

Leader in the first meeting with Pezeshkian's cabinet

Neither Pin Hope on Enemy Nor Trust Them



جمهوری اسلامی ایران



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Iranian, Omani FMs pledge to strengthen bilateral relations

TEHRAN – The foreign ministers of Iran and Oman have reaffirmed their countries' commitment to further strengthening bilateral ties, expressing readiness to collaborate closely on various regional and international issues.

The mutual commitment was highlighted during a telephone conversation on Monday between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and his Omani counterpart, Badr Albusaidi.

During the call, Albusaidi conveyed Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's special interest in enhancing the relationship between the two nations.

He emphasized the Sultan's desire for further development of bilateral ties and expressed his personal readiness to work with Araqchi to ensure the implementation of existing agreements.

"Muscat welcomes the continuation of political consultations between our countries," Albusaidi stated. ▶ Page 2

Iran's 5-month non-oil trade with neighbors exceeds \$26b

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's non-oil trade with its neighbors increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) to reach \$26.857 billion, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

Mohammad Rezvanifar put the weight of non-oil trade with the neighboring countries at 43.579 million tons in the said period, noting that the trade between the two sides also increased by 10 percent in terms of weight, IRNA reported.

During the mentioned five months, Iran exported 34.118 million tons of goods worth \$13.402 billion to its neighbors, while importing 9.461 million tons of commodities valued at \$13.455 billion.

Iran's exports to neighboring countries in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year increased by 11 percent in terms of weight and 19 percent in terms of value, respectively, and imports from neighboring countries increased by 10 percent and 13 percent respectively in terms of weight and value, according to Rezvanifar.

He named Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as the top importers of Iranian goods among the neighboring countries, and the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan as the main sources of imports in the said five months. ▶ Page 4

Iran defense industry now fully indigenous, says deputy minister

TEHRAN – Iran's defense industry has become entirely self-sufficient, relying on domestic innovation and capabilities, according to Brigadier General Ghoreyshi, Iran's deputy minister of defense.

Speaking at a Defense Industry Day event on Tuesday, Ghoreyshi highlighted that the industry has been transformed through the design and production of military equipment, addressing both current and future needs of the armed forces.

Ghoreyshi noted that this shift marks a significant achievement for Iran, which was once reliant on the West for military strategy and equipment.

He credited the Islamic Revolution for driving this change, particularly in the face of severe sanctions. Over the past four decades, Iran's defense sector has not only achieved self-sufficiency but has also become a key player in the region, exporting defense products and technology. ▶ Page 3

Strategic balance has changed in favor of Hezbollah

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – In response to the July 30 assassination of its senior military commander Fuad Shukur, Hezbollah fired 320 rockets and drones at Israel on Sunday morning.

In a televised address on the same day in the evening time, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said his troops had targeted a military intelligence base about 110km (68 miles) into Israeli territory, which was only 1.5km (0.9 miles) away from Tel Aviv.

It was the strongest attack by the Hezbollah resistance movement against Israel since the 2006 war.

It is crystal clear that Hezbollah just demonstrated a small part of its military capability. It refused to hit the capital Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport, or other hallmarks.

According to France 24, even the United States helped Israel in tracking rockets and drones launched by Hezbollah. This shows how much Israel is vulnerable without the help of its Western allies, particularly the United States.

Israel wages widespread aggression in the West Bank

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN– The Israeli military has launched a broad attack on the occupied West Bank, storming its cities and towns, terrorizing families and killing at least five people, including two children.

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF), backed by its air force, described the wide-scale raid as a "military operation".

The IOF bombed a residential house in the Nur Shams refugee camp in Tulkarm in the northern West Bank. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the bombing killed five people including two children.

The Palestinian health ministry identified the five people killed as Mohammad Qarawi, 19, Jibril Jibril, 20, Adnan Jaber, 15, Mohammed Yusuf, 49, and Mohammed Elayyan, 16.

Palestinian media reported that the occupation's aircraft bombed a house in the center of the Nur Shams refugee camp, killing five Palestinians and injuring several others in the vicinity of the targeted house. Four loud explosions were heard.

Israeli army frustration reaches boiling point as Hamas remains unbeatable

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN– Israeli army officials have become increasingly exasperated with the prolonged and inconclusive war against Gaza which is in its 11th month.

Their frustration has also been compounded by the mounting casualties among Israeli soldiers.

The army of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched the war on Gaza on October 7 after Hamas carried out the Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise military operation in southern Israel. More than 1,100 people were killed during the operation and about 250 others were taken captive.

Netanyahu has repeatedly vowed to continue the war until achieving "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the Palestinian resistance movement.

Despite receiving large amounts of weapons from Western countries, in particular the United States, the Netanyahu regime has failed to make good on its promise. ▶ Page 5

Affordable adventures await in these six must-visit cities

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – With a history stretching back over 6,000 years, Iran is one of the world's most appealing destinations for budget-conscious travelers.

A significant devaluation of the rial over consecutive years has laid the ground for those interested in experiencing a rich culture, stunning architecture, and warm hospitality at bargain prices.

To make the most of your trip to Iran, consider booking flights and accommodations in advance to secure the best deals. Traveling during off-peak seasons can also help you save on costs, and exploring local markets will give you excellent value for money, thanks to the favorable exchange rates. ▶ Page 6



Iran tops Intl. Olympiad on Astronomy, Astrophysics

TEHRAN – In a remarkable achievement, Iranian students won five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) which was held from August 17 to 27 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The five-member team comprised Hannaneh Khorramdashti, Mohammad-Mehdi Keshavarzi, Arya Fateh-Kerdari, and Ali Naderi-Lordjan, Mehr news agency reported.

This year, over 250 students from 57 countries participated in the event.

In the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics which was held last year in Chorzow, Poland, the Iranian team took five medals, ranking third. ▶ Page 7

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

TEHRAN PAPERS

Biden's latest efforts

In a conversation with Rahman Ghahremanpour, a researcher of Middle East issues, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with the visit of Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar.

It wrote: Qatar is involved in two issues, one is the Gaza negotiations and the Israeli war, and the other is the nuclear negotiations with the United States.

Doha plays a role in both cases of Iran. Naturally, this trip was carried out for these two topics because we are getting close to the time of elections in the United States, and the ceasefire in Gaza is very important for the Democrats, so that they can win the votes of the Arabs living in the United States, and it is important for them to have a communication channel with the new government in Iran.

Washington was probably trying to send a message to Tehran and receive its answer. In fact, Iran's role in the axis of resistance and its connection with this axis is very important for the Western parties, and we have seen that in the past days, they have been sending messages to Tehran so that they can control the tensions in the region through Iran.

Iran: A serious change in the political atmosphere of Iran

The Iran newspaper wrote about the trip of the Qatari official to Tehran: This trip was done while the 14th government started its regional policy with a positive approach towards the neighbors and Arab countries and has emphasized that the priority is on friendly and close relations with all neighbors and Arab actors.

Based on this approach, the new government will try to move forward from the point of view of the balance of power towards ensuring regional security through increasing cooperation and economic exchanges, and has put the policy of de-escalation and building mutual trust on the agenda.

From this point of view, the visit of the high-ranking official of Qatar to Tehran and choosing Iraq as the first possible visit of the president of Iran in the coming days indicate a serious change in the political atmosphere governing the strategic relations of the Islamic Republic in the field of foreign policy.

The relations turn the serious political situation in the relations between Iran and the Arab countries into economic relations and can be the organizer of the new economic order between these countries.

Iran, Turkey envoys meet in Baghdad to address regional issues



TEHRAN- The ambassadors of Iran and Turkey convened in Baghdad to discuss various bilateral and regional matters, notably the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza due to Israeli actions against Palestinians.

As reported by IRNA, Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Kazem Ale Sadeh held discussions with Anil Bora Inan, Turkey's newly appointed ambassador to Iraq, at the Iranian Embassy on Monday.

Both diplomats acknowledged that the unwavering support of the United States for the Israeli government has contributed to a complex and unstable regional landscape.

They expressed concerns regarding the potential for heightened tensions in the region, citing the ongoing actions of Israeli forces and their leadership.

The Turkish ambassador also highlighted additional regional challenges, including the situation involving the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the conflict in Syria, emphasizing the significance of cooperation among Iran, Turkey,

Shargh: Revival of the JCPOA is not for the benefit of the West

Shargh devoted its editorial to the West's lack of interest in revitalizing the JCPOA and said: It seems that the revival of the JCPOA is not desirable for the four Western countries for three reasons. But making such a demand can put Iran in a strong position and the West in a difficult position. First of all, the West cannot ignore the accusations against Iran regarding military support for Russia in the war in Ukraine and support for Hamas in the war in Gaza and Iran's internal issues, and enter into negotiations with Iran, the end of which will be the lifting of most of the sanctions against Iran. Iran should avoid tying the lifting of sanctions to geopolitical conflicts that are detrimental to Iran. Secondly, the revival of the JCPOA will clearly benefit Iran, and in case of the revival of the JCPOA, the use of the "snap mechanism" will be removed from the agenda of the Security Council. Thirdly, due to Iran's nuclear progress, the basic principle of the United States of determining at least one year of nuclear breakout time for Iran has become practically impossible, and for this reason, the United States is in a difficult position to accept the revival of the JCPOA.

Siasat-e-Rooz: Iran does not accept mediation for revenge

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz pointed out Tehran's positions after the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh. The paper said: Some media and political circles have claimed that the Qatari authorities have demanded mediation to prevent taking revenge for the assassination of martyr Haniyeh. First, the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that a mediator will never prevent the revenge of martyr Haniyeh and the revenge will be certain. Secondly, along with comprehensive support for Palestine, Tehran always emphasizes that the fate of this nation will be determined by themselves. Based on this, the word about Qatar's mediation to change Iran's point of view on the Palestinian issue and the ceasefire negotiations has no meaning. Thirdly, the issue of negotiations between Iran and the West, including in the case of the JCPOA, is also very clear, and that is that the Western side must fulfill its JCPOA obligations. But the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the principle of mediation and that is the effort to bring the countries of the region as close as possible in friendly interactions to form a strong region, an approach that in the current situation can play an important role for West Asia in the new world order.

and Iraq.

Turkey considers the PKK a significant security threat and has carried out extensive military operations against the organization, both domestically and in northern Iraq and Syria. These efforts are intended to eliminate PKK strongholds and diminish its regional impact.

Additionally, the PKK's actions create challenges for Turkey's diplomatic relations with various nations, especially the United States. Although the U.S. classifies the PKK as a terrorist group, it provides support to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which have connections to the PKK.

In response, Ale Sadeh advocated for diplomatic approaches and security dialogues among Turkey, Iraq, and Syria to address their issues about Kurdistan's geopolitical challenges.

Turkey's main objective is to thwart the creation of an independent Kurdish region that might motivate similar ambitions within its Kurdish community. Similarly, Iran views Kurdish separatism as a danger to its national unity.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken stringent measures against Kurdish separatist movements and has executed military actions against Kurdish factions, especially in the border areas adjacent to Iraq. Iran's strategy is shaped by its aim to uphold authority over its various ethnic groups and to deter any potential separatist movements.

Turkey's envoy reiterated that ensuring peace and security in the region remains a top priority for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Omani, Iranian FMs pledge to strengthen bilateral relations

From Page 1 ► The Omani minister also took the opportunity to congratulate Araqchi on his recent appointment as Iran's top diplomat, wishing him success in his new role.

In response, Araqchi expressed his appreciation for the congratulatory message and reciprocated Albusaidi's sentiments, underscoring Iran's readiness for close cooperation with Oman.

He noted that Tehran-Muscat relations are expanding in all aspects, and highlighted the importance of ongoing consultations and cooperation between the two countries.

Araqchi pointed out the complex challenges facing the West Asia region and emphasized that continued political dialogue and collaboration would help address these challenges while serving the mutual interests of both nations.

This conversation comes on the heels of Araqchi's official appointment as Iran's foreign



minister, following his approval by the Iranian Parliament last Wednesday. He succeeded acting foreign minister Ali Baqeri Kani, who temporarily held the position after the tragic death of former foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in a helicopter crash in May.

Albusaidi previously visited Tehran on May 27, where he engaged in discussions with Kani on various regional issues, including the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Iran welcomes expansion of ties with Kuwait at all levels: Araqchi

In a separate development, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Abdullah Ali al-Yahya also extended his congratulations to Araqchi during a telephone call.

Al-Yahya reiterated Kuwait's commitment to strengthening ties with Tehran and emphasized the importance of continuing political dialogue between the two countries.

Araqchi expressed his gratitude

for the Kuwaiti minister's congratulations and reaffirmed Tehran's willingness to expand relations with Kuwait in all dimensions.

He described the ongoing political consultations between the two nations as essential and constructive, particularly in light of the complex developments in the West Asia region.

Iran, UAE on the path to fortify ties

The foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran engaged in a phone conversation to discuss the state of bilateral relations and explore ways to enhance and strengthen these ties.

During the call, both ministers reviewed various aspects of the relationship between the two neighboring countries, focusing on the potential for deeper cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

Tehran condemns terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and Pakistan



TEHRAN- The spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry has denounced the recent terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and Pakistan.

Nasser Kanaani expressed condemnation of the terrorist incident that occurred on Friday in Barsalogo, Burkina Faso, which led to numerous casualties among both military personnel and civilians in the region.

The senior Iranian official extended his condolences to the families affected by this tragedy and wished a swift recovery for those injured.

On Friday, August 23, the military government of Burkina Faso recognized the likelihood of an imminent attack by JNIM fighters. In response, authorities urged the general public to support the military efforts by helping to dig trenches designed to act as a defensive barrier against the encroaching fighters.

Various videos shared by JNIM militants on social media depicted numerous bodies, primarily of young men, being buried alive in a trench.

Jama'a Nusrat al Islam waal Muslimin (JNIM) is a militant jihadist organization operating in the Maghreb and West Africa, formed through the unification of Ansar Dine, the Macina Liberation Front, al-Mourabitoun, and the Saharan branch of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

Additionally, Kanaani condemned the recent wave of terrorist attacks across various regions in Pakistan, particularly in Baluchistan province, which resulted in the loss of lives among police

forces and civilians.

He conveyed his sympathies to the families of the victims and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Pakistan, affirming that the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes terrorism in all its forms and supports Pakistan in its efforts to combat this grave issue.

On Monday, August 26, reports from officials and local media indicated that a minimum of 74 individuals lost their lives in a series of clashes and assaults that spanned several hours in both southwest and northwest Pakistan.

Among the deceased were 21 militants and 14 members of the security forces. Also, the authorities stated that the assailants torched at least 10 vehicles before making their escape.

The Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), a banned separatist organization, claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement to local media.

Iran's envoy meets Turkish VP to discuss boosting ties

TEHRAN- A meeting took place between Iran's ambassador to Ankara and Turkey's vice president, highlighting the importance of enhancing relations and collaboration between the two nations.

As reported by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh engaged in discussions with Turkish Vice President Joudat Yilmaz in Ankara.

During their conversation, the Turkish Vice President extended his congratulations to the newly elected president of Iran and acknowledged the confidence expressed by the Iranian Parliament in the cabinet ministers.

Yilmaz reaffirmed the Turkish government's commitment to fostering cooperation and strengthening ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran under the new administration.

The meeting also addressed recent developments and economic partnerships between the two countries, alongside geopolitical and regional matters, with a strong emphasis on the growth of bilateral trade relations.

Iran and Turkey have made notable advancements in their economic collaboration, including Turkey's initiative to establish new border crossings with Iran aimed

at promoting trade and economic growth in the border areas.

Additionally, during the visit of late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to Ankara in January 2024, the two nations formalized ten cooperation agreements.

These documents encompass a range of sectors such as rail and air transport, electricity, energy, economic and free trade zones, as well as culture, media, and communication.

Zarif returns to Pezeshkian administration

TEHRAN- Mohammad Javad Zarif has confirmed his return to the position of vice president for strategic affairs in the Masoud Pezeshkian administration.

As reported by ISNA, Zarif shared a post on his social media account on platform X to explain the circumstances surrounding his return to the government.

His post is as follows:

"Today, members of the government convened with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, showcasing a remarkable representation of women, diverse ethnicities, and various religions within the government delegation.

This diversity exemplifies the dedication and bravery of our president in honoring his electoral commitments. I sincerely hope this trend continues, fostering national unity through a focus on human-centered and people-oriented

development.

My colleagues and I in the steering council and committees take pride in the fact that nearly 70% of the ministers and vice presidents, along with numerous deputy ministers and organizations, stem from expert recommendations derived from this transparent and inclusive process. With God's assistance, I am optimistic that we can address existing shortcomings and institutionalize this approach.

Following the thoughtful follow-ups and consultations led by the president, along with his written directive, I am committed to resuming my responsibilities in the Strategic Vice Presidency, with faith in God and the support of our great nation.

I apologize for my delayed arrival at the meeting with the Leader."

Earlier on August 2, Masoud Pezeshkian

appointed Mohammad Javad Zarif as his deputy for strategic affairs and the chief of the Iranian Presidential Center for Strategic Studies.

Mohammad Javad Zarif, aged 64, held the position of Iran's foreign minister from 2013 to 2021 during Hassan Rouhani's presidency.

He played a pivotal role as Iran's chief negotiator in the nuclear discussions that culminated in the 2015 nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). This accord, which received backing from UN Security Council Resolution 2231, was abandoned by former U.S. President Donald Trump when he withdrew the United States, a key participant in the agreement, from the deal.

Additionally, Zarif represented Iran at the United Nations during Mohammad Khatami's presidency.

Iran, India pursue legal, judicial cooperation

TEHRAN- The secretary of Iranian High Council for Human Rights and the Indian Ambassador to Tehran have underscored the necessity of enhancing legal and judicial collaboration between their nations.

During a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday, Kazem Gharibabadi and Rudra Gaurav Shresth engaged in discussions on this topic.

Gharibabadi criticized the politicization of human rights issues by certain Western nations, pointing out the hypocrisy of some European countries and the United States regarding the genocide and crimes against humanity committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza, which he cited as examples of the erosion and infringement of human rights.

Both parties acknowledged the significance of strengthening cooperation in legal, judicial, and human rights matters, as well as the importance of exchanging experiences between their countries.

Iran and India have established robust legal collaboration across various domains. In 2002, they entered into an Extradition Treaty

that enables the transfer of individuals sought for criminal prosecution.

Additionally, a treaty signed in 2008 enhances cooperation in crime investigation and prosecution, encompassing information sharing, the extradition of fugitives, and the collection of evidence.

Neither pin hope on enemy nor trust them

TEHRAN - On the occasion of National Government Week, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei met with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and members of the 14th Administration in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

At the commencement of this gathering, the Leader paid tribute to Martyr Rajai, Martyr Bahonar, Martyr Raisi and his martyred entourage. He commended and honored the Arbaeen Walk undertaken by the people, extended his congratulations to the 14th Cabinet on National Government Week, and expressed hope that this occasion would foster a spirit of optimism, bring forth good tidings, and yield uplifting reports throughout the duration of the 14th Administration's time in office.

Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the timely formation of the new Iranian administration as a blessing and a great favor from God. He elaborated on the



consultation process with the President regarding the Cabinet, stating, "I endorsed some of the individuals whom I knew or whose competence had been reported to me through reliable sources. And some of the individuals, I strongly endorsed. [However,] I didn't know the majority of them, so I told him I don't have any opinion about them. Praise God, he successfully made his selections and was able to convince the Parliament."

Imam Khamenei described the

opportunity to serve the people and striving for the country's progress as a profound divine blessing. He added, "Treasure this trust bestowed upon you by God and the people, and remember that while these four years of service will pass like lightning, significant accomplishments can still be achieved during this time."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated that recognizing a nation's resources and potentials is a prerequisite for effective

governance.

He identified Iran's natural, abundant, and valuable resources, its strategic geographic location at the crossroads of the world's north, south, east and west, along with its extensive coastlines as examples of the country's valuable material capacities.

He underlined that the Iranian nation has the capacity to produce geniuses, citing renowned figures such as Khajeh Nasir al-Din Tusi, Ibn Sina [Avicenna], Mulla Sadra, and Zakariya Razi as examples.

"These figures are a testament to the boundless intellectual potential of the Iranian nation, and even now we can nurture geniuses from our country's talented youth," he said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution enumerated Iran's political capacities, strategic depth, and regional power as significant strengths, adding that, "The positive and negative experiences of the past 45 years are among the most valuable points that need to be taken into consideration."

Austria summons Iranian ambassador over support for Hezbollah



TEHRAN - The Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned Iran's ambassador, Abbas Bagherpour, after he posted a message on social media expressing support for Lebanese Resistance group, Hezbollah.

The message came in the wake of recent airstrikes by Hezbollah on Israel, a move seen by many as part of the broader resistance against Israeli aggression in the region.

In his post, Ambassador Bagherpour shared an image of the Hezbollah flag, accompanied

by the statement, "Hezbollah will win." This expression of solidarity with the group, which is widely viewed in Iran and other nations as a legitimate Resistance movement, sparked immediate backlash from Austrian authorities.

"We strongly condemn the use of the image of the Hezbollah flag in the Iranian ambassador's message," the Austrian foreign ministry stated in response. Austria, like many other European Union countries, has designated Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization, aligning with Western policies.

Iran has long supported the struggle against Israeli occupation and has criticized the West's indifference to Israel's ongoing actions in Palestine and the broader West Asia.

The latest diplomatic move came as the world turns a blind eye to the crimes committed by the Israeli regime.

Iran's support for Hezbollah is rooted in

a broader commitment to opposing Israeli policies that have led to the suffering and displacement of countless Palestinians, a cause that resonates deeply with many across the region.

Israel waged a genocidal war on the besieged Gaza on October 7, 2023 after the Palestinian Hamas Resistance group carried out a historic operation against the occupying entity in retaliation for the regime's intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

The Gaza conflict has already resulted in the deaths of over 40,476 Palestinians, primarily women and children. A Gazan health ministry statement added that some 93,647 other people have been injured in the assault.

After 10 months of war, 90 percent of Gaza's population has been forced out of their homes with most having to relocate multiple times. They face a lack of safety, sanitation and adequate food with some even forced to shelter in cemeteries.

Iran defense industry now fully indigenous, says deputy minister

From Page 1 ► Ghoreyshi also discussed the broader geopolitical landscape, mentioning the decline of U.S. influence and the rise of new global powers.

He emphasized the importance of cooperation among independent countries to resist external pressures and build a multipolar world order.

Ghoreyshi also condemned the Israeli war crimes in the occupied territories which is supported by perceived world powers such as the United States. He criticized the

violation of the most basic human rights in one of the most densely populated areas in the world, which is Gaza.

The Gaza conflict has already resulted in the deaths of over 40,476 Palestinians, primarily women and children, since October 2023. A ministry statement added that some 93,647 other people have been injured in the assault.

After 10 months of war, 90 percent of Gaza's population has been forced out of their homes with most having to relocate multiple

times.

They face a lack of safety, sanitation and adequate food with some even forced to shelter in cemeteries.

The deputy minister concluded by reaffirming Iran's commitment to regional stability and readiness to develop defense relations with aligned nations.

In recent years, Iranian military specialists and engineers have achieved notable advancements in producing a diverse array of domestically developed equipment,

fostering self-reliance within the armed forces.

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

Iran unequivocally states that negotiations will not affect its defense capabilities.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Islamic Revolution, consistently emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing Iran's defense capabilities.

SPORTS

Iran is future of Asia, Japan the best: Vital Heynen:



TEHRAN - Belgian coach Vital Heynen believes that there is a great future in front of Iran volleyball, however Team Melli missed the 2024 Olympic Games.

Iran showed a poor performance in the 2024 Volleyball National League.

Iran's volleyball is in turmoil following the national team's disappointing performance in the competition and the subsequent dismissal of Brazilian coach Mauricio Paes.

The team finished 15th out of 16, with only two wins and 10 losses.

Heynen, who was appointed as China head coach in April, believes that the country's volleyball will overcome its challenges soon.

Tehran Times: France won back-to-back title in the 2024 Olympic Games, beating your former team Poland. The U.S. also finished in third place. Do you think France are the most powerful team in the world?

Vital Heynen: Are France the most powerful? I mean, France are the most victorious team.

If you win VNL and if you win two times Olympic gold, you are clearly the most winning team but I'm not sure if they're the best. That's always the other thing. Because I think the best team are Poland.

If you look to the world ranking, I think it's a correct world ranking. If you look over all the matches in the last years, Poland are the most regular team.

But France have this amazing quality to be good on the right moment. And that's so important in sports. And France are very good and I mean the best team at the moment. And that's the quality of top players.

So that you have to give them. But I still consider Poland as the most complete team if you look to all the players they have.

Japan, as an Asian team, stole the show in 2024 VNL and Olympics. They are your opponents in Asia as well as Iran. You, as China coach, will have a difficult task against the teams, especially Japan. Let me know about that.

I think Japan have made a great evolution. I think that Philippe Blain as a coach made a great job there. The team become better and better.

And I like it. Why? It's showing that you have to invest in a team and keep working. And that's what Blain was doing there.

A long-term project maybe started eight years ago. And it's still growing. I expect Japan to even be better next year. And the year after because it's still a young team.

So, I think Japan are for the next years. Without any doubts, I think the next three, four years, Japan will be the number one team of Asia, the team to beat. They did a very smart job and they get a reward for that.

Not in the 2024 Olympics because they

missed the chance to go for medals. But they get a reward in VNL and in general, you see how good they play.

So, I think Japan are clear number one of Asia in this moment. So, I'm not thinking about China beating against Japan. That is nothing for the moment.

You led European teams Belgium, Poland and Germany and now you are working in Asia. What's the difference?

I mean every country is different. I think I'm not so bad in always adapting to the culture of every country. Poland is different from Belgium.

And Germany is also different from Poland. So that's very normal every national team ask something different.

And, of course, China are again different from those three. And it's my challenge to try to work with every country. You know that I always like to read books about countries before I go there.

I try to learn some of the language. I try to speak to a lot of people. I try to understand so that the way I work is adapted to the country. And that's always the challenge.

I believe that I'm not so bad in adapting to the country. So, I think China is in a way different that I have to learn. We are much busy with learning to win.

China have good players but have no culture of winning. And the big challenge is to learn them to win. So, that is the whole concept where we are busy with making them win things.

And we did a huge step by winning this tournament for the VNL Challenger. Maybe it's not so big tournament for the outside world but here for China and for us it's very important to finally win a tournament. So that was the first step and now our challenge is to stay in.

You will face Iran in the near future at the helm of China team. As a person, who has played with Iran for several times, what's your strategy against the Persians?

How I will play against Iran? I'm not thinking so much about Iran because I think that Iran will have a very good team. They have good players and they will play better in VNL next year than last year.

So, Iran are not our opponents where we are thinking about to stay in VNL. Our goal is to win at least a couple of matches so that we stay in VNL. But my tactic against Iran is I have no idea. I have no idea.

I have no idea what to answer on that. My tactic is to make China good again. That's always the basic tactic. Make your own team play well. If you don't play well yourself, you cannot talk about the others.

So, there we are working very very hard here in China to make the team play better and better.

As you know, Iran failed to advance to the 2024 Olympics. As a volleyball instructor, what is your suggestion for the volleyball federation of Iran for the future?

I am optimistic on the future of Iran. I mean I think you have a great future in front of you. You have so many good young guys. I witnessed the U20 Asian Championship in Indonesia, where Iran claimed the title.

Seeing them win that tournament they were before making great results on other youth tournaments.

So, Iran is the future of Asia. Japan is the actual best and Iran is the future. And I don't know where China is standing there. So, I think that Iran has to stay cool.

That's maybe the most difficult for Iran to stay cool and keep working. That should be the big challenge for them. That's an offer.

Tractor complete signing of Albanian forward Cikalleshi

TEHRAN - Albanian striker Sokol Cikalleshi joined Iran's Tractor football team.

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

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

He made his professional debut in 2007 as a 17-year-old with his hometown club Besa, and would then go on loan to Skenderbeu, Tirana and South Korean side Incheon United between 2011 and 2012. He joined Kukesi in 2013 and scored 22 goals in all competitions during the 2013-14 campaign, where he

gained the attention of the Albania national team setup as well as Croatian side RNK Split who signed the player in 2014 for a reported fee of €100,000. He was the club's top goalscorer during the 2014-15 campaign, netting 13 times in all competitions before joining Turkish club Istanbul Basaksehir for a €1.8 million fee in 2015.

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

The Tabriz-based team sit in second place in 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL), two points behind Sepahan.

Iran reiterates vow for retaliation against Israel for Haniyeh's killing

TEHRAN- Iran's ambassador to Lebanon has stated that the country's reaction to the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh by the Zionist regime in Tehran on July 31 will be unequivocal.

Mojtaba Amani shared these insights during a

discussion with Lebanese media on Tuesday.

He indicated that the nation's military forces will decide the timing of Iran's response.

Earlier Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has pledged to deliver a

"harsh response" to this audacious act of terrorism on its territory as a means of punishing the Israeli regime. On July 31, the Israeli regime assassinated Haniyeh, the leader of the Hamas political bureau, who was present in Tehran for the inauguration of Masoud Pezeshkian.

Iran's 5-month non-oil trade with neighbors exceeds \$26b

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil trade with its neighbors increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) to reach \$26.857 billion, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

Mohammad Rezvanifar put the weight of non-oil trade with the neighboring countries at 43.579 million tons in the said period, noting that the trade between the two sides also increased by 10 percent in terms of weight, IRNA reported.

During the mentioned five months, Iran exported 34.118 million tons of goods worth \$13.402 billion to its neighbors, while importing 9.461 million tons of commodities valued at \$13.455 billion.

Iran's exports to neighboring countries in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year increased by 11 percent in terms of

weight and 19 percent in terms of value, respectively, and imports from neighboring countries increased by 10 percent and 13 percent respectively in terms of weight and value, according to Rezvanifar.

He named Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Pakistan, and Afghanistan as the top importers of Iranian goods among the neighboring countries, and the UAE, Turkey, Russia, Oman, and Pakistan as the main sources of imports in the said five months.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

Aluminum ingot output exceeds 220,000 tons in 4 months

TEHRAN - Production of aluminum ingot in Iran reached 221,409 tons in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

As reported, production by Iran's four major aluminum producers, namely South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO), Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO), Almahdi Aluminum Company, and Iran Alumina Company, increased by one percent in the first four months of the current year, compared to the same period last year.

Among the country's four major producers, SALCO had the best performance in the mentioned four months, producing 94,503 tons of aluminum ingots, followed by IRALCO producing 60,210 tons, Almahdi Aluminum Company producing 54,426 tons, and Iran Alumina Company producing 12,170 tons of ingots.

Based on the IMIDRO data, during the period under review, 76,885 tons of alumina powder,

129,960 tons of aluminum hydrate, and 232,000 tons of bauxite were produced by Iran Alumina Company.

Iran produced more than 635,000 tons of aluminum ingots over the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

The country's aluminum mills continued with their production over the past year and posted a slight one percent year-on-year increase despite the energy restrictions.

According to IMIDRO, the country's aluminum production stood at around 632,000 tons a year earlier.

Iran Alumina Company produced some 222,138 tons of alumina powder, 374,106 tons of alumina hydrate, and 598,599 tons of bauxite in the one-year timespan.

Iranian officials estimate the country's aluminum sector has a value of \$22 billion, which is sufficient to meet the country's aluminum needs.

At present, Iran is the 18th biggest aluminum-producing country in the world.

Basic goods worth \$6.3b imported in 5 months

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced that the country has imported basic commodities worth \$6.3 billion during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

The IRICA put the weight of the imported basic goods at \$1.3 million tons.

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that it has provided more than \$27 billion of subsidized foreign currency to importers of basic goods in less than five months since the start of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

CBI figures showed that some \$27.263 billion had been allocated to imports of basic goods, medicine, commercial goods and products and imports that have taken place in return for exports of goods or services from Iran between March 20 and August 16, Tasnim News Agency reported.

Basic goods and medicine are imported into Iran at a rate of 285,000 rials per U.S. dollar. The rate is much lower than a market price which is currently hovering around 590,000 rials per U.S. dollar.

That comes as importers can also receive hard currency at a rate applied in CBI's Forex Management Integrated System, known by its Persian acronym NIMA. The price was 450,937 rials per U.S. dollar on August 17.

The CBI said subsidized currency earmarked to imports of basic goods and medicine had reached \$6.151 billion over the five months to mid-August, of which \$4.85 billion had gone to imports of wheat, oil seeds and animal feed and the rest were allocated to medicine, active pharmaceutical ingredients and medical equipment.

It added that some \$14.639 billion had been supplied to importers at NIMA rate or rates close to that for imports of commercial goods and products including parts and equipment needed in manufacturing, mining, power and electronics and textile industries between March 20 and August 16.

CBI figures showed that another \$5.814 billion had been spent on imports of goods and equipment that had taken place in exchange of exports of services and goods from Iran over the same period.

Industry Ministry unveils export support package for knowledge-based firms

TEHRAN - The Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has presented a support package for promoting the export of knowledge-based and innovative products, Mehr News Agency reported on Tuesday. As reported, the chambers of guilds across the country and national unions have been notified about the details of the mentioned package that is aimed at "a jump in the export of knowledge-based and technological products".

The package includes discounts on import and export tariffs of products, prioritizing the imports of the raw materials and equipment required by the supported companies, facilitating legal and administrative processes related to exports and imports, and providing consulting and specialized services in fields related to export and import to the mentioned companies.

The law on supporting knowledge-based companies and institutions, and commercializing innovations and inventions, was approved by the

parliament in Iranian year 1389 (2010 -2011), to achieve a knowledge-based economy.

Throughout these years, administrations have tried to boost infrastructure to support knowledge-based companies' growth.

These efforts have accelerated recently, especially in the previous administration. At the beginning of the administration of late President Ebrahim Raisi, there were about 6,474 knowledge-based companies in the country, but in less than two years, their numbers soared and reached 9,215 companies, a testimony of the government's approach to boosting local production in the knowledge-based and private sectors.

Meanwhile, the quantitative development of knowledge-based companies has led to an increase in their employment by 8.4 folds, with more than 420,000 individuals currently working in knowledge-based related jobs.

Worth of Iran's 5-month pistachio export rises 213% yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's pistachio export increased by 213 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 36,000 tons of pistachio worth \$352 million in the five-month period of this year, also indicating 122 percent rise in terms of weight year on year.

As previously reported by the IRICA, the value of Iran's agricultural products export increased by 33 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

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 weight 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 Re-

public 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.

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 accounted 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, followed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

Yerevan to host Iran-Eurasia business forum in late Sep.

TEHRAN - Armenian capital Yerevan will be hosting an Iran-Eurasia business forum in late September-early October this year, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

According to Mehdi Zeyghami, over 300 companies from Iran and five Eurasian members namely Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, are going to participate in the grand event, the TPO reported.

The forum will be held on the sidelines of the next meeting of the Eurasian Intergovernmental Council, Zeyghami noted.

Emphasizing the importance of the meeting, Zeyghami said: "It seems that before the implementation of the free trade agreement, holding the Iran-Eurasia business forum will be a great opportunity to provide the necessary ground for the maximum benefit of the economic operators of our country from this agreement."

This event is organized by the Eurasian Economic Commission in cooperation with the TPO, the Trade Council of the Eurasian Economic Union and relevant institutions from the EAEU member countries, the official said, adding that the forum will include a series of practical discussions and talks aimed at strengthening and further developing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the members of the Eurasian Economic Union and Iran.

Zeyghami further mentioned the development of economic cooperation between Iran and the member countries of this union after the conclusion of trade agreements and added: "The implementation of the preferential trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union, since 2019, the trade volume of the two sides has increased by more than 2.5 times, and Iran's exports to this union have also grown by more than 138 percent during this period."

Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union reached a free trade agreement in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members.

The trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides.

The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran's exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a turning point for the Islamic Republic's plans for boosting non-oil exports during the U.S. sanctions.

Iran's 5-month shrimp export exceeds \$31.3m



TEHRAN - As reported by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported shrimps valued at \$31.3 million in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21).

IRICA has reported that the value of Iran's fishery export increased by 24 percent during the first five months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

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 Marine 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 equipment and the optimization 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.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Strategic balance has changed in favor of Hezbollah

From page 1 ▶ The key point is that Hezbollah did not let the cowardly assassination act go unanswered, and it was for about a month that Israel was trembling in fear of Hezbollah's reprisal.

Of course, it was in Israel's 34-day war against Lebanon in 2006 that the world realized that the situation had changed and that Israel had lost its military supremacy in the region.

Now, after about 11 months Israel has even failed to defeat a guerrilla group in the Gaza Strip despite committing whatever crimes imaginable against the civilian inhabitants of the enclave. It has just dropped tens of tons of bombs on the small territory.

Imagine that Israel starts a full-scale war against Hezbollah which has about 100,000 spirited, highly-trained and disciplined combat troops and is armed with tens of thousands of missiles, including precision-guided ones.

According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), in June 2024 experts speculated that Hezbollah has 150,000–200,000 rockets



A missile monument erected after the 2006 war is seen on the roadside, on Aug. 26, 2024, in Borj Kalawai, Lebanon. — Chris McGrath/Getty Images

and missiles of various ranges.

The IISS also estimated in 2020 that Hezbollah had up to 20,000 active fighters and some 20,000 reserves, with an arsenal of small arms, tanks, drones, and various long-range rockets.

Analyst and retired Brigadier General Assaf Orion from Israel's Institute for National Security Studies also says Hezbollah possesses "a larger arsenal of artillery than most nations enjoy."

Hezbollah has been repeatedly humiliating Israel. In an analysis posted on the CNN website on June 27, the writer Ben Wedeman said

Israeli officials have been surprised by the sophistication of the Hezbollah attacks. Wedeman said these include systematic pinpoint strikes on Israel's array of surveillance outposts along the border, shooting down high-flying top-of-the-

line drones, and hits on Israel's Iron Dome batteries and anti-drone defenses.

Perhaps the biggest surprise for Israel, however, was the nine minutes of drone footage Hezbollah published online of highly sensitive civilian and military infrastructure in and around the northern city of Haifa, he opined.

Early this year Reichman University released a report entitled "Fire and blood: The chilling reality facing Israel in a war with Hezbollah." It laid out a grim scenario in which the resistance group would fire 2,500 to 3,000 rockets and missiles a day for weeks targeting Israeli military sites as well as densely populated cities in the center of Israel.

Compared to the 2006 war, Hezbollah is much stronger in terms of weaponry and military force. The strategic balance has changed in its favor. Those days are gone when Israel's tanks were roaming in the streets of Beirut and manipulating politics in Lebanon.

Israel wages widespread aggression in the West Bank

At least six killed by occupation forces and settlers

From page 1 ▶ Jibril was one of the political prisoners released in the exchange deal between Tel Aviv and Hamas in November 2023.

He is said to have been pursued several times by the IOF immediately after his freedom in the seven-day ceasefire deal.

Jibril has become the third prisoner released in November only to be killed by the IOF.

In reaction to the Israeli raids in the West Bank, authorities in Tulkarm held the international community responsible for failing to stop the aggression against the Palestinian people.

Media sources reported that Israeli patrols are roaming the streets of Tulkarm amid heightened tensions across various West Bank towns and cities.

The Ministry of Health also announced that a young man has been killed after Israeli settlers started shooting at a group of Palestinians in the village of Wadi Rahhal, south of Bethlehem. Three others sustained injuries and have been transferred to hospital.

Hadi Ziyada, head of the council of Wadi Rahhal village, stated that settlers went on the rampage attacking homes near a school with live fire.

Ziyada added that occupation forces stormed the village to protect the settlers and fired sound bombs and tear gas at protesters, causing dozens to suffer from suffocation.

Israeli settler violence in the West Bank has drawn global condemnation but little action has been taken to stop it.

The IOF also stormed two towns east of

Qalqilya in the northern West Bank, raiding several homes. Reports say intense gunfire erupted targeting the northern checkpoint of the city.

Young men confronted the occupation forces with Molotov cocktails during the raids.

Palestinian media sources reported that the IOF deployed snipers at the northern checkpoint of Qalqilya city.

At the entrance of another refugee camp, north of al-Khalil, also known as Hebron, the IOF attacked a group of young men protesting the violent arrest of a young male from the camp.

The Israeli occupation also stormed homes during a raid on Yatta located approximately 8 km south of the city of al-Khalil.

Furthermore, the occupation forces stormed a town west of Ramallah and a residential zone in the city of Nablus.

Hamas said that the raids and aggression by terrorist settlers on West Bank governorates, including the latest attack south of Bethlehem, "confirm the criminal behavior of the occupation against our people everywhere."

In a statement, it added that the accompanying acts of looting, arson, and vandalism reveal the true face of the occupation's criminal policies to completely seize the West Bank.

In another statement, Hamas described the military raid in Nur Shams camp as an assassination policy, which "confirms the continuation of the occupation's crimes and massacres extending from Gaza to every inch

of the homeland".

The group added that "the blood of five martyrs in Tulkarm will fuel the escalation of resistance and the continuation of its heroic operations." It urged Palestinians in the occupied West Bank to increase engagement, confrontation, and resistance against the occupiers.

The Gaza-based Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement (PIJ) also stressed that the "escalation by the entity and its settlers of their crimes in the occupied West Bank in recent hours is a decision for an open, undeclared war against our Palestinian people."

PIJ condemned "the enemy's use of drones to bomb a house inside Nur Shams camp in Tulkarm, resulting in five martyrs, including at least one child, and the armed settlers' attack on Wadi Rahal west of Bethlehem and the death of a person, and the closure of large areas in the north of the West Bank, all indicate that the enemy has decided to shift the focus of its operations from Gaza to the West Bank."

The movement added that "the increasing Zionist brutality in the West Bank, coming as a cover for the entity's failure in Gaza and southern Lebanon, would not have happened without shameful Arab collusion, leaving the Palestinian people alone in a battle that the entity's criminals want to be pivotal in the course of the war."

According to the United Nations, at least 607 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, and occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem), including eleven by Israeli settlers, since October 7, 2023.

Israeli army frustration reaches boiling point as Hamas remains unbeatable

From page 1 ▶ Israel's failures on the Gaza battlefield once again came to the fore after an army general acknowledged the regime's inability to defeat Hamas.

"For almost a year now, we have not been able to fully defeat even our smallest enemy," Major General Israel Ziv told Israel's Maariv news site.

Ziv, who previously headed the Israeli military's operations directorate, added that there are still 20,000 Hamas fighters regrouping in Gaza."

He admitted that Israel will not be able to get involved in a broad war with Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah, citing the regime's inability to defeat Hamas.

"Israel certainly cannot take on the task of fighting everyone when it can't even close the simplest front," he said.

Ziv's statements echo a speech

delivered by war minister Yoav Gallant earlier this month.

Speaking during a closed-door hearing before a Knesset committee on August 12, Gallant dismissed Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "nonsense" and "gibberish".

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

On June 19, the Israeli military spokesman also disputed Netanyahu's war aim of defeating Hamas.

"The idea that it is possible to destroy Hamas, to make Hamas vanish — that is throwing sand in the eyes of the public," Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israel's Channel 13. He added, "Hamas is an idea, deeply rooted in the hearts of the residents of Gaza."

Netanyahu stands accused of derailing talks aimed at ending

the Gaza war to keep himself in power. The premier believes that a permanent state of war will help him avoid accountability for failing to prevent the Al-Aqsa Storm.

But he remains under fire for failing to secure the release of the remaining captives in Gaza.

More than 100 of those who were taken captive on October 7 were freed following a swap deal with Hamas in November last year. Dozens still remain in Gaza. Dozens of others have lost their lives during Israeli strikes on the territory.

Besides, the Gaza war has taken a heavy toll on the Israeli military which has put immense pressure on Netanyahu.

According to Israeli media, more than 700 Israeli troops have died since October 7.

Despite Israel's claims of dismantling Hamas, the group's

attacks still claim the lives of the regime's soldiers on the battlefield.

The Israeli army continues to strike residential buildings, schools and hospitals in Gaza under the pretext of targeting Hamas fighters in a bid to distract attention away from its failures.

About 40,500 Palestinians including more than 16,000 children have been killed in Gaza since the start of the Gaza onslaught.

Unfortunately, the US and some of its Western allies continue to feed Israel's war machine despite the rising civilian death toll.

The Gaza war will ultimately come to an end but the complicity of Western countries in Israel's carnage in the Palestinian territory will never slide into oblivion.

WORLD HEADLINES

Retired general: Israeli military has 'lost complete confidence' in chief of staff

Retired Israeli General Itzhak Brik has lashed out at Israel's military leadership and questioned its competency, saying he has heard firsthand reports that Israeli soldiers are being disproportionately killed by booby traps, projectiles and friendly fire.

He also said Israeli soldiers had told him the military is inflating its reports of Hamas casualties and Israeli soldiers rarely engage in close-quarters combat, Al Jazeera reported.

Speaking to the Maariv news site, Brik singled out Chief of Staff Herzli Halevi, saying he has "frustrated the Israeli army", which has "lost complete confidence in him".

He accused Halevi of failing to keep in check Israeli commanders who lack operational discipline and are negligent, causing many soldiers to be killed and injured.

Halevi "is much more at fault than anyone else", said Brik, who previously headed the military's educational unit. "Therefore, he is afraid to take legal action against the commanders who have erred, lest he be asked why he is not punishing himself and resigning."

Brik added, "If a deal for the return of the hostages and a ceasefire is not reached, the situation could deteriorate, and we might face even greater danger."

Arrest of Telegram CEO in France sparks global concerns over free speech

In a stunning turn of events that has rattled the global tech industry, Europe turned out to be a perilous place for tech executives after the arrest of Telegram CEO Pavel Durov in France, prominent tech figures said.

The arrest, which has sparked outrage and concern over the future of free speech, sent shockwaves through the digital world and raised serious questions about the safety and freedom of tech CEOs operating in Europe, Anadolu reported.

In the wake of Durov's arrest, Rumble CEO Chris Pavlovski announced Sunday on X that he had "safely departed" Europe, citing concerns over similar threats to his platform.

Pavlovski also vowed to fight for freedom of expression, stating: "Rumble will not stand for this behavior and will use every legal means available to fight for freedom of expression, a universal human right."

"France has threatened Rumble, and now they have crossed a red line by arresting Telegram's CEO Pavel Durov reportedly for not censoring speech," he added.

Also, Edward Snowden, the former US intelligence officer and whistleblower, took to X to express his dismay, stating: "The arrest of Pavel Durov is an assault on the basic human rights of speech and association. I am surprised and deeply saddened that (French President) Macron has descended to the level of taking hostages as a means for gaining access to private communications. It lowers not only France, but the world."

China denies intention to breach Japan's airspace

China said it is investigating a report from Japan that a Chinese army aircraft violated Japanese airspace, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Tuesday in Beijing.

China does not intend to intrude into the airspace of other countries, he said, adding that the two sides are in contact with each other.

Japan's Ministry of Defense said that a Chinese Y-9 reconnaissance aircraft flew for around two minutes over the East China Sea on Monday morning and through the airspace around the Danjo archipelago, which belongs to the south-western Japanese prefecture of Nagasaki.

Japan launched fighter jets in response. Government spokesman Yoshimasa Hayashi spoke of an unacceptable incident that violated Japan's territory and posed a threat to security. The government summoned China's acting ambassador to Japan to lodge a protest.

OIC blasts 'extremist' Israeli minister's comments on Al-Aqsa Mosque

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's call to establish a synagogue at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, according to Al Jazeera.

The OIC – the world's second-largest intergovernmental body after the UN – said it considers the "statements of the extremist minister" and the "continued storming and desecration of the courtyards of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque" by Israeli settlers and ministers "a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and international law".

"The city of Jerusalem (Al-Quds) is an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, and the capital of the State of Palestine," the OIC said, adding that "all decisions and measures taken by the Israeli occupation to Judaize the occupied city of Jerusalem have no legal effect".

The OIC also said it held Israel "fully responsible" for the fallout from Ben-Gvir's remarks and Israel's "systematic violations and attacks that constitute a provocation to the feelings of Muslims all over the world".

Prisoners' society: Israel withholding bodies of 552 Palestinians

Israel continues to withhold the bodies of at least 552 Palestinians, including 149 killed during the continuing war, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society.

These figures do not include an estimated additional hundreds of Palestinians killed in Gaza, for which Israeli authorities have not released an official count, according to the group.

Israeli protesters: Netanyahu has abandoned captives

Israeli protesters, including relatives of captives held in Gaza, blocked a main highway in Tel Aviv on Tuesday to demand a prisoner swap deal with Palestinians.

Protesters blocked Ayalon Highway in Tel Aviv, raising banners calling on the cabinet of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to reach a prisoner swap deal with Hamas, The Times of Israel newspaper said.

"There is no reckless agreement, only abandonment," and "Netanyahu is burying the hostages," read the banners waved by protesters.

The Israeli opposition and families of the captives accuse the Netanyahu cabinet of systematically sabotaging efforts to reach a swap deal with Hamas to avoid the collapse of the ruling coalition.

Palestinian cancer patients stranded in Egypt struggle to find care

Hundreds of Palestinians with cancer, evacuated to Egypt during the Gaza war, are either going without medical treatment or receiving limited care in Egyptian hospitals, Middle East Eye revealed.

According to a survey carried out by the Gaza-based cancer charity Towards Hope and Peace, at least 361 Palestinian cancer patients say they are not receiving the medical assistance they need after leaving the embattled Gaza Strip for Egypt.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Persepolis threatened by groundwater over-extraction, environmental official says



TEHRAN - A senior environmental official in Fars province has said excessive drilling of wells and the over-extraction of groundwater has led to land subsidence around the UNESCO-listed Persepolis.

Qasem Nahavandi, in an interview with ISNA on Monday, highlighted the significant danger posed to Persepolis and the nearby Naqsh-e Rostam, which are two Achaemenid gems situated in the Marvdasht plain.

"The Achaemenids chose the location for Persepolis where no earthquakes had occurred at the time. However, due to the numerous wells drilled and the excessive extraction of groundwater around the Marvdasht plain, we are now witnessing land subsidence in this area."

He further explained that the region's groundwater aquifers cover a wide area, and their depletion also threatens Naqsh-e Rostam.

Studies by Shiraz University indicate that this phenomenon has been occurring in some plains of Fars province, which is a serious warning sign, he added.

"Persepolis was built at a specific location, and today we are imposing a 'silent earthquake' on it."

He pointed to an 80-meter sinkhole in the historic city of Ij, Estahban, attributing it to human interference with nature and the over-extraction of groundwater.

"Unfortunately, the lack of proper attention to water consumption patterns in agriculture and industry leads to excessive groundwater extraction, which in turn causes sinkholes and land subsidence."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nahavandi expressed hope that this year's rainfall would help raise groundwater levels. "We need to use the available water efficiently and correctly, and we must prevent the establishment of water-intensive industrial units and the drilling of deep wells in the plains."

He added that watershed and aquifer management projects could positively impact

reducing water consumption. "Additionally, using treated wastewater in environmentally suitable areas is another measure worth considering."

Nahavandi recommended adopting suitable cropping patterns and preferably using low-water crops in areas with limited water availability. He urged all relevant organizations, the public, and officials to work together to resolve this crisis and prevent further land subsidence in the future.

Located 60 kilometers northeast of Shiraz, Persepolis, with its magnificent ruins resting at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. Also known as Takht-e Jamshid, Persepolis is unparalleled among archaeological sites, recognized for its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

The site's majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms, and reception halls have made this 13-hectare complex one of the world's greatest archaeological treasures.

Construction of the vast terrace began around 518 BC under Darius the Great, king of the Achaemenid Empire. Successive kings added to this terrace, creating a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, including the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall, also known as the Hundred-Column Hall.

The terrace is a grand architectural feat, featuring a double flight of access stairs, walls adorned with sculpted friezes at various levels, monumental gateways, and colossal sculpted winged bulls, alongside the remains of large halls.

Through the innovative use of lighter roofs and wooden lintels, Achaemenid architects were able to support open-area roofs with a minimal number of remarkably slender columns. These columns were crowned with intricate capitals, often featuring the iconic double-bull design, where the forequarters of two kneeling bulls, placed back-to-back, extend their coupled necks and twin heads directly beneath the intersections of the ceiling beams.

Historical accounts suggest that Persepolis was burned by Alexander the Great in 330 BC, reportedly as an act of revenge against the Persians. This was likely in response to the Persian King Xerxes' burning of the Greek city of Athens approximately 150 years earlier.

Europe. Slav culture spread from Ohrid to other parts of Europe. Seven basilicas have thus far been discovered in archaeological excavations in the old part of Ohrid.

These basilicas were built during the 4th, 5th, and beginning of the 6th centuries and contain architectural and decorative characteristics that indisputably point to a strong ascent and glory of Lychnidos, the former name of the town.

The structure of the city nucleus is also enriched by a large number of archaeological sites, with an emphasis on early Christian basilicas, which are also known for their mosaic floors. Special emphasis regarding Ohrid's old urban architecture must be given to the town's masonry heritage. In particular, Ohrid's traditional local influence can be seen among its well-preserved late-Ottoman urban residential architecture dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The limited space for construction activities has led to the formation of a very narrow network of streets.

On the Lin Peninsula, in the west of the Lake, the Early Christian Lin church, founded in the mid-6th century, is related to the basilicas of Ohrid town in terms of its architectural form and decorative floor mosaics, and possibly also through liturgical links.

(Source: UNESCO)

Affordable adventures await in these six must-visit cities

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - With a history stretching back over 6,000 years, Iran is one of the world's most appealing destinations for budget-conscious travelers.

A significant devaluation of the rial over consecutive years has laid the ground for those interested in experiencing a rich culture, stunning architecture, and warm hospitality at bargain prices.

To make the most of your trip to Iran, consider booking flights and accommodations in advance to secure the best deals. Traveling during off-peak seasons can also help you save on costs, and exploring local markets will give you excellent value for money, thanks to the favorable exchange rates.

Here's a look at the top six cities you shouldn't miss on your journey through this captivating country:

Kerman, a desert oasis

Kerman, situated in the southeastern part of Iran, is a city that offers a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.

Surrounded by desert landscapes, Kerman is home to some of the country's most fascinating historical sites and ancient architecture. The city's bazaars are a treasure trove of traditional crafts, while its proximity to the Lut Desert, a UNESCO World Heritage site, makes it a perfect base for exploring one of the world's most striking natural wonders.

Kerman's rich history is reflected in its majestic mosques, ancient bathhouses, and the legendary Shazdeh Garden, a green gem in the midst of the arid landscape.



Must-visit sites include Ganjali Khan Complex, Jameh Mosque of Kerman, and Rayen Castle.

Tehran, the vibrant capital

Tehran, the bustling heart of Iran, offers a fascinating blend of the ancient and modern. Nestled at the foot of the Alborz mountains, this city is a place where history and contemporary life coexist in perfect harmony.

It is the destination to spend days exploring grand palaces and museums and enjoying the city's vibrant café culture in the evenings. For a breath of fresh air, it is highly recommended to escape to the nearby Tochal or Darband areas, where nature awaits just a short drive from the city center.

Must-visit sites include the UNESCO-listed Golestan Palace, the Grand Bazaar, the National Museum of Iran, and the Sa'dabad Complex.

Isfahan, a living museum

Known as the "Half of the World," Isfahan is a city that showcases the splendor of Persian architecture and culture. Walking through

its historic streets feels like stepping back in time, with stunning mosques, palaces, and bridges at every turn.

The city's famous Naqsh-e Jahan Square is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a true masterpiece of Islamic art. Don't miss the opportunity to explore its bustling bazaar, where you can find exquisite handicrafts and souvenirs.

Must-visit sites include the Imam Mosque, Ali Qapu Palace, Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque, Chehel Sotun Palace as well as centuries-old arch bridges.

Shiraz, the city of poetry and gardens

Shiraz, often called the city of love and poetry, is a place that resonates with beauty and romance.

Famous for its lush gardens and the tombs of beloved Persian poets, this city offers a tranquil escape into a world of elegance and serenity.

The city is also famed for its fragrant gardens, intricately designed mosques, and a rich cultural

heritage that has inspired poets for centuries.

Must-visit sites include Afifabad Garden, Vakil Mosque, Vakil Bazaar, Tomb of Hafez, and Arg-e Karim Khan.

Tabriz, once a Silk Road jewel

Tabriz, a city with a rich history and vibrant culture, feels like a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered.

One a connector of the East to the West on the ancient Silk Road, Tabriz offers a unique blend of old-world charm and modern attractions. Its ancient bazaars are filled with stories and crafts, particularly the world-famous Tabriz carpets.

Must-visit sites include the Blue Mosque, the Bazaar of Tabriz, El Goli, Azarbaijan Museum, and the Constitutional House of Tabriz.

Kashan, a lesser-known gem

Often overlooked by travelers, Kashan is a city full of surprises. Its historical houses are masterpieces of Persian architecture, each offering a window into the past.

The town's traditional hotels offer a unique experience, allowing you to stay in beautifully preserved historic homes. Be sure to visit the UNESCO-listed Fin Garden and pick up some rose water from the local bazaar, a perfect souvenir of your time in this charming town.

Kashan is situated on a route that connects Tehran to the giant destinations of Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd.

Must-visit sites include Tabatabaei House, Soltan Amir Ahmad Bathhouse, Aqa Bozorg Mosque and Bazaar of Kashan.

Iranian tourists show growing interest in Moscow's cultural landmarks, official says

TEHRAN - Iranian nationals visiting Moscow show a strong preference for cultural sites while also engaging in shopping at the Russian capital's markets, according to the deputy chairman of the Moscow City Tourism Committee.

In an interview with IRNA on Monday, Bulat Nurmukhanov highlighted a visa-free group travel agreement between Iran and the Russian Federation, which was implemented on August 1, 2023.

He noted that this agreement has already bolstered bilateral tourism exchanges in its first year and sparked increased interest in reciprocal travel. In addition, Iranian tourists now have access to electronic visas.

Nurmukhanov pointed out that the long-term impact of this agreement will become more evident over time. "We expect the average duration of stay for Iranian tourists in Moscow to increase, along with a rise in business travel to the city," he added.

Too early for statistics

When asked about comparative statistics before and after the implementation of the visa-free group travel agreement, Nurmukhanov responded that while the agreement was finalized years ago,



it was only fully implemented in 2023.

"It is still too early to discuss 2024 statistics," Nurmukhanov said, "as Moscow is currently in the midst of the summer tourism season, which annually attracts a significant number of visitors."

He emphasized that Moscow's tourism industry is steadily developing, surpassing pre-COVID-19 records in some areas, and expressed optimism for continued growth, including an increase in the number of Iranian tourists visiting the city.

Foreign arrivals in Moscow on the rise

Nurmukhanov also revealed that in the first quarter of 2024, approximately 500,000 visitors from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) visited Moscow, a figure nearly 40% higher than the same period in 2023.

He noted that the influx of tourists from the Middle East to Moscow has improved by more than 50% since the COVID-19 pandemic. Moscow is expecting an increase in tourists from Middle Eastern countries, including Iran, this year.

Tourism among BRICS member states

As Russia holds the rotating presidency of BRICS in 2024, Nurmukhanov underlined the signing of the BRICS tourism cooperation roadmap in June 2024 in Moscow. He explained that this document, signed by tourism ministers and officials from BRICS member countries, opens new avenues for mutual tourism development.

The purpose of this roadmap is to enhance cooperation, share experiences, and develop joint projects and activities, Nurmukhanov stated.

He further noted the significant potential for developing mutual tourism among BRICS countries, citing their rich cultural and natural heritage, diverse cuisines, and unique traditions.

The development of tourism between these countries will not only increase the number of tourists and create new jobs but also positively impact ongoing dialogues at all levels of business and cultural exchange, Nurmukhanov concluded.

Archaeological survey sheds new light on historical cave in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Recent archaeological excavations at Espahbod Khorshid, a historical cave in northern Iran, have revealed a significant Sassanian-era weapons workshop, along with evidence of metalworking and a seal bearing inscriptions in the ancient Pahlavi script, to name a few.

The findings were announced following an interdisciplinary study of the materials uncovered during the dig, ISNA reported on Monday.

Mehdi Abedini Araqi, an archaeologist and the director of the Espahbod Khorshid Cave research project, provided details on the discovery.

He said Espahbod Khorshid, which is situated in the mountainous region of Savadkuh, within the ancient Tang-e Doab Gorge, is one of the largest natural arches in Iran and the world.

The cave, historically used as a fortress, is thought to have served as the last refuge during the reign of Espahbod Khorshid before falling

to the forces of the Abbasid Caliph, al-Mansur.

Abedini Araqi added that during the first phase of the excavation on the cave's western terrace, archaeologists uncovered a weapons production workshop. "Among the discoveries was a Sassanian-era furnace used to forge weapons such as arrowheads, daggers, swords, and spears. Evidence of metalworking activities, including molds, casting sand, and metal ingots, was also found, indicating that the cave functioned as a military fortress where defenders manufactured their arms."

In addition to the military findings, the excavation revealed artistic treasures, including a space adorned with intricate carvings depicting a Sassanian horseman, a tiger, and a horse, alongside abstract human figures. A staircase with over 20 steps connecting two levels of the cave was also discovered.

One of the most intriguing finds

was a Pahlavi inscription seal, which was cleaned and is currently being studied by experts. The seal features seven distinct images, including a horse, a Simurgh (a mythical Persian bird), and a rabbit, along with Pahlavi script. The seal was found attached to a jar, suggesting that it was used in trade and may have been intended to mark goods for transportation, the archaeologist explained.

Further insights were provided by Mohammad Keshavarz Divkolaee, a member of the International Association of Mediterranean and Oriental Studies (ISMEO) and the scientific committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in Iran. He detailed the lab studies conducted on the archaeological materials from Espahbod Khorshid Cave, including wooden artifacts, bioarchaeological specimens, and samples of mortar, pottery, and glass.

Keshavarz Divkolaee noted that the chemical analysis of the pottery

and mortar samples revealed a significant similarity in their elemental composition, with the mortar containing more gypsum compared to calcite, a characteristic also noted in the pottery, likely due to firing temperatures.

A good amalgam of natural landscape and human genius has created what modern visitors witness at Espahbod Khorshid Cave.

Some consider this cave as the latest Persian stronghold against the Arab conquerors of Persia. Access to the cave needs climbing gear and also expertise in alpinism.

Measuring 80 by 100 meters, its arched entrance is one of the largest natural arches in the world. On the left side of the cave, a four-story-high castle was built; made of stones and mortar, it is the masterpiece of architecture of its time. On the right side, numerous trenches and defensive buildings were built, all of which remained firm and intact after centuries.

Iranian inventor finds way for complete control of diabetes

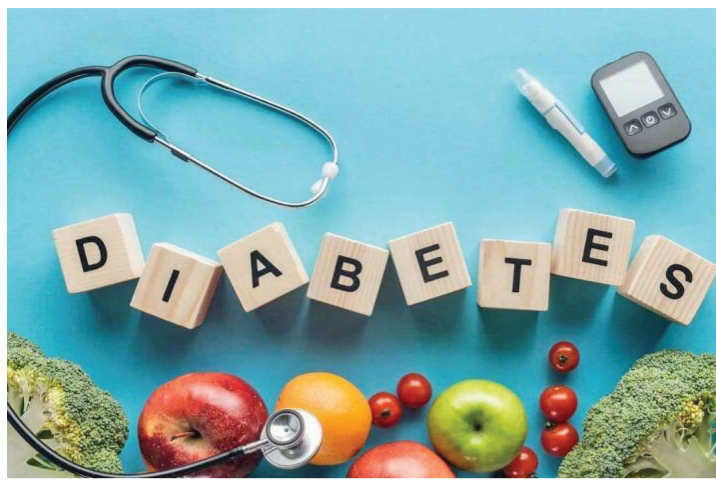
TEHRAN - Through a combined product of exercise, nutrition, and targeted medication, a system invented by Mostafa Hadidian Moghadam fully solves the diabetes problem in a measured, data-driven, and laboratory-proven manner, preventing diabetes progression with 99.9% confidence.

This invention has been validated and registered in the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) based on data-driven laboratory results, enabling complete control of diabetes to the extent that individuals reach the borderline of non-diabetic status.

It fills the missing links of diabetes that have not been measured, solving the problem for hundreds of millions of diabetics with 99.9% confidence.

The invention won a bronze medal at the fourth International Invention and Innovation Competition for International Federation of Inventors' Association (IFIA 2024) INV Members which was held virtually in Geneva, Switzerland, from August 16 to 18.

Diabetes, or blood sugar disease, is caused by the resistance of body cells to insulin. The prescribed medication is used despite the body's resistance to insulin, and this medication prevents the rise of blood sugar to



a large extent, but it does not eliminate insulin resistance.

Therefore, specialist doctors recommend exercise and proper nutrition to patients when they prescribe the medication. However, this advice is not as precise as medication, and each patient follows it to some extent according to their preference, so this advice is not as effective as possible.

The imbalance between the three factors causes diabetes complications, and the more time passes, the more complicated this becomes.

"In this invention, we control type 1 and 2 diabetes and prevent its complications by strictly implementing the exercise and nutrition program along with the medication prescribed by the doctor,"

Hadidian Moghadam said.

"Despite advancements in scientific and medical technology, there are still missing links that make complete problem-solving complicated. This issue is particularly serious and critical for individuals at risk of severe complications from this disease, such as myself.

I was at a stage where, without this invention, I would undoubtedly be suffering from severe diabetes complications today. This invention saved me, completely freeing me from complications, and now I live like a healthy person with peace of mind."

"Essentially, we have a health circuit in our bodies; anyone who aligns with this health circuit will have a regulated body, with balanced blood sugar, reduced fatty

liver, and other adjustments. A diabetic person, as long as they remain within this circuit, will no longer suffer from diabetes. This essentially means curing diabetes," Hadidian Moghadam explained.

Features and benefits

One of the key features of this product is its accessibility for diabetic patients. In other words, it must be available alongside the patient, just like medication. This combined product allows diabetic patients to manage their disease at home, at work, or even while traveling.

After adjusting a diabetic person's body within a maximum of 5 to 6 months, they need to recharge themselves at specific intervals according to the programs to maintain their diabetes control. The results obtained are data-driven and stable, without blood sugar spikes or drops. Complete health is the result of using this combined product, which is, in fact, revolutionary in the world of diabetes.

"Personally, if it weren't for this invention, I would undoubtedly have faced severe complications from diabetes. I was on the brink of these complications when this invention saved me. With this invention, not only is prevention possible, but also reversal, provided timely action is taken."

Iran tops Intl. Olympiad on Astronomy, Astrophysics

TEHRAN -Iranian students achieved a remarkable result with five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) which was held from August 17 to 27 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The five-member team comprised Hananeh Khorramdashti, Mohammad-Mehdi Keshavarzi, Arya Fateh-Kerdari, and Ali Naderi-Lordjan, Mehr news agency reported.

This year, over 250 students from 57 countries participated in the event.

In the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics which was held last year in Chorzow, Poland, the Iranian team took five medals, ranking third.

Amir-Mehdi Esmaeili-Taheri, Mehdi Ostad-Mohammadi, and Arvin Rasoulzadeh were awarded gold medals, while Sarina Farzadnasab and Amir-Hossein Mousavifard won silver medals.

Britain and India won the first and second places, respectively. The United States, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania, Germany, and Canada followed Iran in the ranking.

Iran ranked first in the world in the 115th IOAA 2022 which was held at Kutaisi in Georgia from August 14 to 22.

The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) is one of the twelve International Science Olympiads. Founded by five countries (Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, China, and Poland), its first edition took place in Thailand in 2007.

The competition aims to foster interest in astronomy and astrophysics among young

people from participating countries, as well as to strengthen ties between different nations and promote the exchange of scientific and cultural knowledge and experiences.

Intl. successes

The Iranian team took five medals, ranking third in the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics held on August 10-20 in Chorzow, Poland.

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Britain and India won the first and second places, respectively. The United States, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania, Germany, and Canada followed Iran in the ranking.

The five-member team won five gold medals, ranking first among 57 participating countries.

A team of Iranian students won five gold medals in different fields of research in the 9th edition of the 'Idea 1World' International Innovation, Design & Startup Competition.

The event, which is considered one of the biggest international idea and technology competitions in the world, was held in the city of Istanbul, Turkey, on April 28-29.

Participants from 24 countries includ-

ing Iran, Canada, China, Taiwan, The United States, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates participated in the competition both in person and online to showcase their innovative projects in 10 different sub-groups such as medicine and agriculture, IRNA reported.

From among 273 different innovative ideas, the top five ideas received special awards, with two of the awards going to Iranian participants.

In the Taiwan International Science Fair (TISF) 2024, which was held from January 28 to February 2, the Iranian team ranked fourth among 28 countries.

Mehrad Faridi and Ilya Haji from Iran competed with 41 teams during the five-day event which was hosted by the capital city of Taipei, IRIB reported.

Iran ranked fourth next to Taiwan, the United States, and Russia.

Attending the 40th Annual Science Olympiad Tournament at Michigan State University, Iranian students managed to win a bronze medal and two diplomas of honor.

A total of 114 teams from 84 countries presenting 310 scientific projects participated in the competition, Mehr news agency reported.

The competition is held annually for students aged 12 - 18 from June 1 to 15.

Supported by Oxford University, the competition was held in two stages in the fields of technical engineering, computer science, energy, biological science, social science, art, and robotics.

Iranian students shine at U.S. intl. innovation competition

TEHRAN -Iranian students have succeeded in winning two gold medals, three silver medals, and three bronze medals in an international innovation competition, which was held at Virginia University from August 21 to 24.

A total of eight teams of inventors, encompassing 17 students, took part in the competition virtually, Mehr news agency reported. More than 1,000 contestants from 34 countries participated in the competition.

They grabbed gold medals in electronics and metallurgy, and silver medals in robotics, electronics, as well as biology. Bronze medals were received in environmental protection, mechatronics, and electronics.

Recent achievements

An Iranian team composed of five Chemical Engineering students from Amirkabir University of Technology 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 students. This year 15 teams attended the event.

The regional competition was held from August 9 to 11, IRNA reported.

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.

The robotics team of Iran won a gold medal and three silver medals in the Dubai International Inventions Show (DIS) 2023.

The event provided a business platform for inventors, manufacturers, and dealers to present their latest products and innovations and exchange information.

For this occasion, delegations from different countries came to Dubai to present their patented inventions and new ideas, the competition brings together many participants and inventions in many diverse areas.

At DIS, excellence in innovation is highlighted through the Invention & Innovation Award, it brings recognition to the best inventions, innovations, and trade, adding to its merit is supported by many international delegates.

Over 20 countries including Iran, Canada, Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, and Oman participated in the competition, ISNA reported.

The competition was held both in person and online.

WHO facilitates procurement of 2.79m vaccine vial monitors for Iran

KARAJ - The World Health Organization (WHO) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully facilitating the procurement of 2.79 million Vaccine Vial Monitors (VVMs) for the Islamic Republic of Iran's oral polio vaccine program.

This strategic move that was funded by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute marks a substantial leap forward in strengthening the country's national immunization efforts.

The shipment of VVMs, temperature-sensitive devices crucial for vaccine storage and transportation, arrived through Imam Khomeini International Airport.

This strategic move marks a substantial leap forward in strengthening the country's national immunization efforts.

The consignment was received jointly by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute and the WHO Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran. These VVMs were procured from a reputable international supplier.

Ali Es'haghi, Director General of the Razi Vaccine & Serum Research Institute affiliated with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, indicated that the collaborative achievement was the result of concerted efforts across multiple levels.

He mentioned that the Razi Serum Vaccine Research Institute, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran Food and Drug Administration (IFDA), The Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, the WHO Country Office in the Islamic Republic of Iran, WHO Headquarters, and the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) worked tirelessly for nearly two years to navigate a complex procurement process.



According to him, the initiative began in November 2022 following a request from the Razi Institute.

Hamid Jafari, Polio Director at EMRO, conducted a mission to Iran in August 2022, laying the groundwork for this critical endeavor.

Es'haghi also noted that in December 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Razi Institute and the WHO country office, formalizing the purchase of these essential supplies for use inside the country.

VVMs play a pivotal role in maintaining vaccine potency and effectiveness. Placed on the vaccine vials, these devices ensure that vaccines remain within the optimal temperature range during storage and transportation. By safeguarding the health of children, they contribute significantly to the global effort to eradicate polio.

Syed Jaffar Hussain, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasized the importance of this achievement: "Securing these VVMs is a crucial step in ensuring the safety and efficacy of vaccines. It reflects our shared commitment to improving health outcomes for all in the world and in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

This technology transfer not only represents a remarkable advancement but also underscores WHO's unwavering dedication to supporting Iran's national immunization program.

By prioritizing safe storage and transportation of vaccines, the VVMs will protect children from preventable diseases, contributing to a healthier society. This project embodies the humanitarian principles that guide WHO's mission toward a healthier future for all.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

\$4m to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained. According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخهسواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنوایی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخهسواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخهسواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تأکید قرار گرفته است.



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AUGUST 28, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Whoever delights his/her parents, has delighted Allah and the one who displeases them has displeased Allah.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:05 Evening: 18:55 Dawn: 4:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:34 (tomorrow)

Budapest film festival picks Iranian movies



A scene from "Unparallel World" by Mohammad Yaraghi

TEHRAN- Three Iranian films will go on screen at different sections of Budapest Short Film Festival-BuSho, which will be held in the Hungarian capital.

"Exile" directed by Sajjad Hosseini and "Bonus" by Reza Nejati will compete at the main section of the festival, while "Unparallel World" by Mohammad Yaraghi will be screened at the Panorama section of the event.

"Exile" follows the unsettling story of a two-year-old child who goes missing within a women's prison. His mother accuses the prison authorities of being responsible for his disappearance, while the authorities suspect that the mother has concealed the child in a desperate attempt to

avoid a legal separation.

"Bonus" centers around a pivotal moment during exams when one of the teacher's students receives a failing grade, leading to increased tension between them. Despite the student's pleas, the teacher remains steadfast in his principles and commitment to fairness, refusing to alter the grade.

"Unparallel World" follows Hana, a destitute girl who, after losing her mother, is compelled by her father to work as a street vendor at a traffic light. Despite her dreams for a better life, a tragic turn of events shatters her hopes.

BuSho was founded in 2004 by a group of aspiring Hungarian filmmakers, and the inaugural event took place successfully the following year. Remarkably, the festival quickly established itself on the international stage. Its program includes numerous festival screenings, selections from film academies, conferences, exhibitions, and workshops covering various forms of art. While its primary focus is on nurturing the next generation of emerging filmmakers, the festival warmly welcomes entries from all creators.

The Budapest Short Film Festival will run from September 3 to 8.

Iran's "Alone Together" to compete at Lucas film festival

TEHRAN- Iranian director Omid Mirzaei's short movie "Alone Together" will go on screen at the 47th edition of Lucas International Festival for Young Film Lovers, which will be held in German cities of Frankfurt, Offenbach and Wiesbaden.

The film follows the journey of a young boy traveling alone on a bus. One winter night, he draws the attention of the police, the driver, and

fellow passengers at a roadside checkpoint.

The Lucas International Festival for Young Film Lovers is one of Germany's oldest and most prestigious film events, dedicated to showcasing exceptional and high-quality international productions for children and young audiences.

The festival will run from October 5 to 11.

Cartoon of Day



Battle Against Genocide

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

TEHRAN- The second music event for children with autism, Down syndrome, and visual impairment took place at the Tehran Conservatory of Music on Monday.

The event showcased a diverse selection of international musical pieces, including Chopin's "Prelude in A Minor" and Schubert's "Serenade," alongside prominent Iranian compositions such as "Elahe-ye Naz," "Jan-e Maryam," "Spring's Delight," and "Golden Dreams," IRNA reported.

A total of 25 children, regardless of their disabilities, competed, including eleven children with autism, three with Down syndrome, and four visually impaired participants, the report added.

A notable aspect of this event was the inclusion of children without disabilities, who performed alongside artists with autism, Down syndrome, and visual impairments, highlighting a spirit of inclusivity and collaboration. "This is the second time we have organized a program featuring children with autism, Down syndrome, and visual impairments," Ailin Agahi, the event's secretary and judge, stated.

The aim of this initiative is to challenge misconceptions and demonstrate that children with disabilities, such as autism, are not different from other members

Tehran Conservatory hosts music event for children with disabilities



of society and are equally capable of having active and successful participation in all activities, including music, she added.

It is essential for society to adopt a more nuanced perspective towards terms like autism and Down syndrome, and to shift their way of thinking so that these individuals can

experience increasing success every day, she mentioned.

Behzad Moafi, the head of the Tehran Conservatory of Music, expressed his delight at the presence of these children at the start of the event, stating: "Today at the Tehran Conservatory, we witnessed beautiful performances by participants

with special needs.

With every note they played, a new hope and sparkle could be seen in the eyes of their mothers and families."

Judges Farhad Rezai and Masoud Nemati evaluated the performances in this competition without considering any disabilities.

Persian audiobook of J. B. Priestley's "Dangerous Corner" released

The play ends with time slipping back to the beginning of the evening and the chance remark not being made, the secrets remaining hidden and the "dangerous corner" avoided.

"Dangerous Corner" may be a little more than a box of clever theatrical tricks – Priestley himself thought so – but as an ensemble piece with some depth to the characterization, it has easily survived the decades since its first production, being constantly revived in both professional and amateur productions.

Like many of J.B. Priestley's works, "Danger Corner" plays with the idea of time and circumstance, asking the all-important question: what if?

John Boynton Priestley (1894–1984) was an English novelist, playwright, screenwriter, broadcaster and social commentator.

His Yorkshire background is reflected in much of his fiction, notably in "The Good Companions" (1929), which first brought him to wide public notice. Many of his plays are structured around a time slip, and he went on to develop a new theory of time, with different

dimensions that link past, present and future.

In 1940, he broadcast a series of short propaganda radio talks, which were credited with strengthening civilian morale during the Battle of Britain. In the following years his left-wing beliefs brought him into conflict with the government and influenced the development of the welfare state.

Priestley began placing his papers at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin in 1960, with additions being made throughout his lifetime. The center has continued to add to the collection through gifts and purchases when possible. The collection comprises 23 boxes as of 2016, including original manuscripts for many of his works and an extensive series of correspondence.

The University of Bradford Library holds the J. B. Priestley Archive as part of their Special Collections. The collection includes scripts, journal articles, lectures, press cuttings, correspondence, photographs and objects such as Priestley's iconic pipe. Most of the material in this collection was donated by the Priestley Estate.



TEHRAN- The 1932 British play "Dangerous Corner" written by J. B. Priestley has been turned into an audiobook in Persian and released on digital services and platforms.

The Persian audiobook has been directed by Bahman Vakhshour and produced at Avaye Chirok, a major Iranian institute that produces audiobooks.

Translated by Amir Deylamani, the audiobook features the voices of Bahman Vakhshour, Negin Bayrampur, Hura Emadi, Taranom Mehrmur, Sepideh Goudarzi, Hossein Haghighparast, and Sina Abdolmaleki. The Persian print edition of "Dangerous Corner" has been published by Gusheh Publications in Tehran.

"Dangerous Corner" is Priestley's first solo play and the first of his plays in which he exploits the theory that there are other forms of time than the purely linear one.

Priestley had recently collaborated with Edward Knoblock on "The Good Companions" and now wished "to prove that a man might produce long novels and yet be able to write effectively, using the strictest economy, for the stage." While it was praised highly by James Agate, "Dangerous Corner" received poor reviews and after three days he was told that the play would be taken off, a fate that he averted by buying out the syndicate. It then ran for six months. Priestley's action was further vindicated by the worldwide success of the play.

Robert and Freda Caplan are entertaining guests at their country retreat. A chance remark by one of the guests ignites a series of devastating revelations, revealing a hitherto undiscovered tangle of clandestine relationships and dark secrets, the disclosures of which have tragic consequences.

North Bangkok University to foster educational, cultural ties with Iran

TEHRAN-In a move to strengthen cultural and educational relations between Iran and Thailand, a meeting was held last week at North Bangkok University to inaugurate the Iranian Studies Center and the Persian Language Teaching Center.

The event brought together key figures, including Mehdi Zare Biyeb, the cultural attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Thailand, and North Bangkok University officials, including President Pattama Roopsuwankul and heads of various departments, Mehr reported.

Speaking at the event, Biyeb emphasized the importance of bilateral cooperation between Iran and Thailand in educational and cultural fields. He highlighted the historical ties between the two nations and said: "Our ties trace back to Sheikh Ahmad Qomi, a 17th-century Iranian trader and diplomat who played a crucial role in establishing and fostering relations between Iran and Thailand."

"Sheikh Ahmad's influence in the Thai royal court and his contributions to Thai society exemplify the deep historical connections that continue to shape relations between the two countries today," Biyeb noted.

The Iranian official also pointed out a unique shared trait between Iran and Thailand. "Both nations have maintained their sovereignty without

falling under foreign rule throughout their histories. This shared experience of independence is a strong foundation for further collaboration in cultural, educational, and international arenas".

"The inauguration of the Iranian Studies Center and the Persian Language Teaching Center at North Bangkok University is seen as a milestone in this ongoing partnership," he added. "The teaching of Persian in Thailand will act as a bridge, enabling Thai students to gain a deeper understanding of Iran's rich language, literature, culture, history, and art".

He emphasized that Persian, one of the oldest and most profound languages globally, offers a gateway to exploring the philosophical, mystical, and humanistic concepts embedded in Iranian poetry and literature.

The cultural attaché underscored the importance of direct engagement with Iranian sources and experts to achieve a true understanding of Iran, cautioning against relying solely on Western media for information.

In her remarks, the university president Pattama Roopsuwankul expressed North Bangkok University's eagerness to collaborate with Iran, and noted "Despite cultural and geographical differences, the populations of Thailand and Iran are quite similar in size—a factor that could help strengthen bilateral cooperation".

She stressed the critical role of universities in disseminating accurate and unbiased information, suggesting that academic institutions should serve as active centers for truth and knowledge dissemination.

Roopsuwankul further highlighted the university's readiness to expand cultural cooperation with Iran, particularly through the Persian language program and other joint cultural activities. She proposed the exchange of faculty and students as a crucial first step, which could enhance the quality of education and research in both countries and foster closer cultural understanding.

Additionally, she advocated for the translation and distribution of Iranian scientific, literary, and cultural books in Thailand. "Access to such materials would enable Thai students to gain comprehensive insights into Iranian culture, history, and art". She suggested that the exchange of books could play a vital role in enriching the educational resources at universities and in deepening cultural and scientific relations between the two nations.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on future plans, existing challenges, and potential strategies to elevate cultural and educational collaboration between Iran and Thailand.