



A man waves a Palestinian flag as an Israeli armored vehicle moves on a street during a military operation in the West Bank refugee camp of Nur Shams, Tulkarem, Aug. 29, 2024.

330th Day: Slaughtering Without any Achievement

Israel's West Bank assault aims to paper over military failures on Gaza battlefield

▶ Page 5

Iran calls for global action to stop Israel's 'sinister and racist' agenda in Palestine

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, has strongly criticized Israel for its "sinister and racist" strategies aimed at escalating violence and committing atrocities across Palestine.

In a forceful statement released on Thursday, Kanaani condemned Israel's ongoing military operations in the occupied West Bank, urging the international community to take swift and decisive action to halt the genocide against the Palestinian people.

Kanaani condemned Israel's recent attacks on Palestinian cities and refugee camps in the northern West Bank, where the destruction of urban infrastructure and violent incursions into medical facilities have taken place. He argued that these actions are part of Israel's broader campaign of genocide, a continuation of the violence seen in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian spokesperson stressed that recent violations of Islamic holy sites, particularly in al-Quds and the al-Aqsa Mosque, further reveal Israel's broader intentions. He criticized Israel for implementing provocative and dangerous plans against the entire Palestinian territory, its citizens, and Islamic sanctities. ▶ Page 2

Israel Katz: Foreign minister or "deception minister"

By Parviz Jamshidi

TEHRAN – Israel's foreign minister has called for the ejection of Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank as the occupation forces launched a major offensive on the occupied territory on Wednesday.

"We need to address the [terror] threat exactly as we deal with terror infrastructure in Gaza, including the temporary evacuation of Palestinian civilians and any other step needed," Israel Katz wrote on X shortly after the raid began.

The ulterior motive behind such remarks is to depopulate the West Bank from the Palestinians or turn the occupied territory into another Gaza. The term "temporary" is just intended to deceive the international community.

It is widely believed that extremists in Israel want to make the remaining Palestinian lands a place where its native inhabitants would not be able to live. The statement by Israel Katz is in line with the settler violence against the Palestinians in the West Bank. ▶ Page 5

The Israeli troops either face prison or Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – A growing number of Israeli soldiers are refusing to re-enlist with the Israeli military amid the regime's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Reports have surfaced in Hebrew media this week that at least another 20 soldiers have refused to return to Gaza.

Military service is compulsory in Israel. Those who decide not to join the Israeli occupation forces are aware that they may end up in prison.

Since October 7, there have been very rare cases where soldiers have gone public on Western media explaining the atrocities being committed by the IOF against civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza as the reason for deciding to spend time behind bars instead.

These cases are believed to be rare because the soldiers draw the wrath of Israeli society and its military which is punishing deserters much more harshly now.

According to some of those who have decided against joining the Israeli military's genocide in Gaza, the IOF prison system is filled with soldiers refusing to serve in the coastal strip. ▶ Page 5

Iran on path to level up cooperation with Persian Gulf states: FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says that Iran is keen on entering a new era of diplomacy with the GCC, where both sides can work together to overcome regional challenges and achieve shared goals.

Araqchi made the remarks in a phone conversation with Jassem Mohamed Al-Budaiwi, the Secretary-General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), on Friday.

During the conversation, Al-Budaiwi extended his congratulations to Araqchi on his recent appointment as Iran's foreign minister.

The call, which highlighted the importance of diplomatic relations between the two parties, focused on exploring avenues for enhancing cooperation and strengthening ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the GCC.

During the discussion, Al-Budaiwi underscored the critical role that Iran plays in maintaining peace and stability across the region. ▶ Page 2

Tehran, Ashgabat agree to expand customs cooperation

TEHRAN – Customs officials from Iran and Turkmenistan have agreed to enhance customs cooperation and also the volume of the trade exchanges between the two countries.

In a meeting held between Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvanifar and Chairman of State Customs Service of Turkmenistan Maksat Khudaikulyev in Tehran, the two sides emphasized expanding and broadening cooperation in various fields, Mehr News Agency reported.

In this meeting, IRICA head expressed his satisfaction with the increase in the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries and stated that Iran and Turkmenistan exchanged 1.4 million tons of products, valued at \$450 million in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 20, 2024).

Rezvanifar pointed out that bilateral meetings between the traders and officials of the two countries will play an effective role in increasing the volume of trade between the two sides and called for setting up such meetings.

The chairman of State Customs Service of Turkmenistan, for his part, welcomed the development of trade exchanges between the two countries in the recent years, adding that the trade volume between Iran and Turkmenistan is on the upward trajectory. ▶ Page 4

Iran vows calculated retaliation against Zionist regime

TEHRAN – The chief of staff of Iranian Armed Forces has declared that the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to the actions of the Zionist regime in a measured way.

As reported by ISNA, Major General Mohammad Bagheri made these remarks on Wednesday during a ceremony to honor and introduce the new deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Bagheri congratulated Iran's minister of defense in recognition of Government Week and expressed gratitude to Brigadier General Aziz Nasir Zadeh for his contributions as deputy chief of staff while introducing Brigadier General Ashtiani as his successor.

Bagheri stated, "We find ourselves in a regional crisis following the Al-Aqsa Storm, with the Zionist regime feeling threatened for its very existence and resorting to extreme measures to sustain itself."

"The precarious situation of the Zionist regime has even led to doubts among Americans regarding their support for it; nevertheless, the leaders of the Zionist regime continue their criminal actions, perceiving themselves to be on the verge of collapse," Bagheri added. ▶ Page 2

Fatherly advice

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, used the occasion of the Arbaeen ceremony, which commemorates 40 days after Ashura, to address the new Iranian government led by President Pezeshkian.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the formation of the new government as a "great blessing" and expressed his gratitude to those who, following the tragic assassination of Mr. Raisi and his colleagues, helped maintain the country's stability and organize safe and transparent elections. He extended his thanks to the officials of the previous administration, national media, and other involved institutions.

In his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei detailed how President Pezeshkian had consulted with him regarding the formation of the cabinet. ▶ Page 3



Rahimi wins Iran's first medal in 2024 Paralympics

PARIS – Female taekwondo athlete Zahra Rahimi won Iran's first medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

The 16-year-athlete lost to Mongolia's Ulambayar Surejav 5-2 in the final match of k44-52kg.

Rahimi had defeated China's Shao Qian 13-2, Brazilian Maria Eduarda Machado 6-4 and Georgian Ana Japaridze 6-0 on her way to the final.

Rahimi is the youngest member of Iran Paralympic delegation.

Bronze medal matches went to Japaridze and Turkey's Meryem Betavdar.

Taekwondo at the 2024 Summer Paralympics is being held at the Grand Palais. Iran has sent 65 athletes in 10 sports to the Games.

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

TEHRAN PAPERS

New excuse to apply more pressure

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz pointed out the American claim about the new nuclear agreement with Iran. It wrote: Joel Rubin, an expert on Middle East politics, claims that if Kamala Harris wins, she will reach an agreement with Tehran similar to the JCPOA. It should be said that Kamala Harris has been the Vice President of the U.S. President for four years, and during these years, she has not taken any steps to negotiate and implement the commitments of the United States, and she has always considered herself a friend and supporter of the Zionist regime. This fact should also be kept in mind that the trick of the Americans has always been that by claiming to write a new agreement instead of revitalizing the previous one, they implement new dimensions of demands and limitations against the other party. If a new agreement is to be made, its focus should be only on the lifting of sanctions, and the verification of this lifting by Iran, as well as the commitment of the West not to repeat the sanctions, and Iran should not bear any new obligations. The game of writing the new JCPOA is the hegemonic game of the United States, in which not getting caught requires relying on inner values and ignoring the empty imaginations of the Western side's commitment.

Iran: Iran is on the way to becoming the gas hub of the region

In a note, the Iran newspaper discussed the trip of the national leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Bardimuhamedow, to Iran and said: The evidence and statements of Pezeshkian and the national leader of Turkmenistan show that the relations between the two neighbors are expanding rapidly, and the most important of them is the gas agreement with Turkmenistan. Pezeshkian called this agreement "a strategic measure to turn Iran into a gas hub of the region". The noteworthy point of the leader of Turkmenistan is that despite the regional and international pressures, he has never agreed to let this country become a base for the rivals of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, this trip can be interpreted as a turning point in the relations between the two neighbors. Iran has a special view of its neighbors especially during the period of sanctions. Neighbors, including Turkmenistan, depend on their neighbors to overcome geopolitical limitations. This interdependency is the way to overcome the challenges that extra-regional actors

impose on the region. At the same time, this interdependency will provide the basis for the expansion of neighborly relations, which, in addition to political proximity, have undeniable historical and cultural commonalities.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: Iran's response to Haniyeh's assassination will be purposeful

In a commentary, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with Iran's retaliation. It wrote: After weeks of regional anxiety about a wider war, Hezbollah's limited attack on Israel shows that Iran, like its ally, intends to curb the risk of escalation. However, Iran's response stays ambiguous and Tehran could still choose an action that regional observers do not forecast. But Hezbollah's choice to respond to Israel and implement a limited attack is an option that some experts in the region believe may reflect Iran's plans. Some U.S. officials said Iran was likely to delay any response as long as negotiations to mediate a Gaza ceasefire continued. Some regional experts also pointed to intense diplomatic efforts over the prospect of negotiations to lift sanctions. According to Maha Yahya, the director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, Iran is very pragmatic and of course, thinks about how to get points from this work.

Ham Mihan: Shadow of the snapback mechanism

In an article, Ham Mihan addressed the challenge facing the 14th government to manage and reduce tension with Europe and said: Whenever the tension between Tehran and Washington has reached its peak, Europe has not only not shown any desire to develop relations but also has joined to the White House to continue its hostility against Tehran. The new round of tension between Iran and Europe, which has been established since 2022, is a turning point in the history of these relations. Today, the 14th government is at a point in its relations with the three European countries that are members of the JCPOA, where the lack of agreement between Tehran and the European troika means that one or all three of these countries will use the snapback mechanism against the Islamic Republic of Iran before the end of the resolution. As a result, all the sanctions of the Security Council will be returned. Now, the diplomatic system is preparing to start the process of positive interaction with Europe when the United States is ready to hold presidential elections in November, although it will face many challenges along the way.

Iran vows calculated retaliation against Zionist regime

From page 1 ► He further asserted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will respond to the crimes of the Zionist regime in a calculated manner," adding, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has revitalized resistance against the occupiers within the Islamic Ummah. Undoubtedly, U.S. influence is not what it was five years ago, as they are now in a state of decline and struggling to regain their former power."

Bagheri highlighted the critical nature of Iran's responsibilities towards the Axis of Resistance, stating that we cannot afford to be complacent, even for a moment.

"Consequently, we are committed to enhancing our readiness for swift responses to potential threats, bolstering our infrastructure, advancing scientific and technological development, and elevating the quality of our defense products," he added.

The chief of staff of Iranian Armed Forces further stated that we are currently experiencing



optimal synergy and unity within the general staff.

Bagheri emphasized, "Regardless of uniform distinctions, all commanders and personnel are united in their efforts to progress our initiatives with a comprehensive organizational and national outlook."

Earlier, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, pledged a "harsh response" to the Israeli regime for this audacious act of violence on Iranian territory.

IRGC facility suffers fatal incident

TEHRAN- The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) reported the loss of two of its personnel due to a gas leak that occurred on Wednesday night at one of its facilities in Isfahan province.

In the statement released early Thursday, the public relations office of the IRGC in Isfahan reported a gas leak occurring in one of the province's workshops which resulted in the martyrdom of two individuals and injuries to ten others.

Captain Mojtaba Nazari and Lieutenant Colonel Mokhtar Morshedi were identified as the two members who lost their lives in this tragic event.

The funerals and memorial services for security martyrs Nazari and Morshedi are scheduled for Friday, August 30, and Saturday, August 31 respectively.

Martyr Nazari will be laid to rest in Qahdarijan, while Martyr Morshedi will be interred in Fereydunshahr.

Iran calls for global action to stop Israel's 'sinister and racist' agenda in Palestine

From page 1 ► Kanaani described these acts as clear evidence of Israel's agenda to expand its violent and criminal activities against Palestinians.

Kanaani called on global institutions, especially the United Nations Security Council, to break their silence and address Israel's blatant violations of international law.

He insisted that the world community has a legal and moral obligation to act urgently to stop the atrocities committed by the "child-killing" Israeli regime.

In addition, Kanaani praised the resilience and courage of the Palestinian people and resistance groups in facing Israel's military aggression in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

His statement comes in the wake of Israel's largest military operation in the West Bank in over two decades. On Wednesday, the Israeli army launched "Camps of Summer,"



a major offensive that involved hundreds of troops and airstrikes targeting key resistance centers in Jenin, Tulkarem, and Tubas. The operation resulted in the deaths of at least 17 Palestinians on its first day, with many others injured.

The international response to Israel's actions has included expressions of concern from high-ranking officials, including United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. On Wednesday, Guterres

voiced his deep concern over Israel's full-scale military assault in the West Bank and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Moreover, Guterres criticized "dangerous and provocative acts and statements" by Israeli far-right minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Earlier in the week, Ben-Gvir openly confirmed plans to construct a synagogue within the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East al-Quds, sparking widespread condemnation

from numerous countries and international organizations.

This marked the first time an Israeli minister had publicly advocated for such a move, intensifying fears that the sacred Muslim site, a symbol of Palestinian national identity, is under threat from the Israeli occupation.

According to the latest statistics of the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, the number of the Palestinians martyred in Israeli attacks on Gaza Strip has increased to 40,602.

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.

Israel has imposed a complete siege on the densely populated territory, cutting off fuel, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there.

FM says Iran on path to level up cooperation with Persian Gulf states



From page 1 ► He emphasized that the GCC, representing six member states, views Iran as a key regional player and is eager to engage in dialogue and collaboration on the significant challenges facing the West Asia.

Al-Budaiwi's remarks reflected a growing interest within the GCC to build a constructive and cooperative relationship with Iran, particularly in addressing pressing security and economic concerns.

In response, Araqchi expressed his sincere appreciation for Al-Budaiwi's warm congratulations and reiterated Iran's commitment to fostering amicable and brotherly relations with the GCC and its member countries.

He conveyed Iran's desire to elevate its interactions with the GCC to a new level, advocating for a relationship characterized by mutual understanding and collaborative efforts.

President Masoud Pezeshkian has committed

to making stronger relationships with neighboring countries a key focus of his administration.

In a July 12 article, Pezeshkian stated, "My administration will place a strong emphasis on enhancing our ties with neighboring nations."

He further emphasized, "We will advocate for the creation of a 'strong region' where cooperation prevails, rather than allowing any one country to dominate or seek hegemony."

On Thursday, Pezeshkian reiterated that the Islamic Republic is dedicated to a policy rooted in promoting peace, friendship, reducing tensions, and engaging positively with countries around the world.

Tehran demands lifting of U.S. sanctions against Syria

TEHRAN- Iran's permanent representative and ambassador to the United Nations in New York has emphasized Iran's demand for the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Syria, asserting that these unilateral actions serve as a means of collective punishment for the Syrian populace.

Amir Saied Irvani made these remarks during a UN Security

Council meeting focused on the situation in Syria on Wednesday.

He characterized the U.S. sanctions as "inhumane," arguing that they obstruct Syria's recovery efforts in the aftermath of the prolonged conflict in the country.

The complete text of the Iranian envoy's speech is as follows:

"As we commence our first address of the month, we extend

our congratulations to Sierra Leone for its presidency of the UN Security Council and commend its effective leadership thus far.

We express our gratitude to Mr. Pederson, the special envoy, and Ms. Msuya, the acting undersecretary general for Humanitarian Affairs, for their valuable briefings.

The humanitarian crisis in Syria remains critical, with the Syrian

population enduring significant economic difficulties.

The politicization of humanitarian assistance and the obstruction of international aid for Syria's reconstruction, primarily instigated by the U.S. and its Western allies, have exacerbated the conflict and deepened the suffering of the Syrian people. (See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iranian Air Defense ensures national security: commander

TEHRAN- The head of the Joint Air Defense of Khatam al-Anbiya construction headquarters released a statement commemorating the anniversary of Air Defense Day.

As reported by Iranian Army's public relations, Major General Ghadir Rahimzadeh's message is as follows: "In the name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate

August 30, designated as Air Defense Day, serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices, commitment, and valor of the courageous individuals who defended our nation's skies and successfully neutralized hundreds of enemy

aircraft during the 1980s Imposed War.

Their efforts were instrumental in maintaining the continuity of our country's economic activities and supporting the triumph of Iranian fighters in the struggle against falsehood during the Sacred Defense period.

Currently, the dedicated personnel of air defense are advancing their capabilities through innovative production and the integration of cutting-edge defense systems that align with contemporary technologies.

With vigilance and alertness, they continuously monitor aerial activities in the region, remaining

ever-prepared to safeguard the airspace of our cherished nation.

I pay tribute to the noble spirits of the martyrs and recognize the contributions of our esteemed air defense veterans. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on Air Defense Day to all my dedicated colleagues, including commanders and the committed personnel engaged in the defense of our nation's dignity and honor.

I also pray for the continued success of all Iranian fighters and the devoted defenders of our heroic nation of Iran, with the blessings of Almighty God."

MKO terrorists gain support from Western advocates: spox

TEHRAN- The spokesperson of Iran's foreign ministry stated that the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), a widely recognized terrorist group, has received backing from certain Western nations that profess to uphold human rights.

In a message posted on his X account on Thursday, Nasser Kanaani highlighted that the anniversary of the martyrdom of Iranian President Mohammad Ali Rajaei and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar, both victims of the MKO, coincides with Iran's National Day of Fight against Terrorism. He emphasized that these events serve as poignant reminders of the painful and indelible truths etched in the collective

memory of the Iranian people.

Kanaani noted, "The MKO, initially part of a foreign agenda aimed at seizing power in Iran, resorted to assassinations of civilians and officials after their ambitions failed. Subsequently, their terrorist leaders fled to France, where, with the assistance of certain Western governments that advocate for human rights, they continued their violent campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its citizens."

The Mujahedin Khalq Organization, commonly referred to as the People's Mujahedin of Iran (PMOI), is an Iranian opposition entity established

in 1965 to topple the Iranian political system and operate under a Marxist framework.

The MKO has a well-documented history of conducting violent and terrorist activities aimed at the Iranian government and its officials during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s.

Moreover, it has been accused of carrying out terrorist acts against civilians in Iran. The organization was designated as a terrorist group by the United States until 2012 and remains classified as a terrorist organization by the European Union. (See full text at tehrantimes.com)

AI enhances Eastern border security: commander

TEHRAN- The commander of Iranian Army Ground Forces has indicated that the entire strategy for securing the eastern borders relies entirely on artificial intelligence.

Brigadier General Kiomars Haidari emphasized that the engineering units of Iranian Army Ground Forces are responsible for implementing this initiative, with expectations that the border closure will be finalized

ahead of schedule.

In an interview reported by Tasnim News, Kiomars Haidari elaborated that merely erecting a wall is insufficient for effective border security; therefore, advanced technologies and artificial intelligence are being employed.

Haidari also noted that the engineering units are specifically

tasked with this project, and it is projected that the closure of the eastern borders will be achieved sooner than planned.

Earlier, the Iranian army's public relations department announced that Iran is in the process of constructing a 930-kilometer wall along its eastern borders with Afghanistan, aimed at bolstering security for both nations and curbing

smuggling activities.

Iran's plan involves constructing this border wall that is 4 meters high and 3.7 long, with a thickness of one meter.

Military theorists have indicated that this border may be susceptible to a range of threats, including potential border skirmishes between Iran and the Taliban in the future.

Fatherly advice

From Page 1 ▶ "I approved some of the candidates I knew or whose suitability had been verified through reliable sources. I emphasized certain names, but in many cases where I lacked knowledge, I simply stated that I had no opinion. The President succeeded in convincing Parliament, securing approval for all ministers. Today, all ministers are high-ranking officials of the country, and it is everyone's duty to support and assist them in achieving success," he emphasized.

The Leader urged the new government to cherish the opportunity to serve the people and work for the country's progress, calling it a "great divine blessing." "Appreciate the trust that God and the people have placed in you, and remember that four years of service pass quickly; however, great things can be achieved in that time. Just as Amir Kabir accomplished significant work in three years, or as the dear Raisi laid good foundations in roughly three years that, God willing, will bear fruit for the country," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei underscored the importance of recognizing and leveraging the country's resources and capabilities as key to effective governance. "There are many examples in the past of leaders who failed to recognize or believe in the internal talents and capacities, thereby causing harm to the country," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei also highlighted Iran's valuable natural assets, including its strategic geographic location and extensive coastlines, as well as its "religious and political faith" and millions of educated young people, whom he described as "incomparable riches." "If we recognize and harness their ideas and energy, many problems will be resolved," he concluded.

Additionally, he emphasized Iran's political and strategic strengths, noting that "the positive and negative experiences of the past 45 years are valuable lessons that must be considered." He also stressed the importance of employing experts in government management. "I firmly believe in the use of experts; this approach not only advances the country and satisfies the people but also makes the government wiser and more reflective, distancing it from the influence of closed circles and biased recommendations. We must be cautious to ensure that erroneous prejudices do not impose themselves under the guise of expertise," he warned.

Citing Imam Ali (PBUH), Ayatollah Khamenei also warned of the importance of carefully selecting those from whom advice is sought. "We must not turn to individuals



who are greedy, fearful, or covetous when seeking expert opinions, as their personal characteristics can negatively influence their judgments and create problems," he emphasized.

In his recommendations, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the importance of prioritizing limited resources against the backdrop of numerous pending tasks. "Some priorities are urgent, such as addressing inflation and rising prices, which must be resolved appropriately. Others are related to structural issues that, if neglected today, will require attention in 10 years," he noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei identified nuclear energy as a crucial priority for Iran's future, dismissing any doubts about its benefits. "The country cannot deprive itself of such a vital scientific and technical advancement, only to attempt to address it years later," he asserted.

He also addressed the issue of cyberspace, emphasizing that it is no longer merely a virtual domain but a growing reality in people's lives, necessitating proper governance. "If cyberspace in the country is regulated, it will become an opportunity; without adequate governance, it will turn into a threat," he warned, responding to the confusion and misinterpretation of his stance on this matter.

Furthermore, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the significance of artificial intelligence, noting its rapid global development. "Our military and civilian systems are already utilizing this technology, but merely using it is not enough; it is essential to master its deeper and more varied layers," he emphasized.

These statements by the Leader, in his role as Vali-e Faqih, extend beyond mere recommendations, reflecting his fundamental political role in implementing Islamic values within society. According to the doctrine of "Velayat-e Faqih," the authority of the jurist is absolute (mutlaqah), encompassing all aspects of Islamic governance and the general welfare of the people.

In this context, the function of the Leader is inherently political, and his broad authority must be exercised within the boundaries of Islamic law, always with a firm commitment to justice and ethics.

In the context of the theory of the Leader's authority in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the term "faqih" refers to a mujtahid, which is an expert in Islamic jurisprudence who meets specific qualifications necessary to exercise both religious and political authority. To be recognized as such, the jurist must possess three fundamental characteristics:

1. Deep Knowledge of Islamic Jurisprudence: The faqih must have an extensive and detailed understanding of Islamic laws and principles, demonstrating an advanced ability to interpret and apply religious norms appropriately and effectively.

2. Moral and Ethical Integrity: It is essential for the jurist to be a person of high moral character and ethics, reflecting an impeccable reputation both personally and professionally. This integrity ensures that the jurist's decisions and actions are aligned with Islamic principles, guaranteeing justice and fairness.

3. Ability to Apply Laws and Govern: Beyond knowledge and morality, the faqih must have the practical skills to apply Islamic laws in governance and political decision-making. This includes competencies in administration, leadership, and a profound understanding of social and political realities, both nationally and internationally.

These characteristics ensure that the jurist is not only competent in interpreting the law but also capable of leading and making decisions that reflect Islamic principles in governmental practice.

In addition to these qualifications, a qualified jurist must have a clear vision of political and social issues, as well as skills in management and strategy. Effective governance requires not only a strong theoretical foundation but also intuition and

administrative ability. It cannot be assumed that any just jurist automatically has the capacity to lead a community; they must also possess the skills and ability to effectively guide the Islamic ummah.

The significance of these qualifications is reflected in Article 109 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which outlines the necessary characteristics for leadership as follows:

- The scientific competence required to issue fatwas across various branches of Islamic jurisprudence.

- The justice and piety necessary to lead the Islamic community.

- The correct political and social vision, along with management skills, courage, and sufficient leadership capacity. Among candidates who meet these requirements, preference is given to those with a deeper understanding of Islamic jurisprudence and a more solid political vision.

According to the theory of "Velayat-e Mutlaqah-e Faqih" (the absolute authority of the jurist) proposed by Imam Khomeini, the religious leader's authority is structured hierarchically. In this theory, ultimate and comprehensive sovereignty belongs exclusively to God Almighty, who delegates this sovereignty to the divine prophets and, subsequently, to their successors. This theoretical framework establishes that the Leader's authority is not only broad in its scope but is also intrinsically linked to Islamic justice and morality, governing under divine principles with a commitment to guiding the community toward the general welfare.

During the period of the last Imam's absence, political and religious authority is vested in competent jurists, who act as representatives of the Imam. Following the Prophet's death, sovereignty passed to the Imams and the Prophet's successors. In the absence of the last Imam, qualified Muslim jurists assume the role of leadership and political management within the Islamic political system.

Imam Khomeini explains that although no specific individual is appointed to the role of governance during this absence, governance remains an imperative necessity for the Islamic community. He argues that it is inconceivable for God to have neglected this issue, and thus, based on rational discernment and textual indications, it is concluded that the continuity of Islamic government and authority is essential even in the Imam's absence.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran Paralympic team parades in Paris

TEHRAN – Iran Paralympic team paraded in the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Paralympic Games Wednesday night.

Thousands of athletes paraded down the famed Champs-Élysées Avenue to Place de la Concorde in central Paris.

About 50,000 people watched the ceremony in stands built around the iconic square, which is the biggest in Paris and is visible from afar because of its ancient Egyptian Obelisk.

Accessibility for athletes in wheelchairs was facilitated with strips of asphalt laid along the avenue and placed over the square.

More than 4000 athletes with physical, visual and intellectual impairments will compete in 22 sports from Aug. 29 until Sept. 8.

Iran has participated in the Games with 65 athletes in 10 sports. French President Emmanuel Macron and International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parsons, attended the Ceremony.

Donyamali wants to revolutionize Iran's sports

TEHRAN – Iran's new Minister of Sport and Youth, Ahmad Donyamali, has vowed to revolutionize the country's sports scene and achieve historic results at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Speaking at a national wrestling event, Donyamali praised Iran's wrestling and continued: "We have four more years until the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and we must shine there."

The minister emphasized the importance of utilizing technology and establishing Iran as a global leader in sports strategy.

"I'm not used to routine work. We have many young managers like Alireza Dabir, president of Iran wrestling federation, in the country.

I want my country to be among the best in the world of sport. So I promise here, with continuous planning, we will use all our abilities at the Los Angeles Olympics," he added.

Donyamali highlighted the recent successes of Iranian wrestlers and taekwondo athletes but stressed the need for broader medal-winning achievements.

"We must examine this issue and ensure other sports also reach the podium," he said.

Donyamali was appointed as Iran's sports minister following the election of Masoud Pezeshkian as president.

He secured 253 votes out of 288. The minister concluded by expressing optimism for the future of Iranian sports.

"I hope we will create good days for Iranian sports and that positive things will happen for our youth, leading to great achievements for our athletes," Donyamali concluded.

Esteghlal lose to Esteghlal Khuzestan: PGPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team suffered a 1-0 loss against Esteghlal Khuzestan in Matchweek 3 of Iran's Persian Gulf Professional League (PGPL) on Thursday.

In the match held in Ahvaz's Foolad Arena, Thievy Bifouma scored from a set-piece in the 80th minute.

Elsewhere, Tractor defeated Havadar 4-0 and provisionally moved top of the table, Mes beat Aluminum 3-1 in Rafsanjan and Kheybar and Zob Ahan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

On Friday, Persepolis will meet Foolad in Qazvin, Sepah host Shams Azar, Nassaji meet Gol Gohar and Malavan face Chadormalu.

Iran goalball start 2024 Paralympics in style

PARIS – Iran's men's goalball team defeated hosts France 12-8 in Pool A of the 2024 Paralympic Games on Friday.

Team Melli are scheduled to meet Brazil and the U.S. in the following days.

Pool B consists of Egypt, Ukraine, Japan and China. The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games take place from Aug. 28 Sept. 8 and more than 4,000 athletes from around the world have participated in 549 medal events.

Sitting volleyball team too strong for Ukraine: 2024 Paralympics

PARIS – Iran's men's sitting volleyball team defeated Ukraine in straight sets (25-13, 25-12, 25-18) in Pool B of the 2024 Paralympic Games on Friday.

Pool A consists of France, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Egypt.

Team Melli will play Brazil and Germany on Sunday and Tuesday, respectively.

Iran have won a record seven titles, including the last two, with Bosnia and Herzegovina winning twice. Preliminary round matches will be held from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3, followed by classification matches and the semi-finals. The bronze medal and gold medal matches are scheduled for 6-7 Sept.

Iran's mission in Paris is to capture their eighth Paralympic gold medal, adding to their impressive haul of seven gold and two silver medals from past Games.

Malmo FF sporting director denies links with Ghoddos

TEHRAN – Saman Ghoddos is out of contract after leaving the Premier League and Brentford earlier in the summer.

The player has been rumored to be on his way to Malmo FF, something the club's sporting director now denies.

During the past year, Ghoddos has been rumored to be able to return to Malmo for games in Malmo FF after a longer period abroad.

The last few weeks have been full of rumors while Sebastian Nanasi's transfer to Strasbourg became official.

Now Malmo FF's sporting director Daniel Andersson speaks about Ghoddos and says that there doesn't seem to be a deal this summer.

"We are always in contact with Saman, but it doesn't feel like he wants to play for Malmo FF, not now, at least not now.

I know it's an issue where many people want us to take him home, but if you don't want to, you don't want to. It doesn't feel like Saman Ghoddos wants to play in Malmo FF right now," said the sports director to Fotbollskanalen.

Iran futsal beaten by Kazakhstan in friendly

TEHRAN – Iran national futsal team lost to Kazakhstan 4-1 in a friendly match on Friday.

Hossein Tayebi scored Iran's solitary goal in the match. The match was held as part of preparation for the 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The 2024 FIFA Futsal World Cup competitions will start on September 14, while Iran, led by Vahid Shamsai, are in Group F along with France, Venezuela, and Guatemala.

Team Melli will start the campaign on September 16 against Venezuela.

Global action needed to end nuclear tests and weapons, Iran suggests



TEHRAN – On the occasion of the International Day Against Nuclear Tests, Iran's Permanent

Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, Ali Bahreini, has issued a strong call for the complete cessation of nuclear testing and the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.

Writing on his official X account, Bahreini declared, "Nuclear testing is a threat to our planet and future generations." He further urged global action, stating, "On #InternationalDayAgainstNuclearTests, let's pledge to protect our world by advocating for a complete end to nuclear tests and total elimination of nuclear weapons."

Eight countries – the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea – have officially declared possession of nuclear weapons.

Despite consistent international appeals for nuclear disarmament and the potential threat of nuclear war, these nations have continued to develop their nuclear arsenals in recent years.

The Israeli regime is also believed to possess nukes, with some of its officials suggesting nuclear attacks against Gaza multiple times in the past months.

Iran Air Defense Force self-sufficient: commander

TEHRAN – The commander of Iran's Army Air Defense Force, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard, has declared the force's complete self-sufficiency in air defense capabilities, highlighting the nation's commitment to defending its skies amidst perceived regional threats.

Speaking before the Friday prayers, General Sabahi Fard emphasized the crucial role of the Air Defense Force in countering "global arrogance," specifically citing the "nefarious Zionist regime." He attributed the recent increase in hostilities towards

Iran to its position as the Axis of Resistance in the region, working to oppose "encroachment on true independence and freedom" and the nation's Revolution.

"In the Air Defense Force, considering the aerospace threats from global arrogance, we have upgraded our air defense capabilities and are not oblivious to other threats," the commander stated. "We are also closely monitoring the nefarious Zionist regime."

General Sabahi Fard also highlighted the unwavering

commitment of the Air Defense Force personnel, calling them "guardians of God's boundaries." He expressed pride in serving in a military supported by both the Leader and the people, stating, "Our duty is to sacrifice for the nation."

The commander emphasized the Air Defense Force's remarkable achievement of self-sufficiency, boasting that they have "achieved self-sufficiency through tireless work in the design and production of control systems, radars, both radiating and non-radiating sensors, drones, electronic warfare equipment, and cyber

capabilities." He confidently asserted, "We have been able to design and produce all our requirements and can detect and track any enemy stealth aircraft from miles away."

General Sabahi Fard concluded by reiterating the force's independence, stating, "The Air Defense Force is not dependent on any country for its needs, including missile systems, radar, and intelligence systems, and has achieved self-sufficiency in the design and production of advanced hybrid engagement systems."

Tehran, Ashgabat agree to expand customs cooperation

From page 1 ► Maksat Khudaikulyev called for the exchange of experiences and development of educational-training cooperation between the customs of the two countries an offer that was welcomed by the head of Iran's customs chief.

The borders of the two countries have great potentials and Turkmenistan Customs Office is ready to provide customs services at Sarakhs border crossing around the clock, he stressed.

During the meeting, the two sides decided to hold expert-level meetings between the two countries within the next month.

Last month, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held a seminar on the trade opportunities of Iran and Turkmenistan as the Islamic

Republic is going to hold specialized agrifood exhibition in Turkmenistan.

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

Speaking at the seminar, Bazari considered Iran's Agrofood exhibition as a major event in Turkmenistan and said: "Turkmenistan is a potential and important market for Iranian products and services. The country has a special position in the International North-South Corridor, whose capacities can be used to develop exports."

Tehran hosting intl. construction industry exhibition

TEHRAN - The 24th International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (Iran CINFAIR 2024) was inaugurated at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Thursday, IRNA reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior officials including Head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives Bahman Abdollahi.

As reported, some 800 Iranian companies along with 50 foreign companies from China, Germany, Italy, Turkey, South Korea, and Singapore are showcasing their latest products and services in this four-day exhibition.

The exhibit covers 23 commodity groups in the field of construction industry and the main focus of this exhibition is on showcasing more innovative products manufactured by knowledge-based companies.

Construction tools, equipment and machinery, roof and wall coverings and prefabricated parts, cooling and heating facilities and systems, work safety equipment and supplies, kitchen, door and windows, interior decoration and architecture, paint, resin, building stones, sanitary valves, industrialization and new tech-

nologies, tiles, ceramics, parquet and floor coverings, electrical and electronic equipment, and supplies, pipes and fittings are among the items being presented in this year's exhibition.

Iran Chamber of Cooperatives has organized the event in collaboration with the International Exhibitions Company.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Head of the Chamber of Cooperatives Abdollahi stated that not only the domestically manufactured construction products enjoy high quality for exports, but also these products' prices are affordable and offered with fair and reasonable prices.

The construction industry has experienced an upward trend in recent years, he said, adding that Iran is a leading country in the field of producing quality construction materials and the Islamic Republic currently exports its construction materials to many countries.

The official emphasized that the export of technical and engineering services should be facilitated in the country.

The exhibition will run through until September 1, 2024.

Export from Mazandaran province rises 18% in 4 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of non-oil export from Mazandaran province, in the north of Iran, rose 18 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Amir Jamshidi, an official with the province's Customs Department, said that 661,200 tons of non-oil goods worth \$113.478 million were exported from the province in the four-month period of this year, with a 43-percent growth in weight, year on year.

He said that the non-oil products were exported from the province to 39 countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

According to Rezanifar, the value of the Is-

lamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The country's top five sources of imports in the previous year were the UAE with \$20.782 billion, China with \$18.545 billion, Turkey with \$7.541 billion, Germany with \$2.155 billion, and India with \$1.917 billion worth of imports. (See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Vietnam's National Day celebrated in Tehran

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The Vietnamese Embassy in Tehran celebrated the 79th Anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in a ceremony at the place of the embassy on Thursday evening.

The ceremony was attended by several senior officials and diplomats from Iran and Vietnam as well as other countries.

Mohammad Hassan Sheikhol Eslami, Iran's deputy minister of foreign affairs and president of the Institute for Pollical and International studies, was among the Iranian officials present in the event, who also delivered a speech.

The ceremony was officially started by the speech of Vietnamese Ambassador Luong Quoc Huy. The following is the text of his speech.

"79 years ago, on September 2nd 1945, President Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence, announcing to the world the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, today known as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Firmly following the path chosen by the Vietnamese Communist Party and President Ho Chi Minh, Hero of National Liberation, World's Great Man of Culture, for the past 79 years, the Party, State and People of Vietnam have incessantly fought to defend the independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, the right to self-determination and the right to pursue freedom and happiness of the people with the motto "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom".

After 38 years of Doi Moi, open-door policy and integration, overcoming various difficulties and challenges, Vietnam has gained many significant, historic achievements in all fields. The scale and potential of the economy have rapidly increased. From a poor and underdeveloped country, Vietnam has become a middle-income, developing country with GDP per capita reaching over 4300 USD and is



Vietnamese Ambassador Luong Quoc Huy speaks in Vietnam's National Day celebration in Tehran on August 29.

one of the biggest exporters of rice, coffee, tea, seafood, footwear, furniture and electronics in the world.

In the context of complicated developments, unstable global economy, conflicts at some hot spots on the verge of escalating, Vietnam continues to maintain stability and development. In the first 6 months of 2024, Vietnam's GDP recorded a growth rate of 6.43%. Macroeconomy remains stable, inflation is under control, major balances are ensured. Import turnover continues to rise 17.1%, with the trade surplus reaching 14,07 billion USD in the 7 months of this year. FDI to Vietnam in the first 7 months of 2024 reached over 18 billion USD, registering a 10.9% increase over the same period. The number of international visitors to Vietnam reached over 8 million, showing a 58.4% rise. Many international organizations express their optimism about Vietnam's economic growth. ADB has forecasted Vietnam's growth rate of 6% and 6.2%, in 2024 and 2025 respectively; while HSBC has raised its forecast for Vietnam's GDP growth in 2024 to 6.5%, the highest in the Southeast Asia region and also predicted that Vietnam will exceed its forecasts and objectives set forth by the Government.

Having these impressive achievements are partly thanks to the valuable support, assistance as

well as the effective cooperation from international friends, including the Islamic Republic of Iran over the years

Vietnam and Iran have always maintained a good traditional friendship, honored and nurtured by the two countries' leaders. Vietnam does not forget the affection and precious support from Iran. The two countries celebrated 50 years of diplomatic establishment last year with a lot of meaningful activities.

Over the years, Vietnam-Iran have regularly supported each other at international organizations, fora on reciprocal basis. Economically, the two countries have great potentials for development; the economies of the two sides are complementary to each other.

Therefore, I believe that the Vietnam-Iran relations will certainly score new developments, on par with each side's strengths and potentials, serving the interests of the two countries, thus contributing to peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to congratulate the Iranian 14th Cabinet on their successful formation. I look forward to closer cooperation between our two Governments and Ministries of Foreign Affairs to further promote bilateral ties."

'Iranian, Vietnamese leaders always determined on expansion of ties'

Iranian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammad Hassan Sheikhol Eslami was the next speaker in the ceremony, how emphasized that the leaders of the two countries have always highlighted their determination on expansion of relations.

The following is some parts of his speech.

"Now, over 50 years has passed since Iran and Vietnam established diplomatic relations. During past half a century, all bilateral ties have proceeded based on factors such as respect, friendship, expansion of relations in political, economic and cultural areas, as well as mutual cooperation at international arenas.

Reviewing history indicates that although Iran and Vietnam commenced diplomatic relations since 1973, and the two countries opened embassies in 1990 and in 1998 in Hanoi and Tehran, respectively, establishment of relation between the two nations dates back to several centuries ago that is the 15th century, when the first Iranian merchants traveled to Vietnam.

The two countries have adopted a similar approach towards many issues related to regional and global peace, providing support for each other in the regional and international organizations.

During the past 50 years, the leaders of the two countries have always highlighted their determination on expansion of relations, the realization of which has been showing through the visits made by five leaders, namely visit paid by two Iranian presidents and one speaker of parliament to Vietnam and the visit made to Iran by former speaker of parliament and president of Vietnam only during the past ten years.

I hope that Iran-Vietnam relations will be improved to the higher levels of cooperation and solidarity in the coming year."

PMO offering attractive investment opportunities to private sector: official



TEHRAN - Director General of Economic Affairs at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has said the organization is offering attractive investment opportunities to the country's private sector to develop the maritime economy.

Referring to the PMO's new approach to attracting private sector investment, Hossein Yadollahi said: "There are special and extraordinary opportunities in the port and maritime sector for the private sector, which should be used in order to realize the development of the maritime-based economy."

"Until now, we were trying to build port infrastructures (not strategic infrastructures) by using the resources of the Ports and Maritime Organization, but in the new approach, even the infrastructures inside the ports are going to be created using the private sector capabilities in the form of BOT contracts," the official explained.

This way, it is possible to offer investments in various projects including the transfer of oil products through pipelines in specialized

corridors, the construction of access roads infrastructures etc. Yadollahi said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

of the Caspian Sea," he added.

Back in November 2023, Safaei said his organization was going to attract 1.0 quadrillion rials (about \$2 billion) of investment in the country's ports to develop maritime economy.

Speaking in a televised interview, the official said 470 trillion rials (about \$924 million) of the mentioned figure was going to be invested by the private sector and the rest would be supplied by PMO.

"In order to realize the general development policies of the maritime sector, we need an integrated, coordinated, and agile management at the highest level," Safaei said.

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

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

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

NIOC's new head appointed

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad has appointed Hamid Bovard as the Deputy Oil Minister and Head of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Paknejad also appointed the main and alternate members of the Board of Directors of the Na-

tional Iranian Oil Company by issuing separate decrees, IRNA reported.

Before this position, Bovard had served as the heads of Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), Oil Exploration Operations Company (EOC) and National Iranian South

Oil Company (NISOC).

Bovard replaced Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr who was in the position since September 2021.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is a government-owned national oil and natural gas producer and distributor under the di-

rection of the Iranian Oil Ministry.

NIOC was established in 1951 and restructured under The Consortium Agreement of 1954.

NIOC ranks as the world's second largest oil company, after Saudi Arabia's state-owned Aramco.

WORLD HEADLINES

330th day: Slaughtering without any achievement

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israel's largest assault on the occupied West Bank since the second Intifada along with the genocidal war in Gaza have thrown a spotlight on the regime's ulterior motives and conspiracies against the Palestinian territories.

The Israeli military launched raids across the northern West Bank late Tuesday.

Jenin, which is seen by Israel as the beating heart of Palestinian resistance, has been the focus of the Israeli assault. At least 20 Palestinians, including children, have been killed in Jenin, Nablus, Tubas and Tulkarem since the offensive began and many more have been wounded.

Israel claims it is targeting fighters. But Palestinian people say Israeli troops deliberately attack refugee camps while also destroying roads and infrastructure. They see the Israeli raids as a widening of the war in Gaza and an effort to perpetuate the regime's decades-long military rule over the territory.

"The Israelis are creating an environment that pushes people out destroying infrastructure almost completely, and cutting electricity and water - they want to leave people with nothing so that they would ultimately have no option but to leave on their own," activist Hussein al-Sheikh Ali told Al Jazeera in Tulkarem.

Reminiscent of Nakba

The raids in the West Bank have focused on refugee camps that date back to the 1948 war surrounding the establishment of the Israeli regime.

David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948.

Israel Katz: Foreign minister or "deception minister"

From page 1 ▶ Ofer Cassif, a member of the Israeli Knesset, says the assault on the occupied West Bank has nothing to do with Israel's security and that "fascists like Netanyahu ... Smotrich and others are not interested in the security of anyone including the Israelis." Talking to Al Jazeera, he said, "They are interested in the subjugation of the decisive plan, which boils down to annexing the Palestinian, the occupied Palestinian territories, deporting the Palestinians from their homeland and killing them."

Allowing so much violence against Palestinians by settlers and creating so many limitations for them has no justification otherwise an evil plan is underway.

The vicious plan to make Palestinians leave their homes and farmlands in the West Bank is in tandem with colossal damage in the Gaza Strip. If there had been no plan to make Gazans



Palestinians refer to the tragic event, which falls on May 15 each year, as the Nakba, Arabic for catastrophe.

More than 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in a war between Israel and Arab armies that erupted a day later.

Israel did not allow Palestinians to come back to their homes after the war.

Currently, three million Palestinians in the West Bank live under Israeli occupation and it now seems that the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is attempting to create another Nakba.

On Wednesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz called for the "temporary evacuation" of Palestinians from the West Bank under the pretext of fighting Palestinian resistance fighters.

This conspiracy is redolent of the schemes that the Israeli army designed in the Gaza Strip after launching war on the territory on October 7 last year.

Around 90% of Gaza's population has been displaced, often multiple times, and Israeli airstrikes and ground offensives have caused vast destruction.

Israel has been accused of plot-

ting to evacuate Gaza's 2.3 million population to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

And now Katz wants to pave the way for the occupied West Bank to follow a similar fate to Gaza in terms of enormous destruction and displacement.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have foiled Israel's plot to forcibly transfer them by putting up stiff resistance against the regime's army on the battlefield.

Palestinians in the West Bank are now following suit. Resistance fighters, particularly in Jenin, have fought against Israeli soldiers and dealt heavy blows to them.

In fact, Israel's acts of aggression have taught Palestinians in the West Bank a good lesson.

Palestinian uprising

Israel's atrocious crimes against Palestinians resulted in the first Intifada or uprising in 1987.

Hamas was established after the outbreak of the uprising.

Concerns over the growing power of Palestinian resistance pushed the United States to resolve the decades-long conflict between Israelis and Palestinians through negotiations.

Palestinian and Israeli negotia-

tors signed the US-mediated Oslo Accords in 1993, but no progress was made toward achieving Palestinian statehood and ending the regime's aggression and occupation.

Frustration and anger rose among Palestinians against the backdrop of Israel's refusal to abide by the Oslo Accords.

It was one of the main reasons that sparked the Second Intifada in 2000. Israel killed thousands of Palestinians during the two uprisings.

Many more Palestinians have also been killed at the hands of Israelis in the West Bank over the past two decades, including 650 people who have lost their lives since the start of the Gaza war nearly 11 months ago.

Israel is killing more Palestinians in the West Bank as the death toll from its brutal onslaught on Gaza has topped 40,600.

The Israeli army has failed to achieve its goals in Gaza which mainly include the elimination of Hamas. Hence, it continues to kill defenseless civilians to divert attention away from its failures and create the impression that it has made gains as the war marks its 330th day.

Israeli military officials and war minister Yoav Gallant have explicitly admitted that the Netanyahu regime will be unable to defeat Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas has turned the Gaza battlefield into the graveyard for Israeli soldiers who are falling victim to the regime's elusive war.

A similar scenario will be unfolding in the West Bank if Israel presses ahead with its military operations. Israeli forces will be digging their own graves if they continue the offensive and will experience hell on earth.

leave the coastal enclave there was no need for so much devastation and crimes there.

The extremists in Israel are using the October 7 attack by Hamas on southern Israel as a pretext to advance their project to depopulate Palestine from its native people.

Israel has already made the Gaza Strip inhabitable for its residents. Dropping tens of thousands of bombs on the small enclave and causing so much rubble that the UN says would take 15 years to clear are primarily intended to make the strip unlivable.

Now that the 360 square kilometer enclave has become almost unlivable those Israelis who want the entire Palestine have turned against the occupied West Bank. The Zionist hardliners have been formulating a complete annexation of the West Bank in their minds since 1967.

Had they not wished to appropriate the entire West Bank, they would not have been regularly ordering the construction of more settlements on the remaining Palestinian lands through these long years. Building homes on the Palestinians' lands has been going on unstopably in different administrations. However, it has been expedited under the current coalition government which includes ministers such as Amichai Eliyahu who has called for nuking Gaza to Smotrich who has said

stopping humanitarian aid to Gaza is "justified and moral" even if it causes 2.3 million people to die of hunger.

Yet, implementing the vicious plan of annexing the entire Palestine is just an illusion. The more pressure on any nation, including Palestinians, will make them more resilient, determined, and even uncontrollable.

The Israeli troops either face prison or Gaza

Growing number of soldiers refusing to enlist

From page 1 ▶ According to IOF soldiers, many of them are reservists but also troops with elite units. The Israeli punishment of prison time, which is meant as a deterrent, is failing as some have served multiple prison sentences since October 7.

Nevertheless, it appears to be an unpopular move among the Israeli settler society, which has always been very right-wing and very militaristic, in particular among the younger generation.

This week, Hebrew media reported that at least 20 more soldiers have refused to serve in the ongoing war in Gaza, which has been aided and abetted by the United States.

According to the Israeli public broadcaster, Kan, the IOF will put dozens of soldiers on trial over their refusal to return to the Gaza Strip.

According to reports, the families of some soldiers have been cited by the broadcaster as saying, "There are only a few soldiers left in their company who are capable of fighting. This is our time as parents to help them confront a system that does not care about them."

There is a growing perception among the IOF that it cannot achieve "total victory" against Hamas as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged in October last year and has repeatedly vowed to do so since.

This position has been echoed by former and present Israeli generals as well as military officials in the United States. The

former head of the Israeli spy agency Mossad, Danny Yatom, told the Hebrew Maariv newspaper earlier this year that "we are unable to achieve the goals of the war in the north [Lebanon] and the south [Gaza]."

For the younger Israeli generation and its militaristic mindset, experts say the problem lies in the regime's education system and the way that this generation has been brought up to look at Palestinians as unequal human beings.

The IOF does not publish the number of soldiers that do not re-enlist. Analysts believe it is a high figure. Those who speak publicly about refusing to return to the genocidal war in Gaza face a prison sentence of at least 40 days.

Very few have gone public in fear of the punishment but those who have publicly stated about refusing to re-enlist say that they have been summoned by the IOF on more than one occasion since October last year to spend another 40-day prison sentence.

The IOF's indiscriminate bombardment and many other crimes in Gaza have faced global condemnation, outrage by UN agencies and opened a trial of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

According to human rights organizations, Tel Aviv is not complying with the preliminary order of the ICJ to prevent the act of genocide.

After 330 days, the total number of Palestinians killed since the Israeli onslaught started on October 7 is creeping toward 41,000, and those injured stand at almost 94,000.

While some injured victims are transported to partially functioning hospitals and medical centers, others remain trapped beneath the rubble, with defense and rescue crews unable to reach them, according to the Gaza health ministry.

UN slams Israel's call to displace Palestinians from West Bank

The UN human rights office on Friday condemned an Israeli minister's call to displace people from the West Bank, saying these statements only serve to escalate an already "very dire situation."

"On these statements that have been made by some officials that may amount to incitement to commit human rights violations, we roundly condemn these statements," spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told a UN briefing in Geneva in response to Anadolu's question.

On Wednesday, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz called for applying Gaza-style measures in the northern West Bank, including temporary evacuations of Palestinians, amid a major military operation in the area, the largest in two decades.

"These can only serve to escalate an already very dire situation," Shamdasani said.

She said that the office is "extremely concerned" about the "catastrophic" situation.

Recalling the "long-standing impunity" in the West Bank for violations that have been committed against Palestinians, she stressed that there has been settler violence, violence by Israeli security forces, hundreds of arbitrary detentions of Palestinians, however "very little accountability."

Captives' families slam Netanyahu for Philadelphia Corridor decision

A group representing the families of Israeli captives in Gaza has denounced the recent Israeli security cabinet decision to leave troops in the Philadelphia Corridor, a strip of land running along Gaza's southern border with Egypt, according to Israeli broadcaster Channel 12.

"After almost a year of neglect, Netanyahu does not miss an opportunity to make sure that there will be no deal" for the release of their loved ones, the group said in a statement.

"There is not a day when Netanyahu does not act in a real way to endanger the return of all the abductees home."

The presence of Israeli troops in this area has become a major sticking point in ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire in Gaza.

The Israeli cabinet has voted overwhelmingly to approve the presence of troops there.

Turkish FM: Netanyahu playing with fire

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan says, "Israel is not only committing genocide in Gaza, but it is now extending this war to the West Bank, Lebanon, and potentially other nations it deems as enemies which we cannot know or predict."

Fidan said at a joint press conference with his Slovenian counterpart in Ljubljana that Israel has been carrying out occupation, oppression, cruelty, and massacre in the region and called on the international community to stop Israeli crimes being committed in the Palestinian territories, according to Al Jazeera.

"The Netanyahu government continues to play with fire. It is endangering the future of the entire region to maintain its position. Everyone who remains silent on the Gaza issue, especially those who support Israel unconditionally, is under a burden. Israel's barbarity must finally come to an end," he said.

The minister also called on the international community to use all available diplomatic pressure mechanisms to stop the war.

Borrell asks EU to consider sanctions on two Israeli ministers

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Thursday he has asked EU members to consider imposing sanctions on two Israeli ministers for "hate messages" against Palestinians.

The messages, he said, broke international law, Al Jazeera reported.

While he did not name either of the ministers, Borrell has publicly criticized Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich for statements he has described as "sinister" and "an incitement to war crimes" in recent weeks.

Borrell said EU foreign ministers held an initial discussion about this proposal at a meeting in Brussels on Thursday but did not reach unanimity - which would be required to impose sanctions.

UN's Albanese: World is failing Palestinians

The UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory has equated the world's failure to protect Palestinians from Israeli atrocities to earlier failures in protecting victims during the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia.

In a post on social media, Francesca Albanese said violence against Palestinians was "predictably" escalating in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem (al-Quds).

Albanese described as "deeply alarming" Israel's foreign minister saying that the occupied West Bank should be treated the same as Gaza - where more than 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in 11 months of war waged by Israeli forces.

"Are we blind to history repeating?" Albanese asked.

She added, "Human rights are being buried altogether, one by one."

Yemenis rally in support of Palestine

Yemenis have taken to the streets of the capital Sana'a and other cities to express solidarity with the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amid ongoing Israeli ground and airstrikes there.

On Friday, a large crowd gathered in al-Sabeen Square, a place for significant events and celebrations in Sana'a, for a protest dubbed the "million-man march."

The participants waved Yemeni and Palestinian flags, and chanted slogans in support of Palestinians as they reaffirmed their support for Gazans who are subjected to Israel's US-backed genocidal war, Press TV reported.

They also expressed backing for the Yemeni Armed Forces' pro-Palestinian maritime operations against Israeli-affiliated merchant vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Similar demonstrations were held in other provinces, including 'Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Mahwit, Ma'rib, Raymah and Ta'izz.

Yemenis have declared their open support for Palestine's struggle against the Israeli occupation since the regime launched a devastating war on Gaza on October 7 after the territory's Palestinian resistance movements carried out a surprise retaliatory attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity.

Rasht mayor attends BRICS forum, highlights tourism appeals



TEHRAN – The mayor of Rasht, Rahim Shoghi, presented the northern Iranian city's tourism and cultural potentials at the 6th BRICS Urbanization Forum held in Moscow.

Addressing mayors and officials from BRICS countries, Shoghi highlighted Rasht's unique offerings, especially its globally recognized local cuisine, branding the city as the "food heaven" of Iran.

Shoghi emphasized Rasht's dedication to promoting its natural and organic foods, which have received acclaim from international experts like French Iranologist Christian Bromberger.

Known for its over 250 types of local dishes and more than 2,000 restaurants and cafes, Rasht is also a UNESCO Creative City with a focus on gastronomy, the mayor said.

"The city has established a permanent secretariat for creative cities in Iran and plans to develop a food museum, a breakfast park, and a campaign to promote local cuisine."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shoghi discussed Rasht's commitment to sustainable develop-

ment through its culinary culture, noting that the city's efforts in this area have led to increased employment and tourism.

He also extended an invitation for direct cooperation and tourism exchanges with BRICS countries and expressed readiness to enhance trade relations through the Anzali Free Trade Zone and the Rasht-Astrakhan flight route.

"Rasht is a popular destination for tourists, especially from Arab and Central Asian countries, and aims to boost its profile on the international stage through its rich cultural heritage and culinary attractions."

The two-day forum, which concluded on August 28, focused on development, network cooperation, and the climate agenda among Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African countries.

According to organizers, the 6th BRICS International Municipal Forum was one of the largest platforms for discussing municipal cooperation issues and exchanging experience in the run-up to the BRICS Summit.

Rasht, recognized as a Creative City of Gastronomy by UNESCO, stands as a vibrant amalgamation of flavors and traditions. Among Rasht's renowned dishes, Reshteh-Khosshkar holds a place of honor. Passed down through generations, this traditional treat is a Ramadan mainstay. Comprising rice flour, wheat flour, sugar, almonds, walnuts, cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, and a symphony of spices, it embodies the essence of Rashti cuisine.

Kerman province to host camper rally, harvest festivals



TEHRAN – Kerman province is set to celebrate its rich agricultural heritage and promote tourism with two upcoming harvest festivals and a rally of camping enthusiasts.

The events will be held in Bam county, which is renowned for its historical significance and UNESCO-listed sites.

Masoud Qamari, head of Bam's cultural heritage and tourism office, announced that Bam will soon host three tourism events: a date harvest festival, a pistachio festival, and a camper rally.

The annual date harvest festival will take place from September 13 to 19. As in previous years, the festival marks the end of the date harvest season and will feature a range of cultural and artistic events, celebrating one of the region's most important agricultural products.

This year, Bam will also host its pistachio festival on September 6 in the village of Abareq, Qamari stated, adding the event aims to highlight the region's pistachio-growing areas and promote better utilization of this

valuable local resource.

The rally, named "Khesht to Khesht", will see a gathering of around 300 nature and cultural heritage enthusiasts as well, the official said.

The event, organized by the Kerman's touring and automobile club, will begin in Bam on September 13, and involve a caravan of 100 camper vehicles. "Participants will enjoy two nights of public displays and tours of the historical Bam Citadel and Arg-e Jadid before continuing their journey to other sites in Kerman province, including Rayen, Mahan, and Rafsanjan."

Bam, located 185 kilometers east of Kerman city, is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites: the historic Bam Citadel and the Akbarabad and Qasemabad qanats.

The ancient citadel of Arg-e Bam has a history dating to around 2,000 years ago, to the Parthian Empire (248 BC–224 CE), but most buildings were built during the Safavid dynasty.

Kerman is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites, including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais and ruins of ancient urban areas.

It is bounded by the provinces of Fars in the west, Yazd in the north, South Khorasan in the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan in the east, and Hormozgan in the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis

Jesuit Missions of the Guaranis is a serial transnational property that consists of the ruins of São Miguel Arcanjo in Brazil, and those of San Ignacio Mini, Santa Ana, Nuestra Señora de Loreto, and Santa María la Mayor in Argentina.

According to UNESCO, these are the impressive remains of Jesuit Mission settlements established in the 17th and 18th centuries on lands originally occupied by Guaraní indigenous communities.

In Brazil, the ruins of the São Miguel Arcanjo church constitute the most intact and complete structure among this period's des-

ignated heritage properties. In Argentina, the four Jesuit-Guarani Missions, located in the southern Misiones province, provide an exceptional example of systematic and organized territorial occupation.

The properties' surviving ruins depict the experience of the Society of Jesus in South America, where there emerged a singular system of spatial, economic, social, and cultural relations in 30 settlements – referred to as reducciones – that included ranches, mate plantations, and networks of trails and waterways extending across the Uruguay River and its tributaries.

Moisture threatens rock-hewn tomb of Artaxerxes III in Persepolis

TEHRAN – The rock-carved tomb of Artaxerxes III, located within the UNESCO World Heritage site of Persepolis, is facing a serious threat due to water damage, according to cultural heritage activist Siavash Arya.

Arya has reported that extensive moisture and dampness have infiltrated the tomb of the Achaemenid king, which is carved into the Kuh-e Rahmat mountain, ISNA reported on Friday.

Sharing photographs of the damaged tomb, Arya explained that the treasured structure has been compromised by the "accumulation of moisture", particularly following recent spring rains.

"Severe dampness has penetrated the tomb, damaging its stone carvings and causing new challenges for its preservation," Arya said, noting that this is not the first instance of such issues.

A similar problem was reported in 2020, and, despite promises of restoration from the site's management at the time, the issue appears unresolved.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Arya stressed the necessity of continuous monitoring and maintenance of the World Heritage site, suggesting that targeted archaeological studies and restoration programs be resumed to avoid further deterioration. He argued that such a significant site is not the place for "trial and error," and must be managed with skill and vigilance.

According to Arya, one of the primary challenges in preserving stone monuments like the Tomb of Artaxerxes III is the damage caused by acid rain and other natural factors, which significantly impact these historical structures.

He emphasized that protecting these stone relics has become an increasingly costly endeavor



in Iran, and despite budget constraints, urgent action is needed to prevent further degradation of such irreplaceable cultural assets.

Severe dampness has penetrated the tomb, damaging its stone carvings and causing new challenges for its preservation.

Highlighting the importance of using modern technology for preservation efforts, Arya urged the adoption of more effective, science-based methods to safeguard these monuments. "In today's world, failing to maintain and protect historical monuments is both astonishing and unacceptable."

He added: "We must employ advanced technologies to ensure these invaluable historical sites are preserved for future generations."

Arya concluded by empha-

sizing the critical importance of timely intervention, stating that proper climate control and removal of harmful growth, such as lichen, could still save the tomb from further damage. He called for a renewed focus on preservation and a more proactive approach to managing this invaluable heritage site.

Artaxerxes III, also known as Ochus, ruled the Achaemenid Empire from 359/58 to 338 BC, and his tomb is an integral part of the historical legacy of Persepolis, reflecting the grandeur of the ancient Persian civilization.

There are six finished Achaemenid royal tombs. Four of them have been discovered at the nearby Naqsh-e Rostam and two at Persepolis. The four at Naqsh-e Rostam belong to Darius I the Great, Xerxes, Artaxerxes I, and Darius II. The Persepolis tombs, which appear to be younger, must belong to the next two kings, Artaxerxes II (r.404–358) and Artaxerxes III (r.358–338).

Persepolis, whose magnificent ruins rest 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 ranks among the archaeological sites which

have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne and reception rooms, and dependencies have made that 13-ha ensemble one of the world's greatest archaeological sites.

Construction of its immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall"). The terrace is a grandiose architectural creation, with its double flight of access stairs, walls covered by sculpted friezes at various levels, monumental gateways, gigantic sculpted winged bulls, and remains of large halls.

By carefully engineering lighter roofs and using wooden lintels, the Achaemenid architects were able to use a minimal number of astonishingly slender columns to support open-area roofs. Columns were topped with elaborate capitals; typical was the double-bull capital where, resting on double volutes, the forequarters of two kneeling bulls, placed back-to-back, extended their coupled necks and their twin heads directly under the intersections of the beams of the ceiling.

Narratives say that Persepolis was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians, because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

Tourism minister visits Sistan-Baluchestan province, praises its cultural significance

TEHRAN – Reza Salehi Amiri, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, visited Sistan-Baluchestan province on Thursday, emphasizing its vital role in the cultural and historical identity of Iran.

During his visit, Salehi Amiri toured several cultural heritage sites, including the UNESCO-designated Burnt City (Shahr-e Sukhteh), an ancient archaeological site of significant historical value.

Addressing a gathering of local residents and artisans, he described Sistan-Baluchestan as "the shining jewel of Iran's culture and civilization," stating that "Iran's identity is incomplete without Sistan-Baluchestan."

Speaking to the audience at the Burnt City Museum, the minister highlighted the province's archaeological and cultural richness, stating that it is known as "the paradise of archaeologists."

He further added, "When we speak of Iran, we cannot ignore the identity of Sistan-Baluchestan. This province has warm-hearted and honorable people who are a great asset to our political system. We must all strive to eradicate poverty from this province."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the tourism minister expressed his commitment to prioritizing the development of the province. "I will undoubtedly make more visits to Sistan-Bal-



uchestan during my tenure," he said, emphasizing that addressing the province's needs is a key priority for the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, as well as for the government.

The tour was Salehi Amiri's inaugural domestic visit after he took the helm as tourism minister on August 31, underscoring the government's efforts to recognize and promote the unique cultural and historical assets of Sistan-Baluchestan to boost tourism and bring economic development to the region.

Also known as Shahr-e Sukhteh, or Shahr-i Sokhta, Burnt City is associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire.

According to the UN cultural body, changes in water courses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds, and many significant arti-

facts unearthed there and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

Burnt City, which was once situated at the junction of Bronze Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau, was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, and creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

Last year, Iranian archaeologist Seyyed-Mansour Seyyed-Sajjadi announced that the earliest period of human settlement in Burnt City might have occurred in about 3500 BC, more than 300 years before what was previously thought.

"In recent research and tests, based on the evidence and findings, we found out that the burnt city, contrary to what we thought, does not belong to 3200 BC," Seyyed-Sajjadi said.

"The site is at least 300 years older than what we thought, which means that this city was founded at least 3500 BC."

'Everything we found shattered our expectations': Archaeologists discover 1st astronomical observatory from ancient Egypt

Archaeologists have identified the first ancient Egyptian astronomical observatory on record, which they say is the "first and largest" of its kind, according to a translated statement from the country's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

An Egyptian archaeological team discovered the remains of the sixth-century-BC structure three years ago during excavations at an archaeological site in the ancient city of Buto, now called Tell Al-Faraeen, in Egypt's

Kafr El-Sheikh governorate.

"Everything we found shattered our expectations," Hossam Ghonim, director general of Kafr El-Sheikh Antiquities and head of the Egyptian archaeological mission, told Live Science.

The team uncovered the ruins of an L-shaped mud-brick building spanning over 9,150 square feet (850 square meters). Its east-facing entrance, marked by a traditional gateway known as a pylon, leads to a

spot where sunlight would have illuminated where the sky observer — known as 'smn pe' and who was usually a priest — stood to track the sun and stars, Ghonim said.

The structure still has a carving of smn pe facing the rising sun. This figure symbolizes the ancient Egyptians' connection to the cosmos, Ghonim said.

(Source: Live Science)

IRCS, UNICEF hold workshop on mental health, psychosocial support

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has organized a workshop for the IRCS' psychosocial support team to enhance their capacity on 'Ensuring Quality in Psychosocial and Mental Health Care and Support' (EQUIP) during emergencies.

The workshop was held from August 18 to 20 in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province; a total of thirty-five national master trainers of the IRCS' psychosocial support team, SAHAR, participated in the workshop, UNICEF website announced in a press release on August 28.

The IRCS' SAHAR teams consist of volunteers trained to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) following disasters.

EQUIP assists SAHAR's master trainers with planning and conducting training and supervision for the volunteers of the SAHAR teams.

The enhanced skills and capacities will result in more children, adolescents, and their families receiving effective and safe mental health services during emergencies.

The next step involves supporting the IRCS in the field implementation of EQUIP. Towards this, UNICEF will organize advanced-level training for SAHAR's master trainers, involving EQUIP facilitators from UNICEF's Headquarters.



UNICEF will also explore expanding this framework to other MHPSS service providers, such as the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, the State Welfare Organization, NGOs, and other relevant community workers.

This activity is part of a series of UNICEF-supported capacity-building initiatives with IRCS' SAHAR teams to provide quality MHPSS to children, adolescents, and their families during emergencies.

Recent cooperation

Under a newly launched initiative, titled Green DADRAS, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Climate Change Secretariat aimed to promote students' climate literacy.

A total of 11,536 high school students, girls and boys aged 12 to 15 years, from across Iran will benefit from the educational program, the UNICEF website

announced in a press release on August 22.

By raising awareness and promoting proactive measures, the IRCS and UNICEF aimed to create a positive environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

The newly launched Green DADRAS Initiative, guided by the Climate Change Secretariat of the IRCS, equipped 46 master trainers from the Youth Organization of the IRCS to lead educational sessions on climate change for these school students.

These dedicated trainers will train 824 provincial trainers across the country to finally empower over 11,000 high school students within DADRAS teams, focusing on critical topics such as drought and floods.

The initiative will enable these students to design and implement impactful climate change-related campaigns within their schools and communi-

ties. Having received education on the importance of climate change, these young minds will then be equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions and take proactive measures to protect their environment.

Considering the significant impact of climate change in Iran, this initiative is considered a crucial step towards securing a better future for the next generation.

In November 2023, the IRCS in cooperation with UNICEF organized eight educational workshops for students and their family members residing in the city of Khoy which was struck by a strong earthquake in January.

On January 28, 2023, an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale hit Khoy in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province. The disaster affected at least 261,000 people and displaced 130,000 from their homes.

A total of 1,700 male and female students and 120 of their family members attended these workshops.

These educational workshops were held with the aim of empowering children and their families in team building, team support, anger management, emotion regulation, empathy, happiness, self-care, and environmental care.

Iran unveiling study opportunities to attract Indonesian students

TEHRAN – Within the framework of the "Study in Iran" program, 12 Iranian universities, participating in the Indonesian Higher Education Partnership Conference (HEPCON), are showcasing opportunities for Indonesian students to study in Iran.

The event is being held from August 28 to September 3 in Bali.

Referring to the meeting held with the officials of the University of North Sumatra, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Mohsen Sarraf, Scientific and Research Counsellor of Iran in Southeast Asia, said the fact that the universities of the two countries aim to foster civilization and solve social problems provide a common ground for the two countries' cooperation, IRNA reported.

"Cooperation in higher education is crucial for Islamic countries to enhance their educational level and global presence in scientific competitions."

Boosting strategic scientific-educational cooperation with Indonesia, the largest Muslim country, diversifying the country's international students, and showcasing Iran's educational attractions to recruit students from the East Asia region, as well as establishing links with higher education institutions in the region are among the goals of attending the conference, he added.

Iranian universities are also scheduled to attend the Indonesia Educational Fair, partic-

ipate in the meetings of the higher education network of the East Asian region, and sign scientific-educational agreements.

Bringing together over 100 universities and representatives from over 100 Indonesian universities, converge with representatives from more than 20 countries to explore opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and mutual growth in higher education.

The main goal of the HEPCON is to cultivate global partnerships, streamline student exchange programs, enhance the quality of higher education, foster global partnerships, and share scholarship opportunities through B2B setups.

It also aims to facilitate collaboration and international partnerships between higher education institutions across the globe.

Iranian universities advance in intl. rankings

The status of Iranian universities has increased in the latest versions of the Times Higher Education (THE) and the QS World University Rankings, according to the head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC).

World university rankings demonstrate the strengths and weaknesses of universities, as well as their scientific positions relative to one another.

However, they can contribute to boosting science diplomacy and attracting interna-

tional faculty members and students. It can also shape policies that develop international competitions and lead to the globalization of universities.

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes.

Sharif University of Technology (with a rank of 342), University of Tehran (368), Amirkabir University of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) ranked first to fifth, respectively.

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951-1000) were other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) 2024 included 73 Iranian universities among the top universities in the world in 10 out of 11 subject areas with 2 universities namely the Institute of Higher Education of Scholars and the University of Sanat Naft, (listed as Reporter).

Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 301 – 350 ranked first in the country. Amirkabir University of Technology was ranked second, while Science and Technology University as well as the University of Tehran were placed third. All the universities moved up.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols to protect teachers, staff, and students against the coronavirus pandemic.

The opening bell of the new academic year was rung symbolically by President Hassan Rouhani at a girls' high school in downtown Tehran.

Mohsen Haji Mirzaei, Education Minister, symbolically attended the virtual festival. More than 15 million students started the new school year in 116,000 schools across the country, Haji Mirzaei stated.

This year, education is followed in three forms of in-person, virtual, and television-based, but our priority is school attendance, he noted, highlighting, all schools should strictly follow the health regulations so that the students are protected.

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را با رعایت پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی آغاز کردند.

زنگ آغاز سال تحصیلی به صورت ارتباط تصویری در مراسمی به دستور رئیس جمهور در دبیرستانی در تهران نواخته شد.

محسن حاجی میرزایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: بیش از ۱۵ میلیون دانش آموز سال تحصیلی جدید را در ۱۱۶ هزار مدرسه آغاز کردند.

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است.

او افزود: همه مدارس باید شیوه نامه های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.

Iranian students to attend WorldSkills competition

TEHRAN – A total of five Iranian Students will participate in the 47th WorldSkills Competition which is scheduled to be held from September 10 to 15 in Lyon, France.

All young people who compete at WorldSkills Lyon 2024 are already the best in their countries and regions.

Some 1,400 competitors from more than 70 countries and regions around the world will gather in Lyon to compete in different skills.

The WorldSkills Competition, the world's largest skills Competition, is held every two years. It is a true opportunity for young professionals from all over the world to participate in an international competition, measure, and showcase their skills.

The competitors must not be older than 22 in the year of the Competition. There are 62 skill competitions, including 59 Official skills and 3 Exhibition skills.

The Iranian team comprises individuals from Qom, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, and North Khorasan provinces. Two out of five students are 15 and 16 years old. The students will compete in Cloud Computing, Mobile Application Development, Network Systems Administration, Web Technologies, and IT Software Solutions for Business, Mehr news agency reported.

In 2024, six skill competitions will debut at a centralized WorldSkills Competition including Additive Manufacturing, Digital Construction, Industrial Design Technology, Optoelectronic Technology, Renewable Energy, and Robot Systems Integration.

WorldSkills was born in Spain in the immediate post-war years in 1950 under the impetus of Francisco Albert Vidal.

The WorldSkills Competition rapidly devel-

oped into an international movement from 1958 onwards.

With the ambition to bring together countries from all over the world to develop the skills of young professionals as a vector for economic growth, the WorldSkills movement offers a unique opportunity to develop vocational training standards, encourage innovation, and promote trades and skills throughout the world.

Recent achievements

Iranian students 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.

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.

UNHCR provides support for Iran's refugee-inclusive health policies

TEHRAN – The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has donated a consignment of essential medical equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MoHME) to enhance the quality of healthcare services for both refugees and communities that generously host them.

It bolsters Iran's healthcare capacity in managing critical health challenges including communicable diseases that are a public health concern and affect people, regardless of their nationality or documentation situation, the UNHCR website announced in a press release on August 28.

The consignment is part of a USD 30 million multi-year initiative to support refugee-inclusive health policies in Iran.

Inna Gladkova, Deputy Representative of UNHCR in Iran, lauded Iran's commitment to inclusive health services: "For over four decades, Iran has ensured that millions of vulnerable individuals, including about 3.8 million displaced Afghans, have access to essential health services alongside the local population.

This handover marks another critical step in the ongoing collaboration between UNHCR, the National Organization for Migration, and the Ministry of Health."

These vital supplies include hundreds of centrifuges and microscopes for laboratories, over a million rapid test kits for communicable diseases, thermal foggers for disease vector control, power generators, and essential medicines.

The tests and treatment kits provided will help the fight against tuberculosis, malaria, and dengue fever, among others. Moreover, they will strengthen Iran's ongoing effort and regional leadership to eradicate hepatitis B and C.

They will be distributed to health centers and hospitals across the country, with a focus on border regions and provinces hosting large numbers of displaced persons.

This support is especially crucial in a context where Iran's healthcare system is under pressure in a harsh economic context.

Despite these challenges, Iran continues to showcase extraordinary hospitality, providing healthcare, education, and protection to millions of refugees and foreign nationals. However, the immense strain on the country's resources calls for sustained international support.

UNHCR urges the international community to step up its support for Iran's efforts, emphasizing



that the scale of the refugee population requires additional resources and assistance to ensure the continued provision of essential services. UNHCR looks forward to continued collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other key stakeholders to ensure that refugees and host communities alike can access the healthcare they deserve.

Iran's support for refugees

Iran's support for refugees is demonstrated through its inclusive policies, which encompass protection, assistance, education, and healthcare, inspiring the global community and positively impacting the lives of refugees.

As the second-largest refugee-hosting country, Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees.

The country is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans.

Currently, more than 500,000 Afghan children – including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban takeover – are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

In total, Iran hosts some 4.5 million Afghans of varying status – including resident permit holders, undocumented Afghans, and family passport holders – many of whom have been in the country for an extended period and require support to strengthen their resilience.

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

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



AUGUST 31, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Obtain knowledge wherever possible... The worth of everyone depends on what he knows.

Imam Ali (AS)

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

What's in Tehran art galleries



FARSHID SATIARVAND

SOLO EXHIBITION

Painting

* Paintings by Farshid Satiarvand are on display in an exhibition at Doost Gallery.

Entitled "Shadow Dwellers", the exhibit will be running until September 17 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 4, 4th St. off Eshqyar St., Khorramshahr Ave.

* Amir Hossein Ansari is currently showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery.

Entitled "In the Midst of Nothing", the exhibit runs until September 11 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.



* Fereshteh Arastoui is showcasing her paintings in an exhibition at 009821 Projects Gallery.

Named "What REmains", the exhibit will be running until September 10 at the gallery located at No. 25, 18th Alley, Kheradmand St., Karim Khan Ave.

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

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



* A group of artists including Mona Janmohammadi, Aho Hamedi, Niloufar Rahnama and Faezeh Baharlou are putting their latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "Observing Through", the exhibit will run until September 16 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.

* Farnaz Haqiqi is displaying her latest paintings in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until September 11 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

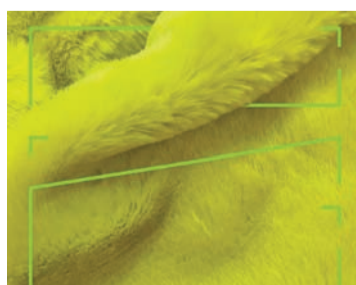


* Bashgha Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a number of artists including Saghar Pezeshkian, Zahra Qiasi, Ali Ganjavi, Vahid Mohammadi and Bahar Didgah.

Entitled "Glimpse Through the Light", the exhibition will be running until September 9 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Mahfam Bahrami, Fariba Darabimanes, Zahra Karimi, Mohammad Rostami and Masoum Yari is underway at Ebteda Gallery.

The exhibition will run until September 6 at the gallery located at 35 Farrokhi Alley, near Vali-e Asr Square.



Multimedia

* An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Rana Dehqan is underway at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until September 6 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

Installation

* An exhibition of sets of installation by Torfeh Ekhlesi and Zahra Yazdani is currently underway at Shamis Gallery.

The exhibition named "Plaything" will run until September 13 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgou Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.



Busts of martyrs of service unveiled in Tehran

TEHRAN-The 5th group exhibition "Heaven's Garden" was inaugurated at the Abolfazl Aali Art Gallery of the Art Bureau in Tehran on August 28, with the unveiling of busts honoring the martyrs of service, alongside the display of ten large-scale sculptures.

The unveiling ceremony showcased busts of four notable figures including former President Ebrahim Raisi, sculpted by Mehdi Dehghanizadeh; former Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, sculpted by Morteza Aryan; former governor of East Azarbaijan Province Malek Rahmati, sculpted by Morteza Dashtjerdi; and former Friday prayer leader of Tabriz Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem, sculpted by Nader Qashqai, Mehr reported.

In a tragic helicopter crash, President Raisi and other officials lost their lives en route to the provincial capital city of Tabriz in May. The incident occurred as a result of dense fog in the region.

Among the highlights of the exhibition is a piece by Ali Asghar Youzbashi, inspired by the valor of Hazrat Abbas (AS).

This sculpture incorporates elements such as a shrine, water, and a keffiyeh, symbolizing the



arrival of Qamar Bani Hashim at the Euphrates River and his refusal to drink from it. Youzbashi describes the work as a representation of sacrifice, reflecting the lessons of selflessness and dedication that Hazrat Abbas (AS) exemplified during Ashura, the day Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

Hazrat Abbas (AS) fought as the standard-bearer of his half-brother Imam Hussein (AS) in

the Battle of Karbala against the army of the Umayyad caliph Yazid ibn Mu'awiya.

He was killed in a desperate attempt to bring water from the Euphrates river to quench the unbearable thirst of the besieged family of the prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Hazrat Abbas (AS) is said to have inherited the boldness and bravery of Imam Ali (AS), and was praised by Shia Imams for his faith and fortitude in defending Imam Hossein (AS).

Hazrat Abbas (AS) is regarded by Shia Muslims as an ultimate paragon of courage and self-sacrifice.

Another significant piece at the exhibition is "Mourning," a sculpture by Qodratollah Memarian, which pays tribute to Imam Hussein (AS).

The exhibition commemorates the profound contributions and sacrifices of both historical and contemporary figures through the medium of sculpture.

Kayhan Kalhor to perform at ACC World Music Festival in Gwangju

TEHRAN-Renowned Iranian musician Kayhan Kalhor is to take the stage in Gwangju, South Korea, along with Kiya Tabassian and Navid Afghah.

Their performance is scheduled for August 31, as part of the 15th Asian Cultural Center (ACC) World Music Festival, ISNA reported.

The festival, held from August 30 to September 1, is a prestigious global event celebrating a diverse array of musical genres and traditions.

This year, it will feature performances ranging from the renowned Korean pop group Kim Chang-Wan to an ensemble of Iranian music led by Kalhor.

Kalhor, a master of kamancheh (a traditional Iranian string instrument), and Tabassian, a virtuoso of setar (another Iranian string instrument), will be performing alongside Afghah, who plays the tombak (traditional Persian drum). The trio has previously performed together in Germany, the Netherlands, and Canada.

The festival promises a mesmerizing array of performances, including soundscapes that paint vivid landscapes, spontaneous traditional instrumentals, fusions of electronic and traditional music, and a harmonious blend of Eastern and Western music.

The other international artists and bands

performing at the event include Yosi Horikawa from Japan, IBERI from Georgia, Elements of Baraka from Morocco, Khusugtun Band from Mongolia, and OMNION from Czech Republic.

"This year's World Music Festival aims to establish itself as a premier festival representing Gwangju and Asia. We've curated a lineup of top artists to reflect contemporary art and music.

We hope families and friends will enjoy this unique opportunity to experience diverse global music," ACC Foundation President Kim Sun-ok stated.

Asian Culture Center is an international arts and cultural exchange organization that produces new, future-oriented results through the convergence of Asia's past and present arts and culture with innovative ideas and beliefs.

The ACC plays the role of an integrated platform for participants from Asia and the rest of the world to freely unite and exchange their ideas while transcending boundaries in carrying out the steps of research, creation, and production.

At the ACC, diverse and dynamic programs (exhibitions, performances, education, festivals, and other events) using collected research data, resources, etc., are held year-round with the creative output of experts from various fields who have exchanged their

creativity and ingenuity with one another.

Kalhor, 60, was born in Tehran to a musically inclined Kurdish family.

He began his music journey informally at the age of five. By twelve, he had embarked on a professional music career, collaborating with the Kermanshah Radio and Television Orchestra.

He briefly worked with the Sheida group at the Chavosh Art Center before relocating to Italy at seventeen.

After studying music in Rome, he moved to Canada, where he graduated from the music program at Carleton University in Ottawa.

A master of the kamancheh, he is widely known for his stirring improvisations, exquisite compositions, and extensive collaboration with international artists including Chinese American cellist Yo-Yo Ma, New York-based string quartet Brooklyn Rider, American string band Kronos Quartet, Argentinean composer Osvaldo Golijov, Turkish musician and singer Erdal Erzincan, and many other orchestras around the world.

Kalhor has composed works for and played alongside the famous Iranian traditional vocalists Mohammad Reza Shajarian and Shahram Nazeri. He has also composed and performed with the Indian sitar player Shujaat Husain Khan and Indian tabla player Swapan Chaudhuri in the group Ghazal.

Tehran cultural center reviews "The Red Circle"

TEHRAN- "Le Cercle Rouge" ("The Red Circle"), a 1970 crime film by French director Jean-Pierre Melville, was reviewed at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Thursday in memory of the recently deceased actor Alain Delon.

Film critics Kurosh Jahed and Amir Qaderi attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

"The Red Circle" follows the intertwined fates of two escaped convicts, Corey and Vogel, and their desperate heist.

The film opens in Marseille, where Corey, having served time for an earlier offense, is granted an early release for good behavior.

In a twist of fate, a prison warden discreetly informs him of a lucrative jewelry store in Paris, igniting Corey's ambition for one last big score.

Upon his release, Corey confronts Rico, a former associate who has betrayed him, and forcibly retrieves a stash of cash and a handgun from Rico's safe.

He then engages in a violent encounter with two of Rico's men at a billiard hall, ultimately emerging victorious and armed.

Buying a large American car, Corey heads towards Paris, fully planning the robbery.

Meanwhile, another convict, Vogel, escapes during transportation to a police interrogation, evading the relentless pursuit led by the determined Commissioner Mattei.

In a stroke of luck, Vogel winds up hiding in Corey's car after both men cross paths at a roadside grill amid heavy police activity.

Corey offers Vogel sanctuary, and together, they form an uneasy alliance.

As Corey and Vogel plan the jewelry heist, they realize they need a skilled marksman and a reliable fence to carry out their scheme effectively.

They recruit Jansen, an alcoholic ex-policeman with sharpshooting skills, and plot the robbery.

In the background, Mattei is

doggedly working to capture Vogel and unravel the murder of Rico's men, employing intimidation tactics on nightclub owner Santi to gain intel.

The robbery unfolds successfully, but complications arise when the fence is unwilling to accept the stolen jewels due to Rico's threats.

Undeterred, Corey considers approaching Santi for a new connection.

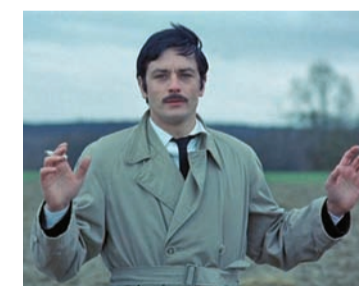
However, Mattei, leveraging his influence, orchestrates a trap by posing as the fence to lure Corey into a secluded rendezvous.

Tensions escalate when Vogel, suspicious about the arrangement, shows up to warn Corey just as the police close in.

In a chaotic confrontation, Mattei and his men ambush the trio, leading to a tragic outcome.

One by one, Corey, Vogel, and Jansen meet their demise at the hands of law enforcement, with Mattei recovering the stolen jewels, signifying the harsh price of their desperate choices.

Alain Delon, the star of the movie, is renowned as one



Alain Delon acts in a scene from "The Red Circle" by French director Jean-Pierre Melville

of the most iconic actors of French cinema, celebrated for his striking looks and intense performances.

He rose to fame in the 1960s and 1970s, becoming a leading figure in European cinema.

Delon's career skyrocketed with films such as "Le Samourai," "The Leopard," and "Purple Noon," where he showcased his ability to portray complex characters with a brooding charisma.

His performances often reflected a blend of charm and vulnerability, earning him critical acclaim.