



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (R) meets Iraqi PM Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani in Tehran on July 30, 2024.

IRGC commander reiterates vow of revenge against Israel for assassination of Hamas leader

TEHRAN – Major General Hossein Salami, the chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), has issued a strong warning to Israel, stating that the regime will face Tehran's retaliation for its "vicious acts."

Speaking on Sunday, General Salami emphasized that Israel will not evade consequences for its actions, vowing that retribution is inevitable.

In his remarks, General Salami did not specify the timing or nature of the response but assured that Israel would "see when, where, and how" Iran's revenge would unfold.

Salami warned that Israel and its allies should not expect to strike and flee without consequences. "They will be hit, and they cannot run away," he stated, reinforcing Iran's long-standing position that it will take decisive action against those it deems responsible for hostile acts. ▶ Page 3

Israel on verge of defeat: Iranian foreign ministry

TEHRAN – Nasser Kanaani, spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, criticized Israel's actions during recent ceasefire negotiations, asserting that the regime is on the verge of defeat, not victory, due to its continued crimes and excessive demands.

Speaking at a weekly press briefing on Monday, Kanaani condemned Israel as a "cancerous tumor" and the core of regional instability, highlighting global outrage over the regime's treatment of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Kanaani reaffirmed Iran's unwavering support for the Palestinian cause, stating that Iran's backing is based on legal, moral, and humanitarian grounds.

He dismissed Israel's efforts to link incidents to Iran as baseless rhetoric, aimed at distracting from its own atrocities. The spokesperson also denounced Israel's recent military strikes on northwestern Syria, which targeted sites with missiles and drones, as further evidence that its aggression extends beyond Gaza.

"The regime's attacks on regional countries show that its crimes are not confined to Gaza," he said, urging Israel's allies to cease their support and calling for international condemnation of Tel Aviv's actions.

The recent Israeli airstrikes on Syria, according to Syrian media, left at least 14 people dead in Hama, with several others critically injured. Syria's Defense Ministry reported that some incoming missiles were intercepted by the country's air defense system. ▶ Page 2

Iran's export to Iraq rises 21% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's non-oil export to Iraq rose 21 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Abdol-Amir Rabilhavi, the director of the West Asia Office of the TPO, said that Iran exported non-oil goods worth over \$4.5 billion to Iraq in the five-month period of this year, while the figure was \$3.508 billion in the same time span of the previous year.

Iraq is a strategic neighbor of Iran and Iran-Iraq annual trade stands at about \$10 billion, he noted.

In late May, the head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Regional Planning of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization said that Iran exports some 2,200 products, valued at \$12 billion, to neighboring Iraq annually. ▶ Page 4

Netanyahu: Self-proclaimed 'man of security' has turned into man of insecurity

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN — A Jordanian driver, identified as Maher Thiyab Hussein al-Jazi, killed three Israelis on Sunday at the Israeli-controlled border crossing that connects Jordan with the West Bank.

The Israeli military said the man approached the Allenby Bridge from Jordan in a truck, exited the vehicle and opened fire on forces operating the bridge.

The Jordanian citizen's shooting at the border crossing shows the depth of anger against Israel. The majority of people in the Arab world are filled with a strong feeling of rage against the Israeli rulers, however, persons like Maher Thiyab Hussein al-Jazi sacrifice their lives in defense of Palestinians that there is no prospect for their agonies.

On Jun 3, 2023, four months before the October 7 attack by Hamas on Israel, an Egyptian border guard also crossed into Israel and killed three soldiers. The Egyptian officer knew that he would be killed but he defied all the dangers to vent his anger at Israel.

Massacres continue in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- As the U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal war on Gaza stretches to 340 days, the regime's military continues to massacre more civilians.

Dozens of casualties, including children, have been reported over the last hours from the enclave. The carnage is continuing as 630,000 children have been deprived of school. Two academic years have now been lost by the ongoing assault on the entire enclave.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Palestinian Ministry of Education, said Israeli strikes have killed more than 12,500 school-age children.

Tens of thousands of others have sustained injuries; many have been left disabled for life. This is in addition to psychological trauma.

The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) have destroyed dozens of schools and educational buildings across the Strip. 92 percent of the schools and buildings are no longer able to function, the ministry added.

At least 17,000 children have also been orphaned since October 7, 2023. The new school year in the Palestinian territory officially began on Monday but damaged classrooms have turned to shelter rooms for displaced families.

Martyr hero of Allenby Bridge operation: Arab brothers, if you don't believe in religion, at least have pride and honor

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The weekend's shooting operation at a border point between Jordan and the occupied West Bank that claimed the lives of three Israelis has once again highlighted deep resentment against the Tel Aviv regime.

On Sunday, a Jordanian truck driver killed three Israeli border guards at the Allenby Bridge crossing, also known as the King Hussein Bridge.

The shooter was identified as Maher Dyab Hussein al-Jazi, a resident of the Husseinia area in Jordan's southern Ma'an governorate.

According to the Israeli army, he approached the Allenby Bridge crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck then got out and opened fire.

The 39-year-old, who was shot dead by Israeli forces, carried out the martyrdom operation in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the wake of Israel's genocidal war on the territory.

The attack marks the first of its kind along the border with Jordan since the start of the Gaza war on October 7.

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Iran's "In the Arms of the Tree" to hit silver screen in Canada

TEHRAN- "In the Arms of the Tree" by Iranian director Babak Khajepasha will be screened at the Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema in Vancouver, Canada on September 20.

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

As Kimia and Farid's relationship deteriorates, their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, become unlikely heroes in this emotional turmoil. Taha, deeply caring and protective, ▶ Page 8



Iran comes 14th at 2024 Paralympic Games

PARIS – Iran's 64-sportsperson delegation finished in 14th place in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

The Paralympics 2024 came to a close with a glittering ceremony that took place at the Stade de France.

Rain pelted down but did not dampen the spirits as all 169 delegations paraded to the tune of French classics.

The Iranian athletes won eight gold medals, 10 silvers and seven bronzes in the Games in Paris.

Sareh Javanmardi earned Iran's first gold at shooting (P2 – Women's 10 meter air pistol SH1).

Iran claimed three gold medals in Athletic. Amirhossein Alipour Darbeid won a gold at Men's Shot put F1. Saeid Afrooz collected a gold at Men's Javelin throw F34 and Yasin Khosravi seized the third gold at Men's Shot put F57. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Iran does not allow establishment of Zangezur Corridor

In an interview with Mehdi Khorsand, an expert on Eurasia, Sobh-e-No discussed the issue of the so-called Zangezur Corridor. It wrote: The position by top Iranian officials shows that Tehran does not allow the creation of the so-called Zangezur Corridor. This approach shows that the Islamic Republic of Iran has an active approach toward the developments in the South Caucasus. Since Iran has reacted diplomatically and held military drills in the northwestern borders, the possibility of creating the Zangezur Corridor is "unlikely".

Even if a route is created, Armenia should "own and manage it". There is a possibility of a military attack on Armenia regarding the so-called corridor. In that situation, if Yerevan asks for Iran's help and our national interests are threatened, Iran can back Armenia. Since we have direct interests, this support is justified under international law. Considering all these conditions, maybe the dream of creating the South Caucasus Corridor will not come true soon and Iran will be able to manage the situation at a level higher than the level of governments.

Shargh: Is the season of de-escalation coming?

In an analysis, Shargh pointed to the relations between Tehran and the IAEA in the new Pezeshkian government. The paper said: Now that the 14th government (sitting government) has taken office, it seems that one of the most important and urgent measures is to deal with the nuclear issue and to improve relations with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the new report of the Agency was against Iran, the right decision of Masoud Pezeshkian to meet with Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in the first step can send a positive signal to the international body and the Westerners that the new government in Tehran has a different view than before and it seeks de-escalation.

For Pezeshkian, reaching an agreement and preventing a regional war is of vital importance. Although he talks about his government's economic plans in general terms, it will likely be the economy that will determine whether he can repair the widening gap between the Iranian people and the government.

'Iran's air defense forces ready for swift action': commander



TEHRAN – The commander of Iran's Air Defense Force has stressed that the country's specialized air defense operations are designed for swift, time-sensitive responses.

During a ceremony commemorating a martyred war commander, General Sayad Shirazi, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi Fard highlighted the need for strategic adjustments to achieve surprise and effectively counter the enemy.

Sabahi Fard noted, "A key factor in the evolution of the Air Defense Force's tactics and strategies during the eight years of Sacred Defense (the Iran-Iraq war) was the transition from air-centric operations to ground-focused engagements."

Sabahi Fard also noted that after the "Fath al-Mubin Operation" during the imposed war of the 1980s, the Iranian Air Defense Force achieved significant victories against enemy forces, despite enduring harsh and unjust equipment sanctions, by employing effective tactical and strategic methods.

He identified the "Valfajr 8 Operation" as a pivotal moment in the history of the Army's Air Defense Force, stressing that it represented a significant advancement in the collaboration and unified command among the nation's armed

Etemad: Zangezur Corridor is detrimental to Iran's strategic interests

In a note, Etemad coped with Iran's concern about possible establishment of the so-called Zangezur Corridor and said: Zangezur is one of the sensitive geopolitical and strategic issues for Iran. If this corridor is activated as a transportation route, it can deprive Iran of a part of these trade routes and reduce the strategic role of Iran in the transit of goods in the region. Also, creating and strengthening such a corridor can lead to the consolidation of the role of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the region. This may change the balance of power in the South Caucasus to the detriment of Iran, because Iran, as one of the key actors in this region, has always sought to maintain influence and prevent the expansion of influence of its regional rivals, especially Turkey and Israel. If the Zangezur Corridor is activated as a main transit route between Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan to Turkey, Iran may lose part of its transit revenues. Iran is worried that the creation of this corridor will increase the influence of Turkey and Azerbaijan in the region and decrease the influence of Iran. This issue can lead to changes in the regional power balance, which will be detrimental to Iran's strategic interests.

Arman-e-Melli: A trip along with the security agreement

In a commentary, Arman-e-Melli discussed Pezeshkian's trip to Iraq. It wrote: Bilateral meetings with top Iraqi officials and signing cooperation documents and security documents are among the plans of the president of our country's trip to Iraq. It seems that there are some security differences between Iran and Iraq, which has sometimes caused Tehran to have no choice but to respond with missiles to the hiding places of separatist forces in Iraqi Kurdistan. Also, espionage and non-security actions of Israeli spies in this country and sometimes the existence of American bases in Iraq are among Tehran's security concerns. Therefore, it seems that in all these cases, Iran and Iraq can reach an understanding that will be accepted by the parties. We also hope that the president's visit to a foreign country like Iraq can send a positive message to the countries in the region. Therefore, it seems that a good situation has arisen for the new government to develop its relations with the countries of the region more quickly.

forces.

"This operation led to a significant evolution in the strategies and approaches employed for intelligence collection, enemy location detection, aerial surveillance, and radar system application, highlighting the essential function of the Army's Air Defense Force," as emphasized by the commander.

Sabahi Fard remarked, "During Operation Valfajr 8, which the Supreme Commander of the Iranian Armed Forces, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, described as a miraculous defense, we successfully downed over 80 aircraft using limited resources, thanks to the ingenuity of our air defense systems."

He also emphasized that air defense was a constant presence throughout the eight years of Sacred Defense.

Sabahi Fard pointed out that this period transformed Iran's air defense doctrine, stating, "Air defense units developed new tactics and strategies. Some units were deployed at the front lines, while others focused on safeguarding the nation's critical resources."

He acknowledged that without the spirit of martyrdom, selflessness, and the resilience of the families of the fighters, Iran would not have achieved its current standing.

The commander of the Iranian Air Defense Force highlighted that the expertise and dedication of the personnel are key to the success of this force in executing its responsibilities.

Sabahi Fard noted that the air defense missions aimed at protecting Iran's airspace have always been characterized by their urgency and the need for rapid response.

IAEA chief signals readiness to re-engage with Iran on nuclear program

TEHRAN – Rafael Grossi, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has expressed his willingness to reinstate discussions with Iran's new government to address lingering concerns over the country's nuclear program.

Speaking at the opening session of the IAEA Board of Governors' quarterly meeting in Vienna on Monday, Grossi underscored the need for productive dialogue to achieve concrete progress on unresolved safeguards issues.

The IAEA Board of Governors commenced its session on September 9, with the meetings set to continue through September 13.

Grossi used the platform to provide an update on Iran's nuclear activities, referring to his latest report on the verification and monitoring of Iran's nuclear commitments under United Nations Security Council Resolution



2231. The resolution, passed in 2015, endorsed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. Addressing the ongoing situation, Grossi pointed out that Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched to 20% and 60% purity continues to grow.

He also noted an expansion in the number of centrifuges Iran is using to

enrich uranium hexafluoride (UF6), a key component in the enrichment process.

The IAEA chief went on to discuss what he described as the "lack of progress" in resolving outstanding safeguards issues.

While Tehran maintains that it has declared all relevant nuclear materials and activities, Grossi reiterated the IAEA's position that the presence

of uranium particles at undeclared locations suggests otherwise.

In anticipation of further engagement, Grossi revealed that following Iran's recent elections, he had corresponded with President Masoud Pezeshkian to express his willingness to visit Tehran and resume dialogue.

According to Grossi, President Pezeshkian agreed to a future meeting "at an appropriate time" to re-launch cooperation between the IAEA and Iran.

"I encourage Iran to facilitate such a meeting in the near future so that we can establish a constructive dialogue that leads swiftly to real results," Grossi added, signaling hope for a renewed effort to resolve the longstanding nuclear impasse.

The IAEA chief emphasized that resolving these outstanding safeguards issues is critical to ensuring that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful.

Iran embassy slams BBC for banning Gaza aid ad

TEHRAN – The Iranian embassy in London has condemned the BBC for reportedly blocking the launch of a major national appeal to raise funds for humanitarian assistance for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement posted on its official X account, the embassy referenced a report from The Guardian, which indicated that some individuals believe the BBC is blocking the appeal due to fears of backlash from pro-Zionist supporters.

The embassy emphasized, "The situation is clear and requires no further explanation; they are unwilling to permit a humanitarian appeal to be broadcast in the media."

The appeal was initiated by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), an umbrella group of British charities that coordinates and launches collective appeals to raise funds to provide emergency aid and rapid relief to people caught up in disasters and humanitarian crises around the world.

According to The Guardian, the BBC has stated that the appeal did not fulfill all the "necessary criteria" for a national appeal, while other networks have agreed to air the appeal.

The Iranian embassy in London had earlier expressed its concerns regarding the humanitarian crises in Gaza and criticized the Western media's portrayal that favors the Zionist regime.



As of August 30, 2024, more than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. Reports suggest that over 60% of the enclave's residents have experienced the loss of family members in the past eleven months. More than half of Gaza's population is under the age of 18.

Kremlin denies American reports of Iranian missile transfers to Russia for Ukraine war

TEHRAN – Russia has rejected allegations that Iran has supplied Russia with missiles to be used in the Ukraine war after multiple American media outlets made the assertion without providing evidence.

"Not every time such information corresponds to reality," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in remarks to Russian media.

Peskov confirmed he saw a Wall Street Journal report on the

matter, but added, "We have seen these reports, not every time such information corresponds to reality."

Iran is our important partner, we are developing our trade and economic relations, and we are developing our cooperation and dialogue in all possible areas, including the most sensitive areas.

And we will continue to do this in the interests of the peoples of our two countries," Peskov told reporters,

according to Sputnik.

The Wall Street Journal along with some other American outlets cited unnamed sources on Friday, claiming that Iran allegedly transferred hundreds of short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for use in its special military operation in Ukraine.

The Iranian Ministry of Foreign has also rejected the claims, emphasizing that Tehran has never participated in military engagements since the

onset of the Ukraine war. "As has been emphasized multiple times, the Islamic Republic of Iran opposes war and supports a political solution to resolve the differences between Russia and Ukraine and to put an end to military conflicts," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani stated.

The West has also been accusing Iran of supplying Kamikaze drones to Russia, a claim it's never provided evidence for.

Israel on verge of defeat: Iranian foreign ministry



From page 1 ▶ Kanaani also referenced a recent incident involving a Jordanian truck driver who shot and killed three Israelis at a border crossing.

He characterized Israel as the "absolute evil regime" in the region and suggested that the regime's violent policies have led to a growing "human awakening."

'Strengthening ties with Eastern nations remains Iran's priority'

Kanaani also discussed Iran's foreign policy priorities, emphasizing the expansion of relations with Eastern and Asian countries.

He noted that Iran's new administration remains committed to implementing previous agreements and seeking new opportunities for cooperation with partners like China and Russia.

The spokesperson stressed that strengthening ties with Eastern countries does not mean

neglecting potential partnerships with other nations that seek friendly relations with Iran.

"Iran is located in a complex region, and we see regional cooperation as the best way to resolve misunderstandings," Kanaani stated, reiterating Iran's commitment to fostering peace and stability in the region.

'Iran opposes border changes and supports peace in the south Caucasus'

Turning to regional matters, Kanaani warned against foreign attempts to destabilize the region through geopolitical shifts.

He expressed Iran's firm opposition to any moves aimed at altering borders, particularly between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He further reiterated Iran's support for the 3+3 cooperation mechanism, which involves regional actors working together to ensure peace and stability in the South Caucasus.

"Iran supports sustainable peace in the South Caucasus, which can contribute to lasting peace throughout the region," he added.

'Prospects for a new nuclear agreement looks promising'

On the subject of nuclear diplomacy, Kanaani reaffirmed Iran's readiness to negotiate a new agreement with the West to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

He expressed regret that European signatories had obstructed diplomatic efforts, but remained optimistic about the possibility of future talks if all parties return to their commitments.

"We believe there is still a diplomatic opportunity for the parties, and we remain hopeful for future diplomatic efforts," Kanaani said.

'Zionist regime continues to deepen instability in region'

In response to a question regarding how Iran's firm stance on the Israel war on Gaza might affect its relations with the European Union, Kanaani suggested that while countries may have differences of opinion, it is possible to resume cooperation if the EU demonstrates a genuine intention to engage.

He also reiterated Iran's view that the existence of the Zionist regime continues to deepen instability in the region, emphasizing that Iran holds clear and principled positions on the Palestinian issue.

'Iran not involved in Ukraine war'

Lastly, Kanaani addressed accusations regarding Iran's involvement in the Ukraine war, denying any participation and asserting that Iran supports a political approach to resolving the conflict.

"It is unfortunate that some parties looking for conflict are leveling accusations against Iran. We are not part of the war and believe in a political solution to end it," he concluded.

'Iran committed to completing border wall with Afghanistan': envoy

TEHRAN- Iran's envoy to Afghanistan has affirmed Tehran's commitment to completing the border wall with its neighboring country, Afghanistan.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi stated in an interview released by IRNA on Monday that the construction of the border wall has already commenced.

He mentioned that Iran's National Security Council has mandated this initiative.

Furthermore, he highlighted Iran's ongoing collaboration with Afghanistan's caretaker government to enhance border security.

"Both nations are working together to address issues such as

counter-terrorism, drug trafficking, and other mutual concerns," Kazemi Qomi underscored.

Previously, the public relations department of the Iranian army announced that a 930-kilometer wall is being constructed along Iran's eastern borders with Afghanistan, aimed at improving security for both countries and reducing smuggling activities.

The proposed border wall will stand 4 meters high, extend 3.7 kilometers in length, and have a thickness of one meter.

The project is scheduled for completion in Khorasan Razavi province over a three-year timeframe, with an allocated budget of 1.8 trillion rials, equivalent to approximately three million dollars.

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to arrive in Iraq on Wednesday, after announcing last month that he is planning to make Iraq his first foreign destination as the president.

According to remarks by Iran's ambassador to Baghdad, Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq follows an invitation from Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani. The invitation is believed to have been extended during Al-Sudani's visit to Tehran in July when he attended the president's inauguration ceremony in parliament.

Since he began to run for president, Pezeshkian has aimed to show a friendly face to the world. He has said multiple times that he plans to advance relations with both the West and the East, and during his first televised address to the Iranian people after assuming office, he highlighted the significant advantages that expanded ties with other countries can bring to Iran.

Based on the path Pezeshkian has been trying to carve for Iran's foreign policy, it is believed that his choice of Iraq for his first foreign visit as the president holds immense weight.

"When President Pezeshkian took office, some were concerned that his administration would not prioritize regional issues, and mainly pour



its efforts into mending ties with the West," said Mohaddeseh Rezayi, an expert on Iraq. "This visit shows that the new government is just as committed to strengthening Iran's relationship with both the people of the government of Iraq, as the last one was."

Pezeshkian's decision to begin his first foreign visit in West Asia, in fact, marks a break from tradition. Conservative Ebrahim Raisi and fellow reformist Mohammad Khatami both initially visited Central Asia, and most other former Iranian presidents made their first foreign appearances with speeches at the UN headquarters in New York.

"The key takeover here is that Pezeshkian plans to continue the "good neighborliness" policy championed by his predecessor, the late Ebrahim Raisi," Rezayi added.

The state of Iran-Iraq ties

Iran and Iraq share deep religious, cultural, and historical ties. Each year, millions of Iranians travel to neighboring Iraq to take part in the annual Arbadeen pilgrimage that commemorates the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shia Imam. They are mainly hosted by the locals and forge deep connections with Iraqis along the way.

Iran's strong influence in Iraq's political, military, and security circles is no secret either. Many Iraqi politicians active in various branches of the government have lived in Iran for several years. A substantial part of the Iraqi security and military body also aligns ideologically with Iran and the rest of the Axis of Resistance.

But the deep affinities and links between the two countries don't mean there are no factors crimping

their relations. Both have bones to pick with each other especially Iran, which is concerned about Iraq's lack of resistance against American demands to pressure Tehran.

"Even though Al-Sudani was believed to have close ties with Iran when he first came to power, he has been more aligned with the U.S. during his term in office," West Asia analyst Alireza Majidi told the Tehran Times. "Baghdad has been complying with all American wishes to make sure its sanctions against Iran take full effect. So, even though no one can deny the close ties between Iran and Iraq, the current level of cooperation between the two countries is not satisfactory. Some Iraqi politicians even refer to Ali Mohsen Al-Alaq, the head of Iraq's Central Bank, as 'America's police.'"

The biggest obstacle to the advancement of ties between Iran and Iraq is the U.S., the expert added. "Washington acts to harm Iran in various military, security, and economic fields. It even assassinated a top Iranian general who fought for years in Iraq to help eliminate terrorists."

President Pezeshkian should use his meetings with Iraqi officials to address these concerns while also highlighting areas of potential cooperation, Majidi suggested.

KDP member Behzad Khosravi handed over to Iran by Iraqi authorities

The source confirmed to Tasnim News Agency that Khosravi's handover was carried out under the directive of the PUK leadership, a key political party in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The move follows growing cooperation between Iran and Iraq on security matters.

In March 2023, Tehran and Baghdad signed a significant security agreement aimed at strengthening border security and addressing threats posed by

militant groups operating in the northern region of Iraq, which borders Iran.

As part of the agreement, Iraq committed to disarming anti-Iranian terrorist and separatist organizations based in the Kurdistan region and relocating them away from the sensitive border areas.

While details surrounding Khosravi's case remain limited, his transfer signals the ongoing implementation of this security agreement.

IRGC commander reiterates vow of revenge against Israel for assassination of Hamas leader

From Page 1 ▶ The IRGC commander also highlighted the growing internal unrest in Israel, referring to widespread protests against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He pointed to the dissatisfaction among the Israeli public, particularly over Netanyahu's failure to secure the release of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza. According to Salami, Israel's internal political stability is crumbling

under the pressure of external and internal challenges.

"Muslims surround the usurping Zionist regime, and the fear of Iran's decisive action haunts them day and night," Salami declared. He further noted that Israel's political leadership appears disoriented, with officials showing signs of instability as protests continue in Jerusalem.

Salami's statements come as tensions between Israel and Iran remain high following the assassination of Haniyeh, a key figure in the Palestinian Resistance.

Iranian officials have vowed to deliver a "harsh response" to the killing, describing it as an act of aggression that will not go unanswered.

Haniyeh, along with one of his bodyguards, was killed in a targeted operation in Tehran on July 31, just a day after attending the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The rhetoric from Tehran signals a continuation of the escalating tensions in the region, with Israel facing growing pressure from both external threats and internal dissent.

MP says Afghanistan has yet to give Iran its full share of Hirmand water

TEHRAN- A member of the Iranian Parliament representing Zahedan has criticized Afghanistan's caretaker government for failing to fully honor its water rights obligations to Iran under the Hirmand River treaty.

In an interview with ISNA, Fada Hossein Maleki stated, "The caretaker government of Afghanistan's assertions regarding the provision of Hirmand water rights to Iran and the Sistan and Baluchistan province are unfounded, as no concrete actions have been taken."

He pointed out that the Taliban's interpretation of flooding as a means of granting water rights is misleading. "Martyr Amir Abdollahian, Iran's late top diplomat, recognized that the water received by Iran was not a matter of water rights

but rather flooding, a sentiment echoed by the then Minister of Energy. Nevertheless, some have insisted it was water rights, leaving us with ongoing challenges, particularly as the region grapples with severe water shortages," the lawmaker noted.

Maleki stressed, "It is anticipated that with the efforts of Araqchi, Iran's new foreign minister, and careful planning in line with international laws, the issue of securing Hirmand water rights for Iran will be actively pursued, as it is a legitimate right of the people."

The Hirmand River serves as a crucial water resource for eastern Iran, especially within the Sistan-Baluchistan province. It is integral to the agricultural advancement and economic

prosperity of the area.

The issue of water rights concerning the Hirmand River has sparked significant disputes between Iran and Afghanistan, with Iran relying on the river for irrigation and accusing Afghanistan of breaching a 1973 agreement on water distribution.

Iran contends that it has not been receiving the stipulated volume of water, resulting in economic, social, and environmental difficulties for its southeastern region.

Securing Iran's water rights to the Hirmand River is vital for the sustainable development and stability of the area, particularly in light of increasing water scarcity and the effects of climate change.

Pezeshkian calls for national unity to confront foreign pressure, domestic challenges

TEHRAN - On Monday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian renewed his call for national unity as a crucial measure to address the country's ongoing challenges and withstand external pressures.

Speaking during a meeting with the Intelligence Ministry, the president emphasized the importance of internal solidarity to overcome the difficulties facing the nation.

"You are the true soldiers of the revolution," Pezeshkian remarked, praising the intelligence forces for their dedication and service.

He underlined the pivotal role they play in safeguarding the country's security and stability, highlighting their contributions as essential to the well-being of the nation.

During the meeting, the president stressed that addressing the needs of the Iranian people should be a top priority for the government, suggesting that fulfilling these needs would strengthen the public's support for the Islamic Establishment.

"The more we focus on meeting

the people's needs, the greater the popularity of the system will be," he said, underscoring the direct link between effective governance and national stability.

Pezeshkian further elaborated on his administration's commitment to fostering a broad-based, inclusive government. Describing his leadership as a "national consensus government," he pointed out that his administration includes a diverse array of politicians from different political factions.

This inclusivity, he argued, is

essential for ensuring unity in the face of internal and external challenges.

"We must strive to maintain unity and cohesion within the country," Pezeshkian declared, urging all political groups to put aside differences and work together to build a stronger, more resilient Iran.

According to the president, only by promoting national solidarity can the country effectively confront the pressures posed by foreign adversaries and internal issues.

SPORTS

Iran comes 14th at 2024 Paralympic Games

Iranian powerlifters also won three gold medals. Rouhollah Rostami at Men's 80kg, Aliakbar Gharibshahi at Men's 107kg and Ahmad Aminzadeh at Men's +107kg claimed three golds.

Iran's men's sitting volleyball also won a gold medal.

Zahra Rahimi won a silver at Taekwondo Women's 52 kg. Parastoo Habibi bagged a silver at Athletics Women's Club throw F32. Zafar Zaker claimed a silver at Athletics Men's Shot put F55. Fatemeh Hemmati won a silver at Archery Women's individual compound open.

Fatemeh Hemmati and Hadi Nori also took a silver at Archery Team compound.

Mahdi Olad snatched a silver at Athletics Men's Shot put F11.

Hajar Safarzadeh earned a silver at Athletics Women's 400 m T12.

Hassan Bajoulvand claimed a silver at Athletics Men's Discus Throw F11.

Meysam Banitaba bagged a silver at Judo Men's -60 kg J1.

And Ali Pirouj claimed a silver at Athletics Men's Javelin throw F13.

Alireza Bakht won a bronze at Taekwondo Men's 80 kg.

Hamed Haghshenas collected a bronze at Taekwondo Men's +80 kg. Alireza Mokhtari snatched a silver at Athletics Men's Shot put F53.

Mohammadreza Arab Ameri took a bronze at Archery Men's Individual Recurve. Mohsen Bakhtiar snatched a bronze at Powerlifting Men's 59kg.

Aliasghar Javanmardi claimed a bronze at Athletics Men's Shot put F35 and Elham Salehi won a bronze medal at Athletics Javelin throw F54.

China finished top of the Paralympics medals table with 220, including 94 gold, after all events were completed on the final day of competition on Sunday.

The country has led the way at every Paralympics since Athens 2004.

Great Britain finished second in Paris with 124 medals followed by the United States with 105.

Ramezan Salehi carries Iran's flag in closing ceremony

PARIS - Sitting volleyball player Ramezan Salehi carried Iran's flag in the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paralympic Games Sunday night.

Salehi was part of Iran's men's sitting volleyball team, who won the Paralympics gold for the eighth time.

Iran finished in 14th place, winning eight gold medals, 10 silvers and seven bronzes.

The Paralympics 2024 came to a close with a glittering ceremony that took place at the Stade de France.

Rain pelted down but did not dampen the spirits as all 169 delegations paraded to the tune of French classics.

The Iranian roster featured a number of past Paralympians and Paralympic medalists, including woman shooter Sareh Javanmardi who won her fifth Paralympic medal with a gold medal, man para-athlete Saeid Afrooz who won his second Paralympic medal with a gold medal and broke World Record in Men's Javelin throw F34, powerlifter Rouhollah Rostami who won his third Paralympic medal with a gold medal and broke World Record in Men's 80kg and Iran men's national sitting volleyball team won their eighth Paralympic gold medal.

Iranian teams victorious in 2024 Asian Club Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN - The 2024 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship kicked off in spectacular fashion in Yazd, Iran, with an exciting first day of matches that showcased the very best of club volleyball talent from across the continent.

The tournament, being held from September 7-15, promises to deliver high-octane action, with teams battling for the prestigious title and two slots for the FIVB Men's Club World Championship later this year in India.

In the most highly-anticipated match of the day, host Shahdab Yazd of Iran thrilled a packed home crowd of nearly 5,000 fans by defeating Jakarta Bhayangkara Presisi of Indonesia 3-1 (25-19, 25-18, 23-25, 25-20).

The Indonesian side, boasting Olympic superstar Earvin Ngapeth, put up a strong fight, but Shahdab Yazd's two-month of preparation paid off, as they utilized their home-court advantage to claim the victory.

In a dominant performance, Foolad Sirjan Iranian cruised past Kam Air of Afghanistan with a straight-set win, 3-0 (25-11, 25-11, 25-20).

Foolad Sirjan's head coach, Behrouz Ataei, remained cautious, remarking, "This first step was not challenging for us, but volleyball is full of surprises. Today, we saw Iraq beat a very experienced Al-Rayyan, so we must remain vigilant."

Iran, UAE seek for blockbuster in 2026 World Cup qualifier



TEHRAN - Iran and United Arab Emirates are set for a blockbuster when they face off in Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 on Tuesday.

UAE produced an amazing fightback to defeat Qatar 3-1 while Iran displayed resilience to see off the challenge of Kyrgyzstan, winning their opening tie 1-0 on Thursday. UAE jubilantly celebrated their victory against Qatar and they had every right to do as it was their first win against their West Asian rivals since 2015.

Victory was achieved with three second half goals as head coach Paulo Bento's side showed they have the ability to respond to different situations. Bento, who guided Korea Republic to the Round of 16 at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, will expect a similar performance against Iran. "We are not geniuses when we turn around a result like that. We are not failures when we lose the game either. We are simple people who try to win in football. We try to bring the players the best possible tools to win a game," said Bento.

Iran, seeking a fourth consecutive appearance at the FIFA World Cup and seventh overall, did just enough to get the points against Kyrgyzstan with head coach Amir Ghalenoei admitting he expects to see an improved performance against UAE.

"We could have scored five or six but our offensive substitutions didn't quite work out. We will try to show better quality in the next game." Iran will head into the clash with the statistics very much in their favor, having only lost once to UAE with their most recent meeting at the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 ending 2-1 in their favor.

The match will be held in Al Ain's Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium.

15 petchem projects to be launched in Iran by late March 2025



TEHRAN – Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) is going to launch 15 new petrochemical projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2025), according to the company's managing director.

Morteza Shahmirzaei made the remarks on the sidelines of the 18th International Exhibition of Plastic, Rubber, Machinery, and Equipment (IRAN PLAST 2024), adding that five major petrochemical projects have gone operational since the beginning of the current year.

"The implementation of petrochemical projects in Makran region has accelerated and it is hoped that one of them will come online this year," the official said.

He went on to say that Iran's petrochemical sector will reach self-sufficiency regarding the items and equipment needed in the industry within the next five years.

According to the official, the capacity of Iran's petrochemical industry which currently stands at 96 million tons will surpass 100 million tons when the projects come on stream.

Back in August, Shahmirzaei said the country's petrochemical output is estimated to reach 80 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year.

Noting that one of the main objectives of

the Oil Ministry in the current year has been the sustained supply of feed to petrochemical complexes, the NPC head put the country's petrochemical exports in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) at 30 million tons.

Earlier in May, Ahmad Mahdavi Abhari, the director general of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC), said Iran's petrochemical output has increased by 15 million tons over the past two years.

Abhari put the country's current petrochemical output at 82 million tons.

He said Iran's petrochemical output stood at 67 million tons before late President Raisi took office in August 2021.

The official also noted that the Iranian petrochemical industry has created as many as 143,000 direct jobs in the mentioned period.

He put the current growth of Iran's petrochemical industry at 40.6 percent up from 27.5 percent in the country's third five-year development plan.

Iran's petrochemical industry accounts for 28 percent of the region's petrochemical capacity and 2.7 percent of the world's petrochemical capacity, he announced.

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil.

Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to Shahmirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

Iran Oil Ministry holds meeting to prepare for 26th GECF ministerial meeting



TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Ministry on Monday held a coordination meeting to discuss the preparations for the 26th Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) which is due to be held in Tehran in late October.

As Shana reported, the meeting was attended by senior officials including GECF Secretary General Mohamed Hamel and Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Ahmad Asadzadeh.

In this meeting, the necessary preparations for holding the meeting on October 27-29 were reviewed.

As of next week, weekly coordination meetings will be held until the summit day.

Iran was elected as the next host of the GECF Ministerial Meeting during the 7th GECF Summit attended by Iran's former Oil Minister Javad

Oji in Algiers, the capital of Algeria.

The Islamic Republic will also host the 8th Gas Exporting Countries Forum Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2027.

Based on an initial proposal made by Iran, the Gas Exporting Countries Forum was established by Iran, Russia, Qatar, and other gas-exporting states on December 23, 2008.

Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, the UAE, and Venezuela are GECF members and Angola, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Peru hold the status of observers.

With its current number of member states, the GECF enjoys a dominant position in global energy markets and among international energy organizations.

Together, they represent 69 percent of the world's gas reserves, 39 percent of the marketed production, and 40 percent of global gas exports. Moreover, GECF member countries collectively account for more than half of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports (51 percent).

Malabo, the capital of Equatorial Guinea, hosted the 25th GECF Ministerial Meeting on October 10, 2023.

Iran exports over 18,000 tons of chicken meat since late March



TEHRAN – Iran exported 18,300 tons of chicken meat to other countries since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year

(March 20), head of Iran's Poultry Farmers Union said.

According to Ali Ebrahimi, Iranian chicken meat is currently exported to Iraq, Turkmenistan, Oman, Qatar and Afghanistan, IRNA reported.

Ebrahimi said every month about 3,000 tons of chicken meat is exported to foreign destinations.

The Iranian government removed the ban on chicken exports in the last month of the previous Iranian year as the production exceeded the domestic need.

Iran's export to Iraq rises 21% in 5 months on year

From page 1 ▶ Speaking in a meeting entitled "Reviewing opportunities and challenges of attracting Iraqi investors and strengthening trade relations between the two countries in line with demarcating Iran in the regional value chain", Jafar Hosseini said that Iraq, benefiting from \$85 billion foreign exchange reserves, 130 tons of gold reserves, and 147 billion barrels of proven reserves of crude oil, is among the richest countries in West Asia.

He went on to say that Iran's exports to Iraq have increased 15-fold over the past 20 years, rising from about \$600 million in 2003 to more than \$10 billion last year (ended March 19, 2024).

Currently, Iran exports over 2,200 various types of goods and products to Iraq, he said, adding that more than half of the active Iranian traders are present in the Iraqi market, IRNA reported.

Developing the trade infrastructures to facilitate trade between the two countries, encouraging traders to invest in Iraq, promoting trade through dispatching and admitting trade delegations and participating in exhibitions of the two countries, etc. are suggested to strengthen the trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq, he underlined.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Cus-



toms Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade with its neighbors increased by 16 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year to reach \$26.857 billion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and Saudi Arabia.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil export increased by 10 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Rezvani said that the country exported 60.5 million tons of non-oil products valued at \$21.9 billion during the five-month period of this year, also indicating seven percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

He named petrochemical products as the major non-oil item exported and China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India as the top export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods in the first five months of this year.

The official further said that the country has imported 15.7 million tons of non-oil products worth \$26.3 billion in the first five months of the present year, with 5.53 percent and 7.93 percent growth in terms of value and weight, respectively, as compared to the same time span in the previous year.

Rezvani named raw gold as the main imported item, and the UAE, China, Turkey, Germany, India, Russia, and Hong Kong as the major sources of import in the mentioned five-month period.

Loading, unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port increase 14%



Totally, more than 32.255 million tons of oil and non-oil goods were unloaded at the Iranian ports in the said five months, and over 62.029 million tons of oil- and non-oil products were loaded.

During the mentioned period, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 1,079,516 TEUs, which was four percent more than the 1,052,590 TEUs in the first five months of the past year.

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

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

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

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

As reported by the PMO portal, the men-

tioned investment is going to be used to develop the infrastructure and operational capacity of the country's ports.

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

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

According to the official, regarding 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.

Iran calls for cooperation among BRICS member chambers of commerce

TEHRAN – Deputy Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Mehdi Sadeghi called for cooperation among the chambers of commerce of BRICS member countries to reach economic development.

Sadeghi made the remarks in a seminar dubbed "The Role of BRICS Chambers of Commerce in the Development of Economy and Entrepreneurship" held on the sidelines of the BRICS International Municipal Forum in Moscow.

Delivering a speech at this meeting, Sadeghi pointed to BRICS' sig-

nificant contribution to the world economy and stressed that BRICS will play an effective role in improving global GDP in the future and can surpass important unions such as the Group of Seven and the European Union.

"The main purpose of forming chambers of commerce is to help provide the means for economic growth and development, and in both developed and developing countries, a powerful private sector has been the main pillar of economic growth and development," the official said.

He further noted that the TCCIMA along with other chambers of commerce in Iran, has many capabilities to help the government to achieve economic growth and development.

"Having expertise about business in different economic conditions and a more detailed understanding of the issues and problems faced by the private sector compared to the decision makers of the public sector who mostly don't have familiarity and expertise in the field are among the advantages of the chambers of commerce in helping the government," Sadeghi explained.

This year, the Russian Federation is chairing the periodic BRICS Group, and therefore, various conferences and meetings with various topics are being held in Russian cities.

The BRICS International Municipal Forum was held on 27-29 August 2024 at the Expocentre Central Exhibition Complex in Moscow. The event addressed such issues as municipal cooperation, digitalization, sustainable development, and the introduction of innovations in urban management.

Jabar-Ali Zakeri appointed as new RAI head

TEHRAN – The government's cabinet has approved Jabar-Ali Zakeri as the new head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), Tasnim News Agency reported.

Zakeri replaced Mi'ad Salehi who was in the position since October 2021.

During the cabinet meeting on Sunday, President Pezeshkian urged the new RAI

head to find creative and innovative solutions to existing problems, and to try to improve efficiency, productivity, service quality and increase people's satisfaction with the services of the national railways company.

Martyr hero of Allenby Bridge operation:

Arab brothers, if you don't believe in religion, at least have pride and honor

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- The weekend's shooting operation at a border point between Jordan and the occupied West Bank that claimed the lives of three Israelis has once again highlighted deep resentment against the Tel Aviv regime.

On Sunday, a Jordanian truck driver killed three Israeli border guards at the Allenby Bridge crossing, also known as the King Hussein Bridge.

The shooter was identified as Maher Dyab Hussein al-Jazi, a resident of the Husseinia area in Jordan's southern Ma'an governorate.

According to the Israeli army, he approached the Allenby Bridge crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck then got out and opened fire.



Jordanian protesters say the "heroic" shooting operation at the West Bank border is like an earthquake in Israel.

over the past 11 months.

Jordanians also held rallies in support of the operation. People marched in the capital Amman

salem (Al-Quds). Israeli police said 34-year-old Hasan Saklanan was shot dead after he stabbed an officer.

Police officials noted that the Turkish man rushed at a police cop near the Herod's Gate entrance and stabbed the officer in the upper body and injured him.

Israeli sources said at that time that Saklanan had entered Israel legally as a visitor, via the Jordan River Crossing with Jordan.

He became the first Turkish martyr who sacrificed his life in the wake of the Gaza genocide to express solidarity with Palestinians amid frequent stabbing attacks against Israeli forces in the West Bank.

The US support for Israel's genocide in Gaza also hit the headlines back in February in the wake of a tragic incident.

Self-immolation of Aaron

praising the act as "heroic", likening it to an earthquake in Israel.

Jordanian people are now honoring al-Jazi and his family as national heroes.

Tel Aviv and Amman signed a peace treaty in 1994 and have close security ties. But Jordanians like many other people in the Arab world are opposed to the normalization of ties with the regime.

Over the past months, Jordanians have held rallies calling on their government to cut ties with Israel amid its war of genocide in Gaza.

Many countries around the world have also seen anti-Israeli protests against the backdrop of the regime's barbarism in the Palestinian territory.

These demonstrations are indicative of growing anti-Israeli sentiments around the world, in particular in Islamic countries.

Similar selfless acts like the one carried out by al-Jazi have been performed over the past months.

Reminiscent of Turkish martyr

In late April, Israeli troops killed a Turkish national in Jeru-

He then ignited it while yelling "Free Palestine" repeatedly.

The flames consumed Aaron's body and he finally fell to the ground.

The 25-year-old officer was taken to hospital in a critical condition but he succumbed to his injuries.

Standing up to apartheid

The courage to act selflessly against Israel's brutalities is a display of strength and resilience.

Those like Maher Dyab Hussein al-Jazi, Hasan Saklanan and Aaron Bushnell will go down in his-



Aaron Bushnell, a member of the US Air Force, set himself on fire in front of the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC, in February to protest against Israel's brutal war in Gaza.

The 39-year-old, who was shot dead by Israeli forces, carried out the martyrdom operation in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the wake of Israel's genocidal war on the territory.

In a hand-written will, he also urged Arab countries not to turn a blind eye to the sufferings of Palestinians.

"Dear my parents; please forgive me. I will become a martyr by God's will and I thank God for this. I ask you to remember the action I took so that it may become eternal and motivate the children of the Arab nation, especially the children of Jordan, to stand up against the Zionist occupiers who commit the most heinous crimes against our brothers, children and women in Gaza and Palestine. My Arab brothers; if you have no religion, at least have zeal and pride," he stated in his will.

The attack marks the first of its kind along the border with Jordan since the start of the Gaza war on October 7.

Palestinian resistance groups hailed the operation. Hamas described it as a "natural response" to the Israeli onslaught which has killed 41,000 Palestinians

Massacres continue in Gaza More women and children are being killed

From page 1 ▶ Despite killing and injuring tens of thousands of children, the IOF has been nowhere close to eliminating tens of thousands of resistance fighters in the enclave who continue to inflict heavy losses on the IOF. Thousands of IOF tanks and military vehicles have also been blown up and continue to be targeted on a daily basis as the genocide enters 12 months.

On Monday, IOF airstrikes targeted more residential buildings in the al-Bureij and al-Nuseirat refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip, killing seven Palestinians. The strikes have also reportedly caused heavy damage to infrastructure.

The Gaza Civil Defense confirmed that an Israeli airstrike on a home in the Sabra area, south of Gaza City (in the north of the Strip),

killed four people.

A woman and her child also were killed in an Israeli airstrike that targeted several homes southeast of Khan Younis in the southern part of the blockaded Gaza enclave, according to reporters on the ground.

In Rafah, two bodies were recovered from the rubble after a building in the northwest of the city was attacked with Israeli artillery shelling.

Meanwhile, the IOF has ordered the evacuation of residential areas in northwest Gaza. This came after the Palestinian resistance forces launched rockets towards the Israeli city of Ashkelon. Northern Gaza was the first phase of the indiscriminate Israeli bombardment and ground invasions on October 8

and October 20 respectively. Since then, Tel Aviv has repeatedly declared victory over the Palestinian resistance groups in the north of Gaza but continues to invade it.

As the occupation forces continue their aggression on the Gaza Strip by land, sea, and air since October 7 last year, the number of Palestinians killed has risen to around 41,000 and the number of injuries to nearly 95,000. The majority of them have been women and children.

Experts say that these are not final numbers as thousands of victims, and possibly tens of thousands, remain under the rubble and on the streets with rescue and medical teams unable to reach them.



Hasan Saklanan became the first Turkish martyr of the Gaza war when he was shot dead by Israeli forces in April after stabbing a regime officer in Jerusalem (al-Quds).

Bushnell

An active-duty member of the American Air Force set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, D.C. in late February this year to protest against his country's backing of Israel's brutal war on the enclave.

Video on social media showed Aaron Bushnell walking up to the driveway of the Israeli embassy, setting his phone down on the ground, and pouring an unknown liquid from a bottle over himself.

tory as heroes who challenged the Israeli fascist and apartheid regime.

Their names will resonate through the ages and their stories will be told and retold, inspiring generations to come to always stand for what is right, even when the world seems to have gone astray.

Syria warns of consequences of Israeli attacks

Syria's Foreign Ministry has warned about the repercussions of Israel's warmongering in the region after the regime carried out an attack against the Arab country on Sunday that left 16 people dead.

"[Israel's] persistence in its attacks on Syrian territory and other countries in the region, and its continuation of its brutal war on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and its perpetration of the most horrific massacres and crimes of genocide against the Palestinians, only indicate the frantic pursuit of this bloody fascist entity for further escalation in the region and pushes it into dangerous slopes that will have dire consequences that cannot be predicted," the ministry said in a statement said.

UN: Israel operations worsening 'calamitous' West Bank situation

Major Israeli raids across the occupied West Bank are worsening an already "calamitous" situation that has been deepened by settler violence, the UN rights chief said.

Opening a session of the global body's Human Rights Council in Geneva, Volker Turk decried soaring violence in the West Bank amid major Israeli operations, Al Jazeera reported.

"In the West Bank, deadly and destructive operations, some at a scale not witnessed in the last two decades, are worsening a calamitous situation there, already aggravated by serious settler violence," Turk told the council.

Israel's military on August 28 launched simultaneous raids across several cities and refugee camps in the northern West Bank, killing at least 36 Palestinians, according to health officials.

Turk also highlighted that nearly 10,000 Palestinians are being held in Israeli prisons or military facilities, "many arbitrarily", and said that more than 50 have died "due to inhumane conditions and ill-treatment".

He also stressed that "ending that war and averting a full-blown regional conflict is an absolute and urgent priority".

Protesters disrupt upcoming defense expo in Australia

Pro-Palestinian antiwar activists have held protests in Melbourne disrupting a defense expo that is set to open on Wednesday.

Protesters gathered in front of companies connected to weapons manufacturing across Melbourne as police were called to prevent an escalation.

Netanyahu: Self-proclaimed 'man of security' has turned into man of insecurity

From page 1 ▶ The anti-Israeli feeling has run deeper since Israel started the sadistic war on Gaza.

Jordanians have held regular protests against the Gaza war despite harsh restrictions on speech and public gatherings.

The driver's brother Shady Al-Jazi said his brother's anger at Israel's war on Hamas in Gaza may have been a motivating factor.

"He used to work as a truck driver and would cross (the bridge) often to offload the truck and then return back to Jordan. But his grief over what's happening to the Muslim nation, seeing all the killing in Gaza, and every one of us who feels passionately for his brethren, this could motivate him," he told Jordanian news outlet Ammon in an on-air interview, the Washington Post reported.

In reaction to the incident, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country is "surrounded by a murderous ideology led by Iran's axis of evil."

But it is ideologically driven extremists, in-

tion of the events, according to 7News Melbourne.

Police presence was visible in front of company buildings.

On Sunday, Extinction Rebellion activists blocked Montague Street near the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre where the expo is being held.

Pro-Palestinian protesters in Australia have been urging the government to impose sanctions on Israel for its war on Gaza.

Occupation has 'catastrophic impact' on Palestinian generation

Samah Jaber, head of mental health unit in the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health, has spoken to Al Jazeera about the "catastrophic impact" of Israel's occupation in both Gaza and the West Bank.

"The traumatic events created by military violence are affecting every Palestinian and younger minds are more prone to be affected. We see that among children and young people," she said, speaking from occupied East Jerusalem.

Jaber added that children in the besieged and bombed Gaza Strip are being prevented from attending school, which are not only meant to be safe places but also places for cognitive and social stimulation, which "will impact the future of this generation".

She also said that as soon as a ceasefire is put into place in Gaza, the health and education systems should take priority because "they will create the foundation for a rehabilitation for the Palestinian community affected by war and violence".

Lavrov calls for practical steps toward establishing Palestinian state

Russia and the Persian Gulf countries call for taking practical steps toward establishing a Palestinian state in line with the United Nations resolutions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after a meeting of the Russia-Gulf Cooperation Council Strategic Dialogue.

"Special attention was focused on the international situation, first of all, in the Middle East and the tragedy that is unfolding in the Palestinian territories: both in Gaza and in the West Bank," Lavrov said. "We share the position that it is necessary to immediately stop violence, resolve humanitarian problems and begin practical work to implement the United Nations' resolution on the establishment of the Palestinian State that will co-exist with Israel in peace and security."

The top Russian diplomat arrived in Riyadh on September 8 to take part in a meeting of the Russia-Gulf Cooperation Council Strategic Dialogue, Tass reported.

cluding Netanyahu, who have put Israel in such a precarious situation. They cannot get out of this self-created quagmire otherwise there is a U-turn in Israel's policy toward the Palestinians.

Netanyahu is notoriously famous for telling lies and making nonsensical remarks. Even when people gathered outside Capitol Hill to protest the Israeli war on Gaza while he was addressing the American Congress on July 24, he called protestors "useful idiots" of Iran and claimed that Iran is funding and promoting anti-war protests.

Netanyahu has lost direction and badly gone mad. He is not even listening to the Israelis who want an end to the war in Gaza. About 750,000 people took to the streets on Saturday night in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem demanding a ceasefire in Gaza.

In the campaign against his rivals for recapturing power he called himself the "man of security". But he has put the entire Israel in jeopardy.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Western Iran's enchanting landscapes to dazzle at Iraqi expo



TEHRAN – The western tourism axis of Iran will be highlighted at the Sulaymaniyah International Tourism Exhibition in Iraq, scheduled to take place in late September, to attract foreign tourists and boost international cooperation.

"The event will feature the joint participation of the cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts departments of Kermanshah, Kordestan, and Hamadan provinces," Darius Farmani, Kermanshah's tourism chief, announced in a meeting with the province's health tourism officials on Monday.

Attending the Sulaymaniyah International Tourism Exhibition, he emphasized, represents a significant opportunity to promote Kermanshah province.

"Iraq and its [semi-autonomous] Kurdistan region are key target markets for attracting foreign tourists, and expanding cooperation with this area is a priority for us," he said.

Farmani noted that participating in international exhibitions provides a valuable platform for tourism promotion, showcasing the province's capabilities, conducting international negotiations, and signing cooperation agreements.

He also revealed that a package featuring Kermanshah's tourist attractions, presented through visual clips, will be displayed at the exhibition.

Special attention will be given to the province's accommodation facilities, which will be prominently featured to highlight the local lodging options, according to the official.

Farmani also mentioned that the province will utilize the services of travel agencies and tour guides to further promote the region.

"Given the collective participation of Kermanshah, Kordestan, and Hamadan provinces, the exhibition will focus on introducing the western tourism corridor of Iran," he continued.

Farmani pointed out that the province's health tourism sector is particularly poised for active participation in the exhibition, potentially playing a significant role. "In Kermanshah, we can leverage the capacity of the University of Medical Sciences to hold an international health tourism exhibition in the near future," he added.

The Sulaymaniyah International Tourism Exhibition is scheduled to take place from September 26 to 29, coinciding with World Tourism Day (September 27).

Over the past couple of years, western Iranian provinces have held several meetings to discuss ways to expand tourism, bringing together local officials, hoteliers, travel agents, and tour operators from provinces of Lorestan, Ilam, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Hamedan, Zanjan and East Azarbaijan, amongst others.

"Introducing the lesser-known or less-favored travel destinations is part of the ministry's policies," an official with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts on September 30, 2021, noted. "Paying more attention to the western axis of the country is in line with those strategies."

"The west axis is our concern for tourism, which we intend to raise at [various] international tourism conferences," the official stated.

Qasemi added that off-the-beaten-track destinations are becoming more popular as a new trend worldwide. "Tourism has diversified and different excursions can be offered to tourists, so we have to introduce new tourism routes."

Ardabil hits tourism milestone with two million visitors in ten days



TEHRAN – Ardabil, a mountainous province with lush landscape in northwest Iran, has experienced a tourism boom with about two million visitors over the past ten days, according to a local tourism official.

"The province welcomed approximately two million travelers over the past ten days, filling all accommodation facilities to capacity," Hasan Mohammadi-Adib told IRNA on Monday.

The cities of Sareyn, Ardabil, Meshginshahr, Khalkhal, Nir, and Namin saw the highest influx of visitors, the official further explained.

"The number of museum visits in Ardabil has doubled compared to the same period last year," he stated, adding that there has also been a noticeable increase in foreign tourist presence, attributed to the Ardabil 2023 events.

However, Mohammadi Adib identified a gap in marketing and promotion as the reason for lower tourist numbers in the northern parts of the province, despite the lack of infrastructure issues.

The official emphasized the need for enhanced promotion of tourist spots such as Germi, Parsabad, Bileh Savar, Aslan Duz, and Jafarabad and called on media outlets to play a more active role.

He also stressed the importance of investment in tourism infrastructure to attract and retain visitors, highlighting that the tourism department is working to leverage investor opportunities to enrich the province's tourism capabilities.

Ardabil, known for its natural and historical attractions, including the Meshginshahr suspension bridge, Sabalan Mountain, Alvars ski resort, and Sareyn's renowned mineral springs, remains a major destination for both domestic and international tourists.

In recent years, Ardabil has gained prominence as a tourism destination, particularly after being named the 2023 Capital of Tourism for ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) member countries.

This designation has helped boost its visibility on the international stage, showcasing its diverse attractions ranging from natural landscapes to cultural landmarks.



From salt domes to sand sculptures: Iran's geological gems await

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Imagine exploring a land where geological wonders stand shoulder to shoulder with some of the most renowned natural sites in the world.

In Iran, two extraordinary geosites, the Namakdan Salt Cave on Qeshm Island and the Kaluts of the UNESCO-listed Lut Desert, offer just such an experience.

As part of the elite group of the world's top 100 geological heritage sites, identified by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), these locations captivate visitors with their breathtaking beauty and scientific significance.

Many tour operators believe these sites are more than just natural landmarks, saying they are destinations that reflect their stories of millions of years.



It is amazing to witness awe-inspiring salt formations of the Namakdan Cave or stand in the shadow of the towering yardangs that are the longest and most continuous of their kind on Earth, according to a visitor.

A remarkable achievement

Alireza Amrikazemi, a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council, recently spoke to ISNA



about this remarkable achievement. He explained that the IUGS has undertaken an initiative to identify and list the world's top geological sites. "We proposed two sites from Iran, and they were both successful in the evaluations and defenses," said Amrikazemi.

Iran to have these two sites listed alongside renowned geological wonders such as the Grand Canyon in the United States and Pamukkale in Turkey," he noted.

The expert underlined that the selection process was rigorous, with input from 89 specialists and researchers worldwide, further highlighting the importance and uniqueness of these sites.

Moreover, he underscored the importance of protecting these sites, noting that their global recognition comes with the responsibility of ensuring their conservation and sustainable management. "These sites are not only important for their geological significance but also for their potential to attract tourists and contribute to local and national economies."

Salty marvels

The Namakdan Salt Cave, located on Qeshm Island, is considered one of the most unique and typological salt domes globally by many geologists specializing in tectonics and geological structures.

Amrikazemi highlighted the importance of these salt domes, explaining that there are approximately 250 salt domes in southern Iran, which are considered exceptional both in number and

type. "Each of these salt domes has its own unique features, including salt glaciers, salt marshes, salt caves, dolines, and salt karst formations," he added.

The Namakdan Salt Cave, with its mesmerizing salt formations, offers a unique landscape for visitors and is a key attraction for geo-tourists. The cave is also considered significant for its geological and educational value, providing insights into the earth's geological processes and the formation of salt domes over millions of years. According to Amrikazemi, the inclusion of the Namakdan Salt Cave in the IUGS list will help raise awareness about the importance of preserving such unique geological sites and attract more tourists interested in geology and natural wonders.

Majestic yardangs

In the Lut Desert, kaluts, mostly situated in the Shahdad region of Kerman province, have been formed by the action of hydro-aeolian processes in lacustrine strata consisting of silt, clay and silty clay with intercalation of salt and gypsum.

According to the IUGS, the Kaluts are the highest, longest, and most continuous yardangs in the world.

These unique geological formations create an otherworldly landscape that has fascinated visitors and researchers alike.

Many travel insiders say those Kaluts have widely been described as a testament to Iran's rich geological diversity, offering a rare opportunity to witness the effects of wind erosion on an unparalleled scale.

Iran's geological heritage invites the world to discover its hidden gems and marvel at its unparalleled landscapes.

Archaeologists to shed new light on hand-carved caves in northern Iran

TEHRAN – An archaeological team has commenced work on Kafer Keli hand-carved caves, a unique site in the Haraz Valley of Mazandaran province.

The project aims to clean and make readable the intricate carvings found on the walls of those caves, which represent some of the most remarkable examples of rock-carved architecture in northern Iran.

Situated in Kahrud village of Amol county, the Kafer Keli caves are renowned for their exquisite wall carvings and rock art (miniature motifs).

The project, the first of its kind at this site, has been initiated with the permission of the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, ISNA reported.

Financial support for the project comes from the Kahrud village council and local entities to better understand the caves' historical significance.

A significant rock-carved heritage

On Sunday, Meisam Fallah, head of the archaeological team, explained the unique features of these caves, describing them as a part of Iran's mountain-carved architectural heritage, located in the lower reaches of Mount Damavand and nestled within the Alborz mountain range. "During two seasons of systematic surveys, we identified nearly 30 geographical locations featuring similar architecture on the northern and eastern slopes of Damavand," Fallah stated.

He emphasized that the diversity, frequency, and geographical distribution of these hand-carved caves along the southern Cas-



pian Sea to the Iranian plateau (Haraz Valley) are unique in the country. "These structures reflect the cultural beliefs and ideologies of the Alborz mountain dwellers," Fallah added.

Focus on documentation and preservation

Fallah highlighted the objectives of the current excavations, saying: "After thorough surveys, we decided to focus on the Kafer Keli complex in Kahrud to gather more precise information through excavation and documentation."

This complex consists of four separate chambers, or "dakhmas," without internal connections, each with distinctive wall carvings, he explained.

The archaeological team aims to clean and preserve these carvings, which have been subject to significant damage from both natural erosion and unauthorized digging.

The caves, located on the southern edge of Kahrud village, are carved into a sandstone bedrock in the central Alborz sedimentary plains, beneath the Kahrud Fortress.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the archaeologist said the positioning of the Kafer Keli

complex has created a steep terrace in front of one of the chamber entrances, covered with soil and stones.

Furthermore, another goal of the project is to uncover any cultural remains or evidence buried within these deposits. "Unfortunately, parts of the architecture inside the caves have been damaged or covered by debris, making the clearing and preservation of these spaces a top priority," Fallah noted.

The team, however, is mainly focused on documenting and studying the miniature motifs on the cave walls, which represent some of the most significant historical evidence in Iran.

Diverse themes

The carvings on the walls of Kafer Keli's caves are diverse, featuring human, animal, mythological, natural, geometric, and calligraphic designs.

"The carvings include images of human figures shooting arrows, mounted archers, soldiers holding shields and swords, and various animals such as goats, deer, horses, and birds like pheasants and partridges," Fallah explained.

The archaeological work is hoped to mark a significant step toward understanding and preserving one of northern Iran's most important rock-carved sites, with the potential to open a new chapter in the region's cultural and historical narrative.

9,000-year-old Ozbaki hill to become open-air museum

TEHRAN – Restoration work has begun at the ancient Ozbaki archaeological site in Alborz province, a 9,000-year-old landmark aimed to become an open-air museum, drawing tourists and preserving a key piece of human history.

The restoration efforts will include surface layer removal, debris clearance, fortification and restoration of the Median fortress, creating a tourist path, repairing the steps of the Ozbaki mound, and installing new informational signs at the entrance of

the site, said a local cultural heritage official on Sunday.

Mahdi Arbabnia further noted that creation of a tourist route is part of the broader plan to organize the site for visitors, and these restoration ac-

tivities aim to transform the Ozbaki site into an open-air museum.

"The restoration work is expected to take approximately one month to complete," he brought to light.

Villa in Niavaran Diplomatic location 5000sqm land, 2000sqm useful area Duplex, 7 bdrm, 4 master, out&indoor pool, 15 parking lots, high security, easy access to highways, 35.000\$ Mr. Modir
09121157447/09351101052 Furnished apt in Ajudaniyeh 200sqm, 3bdrm, 5thfl. two parking lots 2000\$

Iran grabs medals at International Earth Science Olympiad

TEHRAN –The four-member team of Iran won a silver medal and two bronze medals at the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) held from August 8 to 16 in Beijing, China.

The Iranian delegation comprised Amir-Ali Hasheminejad, Sadra Kazemian, Hatefeh Rasouli, and Fatemeh Haqani-Mobarekeh.

Hasheminejad in cooperative activities including the Earth Science Project (ESP) secured a silver medal, and in International Field Team Investigation (IFTI) took a bronze medal. Also, Haqani-Mobarekeh won a bronze medal in the individual test section, IRIB reported.

This was the country's first participation in the event in person.

This year's Olympiad, organized by Peking University (PKU), revolved around the theme "Big Data for Our Earth," highlighting the critical role of data science in understanding and protecting the earth.

The event hosted 136 students from 35 countries and regions who competed in various challenging activities designed to test their knowledge and problem-solving skills in Earth sciences.

Students participated in theoretical and practical exams, field trips, and scientific exchanges.

IESO

IESO is an educational event for secondary school students, not older than 18, globally, organized by the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO).

Its aim is to enhance the level of geoscience education worldwide and increase public awareness of Earth Sciences.

It is one of the twelve International Science Olympiads. The first IESO was held in Daegu, South Korea, in 2007, and it has been held



annually since, attracting over 200 students from more than 40 countries and regions each year.

The IESO is recognized globally for promoting Earth Science education, increasing students' interest in Earth Sciences, and improving the quality of Earth Science education around the world.

Iran third top country in intl. Olympiads

Attending several international Olympiads in 2024, Iranian students managed to win 10 gold medals, 10 silver medals, and two bronze medals, ranking third globally.

The United States and China ranked first and second, respectively. South Korea and India both ranked fourth, ISNA reported.

This year, they competed against other countries in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI); the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics; the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO); and the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO), the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), as well as the International Biology Olympiad (IBO).

Iranian students grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th IOI, ranking 9th among 96 countries. Hosted by Alexandria, Egypt, the

event was held from September 1 to 8.

Iran attended the event online and ranked ninth globally. Amir-Ali Asgari grabbed the gold medal, Amir-Hossein Farkhondeh-Far and Amir-Reza Dorosti won the silver medals, while Parsa Farajpour-Sarabi received the bronze medal.

In a remarkable achievement, Iranian students won five gold medals, ranking first in the 17th IOAA which was held from August 17 to 27 in Vassouras, state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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

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

Five Iranian students who attended the 54th International Physics Olympiad managed to win a gold medal and four silver medals, improving the country's ranking from 17th in 2023 to fourth this year.

The 54th edition of the IPhO commenced on July 22 in the city of Isfahan and concluded on July 28.

A total of 200 elite students

from 47 countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Mexico, Turkey, and some other countries participated in the nine-day event, IRNA reported.

Iran grabbed one gold medal and three silver medals at the 56th IChO which was held in Saudi Arabia from July 22 to 30.

The IChO 2024 was held under the slogan 'Building Connections Together'.

A total of 333 talented men and women from 90 countries participated in the competitions of the 56th edition of the IChO, under the supervision of 260 international specialists in the field of chemistry, at King Saud University in Riyadh.

Ramtin Moradi Mazhar succeeded in winning a gold medal, while Alborz Rezaei, Amirkia Salimi, and Mohammad-Yasin Salehi Marzjari secured silvers.

The 65th IMO was held from July 11 to 22, in Bath, United Kingdom. This year, 108 countries and 609 students competed. The Iranian team scored 137 points, earning 19th place.

Radin Zahedigolpayegani won the gold medal, Iliya Yazdanivarzi, Amir-Hossein Yazdanizadeh, and Sepehr Alipour grabbed silvers, while Parsa Saberi won the bronze medal.

Iran succeeded in winning two gold medals and two silver medals at the 35th edition of the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from July 7 to 14.

IBO 2024 hosted more than 800 students, leaders, observers, and guests from over 80 countries.

Arash Samadi and Pourya Nouri-Niaraki won gold medals, while Sepehr Chachi and Mohammad-Reza Yazdkhasti secured silvers, IRIB reported.

DOE to adopt preventive approach in addressing environmental crimes: official

TEHRAN –The Department of Environment (DOE) will adopt a preventive approach in dealing with environmental crimes, the head of DOE has announced.

"Due to the broad scope of environmental issues and problems at provincial levels, the approach of the department in dealing with these problems has been so far reactive.

Henceforth, we will try to verify the feasibility of projects related to the environment in any aspect, and then issue the necessary permits to minimize the consequences," IRNA quoted Shina Ansari as saying.

Moreover, the promotion of environmental literacy in society, particularly among managers and officials, should be put on the agenda to be able to further boost both social participation and compromise, the official added.

Environmental protection

Tackling environmental problems requires the participation of the government, the private sector, as well as people.

Within the last decades, environmental problems have greatly affected nature and people's lives. Air pollution, as a man-made problem originating from economic and industrial factors, accounts for millions of deaths every year.

Human activities with wide-ranging social effects have changed the environment adversely; by disturbing the balance in nature, some issues like pollution have become extremely critical.

The Department of Environment by developing environment houses aims to deal with the country's environmental challenges and needs through improving the process of scientific and knowledge-based research.

It also seeks to improve the individual, organizational, and managerial capacities of innovators, inventors, entrepreneurs, students, and academic faculty members of universities.

In industrial and densely populated cities, while identifying technological methods and providing local constructive solutions for maintaining the balance of ecosystems and preventing pollution and environmental destruction, the environment houses will help to reduce air pollution in the country.

Also, the DOE has increased penalties for wildlife crimes to deter offenses and strengthen conservation measures.

Offenses involve the illegal killing of wildlife, fishing, or hunting without permits. The penalties for these offenses vary based on the biological value of each species, the population crisis, and endangered status, whether or not the species is in danger of extinction.

To enhance environmental literacy, the fifteenth day of Esfand – the last Iranian calendar month, which falls on March 5, has been approved to be registered on the national calendar as the 'Environmental Protection Education Day'. Education in the field of environment is one of the basic steps to preserve and protect the country's environment.

7th development plan on environmental issues

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

The importance of Iran's environment and protection is not taken considerably into account in the implementation of the 7th development plan of I.R. Iran, and we believe that various parts of Iran's life territorial stability, and national security will be exposed to more threats and gradual destruction.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Intl. environmental exhibition

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moreover, it aspires to foster communication and cooperation between institutions, organizations, and companies active in the field of environment and energy, promote the concepts of sustainability and social responsibility among the public, and encourage environmentally friendly behaviors.

Tehran to host 1st Intl. Pharmacogenetics Congress dasadsad

TEHRAN –The first International Pharmacogenetics Congress of Iran will be held in Tehran from November 6 to 8.

Pharmacogenetics (also known as pharmacogenomics) is defined as the study of how genes affect a person's response to drugs. This field combines pharmacology (the science of drugs) and genomics (the study of genes and their functions) to develop effective, safe medications for each patient.

Pharmacogenetics is used for treating genetic illnesses. Currently, Iran is the frontrunner in this field in the region and a number of Iranian patients living abroad have been treated using Pharmacogenetics, IRNA reported.

The congress will be held at Razi Medical University, it is scheduled to cover 10 specialized panels, including children, glands and metabolism, women, as well as issues such as policymaking, management, planning, and insurance.

Some 60 noted professors of the country in various fields will attend the congress as the heads of the panels.

Pharmacogenetics is to recognize genetic variants that may influence drug efficacy and toxicity. Its main objective is to anticipate a patient's genetic response to a particular drug as a way of presenting the best possible medical treatment. In other words, it develops a treatment that is personalized based on the patient's genes to supply the proper

drug within the right dose.

By predicting the drug response of an individual, it will also be possible to increase the success of therapies and decrease the incidence of adverse side effects.

Currently, four groups of patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases, cancers, metabolic diseases such as obesity and diabetes, and mental health disorders account for 80 percent of the country's budget.

Pharmacogenetics can be a proper, cheap, and highly effective treatment for these patients.

It should be noted that pharmaceutical companies and laboratories play an important role in the expansion of science.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Marine species population increased in protected areas

According to the annual census, the population of marine species in habitats under the Department of Environment (DOE) supervision has increased, Ahmad Lahijanzadeh, head of marine environment affairs at the DOE has said.

The annual Census is the authoritative source of data determining the population and distribution of animal or marine species through counting them yearly.

Protecting marine habitats and listing them as protected areas are among the most important priorities of the DOE, he said, adding, all of the areas have been identified through environmental assessment and field surveys.

The reproduction time is important, and the DOE forces stand guard and constantly supervise the area during this period, he noted.

He went on to say that annual census shows that the number of species in protected areas is increasing, probably due to favorable condition and full-time control.

افزایش گونه‌های دریایی مناطق تحت حفاظت سازمان محیط زیست

احمد لاهیجان زاده معاون محیط زیست دریایی سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، در رابطه با اهمیت حفاظت از زیستگاه‌های دریایی اظهار کرد: حفاظت از زیستگاه‌های دریایی و شناسایی این مناطق در اولویت سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست قرار دارد و تمام این زیستگاه‌ها در قالب مطالعات جامع و تعقیب میدانی شناسایی شده‌اند.

وی با بیان اینکه در بسیاری از این زیستگاه‌ها زادآوری صورت می‌گیرد، افزود: زمان این زادآوری‌ها با شناسایی زیستگاه‌ها مشخص است و سازمان محیط زیست در این بازه زمانی حفاظت فیزیکی را انجام می‌دهد.

لاهیجان زاده گفت: براساس سرشماری‌های سالانه، تعداد گونه‌های موجود در زیستگاه‌های تحت حفاظت رو به افزایش است.



Papaya farming in southwestern Iran

Papaya, grown in tropical regions, is farmed in the southwestern city of Dezful. The papaya is a small evergreen that can grow up to 10 meters tall. Its large oval fruit has a yellowish skin and sweet orange flesh.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The elderly are the sources of mercy and divine blessing.
Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 18:37 Dawn: 4:19 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:44 (tomorrow)

Adaptation of “Richard III” on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN- An adaptation of English playwright and poet William Shakespeare's play “Richard III” is currently on stage at Entezami Hall of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran.

Mehdi Bakhtiari is the director of the play, which will remain on stage until September 25.

Mostafa Latifkiah, Sogol Yekta, Saeed Jamshidipur and Melina Mashayekhi are the main members of the cast for the play.

“Richard III” unfolds during a tumultuous period in England's history, characterized by power struggles and civil war. The play centers on Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who is ambitious, cunning, and willing to manipulate and murder in his quest for the throne. The narrative begins with Richard's resentment towards his brothers; he sees himself as deformed and marginalized, expressing his intent to usurp the crown.

Richard employs deceit and ruthless tactics to eliminate his foes, starting with the nobleman Clarence, his brother. He orchestrates Clarence's imprisonment and subsequent murder by convincing others that he poses a threat to Richard's ascent. With Clarence out of the way, Richard continues his machinations, charming and manipulating key figures around him.

Richard woos Lady Anne, the widow of King Henry VI, by deceitfully claiming responsibility for her husband's death. Despite her initial resistance, Anne succumbs to Richard's persuasive charm and marries him. With his marriage securing further legitimacy, Richard sets his sights on King Edward IV, his brother, who unknowingly supports Richard's rise. After Edward's death, Richard, with the help of his loyal ally Buckingham, swiftly seizes control, manipulating the young princes, Edward and Richard, to proclaim himself protector.

However, his ambition leads him to murder the princes in the Tower of London, ensuring that no one stands in his way for the crown.

As Richard solidifies his power, his tyranny leads to a backlash from nobles and former allies. Buckingham turns against him, and Richard finds himself increasingly isolated. The nobleman Richmond, rallying opposition against Richard's tyranny, emerges as a central figure in this conflict, representing hope for a united and peaceful England.

The play culminates in the Battle of Bosworth Field, where Richard faces Richmond. Despite his bravado on the battlefield, Richard is ultimately defeated, marked by a distinguished cry: “A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!”

After his death, Richmond ascends the throne as King Henry VII, marking the end of the Plantagenet dynasty and the beginning of the Tudor era.

Shakespeare's “Richard III” serves as a powerful exploration of ambition, morality, and the destructive nature of power, illustrating the dark consequences of unchecked desire for dominance and the inevitable downfall that follows.

William Shakespeare, widely regarded as the greatest playwright in English literature, was born in 1564. Throughout his career, Shakespeare wrote an impressive body of work that includes over 36 plays, 154 sonnets, and several poems.

His plays span across various genres, including tragedies like “Hamlet” and “Macbeth,” comedies such as “A Midsummer Night's Dream” and “Twelfth Night,” and histories like “Henry V” and “Richard III.” Shakespeare's works are renowned for their intricate plots, memorable characters, and profound insights into the human condition, making them timeless pieces of literature that continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Cartoon of Day



Confrontation

Cartoonist: José Alberto Rodríguez Avila from Cuba

Iran's “In the Shadow of the Cypress” wins award at Greek film fest

TEHRAN- Iranian short animation “In the Shadow of the Cypress”, co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani, won the Best Animation Film Award at the international section of 47th Drama International Short Film Festival (DISFF), which came to an end in the Greek city on Sunday.

The movie received the award for its groundbreaking narrative, its excellent sound and image, its animation aesthetic, and the delicacy with which it approaches the human psyche, the jury said in a statement.

Produced by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA)-Kanoon, the 20-minute animation portrays an aging sailor grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Living with his daughter in a modest seaside home, their relationship has grown distant. Despite the old captain's desire to reconnect with his daughter, their lives take an unexpected turn one morning.

“In the Shadow of the Cypress” has already won numerous awards from prestigious festivals.



The animation has been recognized for its outstanding storytelling and visuals, taking home top honors at several Academy Award-qualifying festivals. In the U.S., it won the Best Animated Short award at the 23rd Tribeca Film Festival, held in New York.

Additionally, it received the Grand Jury Prize at the 19th Animayo Gran Canaria, International Festival of Animation, Visual Effects and Videogames.

The film's impressive run continued at the 28th LA Shorts International Film Festival in Los Angeles, where it won the Best Animation Award.

The Drama International Short Film Festival is a prestigious A-list festival that qualifies for both the Oscars and the European Film Academy.

For 47 years, it has served as a vital global hub for filmmakers and producers specializing in short films, facilitating

connections and collaborations that aim to enhance the artistic and production quality of the genre.

As an Oscar-qualifying festival, DISFF offers winners of the Grand Prix in the International Competition and the Best Film Award in the National Competition eligibility for the Best Animated Short Film or Best Live-Action Short Film categories at the Academy Awards, provided they meet the relevant regulations set by the Academy.

Iran's “In the Arms of the Tree” to hit silver screen in Canada

in Vancouver, Canada on September 20.

The film follows the struggles of an entrepreneurial family on the verge of collapse.

At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance.

Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

As Kimia and Farid's relationship deteriorates, their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, become unlikely heroes in this emotional

turmoil. Taha, deeply caring and protective, is determined to shield Alisan from the fallout of their parents' crises.

The boys' strong bond and friendship serve as a beacon of hope amid the tumult, highlighting the innocence of childhood and the power of familial love in the face of adversity.

The film captures the impact of marital discord on children, illustrating how their lives can be disturbed by their parents' struggles.

Ultimately, it underscores the importance of love, connection, and the delicate balance needed to preserve a family in crisis.



A scene from “In the Arms of the Tree” by Iranian director Babak Khajepasha

TEHRAN- “In the Arms of the Tree” by Iranian director Babak Khajepasha will be screened at the Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema

Mark Ruffalo, Mahershala Ali, Cynthia Nixon and Ilana Glazer among stars calling for halt to illegal weapons transfers to Israel

Artists4Ceasefire, the industry collective that has been pushing for an end to the current war in Gaza (and whose pin badges were worn by various attendees at this year's Oscars ceremony), is spearheading a new initiative calling for a halt to illegal arms sales to Israel.

Through a partnership with artist Shepard Fairey and several humanitarian organizations — including Oxfam America, ActionAid USA and War Child Alliance/Children in Conflict — the group has launched a call to action bearing the message “Ceasefire Now, Stop Weapons, Save Lives” that urges the halt to what it says are “weapons transfers that violate U.S. and international law.”

Such laws state it is illegal to supply or use weapons to commit “grave human rights violations,” including striking schools or hospitals, restricting humanitarian aid, and killing children.

To accompany the effort, Fairey has launched a new artwork featuring a peace dove holding barbed wire in its beak, an image he said “carries the message of the collective humanity we must find to rise above hostility and put an end to the destruction and devastation.”

The call comes as part of what Artists4Ceasefire says is its ongoing advocacy for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the safe return of all hostages and the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, a call it first issued through an open letter to President Joe Biden in October 2023 signed by

more than 470 major Hollywood and cultural figures, including Joaquin Phoenix, Cate Blanchett, Jon Stewart, Kristen Stewart and Riz Ahmed.

Among the members of the Artists4Ceasefire collective speaking out for the new effort are Mark Ruffalo, Mahershala Ali, Cynthia Nixon and Ilana Glazer.

“Our demand is simple — our elected leaders must enforce existing U.S. and international humanitarian laws that prohibit the use of military assistance to commit ‘grave human rights violations,’” said Ruffalo, who has long been an advocate for Palestinian rights and has spoken out against Israeli military aggression. Ruffalo noted that the U.K. had recently announced that it was halting 30 arms exports licenses to Israel, something he said was “not enough, but it's a start, and more than the U.S., the biggest supplier of arms and weapons to Netanyahu and the state of Israel, has done.”

Ruffalo in his statement asserted that in his view, the U.S. government holds “the cards to achieving a permanent ceasefire,” he added. “We keep hearing that they're working around the clock to achieve a ceasefire. Let's be clear: Biden already has the authority to condition or cut off offensive military aid to Israel if Netanyahu refuses to accept a permanent ceasefire.”

Ali, meanwhile, called for an end to the “mass destruction” being perpetrated using U.S. tax dollars. “We are standing together to remind U.S. and global leaders

that the lives of millions of human beings are on the line and by sending an endless barrage of weapons, we are in fact facilitating death and destruction, while merely paying lip service to peace, security and humanity for people,” he said.

“Words without action will not end the unbearable suffering of Palestinian mothers, fathers and children,” said Nixon. “Enough is enough. The global call for a permanent ceasefire — supported domestically by an overwhelming majority of Americans — must be answered.”

Glazer said that the way in which the U.S. is “breaking international law” with regard to arms sales to Israel was “making Jewish people less safe and contributing to the global rise of antisemitism.”

She added: “The safety and security of Jews and Muslims, of Israelis and Palestinians, is inextricably intertwined. We have a moral and legal obligation to stop the flow of weapons.”

After 11 months of war, Israel's military operations in Gaza have killed at least 40,000 Palestinians, 16,500 of them children, according to the local ministry for health.

The devastation has also led to a major humanitarian crisis, with nearly all of Gaza's 2.2 million people having been displaced from their homes. Some 96% of Gaza's population is reportedly facing acute food insecurity.

“The direct targeting of hospitals and obstruction to healthcare facilities by Israeli forces, alongside the limited access to

medical supplies, has endangered around 50,000 pregnant women and 20,000 newborn babies,” said ActionAid USA, as part of the new call to action.

“The humanitarian crisis in Gaza grows more dire each day, fueled by the United States' seemingly limitless provision of weapons to Israel,” added Oxfam America's associate director for peace and security, Scott Paul.

“The United States must stop the sale of lethal arms to Israel in violation of its own law and policy.

It must push for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and secure the return of all hostages and illegally detained prisoners.

Palestinian civilians and Israeli hostages remain at risk until a ceasefire is secured; it is the only way to ensure peace and security for all Palestinians and Israelis.”

Rob Williams, War Child Alliance CEO, said: “The situation for children in Gaza is the deadliest we at War Child and Children in Conflict have seen in our over 30-year history. But for every minute this war continues, children's lives are in danger. We can't say it enough: an immediate and permanent ceasefire is desperately needed to protect children from this worsening catastrophe. Furthermore, all hostages and Palestinian civilians detained without due course must be released. Only when this war ends will it be possible to rebuild homes and livelihoods and get children the food, water, and mental and physical health support they desperately need.”