

Historic Visit

Pezeshkian's visit lays groundwork for a more unified front between Iran and Iraq



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Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian (L) meets with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Latif Rashid in the Arab country's capital Baghdad on September 11, 2024.

Putin meets Iran's security chief in St. Petersburg

TEHRAN – Russian President Vladimir Putin held talks on Thursday with Iran's Supreme National Security Council secretary Ali Akbar Ahmadian in St. Petersburg, the venue of the meeting of BRICS's top security officials.

Putin said Russia and Iran are determined to deepen ties in all areas, including economy, technology, energy, transportation, and peaceful nuclear activities.

He said the two countries have established extensive cooperation at bilateral level and also within the framework of BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

At the meeting in which Russian Security Council's secretary Sergei Shoigu was also present, Putin said he plans to hold a private meeting with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting in Kazan on October 22-24.

According to the Sputnik, Putin also aid the development of the North-South Corridor is among the projects that the two countries attach great attention to.

Noting that the volume of trade ties between Russia and Iran increased about 10 percent in the first six months of the current year, he said, "Russia is resolute to cooperate with Iran in different areas."

He also said his country expects the Iranian president to make a separate trip to Russia to sign strategic partnership agreements between the two countries.

Putin also said the relations between Iran and Russia is on a growing due to the efforts of the Iranian leader.

Iranian foreign ministry condemns Israel's targeting of Palestinian schools

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, has stated that schools and makeshift shelters for displaced individuals in the Gaza Strip have become primary targets for daily bombings and missile strikes by the Israeli regime.

In a post on his official X account on Thursday, Nasser Kanaani reported that the Israeli military had attacked the al-Jaouni school in central Gaza, which is operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), resulting in the deaths of at least 18 individuals.

He emphasized that this school serves as a shelter for thousands of displaced Palestinians and these Israeli crimes will not be forgotten in international society.

Kanaani reiterated that these educational institutions and tents for the displaced are now among the most significant targets of Israeli military operations and urged, "The governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, and other nations that supply arms to Israel to take note of this situation." ▶ Page 4

The Palestinian Authority: A leadership in disarray amid conflict

By Xavier Villar

MADRID- Amid the devastation of the ongoing conflict in Palestine, the Palestinian Authority (PA), led by Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah party, has seen its power disintegrate, leaving it a near-irrelevant presence. For many Palestinians, the PA has come to symbolize collaboration with the colonial power and a chronic inability to defend the rights and interests of its people.

In late July, leaders of 14 Palestinian political factions, including Fatah and Hamas, met in Beijing in a bid for unity. The result was the Beijing Declaration, which promised to form a consensus government to manage Gaza and the West Bank, reform and expand the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and call for general elections. While these principles are not new and echo previous reconciliation agreements, their urgency has increased amid Israel's brutal assault on Gaza. Since mid-August, Israeli attacks in response to Hamas's October 7 offensive have killed over 40,000 Palestinians, displaced two million people, and devastated large swathes of Gaza.

Hezbollah attack on Gilot left "96 casualties"

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Lebanese-based news channel Al-Mayadeen has quoted European security sources as saying Hezbollah's retaliatory operation on the Israeli Gilot and Ein Shemer bases was "highly successful".

Gilot is the headquarters of the Israeli military's intelligence and surveillance agency, Unit 8200.

Ein Shemer is an Israeli Air Force base.

According to Al-Mayadeen's European security sources, the attacks resulted in 22 fatalities among the Israeli intelligence unit 8200. 74 others also sustained injuries.

Gilot and Ein Shemer were the main targets of Hezbollah's complex rocket and drone strikes dubbed "Operation Arbaeen", in response to the Israeli assassination of the Hezbollah resistance movement's senior commander Fouad Shokor in Beirut on July 30.

Hezbollah's staged its retaliatory operation on August 25 and deemed the two bases responsible for orchestrating the Shokor assassination.

Israeli military fiasco sparks mass exodus

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- A tsunami of resignations seems to be sweeping through the Israeli army in the wake of the regime's military and intelligence failures.

On Thursday, Israeli media reported that Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi is making preparations to step down in late December. That is the time the Israeli army is set to have completed all of its internal investigations into the failures surrounding the Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise military operation carried out by Hamas in southern Israel on October 7 last year which dealt a humiliating blow to the regime.

Halevi has several times acknowledged full responsibility for failing to prevent the Al-Aqsa Storm.

Earlier, Israel's military told CNN that the head of 8200 Intelligence Unit, who is believed to have played a pivotal role in failing to prevent the Hamas' attack, is also stepping aside.

Brigadier General Yossi Sariel has informed the army that he will "conclude his role in the near future." ▶ Page 5

Women should be empowered to solve social problems: VP

TEHRAN –Zahra Behrouz-Azar, the Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, has said that women should be empowered through the development of the digital economy to solve social problems.

"Our opinion is that women's development should not be limited to the economic and digital fields, but women should be empowered through the development of the digital economy, and then solve other social problems," said Behrouz-Azar, in an exclusive interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN).

She made the remarks on the sidelines of participating in the 5th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Women's Forum which was held from September 10 to 12 in Qingdao, China. ▶ Page 7



Massive Quranic gathering in Mashhad highlights Islamic unity, support for Palestine

TEHRAN-On the evening of Thursday, one of the largest Quranic gatherings in the world took place at the Imam Reza (AS) Holy Shrine in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, with more than 200,000 attendees who gathered to express their devotion to the Holy Quran.

Organized by the Quranic program "Mahfel" (literary meaning assembly), the event was held on the eve of the Islamic Unity Week and in celebration of the Imamate of Imam al-Mahdi (AS), the last of the Twelve Imams of Shia Muslims, Mehr reported on Friday. ▶ Page 8

Iran's Kiani wins gold at 2024 Asian Wushu Championships

TEHRAN – Zahra Kiani of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 10th edition of the Asian Wushu Championships on Friday.

Kiani came first in the women's Jianshu with a total score of 9.686.

Athletes from Hong Kong (9.686) and Vietnam (9.683) won silver and bronze medal, respectively.

Another Iranian practitioner Helia Asadi also won a bronze medal in the women's nandao event with 9.676.

Malaysian and Uzbekistan athletes won silver and bronze medal with 9.693 and 9.690, respectively.

The competition started on Sept. 9 and will run until Sept. 15 in Macau.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

JCPOA is dead, but its threat mechanism exists

In a note, Kayhan addressed the hostility of the West toward Iran and the threat of trigger mechanism against Iran in regard to the defunct 2015 nuclear deal, called the JCPOA. The paper said: The new phase of tension between Iran and Western Europe started in 2022. Now, after the deadlock in the negotiations to revive the JCPOA, America has expressed its will to manage the tension with Iran, but the three European countries (Britain, France and Germany) are determined to increase the dimensions of the tension. At the last quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, they put the anti-Iran resolution on the table and tried to convince the United States to follow them. Now the three European countries party to the JCPOA are in a situation that a lack of agreement between Tehran and them in the absence of the United States will mean that one or all the three members can use the trigger mechanism against the Islamic Republic. Now, the diplomatic apparatus is preparing to start the process of positive interaction with Europe as the United States is preparing to hold presidential elections in November. However, it will face many challenges along the way.

Iran: Opportunities for a strategic Tehran-Baghdad relationship

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper dealt with President Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq. It wrote: The first trip of Pezeshkian to Iraq is a right step to implement cooperation agreement. Iran's relationship with this important Arab neighbor has been based on the policy of good neighborliness. Iraq has been among the allies that in recent years not only did not have problems with Iran, but as one of Tehran's trusted countries in important political situations, it has played an important role in helping resolve Iran's financial problems. The United States was manipulating tensions in the region and managing them with the policy of pressure and sanctions. America primarily focused on Iraq's economic ties with Iran in order to tighten sanctions pressure on Iran, but Iraq did not abandon friendship with Iran. Pezeshkian's trip to Baghdad further shows that the political and economic relationship between Tehran and Baghdad will not be affected by clear or hidden attempts by ill-wishers, nor will it be a victim of the sinister American policies, i.e. sanctions.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: The importance of the first foreign trip of Pezeshkian

In a commentary, Donya-e-Eqtasad pointed to the importance of President Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq and wrote: The importance of Iraq in Iran's foreign and regional policy in the new era is both symbolic and based on realistic geopolitical elements. In addition to the role of economic components coupled with the importance of trade at the regional and international levels, it is important to have a bilateral relationship with "added value". Iraq is one of Iran's export markets and one of the first 5 economic partners of the Islamic Republic, which highlights the necessity of strengthening these relations. Another dimension of the importance of Iraq for Iran is the priority of the neighbors in the foreign policy doctrine of the Islamic Republic. The development of relations with Iraq can create a situation for a favorable balance with the actors of the region, including the Arab governments of the Persian Gulf as well as Jordan. Along with these challenges, the development of relations with Iraq can also improve relations with the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Shargh: Neighbors' opportunism

In an interview with Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a senior foreign policy commentator, Shargh discussed repeated false claims about the ownership of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and the so-called Zangezur Corridor. He said: The statement of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council shows that in addition to the false claim of the United Arab Emirates' ownership of the three islands as one of the fixed differences between the countries of the Persian Gulf and Iran, now the debates over the Arash oil and gas field can turn into point of disputes between the two sides. Also, in a situation in which Azerbaijan has recently raised the issue of the Zangezur Corridor with the support of the Russians, Iran has distanced itself from the macro equations of global foreign policy, so any small country around Iran also allows itself to make claims against our territorial integrity, from the Republic of Azerbaijan over Zangezur to the United Arab Emirates over the three islands or the Kuwait's claim over the Arash oil and gas field. Until the Islamic Republic of Iran solves its problems and crises in foreign policy, these problems will exist.

Iran embassy denounces Sky News report on alleged missile transfers to Russia

TEHRAN - The Iranian embassy in London has sharply criticized a recent Sky News report alleging that Iran transferred missiles to Russia.

According to the embassy's statement, the report's claims are based solely on a satellite image of a ship, which the embassy argues lacks credibility and evidence.

In a detailed response, the embassy pointed out that the report fails to provide any concrete evidence, such as images of the missiles

themselves, proof of their loading or unloading, or even information about their destination.

Instead, it relies on a single photograph of a ship in port to support the assertion that Iran has supplied missiles to Russia.

The Iranian embassy condemned the report as not adhering to professional journalistic standards. It characterized the report as a piece of sensational storytelling rather than a factual, evidence-based news report.

Tehran denies claims of IRGC advisors' casualties in Syria

TEHRAN- The Iranian embassy in Syria has responded to assertions made by certain Israeli media outlets, clarifying that no Iranian advisors were injured or captured during Israel's bombing of Masyaf, Syria.

On Thursday, the Iranian embassy took to the social media platform X to state, "After eleven months of setbacks and failures, the Israeli regime has descended into such despair that it resorts to harming children and disseminating falsehoods."

The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Syria condemned the aggressive actions of the occupying regime in Masyaf, asserting that none of the IRGC advisors were affected and labeling the Israeli claims as untrue, with only obscure media acting as mouthpieces for these fabrications.

Reports indicate that some media sources



alleged on Thursday that Israel had captured a group of soldiers, including two IRGC Quds Force commanders, during its recent operation in the Masyaf area, utilizing paratroopers.

Al-Mayadeen reported that the Israeli air force's assault on Masyaf, Syria, and southern Lebanon on Tuesday resulted in the deaths and injuries of over thirty civilians.

Iranian foreign ministry condemns Israel's targeting of Palestinian schools

From page 1 ▶ The al-Jaouni school has been bombed for the fifth time since October 2023, leading to the fatalities mentioned.

Kanaani has also recently held the aforementioned countries responsible for the distressing scenes emerging from the Al Mawasi camp in Khan Yunis following its bombardment by Israeli forces.

On Tuesday, Al Jazeera reported that the Israeli government claimed the lives of at least 19 individuals in an assault on a tent encampment located within the humanitarian or safe zone in al-Mawasi, Gaza.

This encampment, which was designated as a humanitarian



safe zone by Israel in December, was targeted by a minimum of three Cruise missiles during the early hours of Tuesday, according

to accounts from displaced individuals and medical personnel relayed to news agencies.

The strike resulted in a fire that

consumed at least 20 tents. The camp in al-Mawasi, situated near Khan Yunis and Deir el-Balah, is among the most densely populated regions in an area ravaged by 11 months of continuous Israeli airstrikes.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Gaza, over 42,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, have lost their lives in the occupied territory.

After 11 months of war, 90 percent of Gaza's population has been forced out of their homes with most having to relocate multiple times. They face a lack of safety, sanitation and adequate food with some even forced to shelter in cemeteries.

Iranian army official heads to China for global security conference

TEHRAN- The head of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Army, has departed for China to participate in the Global Peace and Security conference in Beijing.

Rear Admiral Habibullah Sayyari embarked on his journey to Beijing on Wednesday evening, leading a delegation in response to an invitation from senior Chinese officials.

Prior to his departure, the high-ranking Iranian military official stated that the conference in Beijing aims to discuss strategies to counter the influence of global dominance, emphasizing that a multipolar system will serve as the foundation for future international cooperation.

He indicated that Iran's official position at the conference will focus on the advancement

of global peace and security, underscoring the significance of navigation security in the northern Indian Ocean, as well as the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, with an emphasis on collaboration among neighboring nations.

Sayyari further noted that Iran's stance will assert that the establishment of regional security does not necessitate the involvement of external powers.

Additionally, he mentioned that the ongoing conflict in Gaza will be a key topic for Iran at the conference.

Admiral Sayyari meets with Saudi deputy defense minister

The deputy head of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense held a meeting with Admiral Sayyari,

who serves as the chief of staff and deputy coordinator of the Iranian Army.

The meeting took place before the commencement of the "Global Peace and Security" conference in China on Friday.

During this encounter, the deputy head of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense and Admiral Sayyari discussed the importance of executing the cooperation agreement signed in China, highlighting the need to advance bilateral military collaboration and enhance efforts to bolster regional security.

Furthermore, Admiral Sayyari remarked that the presence of foreign forces in the region not only obstructs the establishment of security but also undermines the overall stability of the area.

Terrorist attack in Sistan-Baluchestan claims lives of three Iranian border guards

TEHRAN - In a tragic terrorist attack in Mirjaveh in the south eastern province of Sistan Baluchestan three Iranian border guards have been killed, confirmed officials.

The attack occurred on Thursday evening when several assailants opened fire on the border guards who were refueling at a local gas station.

According to Mehdi Shamsabadi, the prosecutor of Zahedan, the victims include Second Lieutenant Mohammad Amin Narouei, Private Parsa Soozani, and Private Amir Ebrahimzadeh. One civilian present at the scene was also injured in the attack.

Shamsabadi revealed that a judicial case has been initiated in response to the terrorist act, and intelligence agencies have commenced efforts to identify those responsible for the attack.

The Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, which is known for its violent

activities and operates from neighboring Pakistan, has claimed responsibility for the assault. This group has a history of targeting Iranian security forces. In recent months, Jaish al-Adl has been linked to several attacks, including an April incident in which five Iranian police officers were killed, and an earlier strike on December 15 of the previous year that resulted in the deaths of 11 officers and injuries to six others.

In response to these ongoing threats, Iran has taken measures to combat the group, including a significant military operation in January that targeted Jaish al-Adl's strongholds in Pakistan's Balochistan province with missiles and drones.

Following the recent incident, Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref extended his condolences to the Iranian people and the families of the martyrs.

He stressed the importance



of taking proactive measures to prevent such attacks from happening again.

On Friday morning, Aref spoke separately by phone with Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni and Sistan-Baluchestan Governor Mohammad Karimi. During the conversations, he offered his sympathies to the families of the fallen officers and inquired about the security situation in the region. He also called for a comprehensive investigation into all aspects of the attack.

Aref emphasized the need to strengthen border security to prevent future terrorist incidents and to provide peace of mind for

the people of the border province.

He also instructed the interior minister to mobilize all security resources to swiftly capture and bring the attackers to justice.

Aref reiterated the necessity of continuing efforts to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators of this terrorist act. Aref called for close coordination between the Ministry of Intelligence, the Judiciary, and the Armed Forces General Staff to ensure that such senseless and inhumane acts are not repeated.

During the phone calls, Interior Minister Momeni and Governor Mohammad Karimi provided detailed reports on the deadly attack.

Burkina Faso minister talks cooperation in meeting with Iranian envoy

TEHRAN - Mojtaba Faghihi, Iran's ambassador to Burkina Faso, recently engaged in discussions with Abubakar Nakanabo, the Minister of Economy and Finance of Burkina Faso, focusing on enhancing bilateral economic, technical, and commercial collaboration between their nations.

The two officials met on Wednesday to explore the ministry of economy and finance's role in facilitating industrial projects and bilateral transactions, including the provision of

government guarantees when necessary.

Following the establishment of the first joint commission for economic, industrial, and cultural cooperation two years ago, Iran and Burkina Faso signed nine cooperation agreements, laying a solid foundation for advancing their bilateral relations.

There is a growing understanding between government enterprises and private sector entrepreneurs from both countries, which, if

banking obstacles are addressed, could lead to a substantial increase in the export of Iran's technical and engineering products and services to Burkina Faso.

Iran and Burkina Faso maintain friendly bilateral relations, characterized by diplomatic representation and cooperation in various sectors. Both countries have embassies in each other's capitals, Tehran and Ouagadougou, facilitating communication and diplomatic exchanges.

Iranian, Belarusian security chiefs convene in Minsk

TEHRAN- Secretary of the Iranian Supreme National Security Council, engaged in discussions with his Belarusian counterpart, Alexander Volfovich, in Minsk.

During the Iranian delegation's visit to Belarus on Friday, Ali Akbar Ahmadian emphasized the importance of enhancing political, security, and economic ties, as well as fostering collaboration in sectors such as

industry, mining, and trade.

Both officials highlighted the necessity of expanding relations in strategic domains and working together within international frameworks, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS.

Ahmadian also underscored the significance of multilateralism in the global landscape, advocating for strengthened cooperation on

this front.

In response, the Belarusian official noted that both Tehran and Minsk align in their perspectives on promoting a multipolar world, steering clear of militarism, and striving for regional peace.

Iran and Belarus have fostered a cordial and collaborative relationship since its inception in 1993. Throughout the last

twenty years, both nations have sustained significant political engagement and entered into multiple agreements designed to enhance economic collaboration and trade.

In recent times, senior officials from both countries have convened frequently, formalizing cooperation agreements to strengthen bilateral relations and explore opportunities for joint efforts on security issues.

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian's three-day visit to Iraq underscores the growing significance of Iran's relationship with its western neighbor, which has become one of Tehran's largest trading partners.

This visit marked Pezeshkian's first state trip abroad since taking office in late July, highlighting its importance as a major diplomatic and economic initiative.

Upon arrival at Baghdad International Airport on Wednesday, Pezeshkian was warmly greeted by Iraqi officials. The trip, made at the invitation of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani, featured a high-ranking political and economic delegation from Iran.

A focus on unity, security, and the Gaza crisis

On the first day of his visit, Pezeshkian held talks with several top Iraqi officials, including President Abdul Latif Rashid, Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, and the President of Iraq's Supreme Judicial Council Faiq Zidan.

In these discussions, the Iranian president emphasized the need for unity among Muslim countries, particularly in light of the Gaza crisis. In a joint statement released by the prime minister's office, al-Sudani and Pezeshkian called on the international community to take responsibility for ending the genocide in Gaza.

This plea resonated with both Iran and Iraq's shared stance on the Israeli war on Gaza, and underscored Pezeshkian's belief that Israel exploits the disunity among Muslim nations to further its geopolitical agenda.

Pezeshkian also emphasized the importance of fully implementing a security agreement between Iran and Iraq to confront terrorists and enemies who threaten the region's stability. He stressed that enhanced



security cooperation between the two nations would have a positive impact on the overall security of the region.

Expanding bilateral cooperation across key sectors

A major outcome of Pezeshkian's visit was the signing of 14 agreements aimed at expanding cooperation in various sectors, including economic, commercial, cultural, and social fields.

In a joint press conference with the Iraqi prime minister, Pezeshkian highlighted the need for stronger economic ties between Iran and Iraq, including a task force to discuss a comprehensive economic and trade agreement.

During meetings with Iraqi business and economic leaders, Pezeshkian emphasized that one of the key goals of his visit was to facilitate the activities of Iranian businesses and manufacturing companies in Iraq. The president noted that better economic relations would not only benefit the two countries but also contribute to the stability of the wider region.

Iran and Iraq already share robust economic ties, with annual trade between the two countries estimated at \$12 billion. Iran is a major supplier of natural gas and electricity to Iraq, and Iranian exports to the country reached \$4.5

billion in the five months leading up to August 2023—a 21% increase from the previous year.

According to the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, exports to Iraq could reach record levels this year, potentially exceeding \$10 billion.

Pezeshkian's visit reinforced the strategic importance of the economic ties. The agreements signed during the trip aimed to bolster cooperation in critical sectors like oil, energy, and human resource development.

Iraq, as an oil-rich nation, offers significant opportunities for collaboration, particularly in energy infrastructure and trade. For Iran, deepening economic relations with Iraq is vital given the geographical proximity and religious and cultural affinities.

A historic diplomatic engagement with Iraqi Kurdistan

A particularly significant aspect of Pezeshkian's visit was his meeting with officials from Iraqi Kurdistan, including Kurdish leader Nechirvan Barzani. This marked the first time an Iranian president held official talks with the President of Iraqi Kurdistan, making it a historic milestone in Iran-Iraq relations.

The Iranian president also answered reporters' questions in Kurdish, underscoring the deep linguistic and cultural ties between

Iran and Kurdistan. Kurdish officials, including Barzani, acknowledged these shared ties and assured Pezeshkian that Iraqi Kurdistan would not allow its territory to be used for attacks by separatist militant groups.

This assurance was aligned with Iran's strategic interests in maintaining security along its borders and fostering stability in the region.

Visit to Iraq's economic capital

A key highlight of Pezeshkian's trip was his visit to Basra, Iraq's economic capital. Basra, with its immense oil wealth, plays a critical role in Iraq's economy. By visiting this vital city, Pezeshkian signaled Iran's interest in deepening economic collaboration with Iraq, particularly in sectors like energy, infrastructure development, and trade.

His pilgrimage to Iraq's holy sites during the trip also added a religious dimension to the visit, reflecting the deep spiritual ties between the two nations. The religious and cultural diplomacy further solidified the bond between Iran and Iraq, reinforcing the historical and religious connections that have long united the two countries.

Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq marked a major diplomatic success for Iran. It was more than just a routine state visit—it was a comprehensive effort to deepen ties across multiple sectors. From economic agreements and energy cooperation to cultural diplomacy and security assurances, the trip highlighted the strategic importance of Iran-Iraq relations.

By enhancing economic ties, ensuring regional security, and promoting Muslim unity, Pezeshkian's trip laid the groundwork for a stronger, more unified front between Iran and Iraq.

Tehran denies allegations of targeting critics abroad

TEHRAN- Iranian Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York has rejected claims that the Islamic Republic is plotting to assassinate its critics abroad, labeling these allegations as "fabricated" and attributing their origin to Israel and the anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO) terrorist group.

On Thursday, the mission stated, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention or strategy to conduct assassination or abduction operations, either in the West or elsewhere."

Furthermore, it asserted, "These falsehoods are the result of the Zionist regime, the Albania-

based Mujahedin-e Khalq terrorist organization, and certain Western intelligence agencies, including those of the United States, aimed at distracting from the atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli regime."

The statement comes as the US Justice Department and prosecutors said Wednesday that a Pakistani man has been charged for allegedly plotting to assassinate a U.S. official in retaliation for the targeted killing of Iran's top anti-terror commander, General Qassem Soleimani outside Baghdad International Airport in January 2020.

Western media have suggested that Iran is intensifying efforts to silence its critics on a global scale.

The Mujahedin Khalq Organization, commonly referred to as the People's Mujahedin of Iran (PMOI), is an Iranian opposition entity established in 1965 to topple the Iranian political system and operate under a Marxist framework.

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

Iran calls for anti-sanctions alliance at BRICS meeting in Russia

TEHRAN – Ali Akbar Ahmadian, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), has called for the formation of an "anti-sanctions alliance" within the BRICS bloc of emerging economies to counter the growing pressure of sanctions imposed by Western powers.

Ahmadian's remarks came during a joint gathering of top security officials from BRICS nations and representatives from the Global South on Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Iranian official emphasized the need for BRICS countries—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—as well as other emerging nations, to unite in promoting a new multilateral world order.

He argued that cooperation among these nations is essential for addressing a broad spectrum of security challenges, ranging from

economic and financial concerns to environmental and cyber threats.

"Economic security, particularly in areas such as energy, food, finance, maritime activities, and even cultural and psychological dimensions, requires the joint efforts of BRICS and Global South countries," Ahmadian declared. "Together, these countries can create institutions that reflect the changing world order, ensuring that the emerging multipolar system is better equipped to meet modern challenges."

Highlighting the impact of sanctions on many of these nations, Ahmadian advocated for an alliance to confront sanctions that have long stifled economic growth and stability. He added that the creation of a robust financial monitoring mechanism to combat issues like money laundering could be a key step toward achieving

greater economic security.

Ahmadian also pointed to the growing global momentum towards multilateralism, suggesting that international structures have been dominated by the United States for far too long. "Many global institutions have been effectively held hostage by the U.S. and its allies," he said, stressing that these institutions have failed in their mission to foster lasting global peace and stability.

Instead, according to Ahmadian, they have often been used by Washington to impose sanctions, fuel terrorism, and heighten global tensions.

He further emphasized that the international system is undergoing a profound transition, shifting away from U.S. hegemony toward a more just and cooperative world.

"The decline of American dominance and the rise of new

power centers such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS signal the beginning of a new era in international relations," he noted. "This new chapter holds the promise of a more equitable future for all nations."

The Saint Petersburg meeting brought together security representatives from BRICS and a number of other nations, including Indonesia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, Cuba, and more. The gathering is seen as part of broader efforts to deepen cooperation among BRICS+ nations, many of which share a common interest in resisting Western sanctions and creating alternative economic structures.

Iran, which formally joined BRICS earlier this year, has been vocal in its support for the bloc's potential to reshape global governance.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

'Israeli regime misjudges ability to intimidate Resistance': Iranian envoy

TEHRAN- The Iranian ambassador to Lebanon has asserted that the Zionist regime, along with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is mistakenly believing that escalating attacks on regional nations will intimidate the Axis of Resistance.

Mojtaba Amani expressed his views on the X social network on Tuesday, addressing the recent

surge in the Zionist regime's military actions in Syria and the occupied West Bank.

He stated, "The Zionist regime and Netanyahu are under the false impression that their increased aggression, which includes assaults on Gaza, the West Bank, and Syria, will instill fear in the resistance front and lead to their victory."

Amani emphasized that this approach is destined to fail, and we will witness the unfolding of this failure in the coming days and nights.

The Iranian representative further affirmed that the Islamic Republic is unwavering in its support for the Resistance front in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon.

Result should have been better: Mohammad Pooladgar

TEHRAN - Iran's chef de mission for the 2024 Paralympic Games, Mohammad Pooladgar, says that they were capable of achieving much more than their eventual 14th place in the Games.

The Iranian athletes collected eight gold, 10 silver and seven bronze medals in Paris.

In 2020 Tokyo, Iran claimed 12 gold medals, 11 silvers and one bronze, finishing in 13th place.

"We are definitely not satisfied because our athletes should have done better in 2024 Paralympics but the delegation did well overall in the Games," Pooladgar said.

"Our technical committee almost predicted our athletes' result but in some sports it didn't happen. For example, we had predicted to win two gold medals in taekwondo but won one silver and two bronzes," he added.

"Our performance in Paris was acceptable. If we exclude China, who is not comparable to us and has 85 million people with disabilities, only Japan and Uzbekistan were higher than us among the Asian countries. We are capable of achieving more success in the future," Pooladgar concluded.

Iran earn hard-fought win over UAE in 2026 WCQ

TEHRAN - Iran earned a hard-fought 1-0 win against United Arab of Emirates in their AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 Group A tie on Tuesday.

Mehdi Ghaedi was the hero for Team Melli, his goal late in the first half keeping Iran on maximum points after two matches.

Paulo Bento opted for an unchanged UAE starting line-up while Amir Ghalenoei made four changes with Saleh Hardani, Saeid Ezatollahi, Hossein Kanani and Alireza Jahanbakhsh all starting for Iran. Chances were few and far in between in the opening 25 minutes with neither Khalid Eisa in UAE's goal nor Alireza Beiranvand for Iran being tested.

Iran had the ball in the net just after the half hour mark when Mehdi Taremi's scuffed shot fell kindly for Mehdi Ghaedi to steer home but it was ruled out for offside, the-afc.com reported.

UAE thought they had a late opportunity to level proceedings from the spot after referee Kim Jong-hyeok pointed to the spot for a handball by Hardani but upon VAR review, it was overturned and with that, ended the Emiratis' hopes of a comeback.

Ghalenoei rues missed chances against UAE

TEHRAN - Head coach Amir Ghalenoei was left with mixed feelings after his Iran side remained perfect in Group A of the AFC Asian Qualifiers - Road to 26 with a 1-0 victory over United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

For the second game running, Iran created plenty of chances but had to be satisfied with only a 1-0 win with the 60-year-old left pleased with the points collected but looking to improve his side's finishing.

"I congratulate Mr. Bento for the good team he has built. It is one of the best teams that UAE has built," said Ghalenoei. "It was a match that could have ended with a difference of three or four goals and at the same time, was almost a draw."

"Before the game, I said that we had identified the UAE's strengths in (the match against) Qatar, neutralized them and scored from their weaknesses. In fact, we could have scored more goals."

"We did not convert 90 percent of our chances. Sometimes football punishes you for that but fortunately, we were not punished but it is a problem we have to solve," he added.

Iran's Ahmadabbasi among Ones to Watch in 2024 Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN - With just two days to go before the FIFA Futsal World Cup Uzbekistan 2024 kicks off, the continent's five representatives are all geared up to shine on the global stage.

With the continent chasing a first ever FIFA Futsal World Cup winner, the-AFC.com profiles one key player from each Asian team.

One of the standout stars of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024, Saeid Ahmadabbasi comes into the FIFA Futsal World Cup with sky-high expectations.

Scoring an impressive eight goals and registering an assist, Ahmadabbasi not only helped Iran maintain its dominance in Asia but also claimed the AFC Futsal Asian Cup MVP and Top Scorer awards.

A lethal finisher, Ahmadabbasi's performances will be pivotal to Iran's ambitions at Uzbekistan 2024. Muhammad Osamanmusa (Thailand), Akbar Usmonov (Uzbekistan), Samandar Rizomov (Tajikistan) and Mehran Gholami (Afghanistan) are the other Asian players in the list.

Persepolis new signing Lucas Joao arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN - Persepolis new signing Lucas Joao arrived in Tehran, capital of Iran on Wednesday.

The Portuguese joined Persepolis last week and will undergo medical test on Thursday.

The 31-year-old striker was a member of the Qatari side Umm Salal last season and scored three goals in 10 matches.

He started his playing career in the Portuguese team Nacional and has also played for English sides Blackburn Rovers and Reading.

Lucas Joao made his full debut for Portugal in 2015, before changing his allegiance to Angola in 2022. Persepolis sits fifth in the 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) after three weeks.

Iran to meet Venezuela at 2024 Futsal World Cup opener

TEHRAN - Defeat to Kazakhstan in the quarter-finals of the 2021 edition dashed Iran's hopes of bettering the bronze medal won in 2016 and the reigning AFC Futsal Asian Cup champions will be determined to make up for that heartbreak at Uzbekistan 2024.

They cruised to a 13th Asian crown in April and with a more experienced squad this time around, Iran will fancy their chances of challenging for the title. They open against a Venezuela making only their second appearance but having advanced to the Round of 16 in 2021.

The Central Asian side will also have to contend with Guatemala (September 19) and France (September 22) for a place in the knockout stage. The match will be held on Monday at the Bukhara Universal Sports Complex.

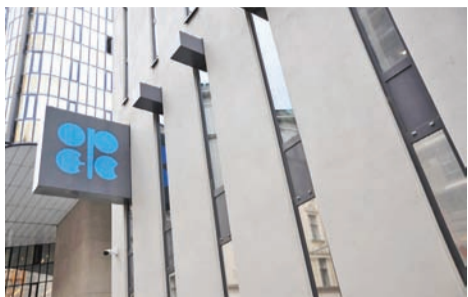
Persepolis defender Pouraliganji to miss Al Ahli match

TEHRAN - Persepolis iconic defender Morteza Pouraliganji will not be fit for the match against Al Ahli. Persepolis will play the Saudi Arabian team on Monday at the King Abdullah Sports City stadium in Jeddah city, Saudi Arabia.

Pouraliganji suffered a foot injury in Iran domestic league and will not fit for the vital clash.

The Iranian team will also play Qatari club Al Sadd on September 30.

Iran remains OPEC 3rd biggest oil producer in August: report



TEHRAN – The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in its latest report has said Iran produced 3.277 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in August, registering a 4,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month.

As reported, Iran has maintained its place as OPEC's third biggest oil producer after Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Based on secondary sources, Iran produced 3.273 million bpd of crude oil in July, the report said.

The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the second quarter of 2024 stood at 3.238 million bpd indicating a 59,000 bpd increase compared to the figure for the first quarter of the year, the report said.

The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2022 at 2.554 million bpd, while the average output in 2023 was 2.859 million bpd. Iran's average crude oil price decreased by \$6.94 per barrel in August compared to July, according to the report.

According to OPEC, Iran's crude oil was sold at \$78.8 per barrel on average in the mentioned month, while the price was \$84.57 in July.

Back in April, the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) reported that Iran's oil production in 2023 saw an increase of 500,000 bpd in comparison to the previous year, reaching 3.1 million bpd.

According to the IMF data, the oil sector of Iran's economy recorded a noteworthy growth of 15 percent in 2023. Over the three years of late President Ebrahim Raisi's tenure, this sector experienced a double-digit growth; therefore, the oil sector saw 10.1 percent, 10 percent, and 15 percent growth respectively in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

It is predicted that Iran's oil production will increase by another 100,000 bpd, reaching 3.2 million bpd in 2024.

Iran has maintained its place as OPEC's third biggest oil producer.

Iran's gas production also increased from the equivalent of 4.8 million barrels of oil per day in 2022 to the equivalent of 5.1 million bpd in 2023.

According to IMF, the figure is expected to rise by 300,000 bpd to reach the equivalent of 5.4 million bpd in 2024.

Iran exported 1.4 million barrels of oil per day in 2023, indicating an increase of 500,000 barrels compared to its oil export data in the previous year, and it is expected that in the current year, an additional 100,000 barrels would be added to Iran's oil exports, reaching 1.5 million bpd.

in the same period of the previous year, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

As IRNA reported, of the total facilities, about 75.6 percent, was paid to the business owners (real and legal), and 24.4 percent, to the final consumers (households).

Bank loans to economic sectors up over 23% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN – The Iranian banking system has paid 25.29 quadrillion rials (about \$50.58 billion) of facilities to various economic sectors in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), registering a 23.9 percent rise from the figure

in the same period of the previous year, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced.

As IRNA reported, of the total facilities, about 75.6 percent, was paid to the business owners (real and legal), and 24.4 percent, to the final consumers (households).

Annual stationery production in Iran increases 37%

TEHRAN – Iranian stationery producers managed to produce 404 million of different stationery items in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20) registering a 37 percent growth year on year, according to Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Baradaran.

According to the official, last year over 295 million items of the mentioned commodities were produced in the country, IRIB reported.

Baradaran noted that domestic producers supplied 60 percent of the country's stationery



needs in the current Iranian year that mean about 40 percent has been met by imports.

Non-oil goods worth about \$5b exported from Bushehr province in 5 months

TEHRAN- Non-oil commodities valued at about \$5 billion were exported from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), according to a provincial official.

Ali Soleymani, an official with the customs department of the province, said that 13.215 million tons of non-oil goods have been exported from the province in the 5-month period.

He said that the export indicates three percent growth year on year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), 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.

Mohammad Rezvaniyar 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.

Rezvaniyar 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.

Electricity generation from renewable sources rises 23%

TEHRAN – Iranian renewable power plants generated 264 million kilowatt-hours (Kwh) of electricity in the previous Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22-August 22), registering a 23-percent growth compared to the same month in the previous year.

According to the data released by Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA), renewable power plants generated over 1280 Kwh of electricity since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), IRNA reported.

The electricity generated by renewable sources also increased by nine percent in the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (ended on July 21) compared to a month earlier.

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

Diversification of financing models for renewable projects,



increasing the ceiling of guaranteed electricity purchase, providing the possibility of buying and selling renewable electricity in the green board of the Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) and providing the possibility of exporting renewable electricity have been the most important measures taken for this purpose.

In late July, SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani said 600 renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,500 megawatts (MW) are under construction across the country

and with these power plants going operational the share of renewables in Iran's power generation will reach 15 percent.

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

Iranian Energy Ministry has also put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current

government administration (August 2025).

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

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

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

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

Iran-UAE five-month trade exceeds \$11b

TEHRAN – The value of non-oil trade between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood at \$11.009 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

The IRICA report put the weight of the non-oil trade between the two countries at 10.533 million tons.

In early August, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Tehran said over 122,000 Iranian business persons are currently working in the UAE.

"Economic figures show that Iran-UAE business interactions have increased in recent years, and more than 122,000 Iranian businessmen are doing business in the UAE," Saif Mohammed al-Zaabi said in a meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives Bahman Abdollahi.

Pointing out that the problems of Iranian and Emirati businessmen and economic operators are not political but in the legal field, he admitted: "Cooperation between the two countries in the field of sea and air transport has also increased."

Abdollahi for his part introduced some of the capabilities of the cooperative sector in Iran and said: "Cooperatives have an important and effective position in Iran and a significant part of the production in our country is done by cooperatives."

The value of non-oil trade between Iran and the UAE stood at \$8.064 billion during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Iran and the United Arab Emirates signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for expanding economic cooperation in a variety of areas at the end of the two countries' 3rd Joint Economic Committee meeting in May 1.

The MOU was signed by former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and UAE's Economy Minister Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, who co-chaired the joint meeting.

During the mentioned committee meeting, the two sides stressed the need for further expansion of economic cooperation between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at the end of the meeting, Bazrpash said: "We have held the joint commission between the two countries after 10 years, which is an opportunity to develop the commercial and economic relations between the two countries."

"The UAE, as Iran's second biggest trade partner, has great strategic importance for us," the minister said.

Referring to the location of Iran and the UAE in the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), Bazarpash said: "Access to the markets of the north and south can create an opportunity for the two countries to cooperate."

In the end, the minister emphasized solving the banking and monetary problems between the two countries to facilitate bilateral trade relations.

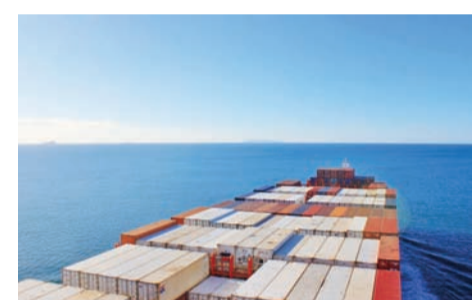
Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri for his part underlined the importance of the meeting, saying: "Holding today's meeting shows the development and expansion of economic relations between the two countries. After China, the UAE has the largest amount of trade relations with Iran. The trade value of the two countries has reached 27 billion dollars and many Iranian companies are established in the UAE."

"Creating new opportunities for transportation and banking cooperation is one of the achievements of this commission," the official said.

Referring to the performance of the UAE government in the field of investment, the official said: "The approval of the law on the formation of foreign companies and the government's support for companies that operate in the field of new energies has created a good opportunity for business with the UAE."

The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Commission was held in Abu Dhabi from April 30 until May 1.

As announced by the head of the Islamic



Republic of Iran Customs Administration, 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 Rezvaniyar 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.

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 Rezvaniyar.

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.

Iran stands at 4th place in world in number of apiaries

TEHRAN- As announced by an official with Iran's Agriculture Ministry, the country's rank is fourth in the world in terms of the number of apiaries.

Mohammad-Ebrahim Hassan-Nejad, the deputy minister for livestock products affairs, has also said that 155,000 people are working in the apiaries of the country, adding this number of people are working in 94,932 apiaries.

He said Iran holds the third place in the world in terms of honey production amount, adding the country's honey production per capita stands at 1.415 kilograms.

Hassan-Nejad also put the country's honey consumption per capita at 1.397 kilograms.

Based on the data released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

Iran is the third-largest producer of honey in the world.

The chairman of the Animal Science Research Institute has said that the amount of honey production in the country should be increased by three to four kilograms per colony.

Mokhtar Mohajer said, "According to the Seventh National Development Plan (2022-2026), the amount of

honey production should be increased by at least three to four kilograms per colony according to the diversity of plants and the area of pastures that we have in the country".

He announced that 8,300 kilograms of royal jelly, 406 tons of pollen, 2,536 tons of beeswax, 247 tons of propolis, and 3,917 grams of bee venom are produced annually in the country.

Hojatollah Samadi appointed as new SEO head

TEHRAN – Members of Iran's Securities and Exchange Council have elected Hojatollah Samadi as the new head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), IRIB

reported.

Samadi, who has served in various executive positions, replaced Majid Eshqi during a meeting of the mentioned council on Wednesday.

The new SEO's head has also been a board member of Bank Saderat Iran, and Iran Khodro Company.

Israeli military fiasco sparks mass exodus

From page 1 ▶ "Today, in accordance with the state of the war, the processes of the gathering ranks and the building of the unit's resilience, and after the completion of the initial investigative processes, I request to fulfill my personal responsibility as the commander of the unit on October 7 and at a time to be determined by my commanders to pass the baton to the next shift," Sarel said in a letter, according to the Israeli broadcaster Kan that was published on Thursday.

Sarel is among several senior officials who have resigned after facing criticism for failing to predict or forestall the Al-Aqsa Storm.

Reports also suggest that more than 1,000 Israeli officers have submitted requests to terminate their contracts with the army.

The Israeli army is accused of coverup amid fears that reports about the resignation requests could plunge the regime into total chaos.

This comes as the Israeli military has been grappling with a



Israeli media say over 1,000 officers have submitted requests to terminate their contracts amid exasperation over army failures on the Gaza battlefield.

shortage of soldiers amid its war of genocide on Gaza which erupted following the Al-Aqsa Storm.

On July 1, war minister Yoav Gallant revealed that the army urgently required an additional 10,000 soldiers amid reports of a "significant increase" in the number of officers seeking early retirement from military service.

Last month, the Israeli military threatened to make dozens of soldiers face trial over their refusal to return to the Gaza Strip,

amid growing cases of such refusals in recent months.

Israeli media said in late August that at least 20 soldiers have refused to return to Gaza.

More than 1,100 people were killed during the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation and over 250 Israelis and foreigners were taken captive. Over 100 captives were released in a swap deal with Hamas in November last year. Israel has freed several captives during raids in Gaza while dozens of

them have been killed as a result of the regime's strikes. Dozens of captives still remain in Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is accused of derailing the talks aimed at reaching a ceasefire deal with Hamas which could end the war and ensure the release of the captives.

Israel has killed more than 41,000 Palestinians, including some 16,000 children in Gaza since the start of the Gaza onslaught.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until "destroying" Hamas and achieving "total victory" over the resistance group. Gallant has described Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "gibberish" and "nonsense".

For now, the wave of resignations in the Israeli army indicates that a growing number of officials is disillusioned with the prolonged Gaza war. They have realized that the Israeli army will not only fail to eliminate Hamas but also the continuation of the conflict will claim the lives of more soldiers on the battlefield.



Reports suggest that Israel's military Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi has set a December deadline to submit his resignation for failing to prevent Hamas' October 7 attack.



The commander of Israel's military surveillance agency, Unit 8200, has announced his resignation. Brig. Gen. Yossi Sarel acknowledged his unit failed to act to prevent the Al-Aqsa Storm.

Hezbollah attack on Gilot left "96 casualties" Report says operation was "highly successful"

From page 1 ▶ On the same day, the movement's Secretary-General, Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, delivered a speech explaining that 340 rockets were fired to confuse and deplete the Iron Dome and other Israeli interceptor systems in the first phase of the operation.

A second phase swiftly followed with the launch of many different types of drones to strike their targets including The Gilot base located 110 kilometers from the Lebanese border and 1,500 meters from Tel Aviv.

The Ein Shemer airbase, 40 kilometers from Tel Aviv, was also struck, according to the Hezbollah secretary general.

Nasrallah debunked Israeli "lies" about the

operation, saying, "A significant number of drones hit their intended targets, but the enemy is keeping all relevant details concealed, but the days and nights will reveal the truth of what happened there".

Experts have described the timing of the Israeli military's Unit 8200 commander as highly suspicious, adding further evidence to Hezbollah's success in targeting Gilot.

Yossi Sarel announced his resignation on Thursday, in a letter to staff, which he attributed to the failures of his intelligence unit based in Gilot for the October 7 attack.

"The responsibility for 8200's part in the intelligence and operational failure falls squarely on me," Sarel stated.

Analysts say news of Sarel's intention to resign emerged in Israeli media on Tuesday and he has not been seen in public since, which has led some to believe he may have died in the Hezbollah attack on Gilot.

Other experts have said it is unusual for the person in charge of the Israeli Unit 8200 to accept responsibility for intelligence failures on October 7, more than 11 months after the attacks.

Other top Israeli military generals had resigned from their posts much earlier, which has led experts and analysts in the region to believe that Sarel is actually resigning for his intelligence unit's failures in Hezbollah's "Operation Arbaeen".

The Palestinian Authority: A leadership in disarray amid conflict

From page 1 ▶ Despite the severity of the situation, Abbas dismissed the Beijing Declaration as irrelevant and unconstructive. This reaction from an increasingly unpopular leader surprised many, as his indifference toward national unity at a time of extreme crisis underscores his leadership shortcomings.

Mahmoud Abbas's leadership has been marked by a series of failures since he took office in 2005 after the death of Yasser Arafat. Two key events defined his tenure: Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 and the collapse of the national unity government followed by a civil war in Gaza in 2007.

Abbas began his leadership with promises of diplomacy and unity. Initially, he managed to unify Palestinian factions to support a ceasefire with Israel, bringing an end to the violence of the Second Intifada. However, Ariel Sharon's disinterest in a peace process and Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, which was not aimed at advancing a two-state solution, left Abbas without room for maneuver.

The failure of this withdrawal triggered a series of devastating events. In 2006, Hamas's surprise electoral victory ended decades of Fatah dominance and plunged Palestinian politics into deep division. Politically, Fatah and Hamas represent entirely opposing views on resisting Israeli occupation. While Fatah and the PA advocate cooperating with Israel to suppress all forms of resistance, including international boycott campaigns, Hamas insists on active resistance, both military and civil.

The current moment demands effective leadership committed to national unity, something that seems beyond the reach of Abbas and his weakened Palestinian Authority.

The political differences between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority (PA) erupted into open conflict in 2007 when Hamas seized control of Gaza, expelling the PA. In response, the PA, led by Mahmoud Abbas, accused Hamas of staging a coup. Israel lifted certain restrictions in the West Bank while tightening the blockade on Gaza. Abbas and Fatah intensified their crackdown on Hamas leaders, arresting its followers, while Israel detained Hamas candidates who had won parliamentary seats and members of the new cabinet. Supported by Egypt and Abbas, Israel imposed a severe blockade on Gaza, aiming to force Hamas's surrender through the suffering of the civilian population.

Under Abbas's leadership, the PA has aligned itself with the colonial agreements and structures imposed by Israel. For many Palestinians, the PA is seen as an obstacle to the national liberation struggle, a perception rooted in the Oslo Accords, which Palestinian intellectual Edward Said described as "an instrument of Palestinian surrender." Abbas and his administration continue to operate within this framework, abandoning active resistance against Israeli colonialism and instead adopting a policy of accommodation.

The discourse adopted by the PA mirrors Israel's perspective, rejecting any changes that challenge colonial dominance. Within this

framework, demands for justice and respect for Palestinian rights are rendered meaningless, as no substantial ethical claims can be made without first redefining the current political order. This passive acceptance of the colonial narrative perpetuates a paradigm that condemns Palestinians to conditions of suffering and death.

The PA's political inability to challenge the colonial structure underlies its antagonism with Hamas and other sectors of Palestinian society, who believe that justice can only be achieved through a political break from colonialism. This is the central difference between the Palestinian Resistance and the PA: while the Resistance sees breaking away from the colonial order as essential, the PA seeks accommodation within the existing oppressive system. This stance explains the PA's collaboration with colonial forces, an act that many view as a betrayal of the national liberation struggle.

Security coordination between the PA and Israel—including intelligence sharing about the local population and the arrest or assassination of Palestinians, whether political dissidents or armed militants—clearly reflects the PA's adoption of the colonial paradigm. This uncritical acceptance of the framework imposed by Israel is not merely a miscalculation but a conscious political choice designed to preserve the colonial order. In this context, the Palestinian Authority cannot be reformed or altered, as it was created specifically to function in this manner.

Sinwar tells Hezbollah chief: Hamas will continue war 'until the occupation is defeated'

Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar has thanked Secretary General of Lebanon's Hezbollah Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah for the resistance movement's support in the war with Israel.

"Your blessed actions have expressed your solidarity on the fronts of the 'axis of resistance,' supporting and engaging in the battle," Sinwar told the Hezbollah leader in a letter, according to al-Manar.

Sinwar vowed that the "blessed convoys of martyrs will increase in strength and power in confronting the Nazi Zionist occupation."

The Hamas leader also pledged to continue fighting "the Zionist project" alongside the axis of resistance, "until the occupation is defeated and swept away from our land, and our independent state with full sovereignty



is established with Jerusalem (al-Quds) as its capital."

Hezbollah has been engaging in exchanges of fire with the Israeli army since the outbreak of the Gaza war on October 7. Hezbollah has said that its attacks on Israel will stop once a ceasefire has been established in Gaza.

Autopsy report: Eygi killed by direct Israeli hit

An autopsy report prepared by the Palestinian Authority suggests that Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, a 26-year-old Turkish-American activist, was directly shot in the head by Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank, according to three forensic experts who reviewed the dossier.

The report, dated 6 September and drafted by a Palestinian medical committee led by Dr Rayyan al-Ali, contradicts the version of event given by Israel and US President Joe Biden, who said the bullet that killed Eygi appeared to have "ricocheted off the ground".

Three separate forensic experts who viewed the autopsy report told Middle East Eye that the damage on Ezgi's skull and the destruction within suggest that it was a direct hit.

"The bullet left a large damage inside the skull and it appears like it spent all its kinetic energy in the impacted area in parallel with gun fire that directly hits to head," Polat Erdi, a forensic medicine expert, told MEE.

Eygi, a pro-Palestinian activist with the In-



Eygi's body has been transferred to Izmir for burial in Aydin, southwestern Turkey, following a ceremony in Istanbul.

ternational Solidarity Movement (ISM), was shot in the head when Israeli soldiers opened fire on protestors in the West Bank village of Beita near Nablus a week ago.

Meanwhile, Turkish authorities are trying to gather evidence regarding Eygi's death that could later be used in the ongoing trial against Israel at the International Court of Justice.

Putin sends clear message to the West on long-range missiles for Ukraine

President Vladimir Putin has delivered a clear message to the West about the consequences it will face if it allows Ukraine to hit Russian territory with Western long-range missiles, the Kremlin said on Friday.

Putin said on Thursday that the West would be directly fighting with Russia if it allowed Ukraine to strike Russian territory with Western-made long-range missiles, a move he said would alter the nature and scope of the conflict.

"The statement made by President Putin is very important. It is extremely clear, unambiguous and does not allow for double readings. We have no doubt that this statement reached those it was intended for," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been

pleading with Kyiv's allies for months to let Ukraine fire Western missiles including long-range U.S. ATACMS and British Storm Shadow deep into Russian territory to limit Moscow's ability to launch attacks.

Putin said on Thursday that such a move would drag the countries supplying Kyiv with long-range missiles directly into the war. He said satellite targeting data and programming of the missiles' flight paths would have to be provided by NATO military personnel, as Kyiv did not have the capabilities itself.

"If this decision is taken, it will mean nothing less than the direct involvement of NATO countries, the United States and European countries in the war in Ukraine," he said, and Russia would be forced to take "appropriate decisions".

Russia expels 6 British diplomats it accuses of spying

Russia on Friday accused six British diplomats of spying and said it decided to expel them. The UK said the "completely baseless" move came weeks ago and was linked to its action in May to revoke the credentials of an attaché at the Russian Embassy and limit Moscow's diplomatic activities in London, AP reported.

Russia's Federal Security Service said in an online statement that the Foreign Ministry withdrew the British envoys' accreditations, and Russian TV quoted an FSB official as saying it was decided to expel them.

The FSB said it received documents indicating the diplomats were sent to Russia by a division of the UK's Foreign Office "whose main task is to inflict a strategic defeat on our country," and that they were involved in "intelligence-gathering and subversive ac-

tivities." It did not identify the six diplomats.

The FSB warned that if other diplomats are found to be carrying out "similar actions," it "will demand early termination of their missions" to Russia.

Russian TV said the six diplomats had met with independent media and rights groups that have been declared "foreign agents".

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said in a statement that the diplomats were carrying out "subversive actions aimed at causing harm to our people."

"We fully agree with the assessments of the activities of the British so-called diplomats expressed by the Russian FSB," she added in an online statement. "The British Embassy has gone far beyond the limits outlined by the Vienna Conventions."

UNESCO-listed Isfahan mosque undergoes cleaning project after half a century



TEHRAN - A restoration and cleaning project on the tiles of the UNESCO-registered Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, also known as Atiq Mosque, has commenced for the first time in 50 years.

Senior experts from Isfahan's cultural heritage directorate have employed the latest scientific methods to begin the tile cleaning operations, starting with the western prayer hall of the mosque, the directorate's chief said on Thursday.

"We hope to complete the restoration and cleaning of this valuable and unique mosque by the end of this [Iranian] year (which comes to an end on March 20, 2025)," Amir Karamzadeh added.

Highlighting the mosque's significance as one of the most beautiful historical mosques in Iran and the world, the official noted: "The Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, renowned for its stunning architecture and decoration, features millions of intricate 'haft rang' (seven-colored) tiles and exquisite mosaic work."

According to Karamzadeh, the last comprehensive cleaning of the tiles was carried out

over five decades ago. "Since then, environmental factors, including prolonged drought, increased dust and particulate matter in the air, and heightened industrial pollution from vehicles and factories, have caused a significant accumulation of grime and soot on the mosque's tiles."

The Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, one of Iran's oldest mosques, is not only a place of worship but also a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, with a history spanning over a thousand years. The current cleaning project aims to preserve the mosque's historical and artistic integrity, ensuring that its beauty endures for future generations.

Located in the heart of Isfahan, the mosque has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2012, drawing visitors from around the globe to admire its artistic and architectural wonders.

UNESCO has it that the mosque can be seen as a stunning illustration of the evolution of mosque architecture over twelve centuries. The complex, covering more than 20,000 square meters, is also the first Islamic building that adapted the four-courtyard layout of Sassanid palaces to Islamic religious architecture.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

UNESCO assessor visits prehistoric caves in Khorramabad's valley

TEHRAN - A UNESCO assessor has visited several prehistoric caves in Khorramabad's valley as part of an ongoing evaluation process for the inclusion of "Khorramabad's Valley and Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress" in UNESCO's World Heritage list.

The visit aims to assess the historical and cultural significance of these sites for potential recognition by the UN cultural body, ILNA reported on Wednesday.

According to Ata Hassanpour, the tourism chief of Lorestan province, the UNESCO assessor conducted an on-site inspection of several prehistoric caves, including the Gilvaran, Yafteh, and Konji caves, as well as the Gar Arjeneh rock shelter.

"These assessments were carried out to evaluate the archaeological value and preservation status of these ancient sites," Hassanpour said.

During the visit to the Gilvaran Cave, the assessor examined an archaeological trench, informational panels, excavated artifacts, and the chronological chart associated with the historical site, the official explained.



"The cave, along with others in the valley, is considered significant due to its ancient human habitation and rich archaeological findings."

Additionally, the UN expert visited other historical landmarks in the area, such as the Pol-e Shekasteh ("Broken Bridge") among some other historical elements.

Falak-ol-Aflak is an unmissable eight-towered fortress that dominates Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province.

Some experts believe that Falak-ol-Aflak along with its associated cultural elements, is comparable with similar works in Naqsh-e Rostam, Naqsh-e Rajab, Tape Chugan, and Firuzabad in the southern Fars province.

Tourism rebounds but remains vulnerable to 'health threats'

While global tourism bounces back stronger than expected, some international tourism officials are urging continued vigilance and enhanced cooperation to safeguard the sector against emerging health threats such as mpox and possible future disruptions.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Julia Simpson, head of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), said that the sector's recovery post-COVID has not only met expectations but, in many instances, exceeded them.

"The global tourism sector is making a remarkable comeback," she said, citing the council's own 2024 Economic Impact Research.

According to the report, the travel and tourism sector is expected to see a \$770 billion jump in contributions to world GDP, reaching \$11.1 trillion in 2024 or nearly 10 percent of the global economy.

The sector is expected to support nearly 348 million jobs this year, up 13.6 million from 2019.

"These positive trends suggest a very strong outlook for the remainder of the year," she said.

Simpson highlighted key strategies that have prepared the sector for withstanding future shocks, such as forming "trust-based coalitions" with governments, tourism organiza-

tions, and local communities for coordinated responses to crises.

While acknowledging the uncertainty around new health threats like the mpox virus, Simpson stressed that the industry learned valuable lessons from the 2020 COVID pandemic, including the importance of agility, communication, and flexibility.

Businesses that adapted quickly, such as by focusing on domestic tourism or embracing digital changes, proved to be more resilient, she said.

"Governments, international organizations, and the private sector must work together to develop integrated strategies that support a robust and adaptable global tourism sector," Simpson said.

Zurab Pololikashvili, the secretary-general of UN Tourism, echoed this call for heightened vigilance in the face of uncertainties in the public health care sector.

"Global tourism continues to bounce back strongly, with international arrivals reaching 97 percent of 2019 levels in the first quarter of 2024," Pololikashvili told Anadolu.

(Source: Hurriyet Daily News)

Archaeologists seek reasons behind Sialk's abandonment, a question left unanswered for 2,500 years

TEHRAN - The third phase of a reassessment project at Tepe Sialk, a treasured 8,000-year-old archaeological site near Kashan in Isfahan province, has commenced.

Authorized by the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, the excavation is co-led by Jebrael Nokandeh from the National Museum of Iran and Javad Hosseinzadeh Sadati from Kashan University. This phase seeks to uncover the reasons behind the mysterious abandonment of the pre-historical site, a question that has remained unanswered for 2,500 years.

According to Hosseinzadeh, this season of excavation focuses on two main objectives: research and public display. "Our primary question is understanding why Sialk was abandoned. We aim to preserve displayable artifacts for visitors and eventually showcase them step by step," he explained.

"This phase marks the third stage of the reassessment project, which began in 2022," ISNA quoted the archaeologist as saying on Friday.

The reassessment was first proposed and initiated by the late Dr. Sadeq Malek Shahmirzadi, a distinguished archaeologist from the University of Tehran, to address unresolved questions left after earlier excavations by French archaeologist Roman Ghirshman. Ghirshman conducted three seasons of excavation at Sialk in 1933, 1934, and 1937, but the site was subsequently neglected. The current project follows earlier phases, the first of which was conducted by Dr. Shahmirzadi from 2001 to 2005, and the second by Hassan Fazeli Nashli in 2008 and 2009, ISNA reported.

The third phase of the project, currently underway with a team of about 20 experts from several universities, including Kashan, Tehran, Tarbiat Modares, Shahid Beheshti, Isfahan Art, and Nishapur universities, is focusing on the sixth period of Sialk (approximately 2,800 to 2,600 years ago), the last period of settlement at the site. "We have been working on this period for the past two years and hope to continue for another three years," Hosseinzadeh told ISNA.

He emphasized that artifacts unearthed from this period will be preserved for public viewing. "The displayable artifacts will be



protected from wind and rain, and eventually, they will be prepared for public display with fixed roofing, lighting, and informative panels," he added.

Hosseinzadeh highlighted the continuity of Sialk's history from circa 8,000 to 2,500 years ago and mentioned that new findings are being analyzed using modern methods and tests unavailable in the past to reconstruct the economic, technological, and social conditions of the period. "We also aim to reconstruct the beliefs, worldviews, and cultural aspects of the people from that era," he noted.

When asked if the reasons for Sialk's abandonment and the migration of its inhabitants would be explored, Hosseinzadeh confirmed, "Our most important question in studying the sixth period of Sialk is why it was abandoned. Various factors, from climatic and natural issues to cultural reasons, have been suggested."

He pointed out that no evidence of economic decline has been found at the site, nor any indication of a significant climate crisis, given that the Achaemenids emerged around 100 years later and thrived for nearly 200 years.

"Sialk was flourishing during its sixth period, with workshops, well-preserved graves, and pottery. It doesn't appear that the people were in distress, as they even engaged in public welfare activities," he explained.

Hosseinzadeh suggested that political or social issues might have led to Sialk's abandonment, or that the region no longer had the capacity to sustain further habitation. "At this point, we cannot definitively answer until all information is gathered. My view is that a political event might have caused Sialk to be abandoned," he added.

Lalejin to celebrate 8th anniversary as world pottery hub



Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Mousavi highlighted the unique artistic heritage and capacity that led to Lalejin's selection as a world pottery city among numerous cities globally.

"Pottery has been a part of Lalejin's cultural and economic fabric for centuries," he stated.

"The quantity and quality of Lalejin's pottery continue to improve, demonstrating the continuous evolution of this art form."

Mousavi emphasized the need to preserve and enhance the pottery craft using modern technologies, honoring the efforts of Lalejin's ancestors who established this tradition.

He also highlighted the diverse programs planned for the anniversary, including the collection of outstanding pottery works, a photo contest, a family hiking event for pottery artisans, and exhibitions showcasing the best pottery pieces.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the mayor added that Lalejin attracts a significant number of tourists each year, who visit the city while exploring oth-

er tourist sites in the region, such as the nearby ancient city of [the UNESCO-registered] Hegmataneh and Ali Sadr Cave.

The mayor noted that Lalejin is home to over 300 specialized pottery and ceramic shops and more than 1,200 active workshops, making it a vibrant hub for both artisans and tourists.

Beyond the pottery scene, Lalejin also offers a serene natural countryside for enthusiasts to explore. Surrounded by rugged mountains and lush greenery, the town provides ample hiking opportunities and picnicking.

A city without unemployment

Mousavi also described Lalejin as the "city without unemployment" in Hamadan province, stating that around 5,000 people, both men and women, come from across the province daily to work in Lalejin's pottery and ceramic workshops.

He noted that many local women engage in specialized pottery painting and enameling on ceramics, while women outside the city purchase pottery from Lalejin, decorate it at home, and sell it back in Lalejin.

UN Tourism launches investment guidelines for Armenia

UN Tourism has added to its growing portfolio of investment guidelines with a new edition focused on the potential of Armenia.

"Tourism Doing Business - Investing in Armenia" guides investors and tourism professionals seeking in-depth knowledge about Armenia's tourism sector.

It allows them to make informed decisions by showcasing Armenia's unique cultural heritage, robust economic growth, and supportive business environment.

UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili says: "Armenia is a rising tourism destination.

At the same time, its dedication

to economic reforms, infrastructure development, and the promotion of foreign direct investment has positioned it as the fastest-growing economy in Europe.

These new Guidelines underscore Armenia's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for international capital and

artifacts ranging from daggers to decorations and animal gear found in various settlements and graves, the archaeologist said.

Hosseinzadeh highlighted the significance of these new discoveries: "Until now, we had few artifacts directly linked to industrial activities that led to production. For the first time last year and this year, we found places where such activities occurred, which is astonishing."

He added, "This year, we discovered two industrial workshops equipped with furnaces or kilns. The stone tools used for metalworking, blowpipes for the furnaces, and slag from the metalworking process are among our most important finds this season. After documenting these field discoveries and preparing reports, we will integrate them with existing historical narratives to provide a deeper and more nuanced understanding of this period."

Regarding the preservation of the archaeological layers at Sialk, Hosseinzadeh clarified that they intend to maintain the metalworking workshops and excavate further downwards in adjacent areas. "We plan to excavate step-by-step from the top to the bottom. The upper layers we are working on date back 2,500 years, and as we dig deeper, we reach layers from 6,300 years ago. Ultimately, one of our goals is to preserve the architectural development and artifacts for public display as they were found," he stated.

According to archaeologists, Tepe Sialk, with its cultural layers from prehistoric times, the Early Elamite period, and the Iron Age, is a valuable heritage site and a repository of information that can help trace and understand the transformations that occurred in ancient human societies.

Louvre-hosted meeting

In 2019, the Louver Museum hosted a worldwide gathering on Sialk, which was attended by archaeologists from Germany, England, France, and Iran.

The event, as mentioned by the prestigious museum, was aimed to cast a new light on the ancient site some 80 years after its first excavation to lay an opportunity to present to the public the diversity of research and projects, as well as current issues of preservation and enhancement.

(Source: UN Tourism)

IAJCC, UNICEF join hands to promote children's wellbeing in Iran

TEHRAN – The Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce (IAJCC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have signed a three-year agreement to work for the welfare and well-being of children in Iran.

As per this partnership, the IAJCC will mobilize its members' financial support for UNICEF programs in Iran.

UNICEF and the IAJCC will also work together to offer opportunities for the business sector to mitigate negative impacts and yield positive results for children, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on September 9.

"UNICEF highly appreciates the support of the IAJCC to promote responsible business practices among private and public sector aimed at advancing children's welfare in Iran in different areas such as healthcare, nutrition, social protection, clean water, and education," said UNICEF Representative in Iran, Dr. Robin Nandy, adding, "We look forward to more such partnerships to place children's rights at the heart of the corporate sustainability agenda."

"I am profoundly honored to start a partnership with UNICEF in Iran. This agreement not only reflects our dedication to social responsibility but also our belief in the power of collective action to create a brighter future for the next generation.

Together with UNICEF, we are poised to make a significant impact in areas such as healthcare, clean water, and education, ensuring that every child in Iran has the opportunity to thrive," said the president of IAJCC, Nariman Sadri.

UNICEF has been supporting Government Ministries and partners in their work for Iran's



children since the early 1950s, initially assisting in the vaccination of children against tuberculosis and equipping the country's first pasteurized milk factory.

Later UNICEF's focus shifted to supporting children's health programs in Iran, such as promoting breastfeeding, vaccination, and preventing diarrhea.

The current country program between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNICEF, from 2023 to 2027, is focused on the following areas: Health and Nutrition, Education and Adolescent Empowerment, Child Protection, Social Policy, Emergency, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as the climate change.

IAJCC

The Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce commenced its operations on March 19, 2018, with the objective of enhancing and fortifying commercial, industrial, and economic relations between Iranian and Austrian business leaders.

The Chamber is dedicated to providing comprehensive support services and fostering effective

communication between the two nations.

In addition to its core mission, the IAJCC is actively engaged in various social initiatives, including the construction and inauguration of the 112th "Irane Man" School, the "Nafas" project, and tree planting campaigns across different regions.

Recent cooperation

On July 8, UNICEF and Panter Group signed a three-year partnership agreement titled 'Creativity for All Children' to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children and adolescents in Iran.

The partnership provides financial support to UNICEF programs.

As per this partnership, the Panter Group will donate part of the proceeds from the sale of its selected products to UNICEF.

"UNICEF highly appreciates the support of Panter Group to enable investments in priorities for children of Iran, such as healthcare, nutrition, social protection, clean water, and education," said Nandy.

He went on to say, "We look forward to more such partnerships with the private sector to join

forces and leverage the strengths of the corporate sector for the benefit of children in Iran.

UNICEF stands ready to support companies in achieving both their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and business objectives."

Panter Entrepreneurship Group, as a knowledge-based, innovative, and nanotechnology-oriented company in the field of stationery strives to apply the "Brandpreneurship" model to develop a sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystem in Iran.

On the basis of the idea of entrepreneurial management, Panter makes efforts to maintain its place as a respected and major brand at national and international levels.

In the last week of May, the Vice Presidency (VP) for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy and UNICEF organized a training session for VP directors on child rights, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on June 3.

A total of 18 VP directors and experts specialized in the fields of innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), knowledge-based economy, and cultural technologies attended the one-day training.

During the session, the participants gain insight into Results Based Management (RBM) and UNICEF's Innovation Strategy.

During the session, the participants gain insight into Results Based Management (RBM) and UNICEF's Innovation Strategy.

The session also covered government sectoral accountabilities, in developing national plans that contribute to the identification and addressing of the child rights deprivations in the country.

IRCS, ICRC hold course on early diagnosis of disabilities

TEHRAN –The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has organized a training course on early diagnosis and referral of people with disabilities.

The IRCS' volunteers from the provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Tehran participated in the training program, the IRCS website reported.

Following the implementation of the pilot phase, the training course will be optimized to be carried out on a broader scale to improve screening programs and diagnosis of specific diseases related to the rehabilitation field.

Vincent Cassard, representative of the ICRC in Iran, said the training course will play an essential role in providing effective and efficient services to individuals with disabilities.

****IRCS, ICRC bolster co-op

On August 17, the IRCS and the ICRC highlighted the significance of maintaining collaborations and enhancing cooperation in the field of rehabilitation.

During a meeting, Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, and Cassard discussed potential ways to boost cooperation.

"Holding courses in mine risk education, reuniting families, supporting refugees, and international humanitarian law serve as great avenues for fostering cooperation," IRCS quoted Alishvandi as saying.

"We are interested in maintaining and boosting joint activities, but the current focus of the Iranian Red Crescent Society is on strengthening cooperation in the field of rehabilitation, the official stated. The Iranian Red Crescent Society has more than 200 active rehabilitation centers nationwide. Accordingly, screening patients with musculoskeletal disorders is on the agenda to identify the patients and prevent these problems, she highlighted.

Cassard, for his part, lauding the IRCS efforts in various fields, said, "The International Committee of the Red Cross is ready to cooperate with the Iranian Red Crescent Society in all sectors."

Cassard went on to extend an invitation to the IRCS, in recognition of its outstanding activities in the field of rehabilitation, to attend and cooperate in the international rehabilitation conference.

In June, the IRCS and the ICRC discussed ways



to enhance rehabilitation services for vulnerable and disabled individuals in Zahedan, the capital of Sistan-Baluchestan.

During a meeting on June 13, Alishvandi and Cassard visited the rehabilitation center in Zahedan, the IRCS website reported.

Visiting the center, Alishvandi reviewed the joint rehabilitation project which in collaboration with the ICRC aims at providing physical rehabilitation services to migrants in need as well as vulnerable citizens in the cities of Zahedan, Iranshahr, Chabahar, and Zabol in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Based on the agreement, physical rehabilitation services have been provided in Sistan-Baluchestan province since the Iranian year 1398 (2018-2019).

"Currently, the Iranian Red Crescent Society operates rehabilitation centers in all 31 provinces; they offer a wide range of services to individuals with physical disabilities as part of its program," Alishvandi stated. The ICRC funds physical rehabilitation programs for vulnerable and disabled individuals, both Iranians and Afghans in Sistan-Baluchestan province. The support covers the costs of various services and supportive devices such as prostheses, orthotics, physiotherapy, special shoes, wheelchairs, canes, and walking aids.

The logistics department of ICRC purchases needed items either from Sistan-Baluchestan (in case available) or Tehran provinces.

Ongoing training sessions and on-the-job support are provided during field visits to orthotists and prosthetists throughout the manufacturing process.

Moreover, the ICRC allocates a budget to cover the costs of the project, including human resources, building rent, and equipment required for conducting screening assessments.

donation growth was recorded in the provinces of Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad (37 percent), Sistan-Baluchestan (almost 17 percent), and Kermanshah (over 14 percent), the health ministry website reported.

The official went on to say that over 15 percent of the donors were first-time blood donors.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Blood donation rises by 5% in 5 months

TEHRAN –Blood donation in Iran has increased by more than five percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year which started on March 20, compared to the same period last year.

A total of 1,768,000 blood units were donated over the mentioned period, Bashir Haji-Beigi, the Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman said on Wednesday.

He went on to say that the highest blood

Asia-Pacific turning toward neighbours for ideas on sustainable development

By Jong-Jin Kim, FAO Assistant Director-General

South-South Cooperation (SSC) has increasingly been recognized as one of the most efficient and effective means of exchanging technical know-how and experiences between countries of Asia and the Pacific.

Unlike the traditional "donor country - beneficiary country" relationships, South-South Cooperation is more like a collaboration between countries and has significantly evolved as a proven method for one country in Asia and the Pacific to learn from another that has overcome similar developmental challenges in its own recent history. Indeed, the United Nations and other multilateral development partners have increased their focus on SSC as an important complementary modality to bridge the technological gap in support of sustainable development and eradicating poverty, inequalities and, most notably, hunger.

SSC is underpinned by several principles which make it a highly desirable form of technical cooperation. These include Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; Mutual non-aggression; Mutual non-interference; Equality and mutual benefit; and Peaceful co-existence.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the

United Nations (FAO) recognizes SSC as based on solidarity among partner countries for mutual benefits, whereby FAO plays a catalytic role in facilitating cooperation among countries and institutions that have proven development solutions to share with countries in need of such solutions. Given its competitive advantage, FAO has provided a framework for such cooperation, reflecting its international experience in SSC initiatives, particularly to help drive an agrifood systems transformation for the benefit of all people in the Asia-Pacific region, and worldwide.

SSC is a partnership - not a replacement for financial development assistance

It is important to emphasize the fact that SSC is not a replacement for North-South cooperation, which is highly significant and beneficial in and of itself, but rather complementary in its approaches. The main difference is SSC provides know-how, training, and knowledge exchange, rather than providing development assistance in the form of monetary grants. In any case, both are important.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to some of the world's most cutting-edge technologies that have significantly contributed to poverty alleviation and reducing hunger.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Women should be empowered through digital economy to solve social problems: VP



From page 1 ▶ In her speech at the forum, the official stated that women drive change, and together they can harness their capabilities, particularly in the fields of technology, economy, and politics, to help improve people's livelihoods and achieve a more just,

compassionate and stable society, China Dai-ly reported.

In the digital age, new technologies offer women unique opportunities, as social networks, online platforms, and digital tools have empowered women to make their voices heard, Behrouz-Azar said.

She called for efforts to tackle challenges such as the digital divide and gender discrimination in technology so that women can fully benefit from the opportunities brought by digital development.

Initiated in 2018, the SCO Forum on Women is part of the broader efforts among SCO countries to strengthen cooperation and build a community with a shared future.

The 5th SCO Women's Forum in China's Qingdao concluded with key outcomes aimed at enhancing women's empowerment through digitalization and international cooperation.

A total of 150 participants from various countries, including Azerbaijan, Iran, Tanzania, and Kuwait, met to discuss strategies and exchange ideas for fostering women's roles in the digital economy as well as enhancing their cooperation.

Organized by the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) and other governmental entities, the forum emphasized collaborative efforts to advance women's empowerment across the SCO member states.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran working with Green Climate Fund

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is working with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to reduce the effects of climate change.

FAO and the Department of Environment as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day workshop.

"Throughout the implementation of this Project, FAO as the delivery partner has always stayed committed to providing its technical expertise, data, and tools with particular attention to the requirements of the GCF," said Gerold Bodeker, FAO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

همکاری ایران با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل

سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست به عنوان مرجع رسمی ایران در زمینه حفظ محیط زیست با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل با محوریت سازمان خواربار و کشاورزی ملل متحد (فائو) در راستای کاهش تأثیرات تغییر اقلیم همکاری می‌کند.

فائو و سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور به عنوان مرجع صلاحیت دار ملی ایران و صندوق اقلیم سبز با همکاری یکدیگر، این پروژه را پیش بردند و در قالب چند برگزاری چند کارگاه اقدامات را بررسی کردند.

گروld بودکر نماینده فائو در جمهوری اسلامی ایران گفت: در طول اجرای این پروژه، فائو، به عنوان شریک اجرایی، همیشه متعهد به ارائه تخصص فنی، داده‌ها و ابزارهای سیاستی خود با در نظر گرفتن الزامات صندوق اقلیم سبز بوده است.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Justice puts everything in its place, and liberality brings out things from a special direction. Justice is a statesman who gives everyone his right, and liberality is a habit belonging to one person only. Therefore, justice is worthier.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:00 Evening: 18:31 Dawn: 4:22 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:47 (tomorrow)

Andisheh cultural center reviews Aki Kaurismaki's "Fallen Leaves"



TEHRAN- "Fallen Leaves", a 2023 romantic-comedy film written and directed by Finnish film director Aki Kaurismaki, was reviewed at the Andisheh Cultural Center in Tehran on Tuesday.

Film critics Mohsen Soleimani Fakher and Mohsen Beigaqa attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

"Fallen Leaves" follows the intertwining lives of Ansa, a lonely woman living in Helsinki, and Holappa, a troubled man grappling with alcoholism. Ansa works a zero-hour contract in a supermarket, while Holappa operates as a sandblaster, often drinking on the job. During a karaoke night, a chance encounter leads to an unspoken connection between the two, though they do not formally meet.

After Ansa is fired for taking expired food, she takes a low-paying job at a bar, only to be unemployed again shortly after. A chance meeting at a café sparks initial romance between Ansa and Holappa, but miscommunication leads to missed connections: Holappa loses Ansa's phone number before he can reach out. Both are plagued by loneliness and addiction; Holappa's drinking causes him to lose his job and home, while Ansa grapples with the scars of alcoholism in her family.

Despite their struggles, Ansa's growing affection leads her to adopt a homeless dog. Their paths cross again when Ansa invites Holappa over but is forced to confront his alcoholism when she finds him drinking at her home, leading to a

painful confrontation. When Holappa attempts to turn his life around after their fallout, tragedy strikes as he is hit by a train.

Unaware of Holappa's fate, Ansa learns from Huotari that he is in a coma. Devoting herself to him, she visits daily, reading and speaking to him until he finally wakes up. The film concludes on a hopeful note when Holappa leaves the hospital, asking about the dog rather than Ansa's name, symbolizing new beginnings for both characters.

Born in 1957, Aki Kaurismaki is a prominent Finnish film director and screenwriter, celebrated for iconic films such as "Drifting Clouds" (1996), "The Man Without a Past" (2002), "Le Havre" (2011), "The Other Side of Hope" (2017), and "Fallen Leaves" (2023). He is regarded as Finland's most recognized filmmaker.

Kaurismaki studied media at the University of Tampere before working various jobs, including bricklayer and postman, while nurturing his passion for cinema as a critic and screenwriter. He began his career collaborating with his brother, Mika Kaurismaki, even starring in Mika's film "The Liar" (1981). They co-founded the production company Villealfa Filmproductions. His directorial debut came with "Crime and Punishment" (1983), an adaptation set in modern Helsinki, but he gained international acclaim with "Leningrad Cowboys Go America" (1989).

Kaurismaki is known for his minimalist style, often writing, directing, and editing his own films, characterized by a deadpan humor and a straightforward portrayal of characters facing life's challenges. Many of his works focus on Helsinki, presenting a critical view that often reflects themes of disillusionment and resilience. Influences from directors like Yasujiro Ozu and Jean-Pierre Melville shape his unique cinematic voice. Kaurismaki is also known for his skepticism towards digital filmmaking, although he later acknowledged the necessity of adapting his work to digital formats.

Cartoon of Day



GAZA

Cartoonist: Kamal Sharaf from Yemen

Iranian theater director Pari Saberi passes away

TEHRAN-Well-known Iranian theater director Pari Saberi passed away Tuesday night in Tehran at 92 after a long period of fighting cancer.

The funeral procession for the renowned artist was held on Friday morning, in front of Vahdat Hall in Tehran and her body was later laid to rest in Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in south of Tehran, ILNA reported.

A theater director, playwright, actress, and novel writer, Saberi was born in Kerman in 1932.

After finishing high school, she went to Paris

to continue her studies in cinema and theater. During her student days, she made a short film about one of Khayyam's quatrains, which was chosen as the best student film of 1954 in France.

She then returned to Iran after a period of studying in Spain. Upon returning to Iran, Saberi created the Pasargad Theater Group and established Molavi Hall in Tehran.

Most of Saberi's works are adaptations of masterpieces of Persian classical literature. Over the years, she staged "Bijan and Manijeh" "Rustam and Sohrab", "The Mourning of Siavash" and "The

Seven Adventures of Rustam" based on Ferdowsi's Shahnameh. She has also directed "The Flying Shams" based on Rumi's Masnavi and "Leyli and Majnun" based on the third poem in the pentology of Nezami.

She staged her plays in Iran as well as other countries such as France, Italy and Turkey.

"Flying Shams" and "The Legend of Siavash" are two plays that Saberi staged at the UNESCO Hall in Paris, for which she was awarded a Légion d'honneur medal by French president Jacques Chirac in 2004.

Massive Quranic gathering in Mashhad highlights Islamic unity, support for Palestine

TEHRAN-On the evening of Thursday, one of the largest Quranic gatherings in the world took place at the Imam Reza (AS) Holy Shrine in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi Province, with more than 200,000 attendees who gathered to express their devotion to the Holy Quran.

Organized by the Quranic program "Mahfel" (literary meaning assembly), the event was held on the eve of the Islamic Unity Week and in celebration of the Imamate of Imam al-Mahdi (AS), the last of the Twelve Imams of Shia Muslims, Mehr reported on Friday.

The 12th Imam's name is that of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He is referred to by many titles, such as al-Hujjah (the proof), al-Qa'im (the one who rises), and Sahib al-Zaman (guardian of the age).

However, the most famous of his titles is al-Mahdi (the guided one). Imam al-Mahdi is the savior whom Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) spoke of on numerous occasions.

Scholars from both the Shia and Sunni schools of thought agree that the Messenger of God foretold of Imam al-Mahdi's advent. "Even if no (period) remained left in time except for a single day, God would (still) send forth a man from my family to fill it with justice, just as it had been filled with injustice."

Imam al-Mahdi is said to be in occultation (ghayba) by divine will and will appear at the End of Times to rid the world of evil and injustice.

The ceremony, broadcast live



on networks such as Al Jazeera Mubasher and Palestine Today TV, featured some of the world's most renowned Quran reciters, including Hassanein Al-Helou from Iraq and Radwan Darvish from Syria as well as Ahmad Abolqasemi, Hojatoleslam Gholamreza Qasemian, and Hamed Shakernejad from Iran.

A significant portion of the event was dedicated to religious reflections. Hojatoleslam Qasemian emphasized the significance of the Imamate through the "Hadith of the Golden Chain" (Hadith al-Silsilah al-Dhahab) narrated by Imam Reza (AS), and elaborated on verses of the Quran that highlight God's promises to righteous believers.

The event also underscored solidarity with the Palestinian people. Pilgrims chanted slogans like "Death to Israel" as a show of support for Palestine, with several Palestinian war victims taking the stage.

Among them was Sheikh Talal

Abdulrahman, former prisoner in Israeli jails, who conveyed a message of gratitude from the Palestinian people to the Iranian audience.

He spoke about the significance of unity among Muslims and the role of the Quran in raising an aware and resilient generation.

"The Zionists have been occupying Al-Quds for years to tell the world that there is no name left of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam, but we, the Islamic Ummah, stand up and tell them that the Holy Prophet trained us in a way to clear the earth from the Zionists," he added.

"The participants in this large Quranic meeting have now gathered together to renew their allegiance to the Prophet of Islam.

With this huge gathering, you have shown that you are loyal to Islam, the word of God, and the word of the Messenger of God," Abdulrahman noted.

Another prominent guest, Abdullah Abdullah, who recently lost 36 family members including his parents and children, in Israeli bombings, shared his personal tragedy and highlighted the ongoing struggles of the Palestinian people.

"We will stand against the aggression of the Zionist regime until our last breath, and with God's help, we will soon crush Israel under our feet," he said.

According to the latest reports, Gaza death toll has passed 41,100 and over 95,100 Palestinians have been injured in Israeli onslaught since Oct. 7, 2023.

The Israeli onslaught has displaced almost the entire population of the territory amid an ongoing blockade that has led to severe shortages of food, clean water and medicine.

Israel faces accusations of genocide for its actions in Gaza at the International Court of Justice.

In addition to the spiritual and political messages, the event included cultural performances.

The grand Quranic event at the Imam Reza Shrine not only celebrated the Quran but also served as a platform to express solidarity with oppressed peoples, particularly Palestinians.

The presence of the families of martyrs and prisoners from Gaza further underscored the event's importance, while the dazzling fireworks created a memorable atmosphere for attendees.

"The Last White Man" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN- A Persian translation of British-Pakistani novelist and writer Mohsin Hamid's book "The Last White Man" has recently been published by Morvarid Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Lida Qahremanlou.

"The Last White Man" is a thought-provoking exploration of love, loss, change, and identity. Published in 2022, this is Hamid's fifth novel, which was longlisted for the prestigious 2023 Aspen Words Literary Prize. The book employs magical realism to tell the story of Anders, a white man who awakens to find himself transformed into a darker-skinned individual with an unfamiliar appearance.

As the phenomenon spreads, society becomes increasingly divided and perplexed, grappling with questions of race, privilege, belonging, and loss. The novel's themes are timely and relevant, prompting readers to consider the complexities of identity and the human experience.

In addition to the novel, Hamid also published a short story on the same theme, "The Face in the Mirror", in the same year. Mohsin Hamid is a renowned author known for his impactful novels, including "Moth Smoke" (2000), "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" (2007), "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia" (2013), and "Exit West" (2017).

"Moth Smoke" explores the life of a former banker in Lahore, who becomes a heroin addict

while entangled in a love affair. It quickly gained cult status and was a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. His second novel, "The Reluctant Fundamentalist", narrates a Pakistani man's decision to leave America after 9/11 and became a bestseller. It employs a dramatic monologue style, addressing an unseen American listener.

Hamid's third novel, "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia", uses second-person narration to depict a rural boy's rise to wealth. His fourth, "Exit West", follows a couple navigating migration.

With his inventive storytelling, Hamid captures the complexities of identity and ambition in a changing world.

Tehran Symphony Orchestra to perform "Tehran... A Boundless Celebration"

TEHRAN- The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, led by guest conductor Arash Guran, is set to take the stage at Vahdat Hall with a concert titled "Tehran... A Boundless Celebration" on September 19 and 20.

The orchestra will perform pieces from renowned composers including Leonard Bernstein, Georgy Sviridov, Aram Khachaturian, and Arturo Márquez, showcasing the dynamic

energy and splendor of Tehran, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Arash Guran shared insights on the concert's title, stating, "This name has been chosen to reflect the vibrancy and magnificence of Tehran, aiming to create a festival of sounds and emotions that have always flowed through the heart of this city."

He emphasized that the selected pieces represent the vast spectrum of global music,

warmly embraced by Tehran, transforming it into an endless cultural celebration.

As a respected guest conductor, Guran highlighted that each piece contributes a unique voice to the global music puzzle, intertwining East and West.

A Boundless Celebration symbolizes the boundless gifts that music, art, and culture bring to Tehran.

Arash Guran is a distinguished conductor, artistic director, composer, and pianist, trained under renowned maestros including Mark Stringer, Horia Andreescu, Rüdiger Bohn, and Christian von Gernot.

He has a rich history of conducting the Iranian Philharmonic Orchestra, and National Orchestra of Iran. Currently, he serves as the principal conductor and artistic director of the Tehran Philharmonic Orchestra.