc., completion of the intermediate farms, including the nano-bubble, ozone, and filtration systems, and creation of the production-line of value-added products from fish waste to supply the raw materials of aquatic feed, concentrate production project to increase the safety of farmed fish by using medicinal plants to reduce the consumption of antibiotics, completing and equipping the processing unit including IQF machine, automatic processing, etc.

Design and construction of support float for caged fish breeding farm, completion of surveillance system equipment for breeding and nursery unit, implementation of the project for selection and production of Iranian triploid eggs, creation of a specialized feed production line for fishmeal, and supply of specialized vehicle for transporting fish are other projects to be implemented by the companies.

In a relevant development in March, a nanobubble generating machine was produced by one of the knowledge-based companies in Iran which improves productivity in fish farming ponds.

"Our knowledge based has produced nanobubble generators. These generators can dissolve oxygen and various other gases such as ozone in a nano form for disinfection and purifying wastewater," said Saeed Mokhberi, one of the researchers of the Iranian knowledge-based company.

"This product is used in both aquaculture and agriculture. In aquaculture, the machine will increase the population of cool-water fish species by 2-3 times, while it will reduce electricity consumption by 70 percent," he added.

Mokhberi mentioned removing the unpleasant smell of fish and improving the quality of farmed fish by making ponds healthier as another advantage of the machine, adding, "This generator will improve the conversion rate of food to protein, control the growth of bacteria and prevent diseases."

"In the aquaculture industry, the two problems of supplying oxygen to the water and the amount of nitrogen caused by the remaining food and fish waste emerge, which cause water pollution. This system is up to 85% efficient compared to the previous systems, whose efficiency was up to 18 percent."

'Establishing an Iran-Turkmenistan joint FTZ to bring development for both sides'

TEHRAN- The governor-general of northeastern Iranian province of Golestan has announced that establishment of a joint free trade zone with Turkmenistan will bring development for both countries, IRNA reported.

Ali-Mohammad Zanganeh said the consultations about the issue are underway.

Last month, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held a seminar on the trade opportunities of Iran and Turkmenistan as the Islamic Republic is going to hold specialized agrifood exhibition in Turkmenistan.

The event was attended by senior officials including Mahmoud Bazari, director-general of TPO's Export Coordination Office, Akbar Godari, head of the organization's Central Asia, Caucasus and Russia office, and Gholam-Abbas Arbab Khales, the former ambassador of Iran in Turkmenistan.

Speaking at the seminar, Bazari considered Iran's Agrifood exhibition as a major event in Turkmenistan and said: "Turkmenistan is a potential and important market for Iranian



products and services. The country has a special position in the International North-South Corridor, whose capacities can be used to develop exports."

According to the official, the purpose of Iran Agrifood exhibition in Turkmenistan is to showcase the Islamic republic's capabilities in the food and agricultural sector and also to show Iran's ability in producing industrial and agricultural machinery.

Referring to Iran's ability to produce food products in the region, he pointed out: "Iran has the ability to produce and sup-

ply food to the region, and this is also mentioned in the Seventh National Development Plan. It seems that if the export obstacles are removed, the realization of the goals of the national development plan is not far from reach."

Further in the event, Godari presented a report on Iran's export products to Turkmenistan and said: "80 percent of Iran's export goods to Turkmenistan are mineral sand industrial products, and the other 20 percent are agricultural and petrochemical products."

Back in June, Godari had announced that the trade of food and agricultural products between Iran and Turkmenistan increased by 35 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 21).

According to Godari, the trade between the two countries has been following an upward trend over the past two years.

Earlier in November 2023, TPO Head Mehdi Zeyghami announced the beginning of drafting a comprehensive economic cooperation document between the Islamic Republic and Turkmenistan.

Referring to the holding of the 17th Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Committee meeting in Ashgabat and the visit of the Iranian delegation to Turkmenistan, Zeyghami said: "This trip was very fruitful because the minister of foreign affairs of Turkmenistan and the Iranian head of the joint committee are working to create a comprehensive economic and trade document between the two countries."

Iran's agricultural products export up 33% in 5 months yr/yr

From page 1 ► Iraq was the top destination for Iran's agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items.

The Arab neighbor account-

ed for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood in second place, importing \$751 million of the mentioned products, fol-

lowed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.17.8 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.



Solar panels' electricity generation rises 9.1%

TEHRAN- The amount of electricity generated by the solar panels in the country has risen 9.1 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), IRNA reported.

The report put the current installed capacity of the country's solar panels power generation at over 700 megawatts.

Back in February, the head of the technical office of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (SIIPO) has said that five solar parks are currently being constructed across the country, Mehr News Agency reported.

"The government has approved the plan for the establishment of 17 solar parks in six provinces, five of which are being constructed," Ruhollah Ebrahimi said.

According to the official, the mentioned parks are being established in Qazvin and Kerman provinces.

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), on behalf of the Energy Ministry, is in charge of the construction of the mentioned solar parks, and so far this organization has had good cooperation with SIIPO for the implementation of the said plan, Ebrahimi explained.

According to the official, the government has also allowed the export of the excess electricity generated by the mentioned solar parks.

"Iran's electricity network is connected through transmission lines and substations, and if elec-

tricity production exceeds electricity consumption in the country, and if approval is obtained from neighboring countries, it is possible to export the excess electricity," the official said.

In June, the head of the Nomads Affairs Organization of Iran said more than 20,000 solar panel sets have been distributed among the country's nomadic households over the past 2.5 years.

According to Shayan Naderi, the number of solar panel sets provided to nomadic households across the country increased from 700 sets in August 2021 when the current government took office has reached 20,480 sets.

Knowledge-based and indigenous technologies are used in carrying out this project.

The government pays 90 percent of the costs of each system.

Solar panels are used to easily provide electricity in far-off places. It is not only clean but also cheap and limitless.

Solar-powered photovoltaic panels convert the sun's rays into electricity by exciting electrons in silicon cells using the photons of light from the sun, which is the cleanest, most reliable form of renewable energy, and can be used in several forms to help generate electricity along with income.

In Lats July, Head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has said 600 renewable power plants with a to-

tal capacity of 13,500 megawatts (MW) are under construction across the country after completion which the share of renewables in the Iran's power generation will reach 15 percent.

"We hope that by implementing these power plants, the share of renewable energies in Iran's electricity production will increase to more than 15 percent in the next two years," IRNA quoted Mahmoud Kamani as saying.

Based on the Energy Ministry data, renewables, currently, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity.

Of the country's total renewable capacity, 44 percent is the share of solar power plants while the share of wind farms stands at 40 percent and small-scaled hydropower plants generate 13 percent of the total renewable capacity.

In early July, SATBA reported that the capacity of Iran's renewable power plants has reached 1,199.71 MW.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has taken serious measures to accelerate the growth and development of renewable energies in the country.

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects, increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange

(IRENEX) and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

Iranian Energy Ministry has also put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government's administration (August 2025).

Considering the fact that the country's renewable power generation capacity stood at about 800 MW when the current government took office in August 2021, the mentioned increase in renewable energy capacity would mean a 13-fold rise.

Back in January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

The electricity generated by renewable sources increased by 28 percent in the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (ended on June 20) compared to the same month last year.

Renewable sources generated more than 230 million kilowatt hours of electricity, an increase of 21 percent in comparison with a month earlier.

Wind power plants held the lion's share of the rise in the production of electricity by renewable sources.

Products worth over \$1b exported from Alborz province in a year

TEHRAN - Commodities valued at over \$1 billion were exported from Alborz province in the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), Mojtaba Abdollahi, the governor-general of the province, announced.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineer-

ing services, stood at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion in the past year, which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, 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.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah exposes Israel's lies Arbaeen Operation

Hezbollah successfully targets Unit 8200 HQ near Tel Aviv

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Lebanon's Hezbollah struck a severe blow to Israel after firing hundreds of rockets towards the regime's military sites on Sunday morning.

The Lebanese resistance movement hit nearly a dozen Israeli military facilities as well as the regime's Iron Dome platforms with a barrage of 320 Katyusha rockets and a large number of drones.

Hezbollah said the military operation was as part of the "first phase" of a response to Israel's killing of its top commander, Fuad Shukur, in a strike on Beirut on July 30.

Hezbollah noted that the Sunday strike "completed and accomplished" its initial response, adding that the full response would take "some time".

Hezbollah rejects Israel's claims

The Israeli army claimed early Sunday that it carried out preemptive strikes against Hezbollah after it identified the movement was to carry out an attack against the regime. It said in a statement that more than 100 Israeli fighter jets hit Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels across Lebanon.

Hezbollah, however, dismissed the Israeli army's claims as "empty" and "baseless".

No plans to hit Ben Gurion airport

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah also delivered a speech on Sunday evening, shedding light on the movement's military attack which he called "Arbaeen Operation".

Nasrallah said Hezbollah targeted an Israeli military intelligence base near Tel Aviv around 100 kilometers from Lebanon's border.

The "main target of the operation" inside Israel was "the Gilot base -- the main Israeli military intelligence base", he said.

The Hezbollah chief added the resistance movement successfully hit the Israeli army's 8200 intelligence unit in Gilot.

He said Hezbollah had no plans to target Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion airport or the Israeli Defense Ministry building.

Nasrallah added while the Lebanese resistance group had no intention to use precision-guided missiles in the Sunday attack, it may use them in the near future.

Nasrallah also rejected Israeli claims that its army targeted Hezbollah's missile launchers before the movement conducted its missile and drone attacks.

The areas hit in Israel's so-called preemptive strikes had nothing to do with the "Arbaeen Operation", he remarked.

State of emergency

Hezbollah's attack also sent shockwaves throughout the Israeli establishment.



On Sunday, Israel's war minister Yoav Gallant declared a state of emergency for the next 48 hours, which allows the army to limit gatherings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also vowed to take all measures necessary to "defend" Israel.

Defending Israel is not an abstract concept. When Israel suffers humiliating blows at the hands of regional resistance groups, it massacres civilians under the pretext of self-defense.

In line with such an excuse, Israel has killed more than 40,400 Palestinians, including more than 16,000 children since declaring war on Gaza on October 7.

Airlines cancel flights

Fears of an escalation prompted international airlines to call off their flights to and from Israel.

According to Israeli media, Air France, Etihad Airways and Aegean Airlines canceled flights to and from Ben Gurion airport.

The Haaretz newspaper said the airlines joined 16 others in announcing the discontinuation of flights. Some airlines have decided to do so until further notice.

Reactions also poured in after the latest round of fire exchange between Israel and Hezbollah.

Lebanon PM: Stop Israeli aggression

Following a ministerial meeting, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said efforts are being made to "stop the escalation". He added, "What is required is to stop the Israeli aggression first".

Hamas hails Hezbollah

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement expressed its support for Hezbollah's "strong and focused" retaliatory attack, describing it as a "slap in the face" for Israel.

Hamas said Hezbollah's strike sent a message that Israel's "terrorism and crimes against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples will not go unanswered, and will not achieve its goals and aggressive plans".

The Palestinian resistance group also said Israeli bombings of Lebanon, in which civilians have been killed, are a "blatant violation of all

international charters and norms" and warned that the US is "fully responsible" for any repercussions.

Yemen praises Hezbollah's "effective" response

Yemen's Ansarullah also congratulated Hezbollah for targeting Israel.

"This powerful and effective response deep inside the entity that remains vulnerable reaffirms that the resistance is capable, steadfast, and sincere in its promises and threats," Ansarullah's political bureau said in a statement.

"We stand by the hands and shoulders of the heroes of the Islamic resistance, congratulate and support all options and retaliatory operations against the Zionist enemy.

"We also reaffirm that the Yemeni response is inevitably coming, and the coming days and nights and the battlefield will prove this."

Israeli warmongering

There have been almost daily exchanges of fire between Israel and Hezbollah the day after the start of the Gaza war.

Hezbollah carries out attacks on Israel in support of Palestinian people in Gaza. The movement has stressed that its strikes won't stop unless the regime ends its genocidal war on Gaza.

The latest Hezbollah attack on Israel has once again raised fears of an all-out regional war.

Hezbollah has said it does not want to go to direct war with Israel but is prepared in case of such a scenario.

Hezbollah military capabilities

Hezbollah's military strength is underpinned by upwards of 150,000 missiles and rockets of various types and ranges.

The number of Hezbollah fighters who are ready to join a possible war against Israel has exceeded 100,000, according to the Hezbollah secretary general.

The resistance movement has already fought off two Israeli wars against Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. Hezbollah forced the Israeli army to retreat in both conflicts.

Israeli vulnerability

Hezbollah has recently released video footage of sensitive Israeli military sites in areas such as the city of Haifa. Its drones have penetrated the Israeli air defenses and returned home undetected. This has highlighted Israel's vulnerability and humiliated the regime which claims to be an invincible power in West Asia.

Israeli officials have already exposed the regime's extreme vulnerability.

Israel unprepared for war

The head of the company responsible for planning Israel's electrical systems warned in June that the regime is not prepared for the damage its electricity infrastructure would sustain if a full-scale war were to break out with Hezbollah.

"We are not in a good situation, and we are not prepared for a real war. We are living in a fantasy," Shaul Goldstein, who leads Israel's Independent System Operator Ltd, known by its Hebrew initials NOGA, told Israeli media on June 21.

He also said Israel's power grid is vulnerable to a Hezbollah attack that could render it "uninhabitable" 72 hours later.

For decades Israel has been living with the myth that it is unbeatable and untouchable. But the regime was totally humiliated after Hamas carried out a surprise military operation dubbed Al-Aqsa Storm in southern Israel on October 7.

More than 10 months after the Al-Aqsa Storm, Hezbollah's Sunday attack once again reminded the Netanyahu regime that its so-called invincible army is nothing more than a paper tiger.

Hezbollah's strike has also kept Israel on its toes. This is because the resistance movement hit targets deep inside Israel without using its strategic weapons.

A Hezbollah drone also struck an Israeli warship which indicates that the Lebanese group is capable of getting involved in a hybrid war against the regime.

From now on, Israel has to brace for more large-scale attacks from Lebanon and regional resistance groups if it continues to turn a blind eye to growing calls for ending the Gaza onslaught.

The US and its Western allies must be held to account for the consequences of a regional escalation as they continue to support Israel despite the indescribable atrocities that it has committed in the Gaza Strip.

WORLD HEADLINES

Pro-Palestine protesters march to Israeli embassy in Stockholm

Hundreds of people gathered in front of the Israeli embassy in Stockholm on Sunday to show their support for Palestinians who have been subjected to a massive Israeli military assault on Gaza, where the death toll has surpassed the grim figure of 40,400 since October of last year.

People gathered in Odenplan to protest Israel's attacks on Gaza and marched to the embassy, Anadolu reported.

The demonstrators, who demanded an immediate end to Israel's attacks on Gaza, carried banners reading "Free Palestine, Free Gaza," "Stop the genocide," and "Boycott Israel."

Uno Horm, one of the activists who was at the protest, described the Swedish government's continued support for Israel as a "tragic."

"The genocide in Gaza is the worst thing that has happened since World War II and the Nazi genocide," Horm told Anadolu.

Telegram founder arrested in France

The French authorities on Saturday detained Pavel Durov, the top executive of the online communications platform Telegram, on charges related to the spread of illicit material on the service, according to French news media reports.

Durov, 39, a Russian-born entrepreneur, was reportedly arrested at Le Bourget airport near Paris after landing from Azerbaijan. His detention could not immediately be confirmed, the New York Times reported.

The Russian embassy in France said in a statement on Sunday that it had asked the French authorities for clarification on news of the arrest.

Representatives of the French police and Interior Ministry declined to comment and redirected questions to the Paris prosecutor's office. The Paris prosecutor's office, citing an open investigation, also declined to comment.

Telegram, with more than 900 million users, has long been on the radar of law enforcement agencies around the world because terrorist organizations, drug runners, weapons dealers and far-right extremist groups have used it for

The crumbling foundations of American strength

Knowledge is power—and the United States is losing it

When Russia's invasion of Ukraine appeared imminent in early 2022, U.S. intelligence officials were so confident that Russian tanks would roll quickly to victory that staff evacuated the U.S. embassy in Kyiv. Based on traditional measures of power, the intelligence assessment made sense. In 2021, Russia ranked fifth in the world in defense spending, whereas Ukraine was a distant 36th, behind Thailand and Belgium. Yet more than two years later, Russia and Ukraine are still fighting their brutal war to a standstill.

Ukraine's resilience is a telling indicator that power is not what it used to be. The country's surprise showing is in no small part a result of its highly educated population and a technology innovation ecosystem that has produced vast quantities of drones and other homemade weapons on the fly. Ukraine has even managed to wage naval warfare without a navy, using homemade drones and other devices to destroy nearly two dozen Russian ships and deny Russia control of the Black Sea.

For centuries, a nation's power stemmed from tangible resources that its government could see, measure, and generally control, such as populations that could be conscripted, territory that could be conquered, navies that could be deployed, and goods that could be released or restricted, such as oil. Spain in the sixteenth century had armies, colonies, and precious metals. The United Kingdom in the nineteenth century had the world's strongest navy and the economic benefits that emerged from the Industrial Revolution. The United States and the Soviet Union in the twentieth century had massive nuclear arsenals.

communicating, recruiting and organizing.

National governments, especially in the European Union, have intensified pressure on companies to combat disinformation and online extremism. Telegram has operated with less moderation of content than other similar online platforms and does not always cooperate with the authorities.

Durov, whose net worth was estimated by Bloomberg at more than \$9 billion, has largely avoided the kind of public scrutiny faced by top executives of other large online platforms, including Elon Musk of X, Mark Zuckerberg of Meta, Shou Chew of TikTok and Sundar Pichai of Google.

Israeli forces arrest 35 Palestinians in West Bank

At least 35 Palestinians have been detained in the past two days across the occupied West Bank, the latest joint statement by the Palestinian Prisoners' Society and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs said on Sunday.

The arrests also came with attacks on detainees and their families, along with "widespread vandalism and destruction of citizens' homes", according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

This brings the total number of Palestinians arrested in the occupied West Bank since the start of the war to more than 10,200.

Close to 70 percent of buildings in Gaza's Hamad City destroyed

The Israeli military has left a massive trail of destruction in the wake of its pounding of the Hamad City development in southern Gaza's Khan Younis that has killed or displaced many Palestinians.

Yamen Abu Sulaima, civil defense spokesman in Khan Younis, told Al Jazeera that "the destruction is big and the suffering is even bigger" in the area made up of many residential complexes.

"Hamad City is almost a distress area, close to 70 percent of the buildings are destroyed. Our crews are hoping to recover some of the bodies. But the civil defense crews lack heavy machinery. We really need it in these situations," he said.

5 more Israeli troops killed in Gaza 12 other soldiers injured, 4 critically

From page 1 ► The news will come as a significant setback for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet.

The Zeitoun district in the northern Gaza Strip, just south of Jabalia and on the outskirts of Gaza City, was among the first areas to be indiscriminately bombarded by the IOF.

It was also among the first regions to be invaded by the IOF.

Since October 7, the IOF has invaded, withdrawn, and declared victory over the Palestinian resistance in Zeitoun on various occasions.

On May 15, Israeli forces retreated under fire from the district for the third time since October, following a two-week ground invasion.

Since then, the IOF has invaded the region again but is still suffering losses, eleven months after the U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war on Gaza began.

The Palestinian resistance has published statements underscoring that it is still engaging and inflicting heavy losses on the IOF in northern Gaza. Video footage published on social media on an almost daily basis appears to back up these

statements.

An IOF spokesperson said the troops killed in combat include two major generals and a lieutenant colonel.

According to the IOF's tally, 700 soldiers have been killed since October 7, with 337 of them since the start of the IOF's ground invasions in the enclave on October 27.

Experts say the casualty rate is much higher.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Katz must stop inventing pretexts

From page 1 ► Of course, the world has realized that Israel does not intend to let the Palestinians have their own sovereign state and what Katz says is just false and misleading. His master Benjamin Netanyahu, when addressing the U.S. Congress for the first time as a young prime minister, unequivocally announced that Israel would never

allow the creation of a Palestinian state and his statement faced the ovation of American lawmakers.

At that time there were no resistance groups in Yemen and Iraq who have unnerved Israel in addition to Hezbollah of Lebanon.

Katz is smart enough to know that what led to the emergence of

resistance groups in Iraq and Yemen were respectively the result of the Daesh attack on Iraq and Syria and the Saudi assault on the Yemenis, who rose against the Sanaa corrupt dictators.

The emergence of Hezbollah was also the product of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon for 18 years.

Even around the year that Netanyahu addressed the American Congress diplomats from Israel and Syria met behind closed doors for talks on the return of the occupied Golan Heights to Syria, even though it was clear that Israel had no intention to return the Golan to Syria.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran ranks Türkiye's fifth source of tourism



TEHRAN - In the first seven months of the current year, Iran emerged as the fifth-largest source of tourists for Türkiye, contributing significantly to the country's booming tourism sector.

According to data released by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Türkiye welcomed 28.9 million visitors in the first seven months of the year, marking an 8.27% increase compared to the same period in 2023.

Russia led the list of countries sending tourists to Türkiye with 3.61 million visitors, followed closely by Germany with 3.5 million and the United Kingdom with 2.43 million. Iran and Bulgaria rounded out the top five, underscoring Iran's importance as a key source of tourism for Türkiye.

This influx of Iranian tourists played a crucial role in supporting Türkiye's overall tourism growth. Despite a significant 30.6% drop in tourists from Western Asia, the strong numbers from Iran helped balance the regional decline.

For that period, Istanbul remained the top destination within Türkiye, attracting 8.5 million tourists in the first half of 2024, a testament to the city's ongoing popularity. The city alone accounted for a significant portion of Türkiye's overall tourism growth, benefiting from the diverse influx of international visitors, including those from Iran.

Qazvin: Iran's capital of calligraphy

TEHRAN - Qazvin, a city with a rich cultural heritage, has long been celebrated as Iran's capital of calligraphy.

For centuries, many of its monuments and mansions have been adorned with exquisite calligraphic works, showcasing the city's deep connection to this ancient art form.

Moreover, calligraphy in Qazvin has been used traditionally to inscribe copies of the holy Quran, poetic verses, and the wise sayings of elders.

The roots of calligraphy's prosperity in Qazvin can be traced back to the 11th and 12th centuries, with the art flourishing during the Safavid era (1501-1722).

Qazvin became a hub for the development of various calligraphic styles, many of which have had a lasting influence on Iranian art and culture. Of the traditional styles, only Nastaliq, Shekasteh-Nastaliq, Naskh, and Sols are still practiced today in Iran.

Qazvin has produced many of Iran's most renowned calligraphers, including Mir Emad Qazvini, a master of the Safavid era whose works are internationally acclaimed.



Other prominent figures include Mirza Zeinolabeddin Mujeznegar of the Zand era, and Malek Mohammad and Mirza Mohammad Hossein Seifi Qazvini (known as Emadolketab) from the Qajar era.

Each of these masters contributed to the refinement of calligraphy, developing unique styles that have left a lasting impact on the art.

Nowadays, the legacy of Qazvin's calligraphy continues to be celebrated, making the city a symbol of Iran's rich artistic tradition and cultural history.

Special pottery workshop for children held

TEHRAN - A special pottery workshop for children and young adults was recently organized in the village of Korit, which is situated in Tabas county of South Khorasan province.

The workshop, aimed at children aged 7 to 12, was the first of its kind and took place at the Korit Ceramic Workshop's art gallery and store on Friday, CHTN reported.

Mohammad Arab, the head of Tabas county's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, announced that 16 young participants attended the workshop. They received hands-on training in basic pottery techniques, and each participant was awarded a certificate of completion.

Arab highlighted the importance of such workshops in nurturing creativity and emotional well-being in children.

Working with clay, he noted, is particularly beneficial for children, offering them a natural and soothing medium to express themselves.

"The process of shaping and reshaping clay not only helps in reducing stress but also aids in channeling negative energies and managing emotions like anger and frustration."

Moreover, scientific studies have shown that working with clay can improve various skills in children, including creativity, design thinking, and problem-solving, while also helping to address issues such as hyperactivity and attention deficits, the official explained.

Korit has long been a regional hub for pottery whose know-how is passed down from generation to generation.

The first and largest astronomical observatory of the 6th century BC discovered in Egypt's Kafr El-Sheikh

Archaeologists in Egypt unveiled the first and largest astronomical observatory from the 6th century BC in the Buto Temple at Tell El-Faraeen archaeological site located in Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate.

The discovery was announced on the social media account of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The observatory, which was made of mud brick, was crucial for monitoring the movements of the sun and stars. This astounding discovery demonstrates the ancient Egyptians' profound understanding of and proficiency with astronomy.

"It highlights the advanced astronomical

knowledge of the ancient Egyptians, including their ability to determine the solar calendar and significant religious and agricultural dates," said Mohamed Ismail Khaled, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (SCA).

The structure also gives an insight into the sophisticated techniques employed by the ancient Egyptians using simple tools, he added.

The head of the Egyptian Antiquities Sector at the Supreme Council of Antiquities, Ayman Ashmawy, said that the astronomical observatory building covers approximately 850 square meters.

(Source: arkeonews.net)

Iran-Tajikistan tourism roadshow held following visa waiver agreement

TEHRAN - Iran-Tajikistan tourism roadshow has been held at the Tajik embassy in Tehran, just days after the implementation of a visa waiver for air travel between the two nations.

During the event, held on Saturday, which focused on showcasing the tourism potential of Iran and Tajikistan, travel agencies and airlines from both sides signed several cooperation agreements to enhance tourism exchanges between the two countries.

The Tajik ambassador to Tehran, Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda emphasized the global efforts to develop tourism, noting that it not only contributes to economic growth and foreign exchange but also strengthens friendships and ties between nations.

The ambassador highlighted



the initiatives taken by Tajikistan's President, Emomali Rahmon, to advance the country's tourism sector, stating that the necessary infrastructure is now in place.

"Tajikistan, with a population of 10 million, attracts 1.46 million foreign tourists annually," he

outlined, adding that Iran is one of the most important countries for Tajikistan in this regard.

The envoy underscored the shared linguistic, historical, religious, and cultural ties between Iran and Tajikistan, which make tourism exchanges between the two countries particularly signif-

icant.

He also praised the recent visa waiver between Iran and Tajikistan, which was implemented on August 10, highlighting that the launch of flights between Tehran and Dushanbe was the first step following the visa waiver.

The ambassador expressed hopes for extending this waiver to cover all air travelers between the two countries.

Furthermore, on the sidelines of the roadshow, Iranian and Tajik tourism professionals signed three significant agreements. These agreements include establishing multiple direct flights from Tajikistan to Tehran and Shiraz, creating a literary tourism route between the two countries, and organizing a Tajikistan tourism exhibition in collaboration with Iran in early fall.

Sri Lanka offers free 30-day visas to tourists from Iran and over 30 other countries

TEHRAN - Sri Lanka has announced a new initiative to boost its tourism sector by offering free 30-day tourist visas to visitors from over 30 countries, including Iran.

The decision, which will be implemented as part of a six-month pilot program starting on October 1, was revealed by Sri Lankan Transport Minister Bandula Gunawardana during a cabinet briefing on Thursday.

The program aims to attract more international tourists by temporarily waiving the \$50 visa fee typically required for entry.

Among the countries included in the program are the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, India, Australia, Japan, and several European and Middle Eastern nations.

Gunawardana emphasized that the initiative is designed to make Sri Lanka a more accessible destination for global travelers, drawing inspiration from other popular tourist destinations in Asia such as Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, which have similar visa policies.

The program is set to coincide with Sri Lanka's peak travel season, which runs from December to mid-April, a period known for its favorable weather conditions.

This move is part of Sri Lanka's broader strategy to revitalize its economy, which has been struggling in recent years.

By encouraging a surge in tourism, the government hopes to tap into the benefits of a rapidly growing industry and position the country as a more attractive destination for



international visitors.

Data from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka reports that tourism from the first half of 2024 generated over \$1.5 billion in revenue for the country, around \$625 million more than what the industry generated over the same period last year.

Export terminal to beat the drum for Mazandaran's handicraft



TEHRAN - A dedicated export terminal for handicrafts is set to be established within the Mazandaran free zone, a move aimed at boosting the province's international trade presence in this sector, according to a local official.

During a provincial meeting on handicraft exports held on Saturday, Hossein Izadi announced the initiative, emphasizing that plans are already in motion to elevate Mazandaran's crafts on the global stage.

Izadi further noted that the province has formed a specialized handicraft export committee with the goal of enhancing Mazandaran's standing in global markets.

Moreover, he highlighted the successful creation of a handicraft consortium, which has brought together industry experts and artisans, underscoring the province's extensive range of

craft traditions.

"Promoting and marketing local crafts has always been a top priority for our artisans," Izadi stated.

"The establishment of this export terminal could significantly streamline the process, opening new avenues for the international trade of our handicrafts."

Mazandaran, situated in northern Iran along the Caspian Sea's southern coast, is celebrated for its rich cultural heritage and diverse array of traditional crafts.

The province's unique geography, which includes lush forests, fertile plains, and highlands, deeply influences its artisanal output.

Among Mazandaran's most distinguished handicrafts is wood carving.

The province's abundant for-

ests supply high-quality timber, which skilled artisans transform into intricate works of art.

These wood carvings often feature traditional motifs that reflect the region's cultural and historical narratives.

Weaving is another prominent craft in Mazandaran, with the province renowned for its handwoven textiles, such as carpets, kilims, and jajims (a type of handwoven fabric).

These textiles are celebrated for their vibrant colors, geometric patterns, and durability, with techniques and designs often passed down through generations, preserving the craft's cultural continuity.

Mazandaran is also home to a thriving pottery and ceramics tradition.

Local potters create a variety of functional and decorative pieces using traditional methods and locally sourced natural materials.

The designs frequently incorporate elements of the region's flora and fauna, adding a distinctive local flavor to each piece.

Metalwork, especially in the form of traditional tools and decorative items, is another vital component of Mazandaran's handicraft sector.

Artisans employ techniques refined over centuries to produce items that are both practical and artistically refined.

Additionally, Mazandaran is known for its traditional clothing and embroidery.

The local attire, often adorned with elaborate needlework, is a vivid expression of the province's rich cultural identity and heritage.

Collectively, Mazandaran's handicrafts are a testament to the province's cultural richness and the artisans' expertise. These crafts not only provide livelihoods for many but also play a crucial role in preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage.

The establishment of the export terminal is expected to further these efforts by facilitating broader access to international markets.

2,200-year-old Seleucid-era coffin to go on display in Lorestan

TEHRAN - A 2,200-year-old bronze coffin, believed to belong to a royal figure from the Seleucid era, is set to be displayed in Lorestan after 20 years, offering a unique glimpse into ancient Iranian history.

"The coffin, unearthed in 2004 during excavations in the Chub Tarash area south of Khorramabad, is believed to belong to the Seleucid era," the local official in charge of cultural heritage noted on Saturday, adding that it will soon be showcased at the Falak-ol-Aflak Castle museum in Khorramabad.

Ata Hasanpour further explained that the coffin, was found with two gold masks placed over the mouth and eyes of the skeleton, which have since been restored. A coin, also



from the Seleucid period, was discovered on the chest of the coffin, helping to date the artifact, the official added.

"This discovery is a rare occurrence in Iranian history—a well-preserved coffin that has been carefully restored," he stated. "Ev-

idence suggests that the coffin belonged to a prince aged between 30 and 40, standing at 180 cm tall."

The prince, Hasanpour elaborated, is believed to have died from an infected sword wound sustained in battle, with his burial carried out in a royal manner.

The coffin had been undergoing restoration in the Falak-ol-Aflak Castle laboratory and is now being prepared to be exhibited in the museum after 20 years, according to the director-general.

In his final words, Hasanpour underscored that the display is part of ongoing efforts to prepare for the UNESCO evaluation process for the global recognition of the Khorramabad Valley.

Air pollution, landslide, water scarcity are becoming major challenges: DOE head

TEHRAN –Air pollution, landslide, and lack of water resources are being turned into significant challenges and concerning issues that require national consensus to be addressed effectively, Shina Ansari, the new head of the Department of Environment (DOE), has said.

Sand and dust storms in eastern, western, and southwestern provinces of the country are also great challenges affecting people's lives, IRNA quoted Ansari as saying.

"First, these challenges need to be recognized, and their potential impacts on social, economic, ecological, health and even security must be taken into account to be able to address environmental issues at high levels with an inter-departmental coordination," the official noted.

Adopting proper policies and monitoring their implementation is the main responsibility of the department of environment to deal with air pollution, she added.

Decommissioning of worn-out cars, improving the quality of



fuels, and vehicles, developing public transportation, providing resources, and reducing industrial emissions are among the key factors to deal with air pollution, Ansari highlighted.

However, air pollution as a major challenge in large and industrial cities cannot be tackled in a short time, she stressed.

Referring to climate change, the official said drought, floods, and changes in rainfall patterns are among the effects of climate change, which have been increasing in West Asia.

mate change intensifies, the landslide occurs, as well, Ansari stated. Nevertheless, there are different ways to address these problems like changing the agricultural cultivation practices.

Also, issuing licenses to water-consuming industries in arid and critical areas should be prohibited while implementing development plans should be highlighted.

Transboundary issues such as water rights and sand and dust storms can be followed up on by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she added. The official went on to stress that the cooperation and participation of people are essential in addressing environmental challenges.

According to Article 50 of the Constitution, protecting the environment is a public duty, but it seems that during different periods it has been merely ceremonial. It is important to facilitate and ensure meaningful participation of people by creating opportunities for their involvement in environmental conservation activities, Ansari further noted.

Noting that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is one of the effective ways to mitigate climate change impacts, Ansari said there are plans to be implemented; in general, urban resilience needs to be enhanced against challenges posed by climate change.

To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, the development of clean energy is vital. However, using free solar energy available in the region requires initial investment.

As water scarcity due to cli-

Satellite image showing Lake Urmia shades of red and orange



The rich red saltwater of Lake Urmia is pictured from the International Space Station as it orbited 260 miles above, Aug. 2, 2024.

TEHRAN – The Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on NASA's Aqua satellite recently captured a transition in the color of Lake Urmia between April and July 2016. On April 23, the water was green; by July 18, it was somehow red. The shoreline is encrusted with salt deposits and appears white. Note that the ring of salt is especially noticeable in July when water levels are lower.

Lake Urmia has shrunk rapidly during the past few decades. As it grows smaller, the lake grows saltier. And as it grows saltier, microscopic organisms are periodically turning the water striking shades of red and orange.

With a surface area between 4000 to 6000 km², Lake Urmia is a hypersaline lake located in northwest Iran.

It is the saltiest large lake in the world that supports life. Lake Urmia National Park is the home of an almost endemic crustacean species known as the brine shrimp, *Artemia urmiana*.

The color changes have become common in the spring and early summer due to seasonal precipitation and climate patterns.

Spring is the wettest season in northwestern Iran, with rainfall usually peaking in April.

Snow on nearby mountains within the watershed also melts in the spring. The combination of rain and snowmelt sends a surge of fresh water into Lake Urmia in April and May. By July, the influx of freshwater has tapered off and lake levels begin to drop.

The fresh water in the spring drives salinity levels down, but the lake generally becomes saltier as summer heat and dryness take hold.

That's when the microorganisms show their colors, too. Careful sampling of the water would be required to determine which organisms transformed the lake in 2016, but scientists say there are likely two main groups of organisms involved: a family of algae called *Dunaliella* and an archaic family of bacteria known as *Halobacteriaceae*.

"Previous research suggests that *Dunaliella salina* is responsible for the reddening of Lake Urmia," explained Mohammad Tourian, a scientist at the University of Stuttgart.

"In the marine environment, *Dunaliella salina* appears green; however, in conditions of high salinity and light intensity, the microalgae turns red due to the production of protective carotenoids in the cells."

Other scientists emphasize the role of *Halobacteriaceae*, a group of bacteria found in water that is saturated or nearly saturated with salt. These bacteria release a red pigment called bacteriorhodopsin that absorbs light and converts it into energy for the bacteria. When populations of the bacteria are large enough, they can stain bodies of water.

Note that in July 2016, the color of the lake (and thus salinity levels) appeared to be relatively constant, despite the presence of a highway causeway.

While there has been concern that the causeway would make it difficult for water to circulate between the northern and southern arms of the lake—as is the case in the Great Salt Lake of Utah—the effect in Lake Urmia is not nearly as noticeable.

The images below, captured by the by the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on Landsat 8 on April 20 and July 9, 2016, show part of the causeway before and after the lake's color changed. While Lake Urmia has shifted from green to red and back several times in recent years, trends suggest that a red Urmia could

become increasingly common.

Drought and intensive water diversion for agriculture have been limiting the amount of freshwater reaching the lake. "The lake volume has been decreasing at an alarming rate of 1.03 cubic kilometers per year," noted Tourian, who recently analyzed data from several satellites to track how Urmia has changed.

"The results from satellite imagery revealed a loss of water extent at an average rate of 220 square kilometers per year, which indicates that the lake has lost about 70 percent of its surface area over the last 14 years."

Other forms of life include several species of algae, bacteria, microfungi, plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

As a consequence of this unique biodiversity, this lake has been selected as one of the 59 biosphere reserves by UNESCO.

Metagenomic analyses of water samples collected from six locations in the lake exhibited a microbial community dominated by representatives of the family *Haloferacaceae* (69.8%), mainly those affiliated to only two genera, *Haloquadratum* (59.3%) and *Halonotius* (9.1%), according to Astrobiology website.

Similar to other hypersaline lakes, the bacterial community was dominated by *Salinibacter ruber* (23.3%). Genomic variation analysis by inspecting single nucleotide variations (SNVs) and insertions/deletions (INDELs) exhibited a high level of SNVs and insertions, most likely through transformation for abundant taxa in the Lake Urmia community.

We suggest that the extreme conditions of Lake Urmia specifically its high ionic concentrations could potentially increase the SNVs and insertions, which can consequently hamper the assembly and genome reconstruction from metagenomic reads of Lake Urmia.

Despite the unprecedented increase in air temperature and water evaporation in summer, Lake Urmia has one billion cubic meters more water compared to the same period last year, an official with the provincial Department of Environment has said.

Lake Urmia started to dry up in the 2000s. The lake is the largest in West Asia and the sixth-largest salt lake in the world with a water surface area of 5,000 to 6,000 square kilometers. "The optimal state of Lake Urmia is attributed to the supply of water needed by the lake," IRNA quoted Saeed Shahand as saying.

Some of the wetlands in the West Azarbaijan province dried up in summer last year. However, they are filled with water now.

Dargah Sangi wetland, in the southwestern part of Lake Urmia, is an example of the wetlands that dried last summer but are in good condition now, Shahand further noted.

In April, Mohammad-Sadeq Motamedian, the secretary of the national working group for Lake Urmia restoration said, "Thanks to a 43 percent increase in precipitation, the area of Lake Urmia basin reached 1,500 square kilometers."

The water area of the lake has increased by 350 square kilometers compared to the same time last year, IRIB quoted the official as saying. The amount of rainfall in West Azarbaijan Province has increased by 27 percent as measured against the long-term average, Motamedian who is also the governor-general of West Azarbaijan province, added.

Since October 2023, 411 cubic meters of water per second have been released from dams to Lake Urmia. Around 50 million cubic meters of water have flowed into the lake so far, he mentioned.

The current water level of Lake Urmia stands at 1270.38 meters, showing an increase of 9 centimeters compared to the same period last year. Since the beginning of the water year in fall 2023, it has increased by 55 centimeters.

"The volume of water now exceeds 1.9 billion cubic meters marking a rise of 250 million cubic meters compared to the same period last year.

It has increased by 1.3 billion cubic meters compared to the beginning of the water year in fall 2023," Motamedian added.

Iranian students rank 2nd in Chem-E-Car 2024



TEHRAN –An Iranian team composed of five Chemical Engineering students from Amirkabir University of Technology has managed to win second place in the Chem-E-Car 2024 competition organized by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) in Rourkela, India.

The Chem-E-Car Competition, which involves multiple regional competitions and a final competition at the Annual Student Conference, increases awareness of the chemical engineering discipline among the public, industry leaders, educators, and other stu-

dents. This year 15 teams attended the event. The regional competition was held from August 9 to 11, IRNA reported.

AIChE's annual Chem-E-Car Competition engages college students in designing and constructing a car powered by a chemical energy source.

All participants in an AIChE Chem-E-Car Competition must take and pass the AIChE Chem-E-Car Safety Training Course with a minimum score of 80 percent.

Students are also required to design small-scale automobiles (the dimensions of the car are to be within 20x30x40 cm), along with a poster describing their research.

Cars must operate using "green" methods, which do not release any pollution or waste in the form of a visible liquid or gas, such as exhaust.

The car designed by the Iranian team started using an electrochemical reaction, stopped using another chemical reaction,

and successfully placed second.

Recent achievements

Iranian students aged 7-17 won second place among 31 countries in the RobotChallenge 2024 which was held from August 9 to 11 in Beijing, China.

Over 5,000 contestants participated in the competition. China and Romania ranked first and third respectively, IRNA reported.

A total of 16 groups, each made up of 3 students, represented Iran in the robotics competition. The Iranian team competed in RoboSumo, Soccer, Innovation, Robot Rugby, and Technical Report leagues.

The 24 Iranian robotics teams that participated in the Federation of International Robosports Association (FIRA) 2024 RoboWorld Cup in Sao Luis, Brazil, managed to win 17 awards.

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

Knowledge-based companies to attend UzMedExpo 2024

TEHRAN –Iranian knowledge-based firms will participate in the 16th international medical exhibition UzMedexpo 2024 which is scheduled to be held from September 18 to 20 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Innovation and Prosperity Fund will support Iranian delegations to set up their pavilions in Tashkent.

The three-day exhibition serves as a platform for companies to showcase their latest achievements in medical equipment, and pharmaceutical innovations.

The event revolves around exhibiting various medical ser-

vices such as leasing; medical and pharmacy equipment; medical furniture; packaging; modern technologies in healthcare; means of rehabilitation and orthopedic products; medical clothing and footwear; medicines and their production; medical cosmetics; Dental equipment and materials.

Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to

more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three

to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products

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Nicaragua seeks to use IRCS experiences

TEHRAN – Issac Lenin Bravo, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Iran, and Pirhossein Kolivand, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), discussed areas of cooperation.

Measures taken by the IRCS are exemplary in the region and the world, Lenin said, referring to IRCS's great achievements in recent months.

He announced interest in using the experiences of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Fortunately, there are good relations between the two countries, and the cooperation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of the two countries can be a turning point, he explained.

تمایل نیکاراگوئه به استفاده از تجربیات هلال احمر ایران

ایساک لنین براوو، سفیر نیکاراگوئه در ایران، با پیرحسین کولیانو، رئیس جمعیت هلال احمر، دیدار کرد.

در جریان این دیدار سفیر نیکاراگوئه در تهران گفت: اقدامات هلال احمر در منطقه و جهان نمونه است و هلال احمر جمهوری اسلامی ایران در ماه های اخیر دست آوردهای خوبی داشته است.

وی افزود: در همین راستا دولت و صلیب سرخ نیکاراگوئه علاقه مند است تا از تجربیات هلال احمر ایران استفاده کند.

خوشبختانه روابط خوبی میان دولت های ایران و نیکاراگوئه وجود دارد و همکاری صلیب سرخ و هلال احمر دو کشور می تواند با توجه به مشترکات سیاسی که وجود دارد، نقطه عطفی در این خصوص باشد.



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

There is reward for kindness to every living thing.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:06 Evening: 18:58 Dawn: 4:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:33 (tomorrow)

New Paris gallery to open with Palestinian artist Mirna Bamieh

NIKA Project Space will open its second gallery space in Paris' vibrant Komunuma art district on September 8, with an exhibition by Palestinian artist Mirna Bamieh.

Bamieh inaugurates NIKA Project Space in Paris with a timely presentation of new and recent works from her "Sour Things" series. Renowned for her socially engaged work, Bamieh is the founder of the Palestine Hosting Society, a live art project and platform she established in 2018 to preserve Palestinian recipes on the verge of disappearing, FAD magazine reported.

In the upcoming exhibition, titled "Sour Things," Bamieh explores the politics of disappearance and memory through recent works, including "The Pantry" (2024), a co-commission between NIKA Project Space and the Het Noordbrabants Museum in the Netherlands.

In the installation, Bamieh uses fermentation to reflect on displacement, uprooting, and the loss of space. She creates a liminal space where preservation is possible but fermentation is not, symbolizing both internal and physical dislocation.

New works in the exhibition will include "Sour Things: The Wall," a sculpture of citrus ceramic pieces that explores the stages of grieving and preservation, connecting personal grief with universal experiences and reflecting on the ongoing Palestinian experience of war and displacement.

"Sour Things: The Staircase" is composed of oversized ceramic sculptures of okra, garlic, chili, and clove spice, which are glazed in childlike drawings expressing trauma and pain.

The sharp ingredients are imbued with symbolism and hung like threads, reminiscent of traditional dehydration methods used to preserve vegetables.

"These works deal with grief, pain, and processing the uncontrollable," Bamieh said. "They invite reflection and create empathetic spaces. This series has always been about processing big topics without providing answers, offering internal, psychic spaces of empathy."

This announcement from gallerist Veronika

Berezina marks a significant step in the growth of NIKA Project Space, which is currently located in Dubai and hosts off-site projects across the city.

Berezina emphasizes the gallery's ongoing commitment to highlighting the work and concepts of artists and curators from the Global South. The gallery will continue to champion female practitioners and facilitate research from across the region, extending these efforts across both of its locations.

Mirna Bamieh, 38, has participated in various international exhibitions, festivals, and art residencies since 2012.

Her grants and awards include Dr Georg and Josi Guggenheim Foundation Award, Zurich (2022); CEC ArtsLink International Fellowship, New York (2020); The Visible Project Award (long list), Paris (2017); and A.M Qattan Foundation Artist of the Year Award 2012.

She obtained a B.A. in psychology from Birzeit University, Ramallah (2006) and an M.A. in fine arts from Bezalel Academy for Arts and Design, Jerusalem (2013).

She also holds degrees in Ashkal Alwan Homeworks Study program, Beirut (2014), and culinary arts, Kitchenclub Academy, Ramallah (2016).

Bamieh explores the politics of disappearance and memory production by unpacking the social concerns and limitations of Palestinian communities amid contemporary political dilemmas. Since 2019 the artist has also been reflecting on the process of fermentation through text, ceramics and video works incorporated into site-specific interactive installations.

With degrees in humanities, visual arts and culinary studies, she melds food and storytelling to develop socially engaged work through Palestine Hosting Society, a live art project she founded in 2018.

Staging dinner performances and various interventions that draw from food practices as well as the passage of recipes through generations, the project aims to revitalize traditional Palestinian food cultures on the verge of disappearing.

Ruholamin unveils new painting at Karbala to mark Arbbaeen

TEHRAN- Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin has created a new artwork beside the holy shrines of Imam Hussein (AS) and his brother Hazrat Abbas (AS) in Karbala, to commemorate Arbbaeen.

Ruholamin's latest painting, completed in the sacred atmosphere of Karbala during the preparations for Arbbaeen pilgrimage, captures the perspective of Hazrat Zainab (SA), Imam Hussein's sister, regarding the events of Ashura and the Battle of Karbala, Mehr reported on Sunday.

The painting, which is of substantial size, employs a palette of blue and green tones that evoke a sense of divine spirituality, the report added.

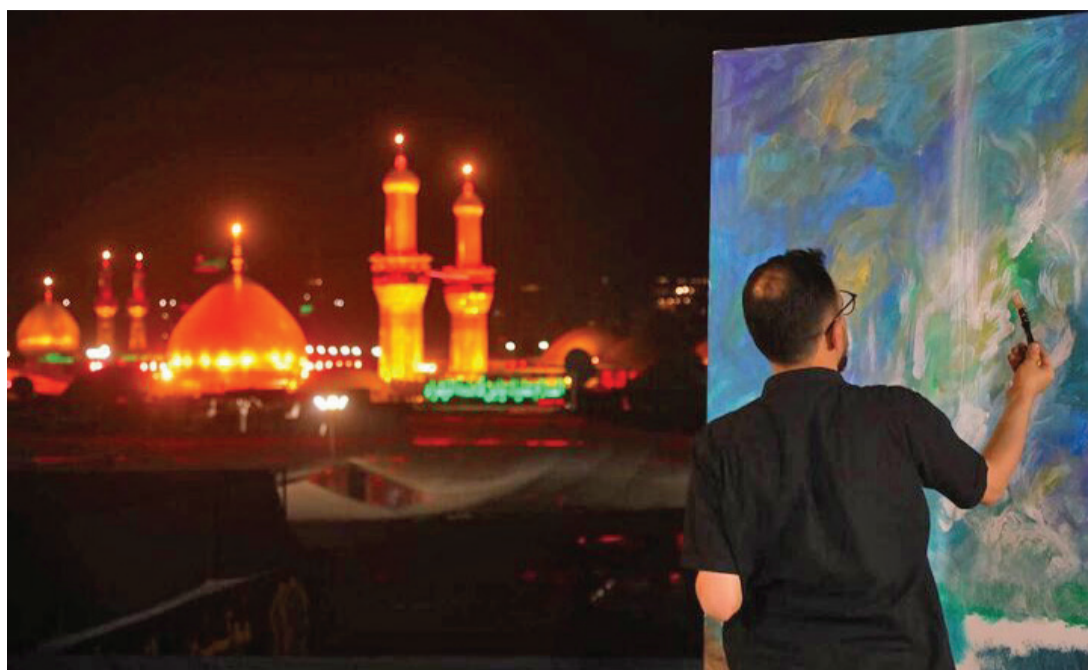
Accompanying Ruholamin in this artistic endeavor is fellow painter Mohammad Ali Naderi, who has also contributed a piece of his own.

Ruholamin, who is best known for his paintings on early Islamic historical events, has created a captivating collection of artworks dedicated to the theme of Ashura over the years.

One of the works of the collection is "Daddy" depicting the Imam in his final farewell to his three-year-old daughter Roqayyeh (SA).

The 110 X 130-centimeter oil painting shows the Imam embracing Roqayyeh before going to the battlefield while his horse, named "Zuljinah", and the enemy forces can be seen in the background.

The collection also includes "The Sky Fell Down", "The Farewell", "After



Abbas (AS)", "Are You My Brother?", "Monastery of the Monk" and "Beginning of Silence".

"The Sky Fell Down", featuring the last moments of the life of Imam Hussein (AS), is a highlight of the collection.

The painting depicts the Imam on his horse, severely injured by arrows, while the enemy is waiting to bring down the Imam.

Ruholamin spent nine months doing the painting, which was unveiled at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in November 2018.

"Monastery of the Monk" is another artwork from his Ashura collection.

The painting depicts the meeting of a monk with Khawli ibn Yazid al-Asbahi, a member of Umar ibn Sad's army, when he was taking the head of Imam Hussein (AS) to Yazid ibn Muawiyah, the second caliph of the Umayyad dynasty, after the Ashura event.

Another work of artist on Ashura is a digital painting entitled "The Bravery of Hussein", which portrays Imam Hussein (AS)'s courageous battle with the army of Yazid ibn Muawiyah on the 10th day of the month of Muharram in the year 61 AH of the Islamic calendar (680 CE).

The painting depicts the remarkable battle of Imam Hussein (AS) on the day of Ashura amidst a

sea of arrows, spears, and swords and this awe-inspiring display of courage has since become an enduring symbol of bravery.

The artist has also blended modern events and with stories from Islamic history in some of his works.

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

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

Calgary International Film Festival to screen 2 Iranian movies



A screenshot from "In the Shadow of Cypress"

TEHRAN- Two Iranian works will take part in the 25th Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF), due to be held from September 19 to 29 in Alberta, Canada.

The Iranian short animated movie "In the Shadow of Cypress", co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and

Shirin Sohani and produced by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults and the short film "Sheep" written, directed, and produced by Hadi Babaeifar will be screened during the event, ISNA reported.

A 2023 production, "In the Shadow of Cypress" depicts a former captain suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder who lives with his daughter in a humble house located by the sea. Together, they live isolated from the world and must confront the challenges of their situation. One morning, their lives change forever when an unforeseen event occurs.

"Sheep", a production of 2024, tells the story of Rose, a little girl in Tehran, who lives with her mother. After discovering that her neighbors are killing sheep, Rose decides to save them. Rose Tabatabaei and Gelavij Alam play in the film.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the 11-day Calgary International Film Festival has grown to be the biggest film festival in Alberta and the sixth-largest in Canada.

Offering over \$40,000 in cash and prizes, the festival awards outstanding films selected by the audience and esteemed juries. Showcasing an average of 200 short and feature length multi-genre films, from Canada and around the world, CIFF is a qualifying, accredited festival for the Academy Awards® and the Canadian Screen Awards.

Taking place on the edge of the world's most dynamic filming locations, the festival is known for its hospitality and has been named one of the "Top 50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" by MovieMaker Magazine in 2019, 2020, 2022, and 2023.

Veteran theater director Ali Rafiei to hold nationwide workshops

TEHRAN-Veteran Iranian stage and cinema director Ali Rafiei is set to hold a series of educational theater workshops across Iran.

Starting from September 10, the first workshop will be held in Kashan, Isfahan Province, for 10 days, Mehr reported.

Attending the nationwide workshops is free for the enthusiasts. The talented participants in each city will be selected to take part in the Tehran workshop. If everything goes as planned, the outcome of the workshop will be a play.

Rafiei, 85, was born in Isfahan. He

holds a masters' degree in sociology and a Ph.D. in theater from Sorbonne University in France.

He started stage direction and acting in France. In early 1970s, he returned to Iran to be dean of Dramatic Arts Faculty while teaching theater at the Fine Arts Faculty of the University of Tehran.

He is the director of the acclaimed plays "Fox Hunting", "It Does Not Snow in Egypt", "Crime and Punishment", "Blood Wedding", "The Maids", "Antigone", "Memory of Sand Years", "Romeo and Juliet", "Shazde Ehtejab", "Kitchen", and "Nightmares

and Memories of a Bath Attendant about the Life and Murder of Amir Kabir".

"Nightmares and Memories of a Bath Attendant about the Life and Murder of Amir Kabir" was selected as the best play of the year in 2016 by Iran's Critic and Theatrical Writers Society of the Theater Forum.

The play, which is about the life story of Mirza Taqi Khan Amir Kabir, the reformist prime minister of Qajar king Nasser ad-Din Shah, was well received by critics and theatergoers.

In addition to a fruitful career in theater, Rafiei is also the director of

two movies, "The Fish Fall in Love" (2006) and "Mr. Yusef" (2011).

Rafiei has cooperated with noted actors and introduced new talents during his career including Reza Kianian, Golab Adineh, Siamak Safari, Hassan Majouni, Soheila Razavi, Roya Taymourian, Maryam Saadat, Mehddrad Ziaei, Homan Barghnavard and Setareh Eskandari. Paying attention to lighting and set design are among characteristics of his works.

The location and time of Rafiei's next workshops after Kashan will be announced later.

Ali Ghamsari's "Pirouz and Parizad" opera to return to Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN- "Pirouz and Parizad" opera by Iranian composer and tar virtuoso Ali Ghamsari will be back to Tehran's Vahdat Hall in September after its successful performance in May and June, which was welcomed by the audience.

It is the first fully poetic Iranian opera, created through the collaboration of the composer and poet Ehsan Afshari within the same time frame. This work is neither an adaptation of classical Persian literature nor a translation of Western operas, IRNA reported.

Staged with grand design, it features a completely live musical performance without any pre-recorded sounds.

In the opera, aside from Ali Ghamsari, no

other famous artist is involved. Despite this, the initial performances attracted a large audience and received top ratings from viewers on some survey websites.

The second round of "Pirouz and Parizad" performances will be staged on September 5 and 6 at Vahdat Hall, located on Shahryar Blvd, Hafez Street, south of Enqelab Avenue.

A tar, setar, divan player and composer, Ghamsari, 40, began his music education at the Iranian Conservatory of Music and continued his studies in music at the Faculty of Fine Arts, the University of Tehran. He is a Professor of Persian Music Theory at the University of Tehran.

Ghamsari founded the band Sarmad at the age of 18. Afterwards, he established the Hamnavazan-e Hesar Ensemble and the Iranian String Quartet.

At the age of 22, he gained fame by composing the album Naghsh-e Khyal with Homayoun Shajarian. Since then, he has composed over 15 albums, collaborating with several traditional singers such as Alireza Ghorbani, Mohammad Motamedi, and Vahid Taj.

He has performed in many countries, including France, Morocco, Spain, the U.S., the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Russia, and Canada.

Cartoon of Day



Stages of Pain in Gaza

Cartoonist: Ahmed Rahma from Turkey