

Front of Truth Will Prevail

Leader calls Resistance success a prelude to Zionist regime's downfall



Election showed Americans oppose complicity in Gaza genocide: Zarif

TEHRAN – Mohammad Javad Zarif, a senior foreign policy aide to President Pezeshkian, said on Thursday the result of the U.S. elections showed that Americans had clearly rejected “a shameful year of US complicity in Israel’s genocide in Gaza and carnage in Lebanon.”

Zarif expressed hope that the re-elected administration under President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance will honor their campaign commitments to end conflicts. “We hope the Trump administration will fulfill its promises to stop wars and heed the American people’s call for peace and restraint,” Zarif stated, emphasizing the need for a shift in U.S. foreign policy to focus on conflict prevention.

Zarif underscored Iran’s own stance on defense, reaffirming the country’s resolve against external threats. “Iran is not swayed by intimidation but responds positively to respect,” he said, highlighting Iran’s preparedness and resilience in facing any form of aggression.

Trump officially became the 47th US president on Wednesday after winning a clear majority of Electoral College votes.

Iran, China discuss expansion of trade ties in China Intl. Import Expo

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Iran is attending China International Import Expo (CIIE) in a bid to increase the export of Iran-made goods and services, also expand economic and trade relations with China.

Running from November 5 to 10, the 7th CIIE has attracted 3,496 exhibitors from 129 countries and regions. It also sets a new record with 297 Fortune Global 500 companies and industry leaders attending the event.

Some Iranian high-ranking officials, from government and private sector, have traveled to Shanghai to visit the CIIE and evaluate the country’s needs in various sectors as well as the export potential of Iranian companies in order to develop exports, in addition to examine the existing obstacles in the path of Iranian companies’ exports to China, in interaction with Chinese officials and companies, and hold consultations to resolve them.

Mahmoud Najafi-Arab, the head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), who traveled to Shanghai on the head of an Iranian trade delegation, ▶ Page 4

Complicity in Israeli crimes in Gaza did not help Democrats

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN – There are certain important reasons why the Democrats failed miserably in the November 5 presidential elections in the United States.

One of the important reasons is that the Democrats facilitated Israel’s unspeakable crimes, or let say genocide, in Gaza. The Joe Biden administration has repeatedly reiterated the United States’ “ironclad” support for Israel’s barbaric war on Gaza since October 7 last year.

Probably, Biden and his national security team suffered from the illusion that more support for Israel in its war on Gaza would help them in the congressional and presidential elections.

Biden’s support for Israel has been so extreme that anti-war protestors called him “Genocide Joe”. Such a degree of support for Netanyahu’s war crimes or failure to stop his war machine is horribly shocking and unacceptable.

The Biden administration even censured International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan who demanded an arrest warrant against Netanyahu and the so-called defense minister Yoav Gallant for “war crimes and crimes against humanity” in Gaza.

Will Trump’s victory strengthen Netanyahu’s bet on achieving a worthy victory?

By Sondoss Al Asaad

BEIRUT – The people under the yoke of the US-led Israeli genocidal war are fully aware that any American president – Republican or Democrat – seeks only to advance Israeli interests, even if it is not completely in line with their geostrategic interests.

Despite everything the Democratic administration has done in terms of arming, supporting, backing, and directly participating in the Gaza genocide, Netanyahu hopes that the victory of the Republican candidate, Donald Trump, will lead to a qualitative shift in relations between Tel Aviv and Washington and guarantee him an “absolute victory.”

Netanyahu also hopes that Trump will quickly facilitate the complete occupation of the Palestinian territories – Gaza and the West Bank – and perhaps Lebanon as well.

With great concern, however, experts worry that Trump’s term may not serve the war on Gaza and Lebanon, which may expand to Iran. They warn against excessive optimism, especially since Trump’s positions are often volatile and ambiguous.

Hezbollah strikes Israeli naval base

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah has further widened its offensive operations in defense of Lebanon against the Israeli regime’s airstrikes and in solidarity with Gaza.

The resistance movement has announced that its fighters have targeted the Stella Maris naval base – a strategic Israeli base for naval monitoring and control on the northern coast – northwest of Haifa with missiles.

Hezbollah also revealed on Friday that its fighters targeted the Israeli Ramat David base and airport southeast of Haifa “with a qualitative missile barrage.”

Among the other operations on Friday Lebanese guerrilla fighters unleashed attacks on Israeli forces in Jal Al-Hammar, south of the town of Odaisseh, with artillery shells.

Hezbollah confirmed the enemy forces suffered casualties.

A spokesperson for the Israeli army announced that a soldier in the 8207 Battalion, Alon Brigade (228), was killed due to the wounds he sustained during the combat in southern Lebanon.

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Preparing for a return to power

By Xavier Villar

MADRID –With Trump’s experience in the White House between 2016 and 2020 and his complex relationship with Iran, his return could signal years of intense challenges for the Islamic Republic.

After taking office in 2016, Trump drastically reconfigured the relationship between Washington and Tehran: he pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal (JCPOA), imposed harsh economic sanctions on Iran, and ordered the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani in Iraq, pushing both countries to the brink of conflict.

Many analysts believe Iran may once again face a scenario similar to those critical years. In light of this, Tehran is redoubling its efforts to define a foreign policy strategy that will enable it to confront Trump’s potential return with a renewed perspective. ▶ Page 2



Tourism minister inaugurates multi-storey bazaar of handicrafts in Shiraz

By Afshin Majlesi

SHIRAZ – In a grand ceremony on Thursday evening, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, officially inaugurated the Art Bazaar of Shiraz, amid hopes to promote traditional handicrafts and visual arts in the ancient city.

The inauguration was attended by prominent officials, including Fars Governor-General Hossein-Ali Amiri, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi, Shiraz Mayor Mohammad-Hassan Asadi, and Ali Hemmati. ▶ Page 6

Intl. Week of Science, Peace fosters co-op to promote peace

TEHRAN – Celebrated annually from November 9 to 15, the International Week of Science and Peace contributes to global understanding and opportunities for cooperation in the applications of science for the promotion of peace.

The week raises awareness of the relationship between science and peace among the general public.

In Iran, science promotion week is being celebrated from November 8 to 14 by holding different programs including a two-day science exhibition on Saturday and Sunday.

Also, the 25th science promotion award ceremony is scheduled to be held on the last day of the event.

Promoting science refers to the attempt to reflect scientific ideas in a way that everyone can understand its basic concepts. ▶ Page 7

Iran calls for revocation of Israel's UN membership over war crimes in Gaza

TEHRAN – Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has urged the international community to revoke the Zionist regime's membership in the United Nations General Assembly, citing significant breaches of the United Nations Charter and international law.

Amir Saeed Iravani, the ambassador and permanent representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN, voiced Iran's deep concerns regarding the critical plight of Palestinian refugees, particularly in the Gaza Strip, during a General Assembly session focused on the report from the Relief and Employment Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In his opening remarks, Iravani expressed gratitude to UNRWA Commissioner Philip Lazzarini for his exemplary leadership and ongoing efforts to ensure the agency's financial stability and operational continuity, commending him for the comprehensive report detailing UNRWA's activities.

The complete text of Iravani's address to the General Assembly meeting regarding UNRWA is as follows,

"In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Madam President,

To begin, I would like to express my appreciation for your efforts in organizing this significant informal meeting. I also extend our gratitude to Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, for his exemplary leadership and relentless dedication to ensuring the financial stability of the Agency and maintaining its operations. We are thankful for his detailed report on UNRWA's activities.

At this pivotal moment, the Islamic Republic of Iran voices its deep concern regarding the worsening conditions faced by Palestinian refugees, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The actions of the Zionist regime, characterized by genocidal measures and the ongoing blockade of Gaza, have placed countless civilians, including women and children, in imminent peril.

These actions not only constitute severe violations of human rights but also represent a calculated use of hunger as a weapon, further intensifying the humanitarian

crisis and creating an intolerable situation for the Palestinian populace.

UNRWA serves as the sole agency delivering humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees and is crucial in addressing this crisis. Any efforts to undermine its operations, such as the recent measures taken by the Israeli Knesset against this agency, are unequivocally condemned.

Such actions aim to strip Palestinians of vital services, including education, health-care, and humanitarian support, and they signify a blatant infringement of human rights.

The Islamic Republic of Iran asserts that the Israeli regime must promptly fulfill its obligations under international law and permit the unrestricted and continuous flow of humanitarian aid into the occupied Palestinian territories. A just resolution to the Palestinian issue can only be achieved by ending the occupation and halting the aggressive policies of the Israeli regime.

Iran further urges the international community to take substantial measures in response to Israel's actions, including the suspension of Israel's membership in the United Nations General Assembly due to its flagrant violations of the UN Charter and international law.

Israel's actions, which include genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, along with its disregard for International Court of Justice orders and ongoing violations of Palestinian rights, represent a direct threat to international peace and security, necessitating accountability for its actions.

The international community must prioritize support for UNRWA and the safeguarding of the rights and security of Palestinian refugees. Iran remains dedicated to backing this humanitarian agency and calls for immediate and decisive measures to halt Israel's transgressions in Gaza and other Palestinian territories.

In conclusion, Iran emphasizes the need for the international community to exert pressure on the Israeli regime to comply with international law and to end its occupation and aggressive policies, as failure to do so will continue to pose significant threats to global peace and security."

Highlighting Iran's resilience, Salami asserted, "Iran is undefeatable—its strength is unmatched, while the enemies have exhausted their resources."

The IRGC Commander stated regarding the recent elections in the United States, that the outcome illustrated how the Gaza resistance could impact the aggressive U.S. administration, remarking that the election results demonstrated a public dissatisfaction with leaders who supported the conflict in Gaza.

"While American Democrats fully endorsed the brutal war in Gaza, U.S. voters rejected those who armed Israel's war machine," he said.

Salami further criticized America's historical role in supporting dependent regimes, describing it as consistently inadequate and delayed, a fact substantiated by history.

IRGC commander-in-chief described the current state of Israel as a weary military force with demoralized leaders and a faltering economy, all under U.S. oversight.

He expressed confidence that the shifts within the U.S. political landscape would ultimately favor the Resistance Axis and lead to the decline of the Zionist front.

In conclusion, Salami asserted that any threats from the Zionist regime and the United States would ultimately result in their defeat, emphasizing, "No power could overcome the Islamic Republic, even if faced with the combined might of all global armies."

Iran expresses indifference toward US election results

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Thursday that it "does make a difference" for Iran who has won the presidential elections in the United States, noting Iran and its political system is reliant on its own power and its great and noble nation.

It was the first reaction by the Iranian president since Donald Trump won the White House in the presidential elections on November 5.

Pezeshkian added, "In developing our relations with other countries we will never have a 'closed or limited' view."

The president said Iran prioritizes developing ties with Muslim and neighboring countries and deeply believes in fostering unity among Islamic nations.

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Tehran will judge new US president based on his policies: foreign ministry

The Iranian Foreign Ministry

also said Tehran will judge the new U.S. government on the basis of its policies and approaches after Donald Trump won the presidential election on November 5.

Foreign Ministry spokesman

Esmail Baqaei said Thursday that Trump's victory is an opportunity for the United States to reassess its "wrong policies" in the past.

"We have very bitter experiences with the policies and approaches of different US governments in the past," Baqaei noted.

Baqaei reiterated Iran's earlier position that the results of the U.S. election are of no consequence to the Islamic Republic.

"The choice of the American president is the responsibility of the people of that country, and now the American people have made their choice," he said.

OIC vehemently condemns Israel's assault against Iran

TEHRAN – The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has issued a robust denunciation of the recent Israeli aggression towards Iran, calling it a significant violation of the nation's sovereignty.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the OIC asserted that the hostile actions of the Israeli regime constitute a clear violation of international law and the United Nations (UN) Charter, characterizing it as "a serious infringement of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Islamic Republic of Iran."

The statement follows Israel's act of aggression on October 26, during which the regime's warplanes exploited Iraqi airspace to launch long-range missiles at military targets in Iran's Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces.

Although Iran's integrated air defense

system effectively intercepted much of the attack, the assaults tragically resulted in the martyrdom of four Iranian Army servicemen and a civilian.

The 57-member bloc also firmly denounced the infringement of Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Israeli regime, which utilized Iraqi airspace to conduct its aggressive operations against Iran.

Furthermore, the organization reiterated that the continuing Israeli atrocities in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly in Gaza and Lebanon, along with its harmful endeavors throughout West Asia, pose significant threats to regional peace, security, and stability.

The OIC also called for the prompt and effective intervention of the UN Security Council, the principal authority responsible

for maintaining international peace and security.

The Islamic organization emphasized that Iran and other affected nations hold the inherent right to "protect their sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, and people" in line with international law and the UN Charter.

Numerous Iranian officials have stated in recent weeks that the nation will take action in response to the Israeli act of aggression and will steadfastly uphold its right to self-defense.

Recently, a multitude of countries and various international organizations, including the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), have condemned the Israeli regime for its aggression against Iran, expressing profound solidarity with the Iranian nation.

Iraq FM dismisses claims of Iran preparing to launch attack on Israel from Iraqi soil



TEHRAN – Iraq's top diplomat, Fuad Hussein, has categorically denied allegations that Iran is planning to strike Israel from within Iraq.

In an interview with Kurdish-language television channel Zagros, the Minister dismissed assertions from Western media regarding Iran's alleged intentions to utilize Iraqi territory

for military actions against the occupied territories.

This clarification follows an October 31 report by Axios reporter Barak Ravid, a former analyst with Israeli intelligence agency Unit 8200, whose report cited sources from the regime claiming that "the Iranian attack is anticipated to be launched from Iraq utilizing a significant number of drones and ballistic missiles."

Iraq's top diplomat further emphasized that Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani maintains regular communication with the commanders of Iraqi Resistance groups, who have reiterated their commit-

ment to refrain from any actions that could trigger a conflict in Iraq.

"We categorically stand against war and aggression targeted at Iran," Hussein declared.

In the early hours of October 26, Israeli warplanes breached Iraqi airspace to fire long-range ballistic missiles at Iran's military radar installations.

While the strike caused only minor damage to certain radar systems, Iran promptly restored them to full operational status. Tragically, the aggression resulted in the martyrdom of four Army personnel and one civilian.

In reaction to Israel's infringement on Iraqi sovereignty, Baghdad denounced the regime's use of its airspace. Additionally, the anti-terror group Kata'ib Hezbollah, known for defending Iraqi sovereignty against foreign intervention, termed the Israeli incursion a "dangerous precedent."

On November 2, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, emphasized that the enemy's actions would not go unpunished. He warned that Israel and its ally, the United States, would face a "tooth-breaking response" for their aggressions against Iran and the broader Axis of Resistance.

Zionist regime's downfall imminent, says IRGC chief



TEHRAN – The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Israel's defeat is drawing closer.

Speaking in the northeastern city of Mashhad on Friday, Major General Hossein Salami emphasized that Iran's recent response to Israeli actions in "Operation True Promise II" was only a glimpse of its full power.

The operation, he said, came in direct response to Israel's assassinations of prominent leaders, including Hamas's Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforooshan.

The IRGC commander further argued that U.S. support for allies like Israel often falls short, observing that "Washington's backing for vassal regimes has historically been delayed and ineffective."

He painted Israel as struggling on multiple fronts, with a demoralized military, economic troubles, and an over-reliance on the United States.

Preparing for a return to power

The uncertainty of Trump's foreign policy

From page 1 ▶ However, beyond Iran's preparation for this stage, the big question is: will this be the same Trump from a few years ago? Will he maintain his foreign policy intact? And ultimately, what principles and methods will guide his diplomacy in this new phase?

To address these questions, it is essential first to understand the «method» that defines Trump's diplomacy. This prior analysis is necessary to properly address the questions about the future of international relations under his potential second term.

During his first term, the U.S. president-elect replaced «multilateralism» and «integration» with a policy of «bilateralism.» Rather than prioritizing global alliances and multilateral frameworks such as NATO, the United Nations, or transatlantic economic agreements, Trump opted to engage the U.S. in independent political and economic negotiations. This approach was consistent with his «America First» slogan, which was made clear during his first term.

During this period, Trump weakened NATO and, instead of viewing European or Gulf countries as strategic allies, primarily saw them as economic partners.

During that phase, Trump led the country to withdraw from significant international agreements, initiated a trade war with China, engaged in verbal confrontations with allies, and entered into complex negotiations with several of the U.S.'s rivals and enemies.

In his most recent electoral campaign, Trump promised to continue his efforts to significantly alter, or even block, international agreements, including the NATO security pact, which some experts believe could fundamentally weaken the U.S. position in the global order.

Among the positions announced by Trump on foreign policy, his protectionist trade plan is likely to be the most immediately damaging for Americans.

The proposed increase in tariffs could trigger a global trade war and raise prices for consumers in the United States.

In the long term, his views on the role of

the U.S. in international affairs could undermine American diplomacy and weaken institutions that have been fundamental in supporting U.S. hegemony, such as NATO and the United Nations. These decisions could have lasting effects on the geopolitical landscape, similar to the actions taken during his first term.

Trump also withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, a global pact that committed all signatories to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Other diplomatic setbacks during his tenure include the U.S. exit from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, a Cold War-era agreement between the U.S. and Russia that limited the development of short- and medium-range nuclear weapons.

Regarding the region, and particularly Iran, it is expected that the Trump administration will seek to put an end to Israel's active military campaigns in Gaza and Lebanon.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, praised the Resistance's successes against Zionist forces over recent decades, calling these victories a clear sign of the eventual triumph of the Front of Truth.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with members of the Assembly of Experts on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

During the meeting, which took place at the conclusion of the second session of the sixth term of the Assembly, Ayatollah Khamenei recognized and commended the position of the Assembly of Experts, describing it as one of the most revolutionary institutions in terms of its relationship with the Islamic Revolution. The Leader emphasized that the rationale behind utilizing this interpretation is the Assembly of Experts' role in selecting the country's leadership.

Ayatollah Khamenei also underscored the growth, dynamism, and continued strong resistance of Hezbollah and Hamas. "Based on the irrefutable promises of divine support and drawing upon the experiences of the victorious resistance of Hezbollah and Hamas in past decades, the recent events will definitely lead to the victory of the Front of Truth and the Resistance Front."

Emphasizing the paramount significance of the Assembly of Experts and the imperative of utmost care and attention in selecting the Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei remarked: "The greatest precision in discerning the qualifications outlined in the Constitution for the Leadership position must be exercised. All criteria, including a strong sincere belief in the path and objectives of the Revolution, and a readiness for continuous, tireless progress toward this goal, must be evaluated to ensure that the individual is indeed worthy of this responsibility."

In expounding upon the significance of the Assembly of Ex-



perts, the Leader stated that the existence of the Assembly of Experts shows that there will be no interruption in the progression of the system towards its goals. For, should the need arise, the Experts will promptly appoint the next leader, ensuring an unbroken chain of leadership, endowed with full power and capacity.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution identified the system's independence from individuals as one of the underlying truths revealed by the seamless process of leadership selection. "These transitions demonstrate that while individuals are entrusted with specific missions to fulfill, the system itself is not reliant upon them and can continue its course even in the absence of these particular individuals," he asserted.

During his address, Ayatollah Khamenei made a reference to the significance of this period coinciding with the fortieth day after the martyrdom of the distinguished and tireless mujahid of our time, Martyr Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah. The Leader paid tribute to Nasrallah and other commanders and leaders of the Resistance, including Martyrs Haniyeh, Safieddine, Sinwar, and Nilforushan. "These martyrs have brought honor to the Resistance Front and increased its power and ability."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution hailed Hezbollah as the enduring legacy of Martyr Nasrallah, further asserting, "Thanks to the extraordinary courage, wisdom, patience, and trust in God exhib-

ited by the Sayyid of the Resistance, Hezbollah has experienced exceptional growth. As a result, no enemy armed with a vast array of material and propagandistic weapons has been able to, nor will be able to, God willing, overcome this remarkable phenomenon."

Referring to the blatant blood-stained hands of the US and certain European countries in their complicity in the crimes committed against Gaza and Lebanon, he asserted that the outcome of continued powerful resistance efforts in Lebanon, Gaza, and Palestine would be the victory of the Front of Truth and the Resistance Front. "One reason for the promising outlook of the Resistance Movement is the undeniable divine promise, which, after permitting jihad for those who have been oppressed, emphasizes that if God's cause is assisted, then the provision of God's help will be certain," he stated.

Ayatollah Khamenei considered the victories of the Resistance against the Zionist invaders over the past few decades as another clear reason for the realization of the ultimate victory of the Front of Truth. "In the past 40 years, Hezbollah has forced the Zionist regime to retreat in various stages from cities like Beirut, Sidon, and Tyre, and completely from southern Lebanon, emptying the cities, villages, and heights of this country of the sinister presence of that regime."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution highlighted how Hezbo-

lah's remarkable achievements in overcoming an enemy armed with diverse military, propagandistic, political, and economic resources, as well as substantial support from global transgressors like the US presidents, illustrated the incremental increase in Hezbollah's capabilities and transformation from a small group of fighters on the path of God to a powerful organization.

He considered the Palestinian Resistance as the current victors in the battle against the Zionist occupiers. "The Zionists' goal in this war was to uproot Hamas, but despite the mass killing of tens of thousands of people and the assassination of Resistance and Hamas leaders, and the revelation of their hideous, repulsive, isolated, and despised image to the world, they were unable to achieve this goal. Hamas continues to fight, which is indicative of the Zionist regime's defeat," he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei described Hezbollah as a strong organization that is steadfast in its unwavering resistance against the Zionist regime. He added that "Certain individuals in Lebanon, particularly in political circles, have mistakenly assumed that Hezbollah has been weakened and have started to blame the organization. However, they are mistaken and delusional, because despite the loss of prominent leaders like Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah and Sayyid Safieddine, Hezbollah, with its high morale and dedicated fighters, is continuing to fight powerfully. The enemy has not been able to defeat it and it never will."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution underscored that, "There will come a day when the world and the region will witness the unequivocal defeat of the Zionist regime at the hands of the mujahideen and I hope that all of you will witness that day."

He also paid tribute to Martyrs Raisi and Ale-Hashem, the late representatives of the Sixth Assembly of Experts.

IRGC intelligence forces neutralize four terrorists in SE Iran

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the security headquarters of the Quds Base of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force says IRGC intelligence forces eliminated four terrorists in Rask city.

Major General Ahmad Shafaei mentioned that during the ongoing operational exercise of the Martyrs of the Security of the Quds Base

in Sistan-Baluchestan province, four terrorists from the so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group were eliminated in a public area of Rusk City during an IRGC operation that led to the martyrdom of one of the Iranian security officials.

Mohammad Reza Rostaminejad, a member of the 33rd Brigade of Al-Mahdi Special Forces from IRGC

Ground Forces, was martyred in the operation against terrorists, General Shafaei noted.

Shafaei further stated that this successful operation resulted in the seizure of a vehicle along with a substantial cache of weapons and ammunition, and efforts are ongoing to track down and neutralize the remaining members of this terrorist group.

The IRGC's intensified campaign follows a series of deadly attacks on Iranian security forces in Sistan-Baluchestan. On October 26, a group of terrorists ambushed a police convoy in Taftan county, leading to the martyrdom of ten Iranian border guards and Police officers.

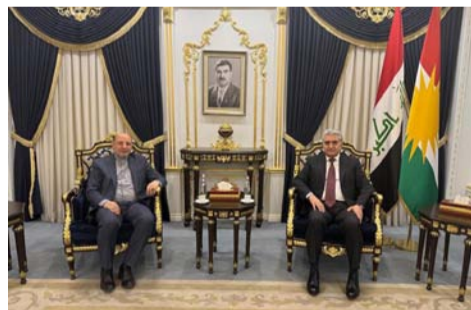
KRG prime minister, Iranian consul general talk up security collaboration

TEHRAN – The Prime Minister of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Masrour Barzani, and the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nasrollah Rashvandi in Erbil, engaged in discussions regarding bilateral security collaboration.

This meeting, which took place on Friday to commemorate Rashvandi's departure from his diplomatic position in Erbil, addressed various avenues for cooperation between Iran and the Kurdistan Regional Government.

Barzani expressed his gratitude for Rashvandi's contributions during his time in office and extended his best wishes for future diplomatic endeavors between Iran and Iraq.

In response, Rashvandi congratulated the Kurdistan Region on the successful execution of its recent parliamentary elections and expressed



appreciation for the partnership between the KRG and the Iranian consulate. He also recognized the ongoing collaboration between Kurdish officials and the Iranian diplomatic mission in Erbil.

Additionally, in a separate meeting on Thurs-

day, the Iranian consul general convened with the Kurdistan Region's interior minister, Riber Ahmad, furthering his commitment to enhancing relations between the two governments. Their discussions centered on security cooperation and other significant areas of shared interest.

As the KRG and Iran continue to engage in dialogue and collaboration, these discussions highlight the shared commitment of both parties to ensure regional security and stability while supporting the development of a robust and capable government in the Kurdistan Region.

The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) serves as the official governing authority for the Kurdistan Region located in northern Iraq. It was established in 1992 and operates as a semi-autonomous body within Iraq's federal framework.

He noted that timely and insightful reporting by domestic media could influence the success of the Resistance Axis against the Zionist regime, similar to the impact of Operation True Promise.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Impactful media coverage of Operation True Promise instilled fear in Israelis: commander

TEHRAN – Major General Ali Mohammad Naeini, spokesperson for the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), attributed rising fear and anxiety within the Israeli regime to the impactful media coverage of "Operation True Promise."

He emphasized that this portrayal has not only weakened the

regime's public image but has also exposed vulnerabilities in its defenses.

General Naeini remarked that Operation True Promise dealt a significant blow to the Zionist regime's stature, asserting that the swift and truthful portrayal of the operation effectively humiliated and ex-

posed the regime's cowardice.

Naeini further emphasized the responsibility of public relations and media to communicate the facts to the public in a compelling manner, accurately reflecting the valor and dedication of the national army on both regional and global stages.

Weightlifting team face crucial test in Bahrain

TEHRAN – Iran's once-dominant weightlifting team face a critical juncture as it prepares for the 2024 World Weightlifting Championships in Bahrain. The team, which has seen a significant decline in recent years, are under intense pressure to deliver a strong performance and reverse their fortunes.

The team's struggles were evident at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where top lifters Ali Davoudi and Mir Mostafa Javadi failed to secure medals, finishing fourth and fifth, respectively. These disappointing results came after a relatively successful 2023 World Championships in Riyadh, where Javadi and Davoudi won two gold and one bronze medal. However, the team's overall performance has been on a downward trajectory.

The Iranian Weightlifting Federation has announced a 12-member squad for the 2024 World Weightlifting Championships in Bahrain, with a focus on younger athletes. Notable inclusions in the team include Mir Mostafa Javadi, Ali Davoudi, and several promising up-and-comers. However, the federation has also made several changes to the team, dropping experienced lifters in favor of younger talents.

The upcoming World Championships are seen as a litmus test for the president of Iran federation Sajjad Anoushiravani and head coach Navab Nasirshah. Both have faced criticism for the team's recent poor performance. Nasirshah has acknowledged the challenges the team is facing and has tempered expectations for the Bahrain championships.

"We should not expect a miracle in Bahrain," said Nasirshah. "The situation is challenging, and it will take time to rebuild the team."

The federation hopes that the younger generation of lifters can provide a spark and help return Iran to their former glory in weightlifting. A strong performance in Bahrain would not only boost the team's morale but also alleviate some of the pressure on the federation and coaching staff.

The 2024 World Weightlifting Championships will be held in Bahrain from Dec. 6 to 15.

Hazfi Cup kick-off times revealed

TEHRAN – Esteghlal and Persepolis football teams will meet their opponents in 2024-25 Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 32 on November 21.

Esteghlal, the most decorated team in the tournament, will play Mes Kerman on November 21 in Tehran and its archrival Persepolis is to face Mes Soongoun in the same day.

The Hazfi Cup is an Iranian knockout football competition held annually by the Football Federation of Iran.

Esteghlal to part ways with Argentine forward Blanco

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team will part company with Gustavo Blanco Leschuk.

The 33-year-old player joined the Iranian team last year but failed to meet the expectations.

Esteghlal newly-appointed coach Pitso Mosimane is reluctant to work with Blanco.

The media reports suggest that Esteghlal has set its sight on signing a Kenyan forward.

Esteghlal sits 14th in the 16-team table, one point above the relegation zone.

Mosimane determined to get Esteghlal out of chaotic situation

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team newly-appointed coach Pitso Mosimane is determined to help the Blues get out of the chaotic situation.

Esteghlal have lost seven times out of their

eight matches and sit 14th in the 16-team table, with one point above the relegation zone.

On Saturday, the team will host Mes in Tehran and Mosimane believes that they are ready to end their losing streak.

"We have not won in our previous matches and we are in a challenging task but Esteghlal are capable of defeating Mes in the next match. Esteghlal lost to Al Hilal last week but we created several chances in the first minutes of the match and it shows that we are a strong team," the South African coach said.

"We want to win the match and return to winning ways that's why I am here. So many key players have been sidelined due to injury but I would rather concentrate on the current team than protest the situation," Mosimane added.

"We are like a soldier and want to get out of the situation. The only thing that makes me worry is the mentality of the players. Can they fight and win? Let us see on tomorrow against match," he concluded.

Iran learn fate at AFC U20 Asian Cup 2025

TEHRAN – The AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2025 is primed for thrilling action following the conclusion of the official draw at Grand Skylight International Guanlan in Shenzhen, China on Thursday.

The 16 teams were drawn into four groups with not just continental glory at stake but also four tickets to the FIFA U20 World Cup 2025 in Chile.

China, champions in 1985, will have Australia, Kyrgyzstan and Qatar as their challengers in Group A.

Qatar won the title in 2014, Australia were runners-up in 2010 while Kyrgyzstan will be making their third appearance at the Finals.

Five-time winners Iraq head the Group B cast with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and DPR Korea also vying for the two quarter-final spots. DPR Korea and Saudi Arabi are three-time champions while Jordan were fourth in 2006.

Group C will see defending champions Uzbekistan facing four-time winners Iran, Indonesia and Yemen slugging it out. Indonesia won the title in 1961 while Yemen will be making their seventh appearance at the Finals.

Leading the Group D challenge will be 2016 champions Japan with 12-time winners Korea Republic, Syria (1994 winners) and Thailand (champions in 1962, 1969) also hoping to advance to the quarter-finals.

The 42nd edition of the tournament will take place from February 12 to March 1, 2025.

Iranian prodigy Faraji to join Mönchengladbach: report

TEHRAN – Iranian genius table tennis player Benjamin Faraji will reportedly join German club Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Iran Table Tennis Federation President Mehrdad Ali Ghardashi has said the 14-year-old player has caught the eyes of American and French clubs but he will join Mönchengladbach.

Faraji defeated world No. 1 Wang Chuqin in the 2024 Asian Table Tennis Championships last month.

Faraji, who sits 209 places lower than Chuqin in the world rankings, defeated his Chinese rival 3-2 (11-8, 3-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-9).

Iran handball edge Iraq: friendly

TEHRAN – Iran's national handball team edged past Iraq 24-23 in a friendly match.

Team Melli, who have traveled to Najaf for their training camp, will face Iraq once again.

The Iran handball team are headed by Spanish coach Rafael Guijosa Castillo.

Guijosa, 55, experiences his second stint in the Iran national team. He helped Team Melli win a bronze medal in the Asian championship in Bahrain in 2014.

Tehran hosting intl. printing, packaging exhibition

TEHRAN – Tehran is hosting the sixth edition of Iran's international exhibition of Printing, Processing, and Packaging (IPAP 2024), IRIB reported.

Running from November 7 to 10 at Tehran's Shahr-e-Aftab International Exhibition Center, the event is hosting 140 domestic and foreign exhibitors from different countries.

The exhibition aims to acquaint the operators and producers active in various fields of the printing and packaging industry with the latest achievements, technologies, and indus-

trial products in this sector.

It also aims to bring together people active in this industry to present the country's capabilities in the sector in order to facilitate business growth and establish high-quality packaging for the exports of non-oil products.

All kinds of food and beverage industry machinery, flexible packaging equipment, carton, paper and cardboard industry machinery, as well as digital printing on fabric and paper products have been showcased in this year's exhibition.

Tehran, Tashkent to enhance agricultural cooperation



Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji (R) meet with Uzbek Ambassador in Tehran Nasriev Fariddin Badriddinovich (L) on Thursday.

TEHRAN – Iran's Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleji expressed the country's readiness to expand agricultural cooperation with Uzbekistan, in a meeting with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Tehran Nasriev Fariddin Badriddinovich on Thursday.

In the meeting, Nouri Ghezleji highlighted the Islamic Republic's capacities and capabilities for providing Uzbekistan with engineering services, training, and research in the fields of livestock breeding and drip irrigation.

Praising the initiative of the presidents of the two countries in developing joint cooperation, Nouri Ghezleji stated that given the shared cultural, religious, and historical interests between the two countries, the development of economic relations and the increase of trade exchanges are of special importance.

He referred to Iran's agricultural capabilities in technology development and research, adding that the construction of low-cost greenhouses, the establishment of dry and cold storage warehouses for agricultural products, processing, and complementary industries, as well as technology for disinfecting agricultural products, are among the services that the Islamic Republic can offer.

According to the Iranian official, economic exchanges between the two countries do not align with the capacities, histories, and interests of both nations, and the targeted figure of \$2 billion set in the meeting of the Iranian and Uzbek presidents will serve as a prelude to upgrade economic relations between Tehran and Tashkent.

The Uzbek ambassador, for his part, expressed his country's readiness to collaborate with Iran in seven agricultural areas.

According to the official, cooperation between the two countries would include modern irrigation, planting drought-resistant crops like pistachios, creating modern greenhouses, producing agricultural equipment and tools, collaboration in poultry and turkey meat production, animal feed, as well as conducting scientific research and exchanging experiences in livestock and aquaculture.

On October 20, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said that Iran and Uzbekistan plan to increase their annual trade exchanges to \$5.0 billion and the two sides have reached a primary agreement to sign a preferential trade agreement (PTA) soon.

Akbar Godari, the head of TPO's Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia Office, referred to the economic agreements reached between the two countries during the visit of Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade to Iran, and said: "The efforts and desire of the two countries to develop trade exchanges have been formed, therefore the 16th Joint Economic Committee meeting of Iran and Uzbekistan will be hosted by Iran in March to increase trade exchanges."

Also, discussions have been held regarding the details of a joint investment fund between the two countries that will be established shortly, Godari added.

Regarding the initial agreements for the signing of a preferential trade agreement between Iran and Uzbekistan, the official said: "Last year, Abbas Ali-Abadi, the Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade at the time, traveled to Uzbekistan and discussed with his counterpart in Uzbekistan the conclusion of a preferential trade agreement. For more than six months, the two countries discussed various aspects of the agreement including the certificate of origin document, and reviewed and resolved the challenges ahead, and now preliminary agreements have been made to sign this agreement."

He underlined the role of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran in facilitating the trade relations between Iran and Uzbekistan, saying: "The list of the goods that are subject to preferential tariffs has been determined, and the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran is trying to increase the number of items that are subject to preferential tariffs in a short period."

On September 19, Uzbekistan capital Tashkent hosted an Iran-Uzbekistan business forum, in which officials and businesspeople from the two sides exchanged views on ways of expanding mutual trade ties, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

Speaking at the forum, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh called for more enhanced exchanges between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Hassanzadeh, who visited Uzbekistan on top of a business delegation, underlined the development of new strategies to strengthen economic relations as one of the goals of the business forum and emphasized the need to take serious steps in this regard from both sides.

"I would like to stress that in the new atmosphere of cooperation between the two countries, it is necessary to take serious steps to expand relations. Taking advantage of existing potential capacities and opportunities can guarantee long-term economic relations between the economic operators of Iran and Uzbekistan," the ICCIMA head said.

Emphasizing the cultural affinities and friendship between the two nations and the interest for cooperation between the two nations and the two governments, he continued: "As in recent years, there have been three visits at the presidential levels between the two countries."

"Currently, the establishment of the new government in Iran with the slogan of removing obstacles to foreign trade promises a new chapter in Iran's economic cooperation, especially with regional countries," the official added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hassanzadeh noted that achieving economic goals between the two countries requires providing the necessary infrastructure including banking and monetary, transportation, development of customs, adjustment of trade tariffs, and exchange of technical knowledge.

"Currently, our primary goal for this year is to increase our current \$500 million trades to \$1.0 billion, and we hope to achieve this by the end of the year," he said, adding that "Countless economic capacities are available for the economic operators of the two countries, and this enthusiasm that is seen today for the cooperation of companies, needs to be taken very seriously by the policy makers and authorities of the two countries."

Iran, China discuss expansion of trade ties in China Intl. Import Expo

From page 1 ▶ met with some entrepreneurs of the private and state-run sectors of China as well as Iranian businessmen living in eastern China in two different meetings upon arriving in Shanghai to attend the CIIE, and discussed with the Chinese sides the conditions and fields of economic relations development, with the focus of attracting investment in projects in the field of renewable energy, processing and food industries, agricultural products, medicine and medical equipment, housing construction, etc.

As reported by the TCCIMA Public Relations Department, Mohsen Bakhtiar, Iran's ambassador to China, Ali Mohammad, Iran's consul general in Shanghai, and Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), were also present in these meetings, and discussed the challenges facing the development of Iran-China relations by private sector entrepreneurs.

TCCIMA ready to host Chinese trade delegations

In these meetings, the TCCIMA head announced the readiness of the Tehran Chamber to host trade delegations from China in various fields of production and trade, and emphasized the need for the two sides to get to know each other as much as possible about the capabilities and capacities of the two countries in meeting the needs and also joint investments.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Iran's pavilion in the CIIE, which was also participated by the TPO head and Iran's ambassador to China, Najafi-Arab said: "This huge commercial event provides a valuable opportunity to introduce the export capacities and capabilities of Iran in various industrial and agricultural fields and to strengthen the economic and commercial relations between Iran and China."

Pointing out that Iran and China are big trade partners in the region, he said: "Last year, the bilateral trade, excluding oil export, between the two countries reached about 33 billion dollars. This cooperation continues to grow through trade development in various fields including mining, petrochemicals, food, agriculture and new technologies. The figures show the high capacity of the two countries to expand cooperation, but the relations between the two countries can be developed far beyond this. We should use these capacities optimally by increasing delegation ex-



TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi Arab delivers speech in the inauguration of Iran's pavilion in CIIE, in the presence of TPO head and Iran's ambassador to China

changes and developing joint projects and carry out commercial and industrial exchanges on a wider level."

Stating that prominent Chinese companies from the state-run and private sectors have been and are participating in Iran's oil and gas development projects, Najafi-Arab considered this as an indication of China's serious desire to invest in Iran's important economic sectors, and said: "Creating new fields of cooperation in the areas of clean energy, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, joint production of electric cars, development of digital infrastructure and specialized tourism are among the priorities that can greatly contribute to the development of bilateral relations, and we, as the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, are ready and want to raise cooperation in these fields to a new level."

The head of the Tehran Chamber added: "In order to strengthen these ties, we propose to create joint economic zones in the form of multilateral consortia, so that by providing tax and customs incentives, new investments will be provided and the level of bilateral cooperation will be increased."

There are many fields to expand Iran-China trade

Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) who also visited Shanghai along with other Iranian officials, said there are many fields to increase the level of trade between Iran and China.

Visiting China International Import Expo, the official said: "This exhibition is an extraordinary initiative of the Chinese government and shows a very ambitious plan for targeted economic development in this country."

In an interview with Xinhua news agency, on the sidelines of

visiting the CIIE, the TPO head said: "Many products that are known by the name of Iran, such as carpets, saffron, and Iranian handicrafts, are displayed in Iran's pavilion."

The China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first national-level import-themed expo, is being held for the seventh consecutive year in Shanghai, with overseas enterprises gathering to take the pulse of the Chinese market, the China Daily reported.

The previous six editions saw nearly 2,500 new products, technologies and services make their debuts, with combined intended turnover reaching over \$420 billion.

The CIIE serves to showcase China's major opening-up measures and confidence, and to share China's new development opportunities with other countries. It has become a platform for high-level opening up and a public good for the whole world.

China has continued to roll out policies to spur foreign trade growth and attract foreign investment, cultivating new international competitive advantages and achieving mutual benefits with other countries.

On October 25, the country issued a guideline to promote the experience in aligning some eligible free trade zones and the Hainan Free Trade Port with high-standard international economic and trade rules.

The eligible FTZs are in Shanghai, Guangdong, Tianjin, Fujian and Beijing. The pilot measures, which will be replicated in other FTZs or even nationwide, cover six aspects: trade in goods, trade in services, digital trade, personnel entry, business environment, and risk prevention and control.

China has built 22 pilot FTZs, covering coastal, inland and border areas, contributing about 20 percent of the coun-

try's total foreign investment and import-export volume. Foreign trade of the FTZs expanded by 11.99 percent year on year in the first three quarters of 2024.

Continuous efforts have been made to lower tariffs. In September, China announced it would give all the least developed countries having diplomatic relations with the country zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines starting from December 1 this year.

China also keeps rolling out policies to nurture fertile ground for foreign investors. The new edition of the national negative list for foreign investment took effect on Friday, scrapping the two remaining items in the manufacturing industry on the previous list.

The items on the latest negative list, specifying fields off-limits to foreign investors, have been further slashed to 29.

This fully demonstrates China's active willingness to expand mutual benefits and a clear attitude to supporting economic globalization, said Jin Xiandong, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission, adding that further efforts will be made to improve the level of foreign investment liberalization and facilitation, and to optimize service for foreign-invested enterprises.

Besides the manufacturing sector, China is also pushing forward broader and deeper opening up in the service sector.

China announced in September that it would allow the establishment of wholly foreign-owned hospitals in certain cities and regions, including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou, Fuzhou, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and throughout the island of Hainan.

In October, the country decided to allow foreign investors to operate wholly-owned businesses such as internet data centers and engage in online data processing and transaction processing in certain areas as part of a pilot program to expand opening up in value-added telecom services.

A total of 42,108 new foreign-invested firms were established across China in the first nine months of 2024, up 11.4 percent year on year. Notably, foreign direct investment inflows into medical equipment and instrument manufacturing surged 57.3 percent, while inflows into computer and office device manufacturing grew by 29.2 percent during this period.

Iran targets \$1b of trade with Armenia

TEHRAN – Iran plans to boost trade exchanges with Armenia to \$1.0 billion as the neighbor is Iran's gateway to the Eurasian market, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said.

Akbar Godari, the head of TPO's Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia Office, told IRIB: "Our goal is to increase exports to Armenia to one billion dollars in the first step and to three billion dollars in the long term; we expect to have a 20-30 percent growth in trade

with this country in the next year."

According to the official, Iran exported more than \$412 million of goods to Armenia in the previous Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19) while imports from this country stood at \$45 million.

He said the exports to Armenia reached \$225 million in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21), registering a growth of 15 percent compared to the same period last year.

Food products, fruits and vegetables, cement, rebar, chemicals, polymer materials, and bitumen were the top exported items to Armenia in the mentioned six months, Godari added.

Pointing out that Armenia imports \$5.0 billion worth of goods and exports \$4.0 billion annually, he said: "China is the first trade partner of this country, followed by Russia, and Armenia's third trade partner is Iran."

Iran, Sudan agree to expand economic ties

TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati, and Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Gibril Ibrahim Mohamed have agreed to increase economic and trade cooperation between the two nations.

As IRNA reported, the Sudanese minister, who visited Tehran at the head of an economic delegation, held talks with his Ira-

nian counterpart on Wednesday evening.

During the talks, both sides expressed their satisfaction with re-establishing political relations between the two countries and hoped that this new phase of relations would lead to the development and flourishing of economic and trade ties.

The Sudanese minister high-

lighted advantages such as fertile land in Sudan for agricultural production, including oilseeds, sesame, peanuts, and livestock farming, as well as rich underground resources.

He further announced the willingness of the Sudanese government and people to develop economic relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

It is worth noting that the Republic of Sudan has an area of 1,886,000 square kilometers and a population of 45 million, over 97 percent of whom are Muslims.

Iran and Sudan agreed in October 2023 to restore diplomatic relations, both said in a joint statement, seven years after they were severed and three months after a meeting between their foreign ministers.

Harris was defeated by a Gaza-inspired boycott



By Sami Al-Arian

When former President Donald Trump snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in the 2016 elections, I wrote an article in Middle East Eye to explain the roots of his mystifying phenomenon.

I argued that white racism alone could not explain his victory, and that there were deeper social, economic and political causes behind his rise.

Even though the number of white voters has been consistently declining in the US – with the most recent US census revealing the number of white Americans had reached a historical low of 62 percent of the general population – they still comprise a majority and represent the bulk of the Republican Party.

But the presence of racism among certain segments of society cannot explain the changes in voting behaviour since former President Barack Obama was elected twice, and four years later, the American electorate had determinedly ousted Trump.

Even though Hillary Clinton beat Trump in 2016 in the popular vote with 66 million votes to 63 million, she still lost the Electoral College vote 306 to 232.

Four years later, Biden had convincingly beat Trump with the same Electoral College ratio of 306 to 232, but then with even a much larger popular vote of 81 million to 74 million, respectively. The main reason was the turnout rate, which improved between the 2016 and 2020 elections from 60 to 66 percent.

So what happened in 2024?

To explain Trump's 2024 victory after his humiliating defeat in 2020, one would need to examine the voter turnout as well as the vote returns, particularly in the swing states, and conduct a comparative analysis between the 2020 and 2024 elections.

The central issue

In 2020, Biden and Trump garnered together about 155 million voters out of a total of 158 million cast, setting a much higher turnout rate. On the other hand, in the 2024 election, Harris received only 67 million votes, while Trump received less than 73 million.

This clearly shows that Trump has not improved much since

he did not even match his 2020 numbers.

Meanwhile, Harris's votes in 2024 vastly underperformed Biden's by more than 14 million votes. In the 2024 election cycle, the turnout was about 58 percent, significantly less than in 2020 and even lower than in the 2016 elections.

So what explains the dampening of voter turnout from 155 million in 2020 to 140 million in 2024, even though the number of eligible voters in the US has

The Republican candidate's victory over Kamala Harris wasn't due to his surge in popularity but a conscious choice by millions to boycott the vote over the Democrat-backed genocide

increased from 240 million to 244 million?

Based on the 2020 election results, the majority of the American people were clearly fed up with Trump. Yet, in 2024, almost 17 percent of Biden's voters did not show up, and Trump's support levelled off.

It must also be emphasized that the abuse, contempt, and hostility towards Trump by a significant number of Democratic and independent voters, as well as a minority of Republicans, has remained high or even grown as his unfavourability rating among most voters has increased over the years as many criminal charges have piled up against him.

Looking at the record and policy proposals of each candidate, one would find significant differences in their vision, philosophy, and policies regarding domestic affairs, such as economic policy, budgetary matters, social issues, healthcare, immigration, judicial appointments, political reforms, and so forth.

On the foreign policy and na-

tional security fronts, there are also important distinctions and different approaches between both candidates on key issues, including trade, Nato, Ukraine, and China.

But to fully answer this question, one needs to examine the central issue of the election, which both candidates may have agreed on and, at the same time, may have caused a significant number of the electorate to boycott or vote for third parties.

In addition, one needs to scrutinize the swing states' turnout and voting patterns that usually determine the presidential election winner and loser.

When such an examination is conducted, a similar phenomenon of significant boycott or low turnout emerges.

Voter protest

The one campaign issue where there was remarkable agreement between not only the two major party candidates but also among their respective political parties and operatives has been the unconditional US support for Israel in its ongoing genocidal war on Gaza.

According to several polls, more Democrats sympathize with the Palestinians today than with Israelis. Movements around the country to "Abandon Harris" had also emerged, advocating a vote for third-party candidates like Jill Stein or abstention.

As in the previous two elections, this year's election hinged on the same six swing states, namely Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona and Nevada, which carry a total of 77 Electoral College votes.

Of all the other 44 non-swing states, Harris had 226, while Trump had 235. There were several paths for any combination of swing states that could put either candidate over 270, Harris needing 44 to Trump's 35.

In the 2020 elections, Biden swept all six swing states, receiving 12.73 million total votes against Trump's 12.38 million votes in these states for a combined voter turnout of 25.11 million.

On the other hand, in 2024, Trump received 12.55 million votes to sweep the same six swing states while Harris received 12 million, a drop of over 730,000 from Biden's. In short, the total turnout in the six swing states in 2024 was 24.55 million, reflecting a decline of 560,000 voters from 2020.

While Trump gained a slight increase of 170,000 voters in 2024 in the same six states from his 2020 results, Harris lost 730,000 voters or about 5.7 percent of the 2020 Biden vote, a significant plunge that certainly cost her and her party the elections.

A similar situation took place

in the heart of the Arab American communities of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, and Hamtramck, in the state of Michigan, where the Uncommitted movement was birthed and which reportedly has the largest Arab-American population in the US.

The turnout in these communities in 2024 was also much smaller than in 2020. Biden received 88 percent in the south-end precinct of Dearborn, while Trump got 10.9 percent. In the city of Dearborn, Biden received 69 percent, while Trump received less than 30 percent. In Hamtramck, Biden received 85 percent to Trump's 13 percent. However, during the 2024 primaries in the midst of the Gaza genocide, Uncommitted's campaign crushed Biden's 91 percent to just 4 percent.

Election boycott

Because of the Democratic administration's backing of Israel's genocide, this negative trend continued for Harris. According to the Detroit Free Press, Harris received 36 percent in Dearborn, a drop of more than half of the votes Biden received in 2020 and a fourfold increase for Trump at 42 percent.

In Hamtramck, Harris got 38 percent, a decline of 50 points from the Biden vote to Trump's 44 percent, or a 30-point increase since 2020. Meanwhile, Stein received around a fifth of the vote across the district, possibly the highest she's gotten across the nation.

It seems that the main reason for Trump's victory over Harris in 2024 is not a sudden surge in his popularity, as he underperformed his 2020 result in the popular vote in the midst of a devastating pandemic.

Therefore, the most plausible explanation for the low turnout for Harris that cost her the elections compared to Biden in 2020 is a conscious decision by millions, not just Arab and Muslim Americans in the swing states but across the nation, to boycott the vote.

Indeed, millions of other conscientious Americans voicing their principled and strenuous objections to the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza, which was cruelly supported by a morally corrupt political class, also boycotted the elections.

The Harris defeat ought to be an ominous sign to all politicians that Palestinian and Lebanese blood is not cost-free nor expendable.

Sami Al-Arian is the Director of the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) at Istanbul Zaim University. Originally from Palestine, he lived in the US for four decades (1975-2015) where he was a tenured academic, prominent speaker and human rights activist before relocating to Turkey.

Will Trump's victory strengthen Netanyahu's bet on achieving a worthy victory?

From page 1 ▶ Given the heroic operations of the steadfast and determined resistance movements, it does not seem that the war will be long, especially after Yoav Galant's dismissal.

Galant's dismissal has nothing to do with the dispute between him and Netanyahu over war tactics, but rather with Netanyahu's stubbornness and insistence on forgetting about the prisoners of war held by the Palestinian resistance; negotiating on his own conditions; concentrating on Gazan-occupied areas; and refusing to recruit the Haredim (the same reason for his first dismissal in March 2023).

In order to preserve his government coalition, Netanyahu had to expedite Galant's dismissal, as the Haredim are seeking to pass a legislation exempting them from military service, otherwise, they would not endorse the budget and thus Netanyahu's government

would fall apart.

Further, Netanyahu also fears the repercussions of the scandal of the leaks of his office. Besides, it is expected that the Chief of Staff, Herzi Halevi, and the head of the Shin Bet, Ronen Bar, will be dismissed due to their major role in the leaks. Netanyahu is also expected to dismiss Gali Baharav-Miara, the government's legal advisor.

One year after the ongoing war, Galant believes that the war on Lebanon is nearing its end due to its socio-economic repercussions; Hamas no longer poses an existential threat to the occupying entity; there is no point in occupying some areas in Gaza; the exchange of prisoners of war is a must; and recruiting the Haredim is pivotal (as he signed an order to recruit 7,000 Haredim for compulsory service, which Netanyahu considered a threat to his government).

Unlike the right-wing coalition, the anti-

Netanyahu colonial settlers are seriously concerned about his authoritarian and dictatorial tendencies and its repercussion as they fear that Netanyahu will excessively violate local laws. Hence, in the coming period, protests are expected to continue within the entity, but not with the same momentum as in the past, as a large percentage of the reserve soldiers are in military service.

The Israeli political division does not revolve around the usefulness or legitimacy of the current war, but rather around the mechanisms that can restore deterrence and achieve what Netanyahu has failed to achieve. Will Trump save Netanyahu? It is a challenging question given Trump's unpredictable psychopolitical fluctuations.

Whatever, the only hope for the resistance's loyalists lies in the achievements of their heroes on the battlefield.

Complicity in Israeli crimes in Gaza did not help Democrats



By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN – There are certain important reasons why the Democrats failed miserably in the November 5 presidential elections in the United States.

One of the important reasons is that the Democrats facilitated Israel's unspeakable crimes, or let say genocide, in Gaza. The Joe Biden administration has repeatedly reiterated the United States' "ironclad" support for Israel's barbaric war on Gaza since October 7 last year.

Probably, Biden and his national security team suffered from the illusion that more support for Israel in its war on Gaza would help them in the congressional and presidential elections.

Biden's support for Israel has been so extreme that anti-war protestors called him "Genocide Joe". Such a degree of support for Netanyahu's war crimes or failure to stop his war machine is horribly shocking and unacceptable.

The Biden administration even censured International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan who demanded an arrest warrant against Netanyahu and the so-called defense minister Yoav Gallant for "war crimes and crimes against humanity" in Gaza.

Granting around \$18 billion in military aid to a regime that is relentlessly butchering the Gazans even angered Democrats' loyalists let alone the Arab and Muslim communities in the United States.

Ahmad Ibsais, a first-generation Palestinian American and law student, says, "Just look at how the Democrats campaigned in the state I live in, Michigan. A crucial swing state where elections can hinge on mere thousands of votes, Michigan is home to some 200,000 Muslim Americans. Over the past year, these voters made it clear, in every way they could, that their vote was conditioned on the party pledging to end its financial, political and military support of massacres of Palestinians, Lebanese and Yemenis. The "uncommitted" campaign – looking to end the Democratic Party's support for Israel's genocide – secured more than 100,000 votes in the state's Democratic primary. The Democratic Party did not listen."

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democrats' presidential contender, pretended she was against the mutilation of civilians in Gaza but in practice endorsed unconditional support for Israel. The voters saw her as a follower of Biden's presidency.

Hezbollah strikes Israeli naval base

From page 1 ▶ Citing a military spokesperson, Israeli media has also shed light on a battle in which six Israeli soldiers were killed and others sustained injuries on October 26.

"The battle took place in the border village of Aitaroun. The Israeli force encountered three Hezbollah fighters inside a house. There were several hours of fighting, gunfire, and grenade throwing. A fire broke out in the building, which partially collapsed, and a battle continued throughout the night to extract the killed and wounded Israeli forces from the site of the clash," Hebrew media outlets reported.

Elsewhere, Hezbollah said its fighters targeted the Kiryat Shmona settlement with a missile salvo on Friday morning.

A mobilization of Israeli forces in the Margalioth settlement also faced a missile barrage.

Meanwhile, missile sirens continued to ring in multiple settlements in northwestern Israel for 45 minutes on Friday and across Israeli cities.

On Thursday, Hezbollah also carried out 21 operations, which included targeting ten

"Harris not only refused to abandon Biden's staunchly pro-Israel policies on Palestine but also personally supported continued bloodshed in Gaza by publicly insulting anti-genocide campaigners in the state. When pro-Palestinian protesters interrupted a Harris rally in Detroit by simply stating that they "won't vote for genocide", she shut them up with her catchphrase, "I'm speaking," Ibsais wrote in Al Jazeera on October 7.

The university students and professors who held rallies inside campuses to express their dismay over Israel's horrible crimes in Gaza were ridiculously and shamefully accused of anti-Semitism. Such a designation was made despite the fact that a considerable number of anti-war protestors were Jews.

Biden's secretary of state Anthony Blinken made 11 visits to the region since October last year with the stated claim of ending the war but nothing happened.

It seems that President Biden and his inner team had lost their sense of humanity in regard to the Gaza tragedy. Repeated warnings about the situation in Gaza by United Nations officials, resignations over unconditional support for Israel by three American officials – namely Tariq Habash from the Department of Education, Hala Rharrit from the Department of State and Riley Livermore from the Air Force – and the dreadful move by Aaron Bushnell, an Air Force serviceman who set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, did not make the Biden administration officials to rethink their ironclad support for a bunch of war criminals in Israel.

Probably, the Biden administration imagined that Americans would only look at the pictures and news released by pro-Israel media from the Gaza Strip. Possibly, they also did not think that the new generation of Americans is unhappy with Israel's behavior toward the Palestinians.

The United States, both under Democrats or Republicans, has stood on the wrong side of history by unjustifiably and illegally backing Israel since its establishment in 1948 and this will remain a dark point in the history of the U.S.

This time, since October 7 last year, Democrats, who ironically make slogans in support of human rights, respect for international law, opposition against racism and many other claims failed badly. Those Americans who punished Democrats did not vote for Donald Trump. Instead, they mostly boycotted the elections.

gatherings and movements of Israeli soldiers and vehicles at settlements across the border and forces attempting to infiltrate the border. They used rockets and artillery shells, causing injuries and deaths. The Lebanese resistance fighters ambushed an Israeli infantry force that tried to advance towards the town of Yaroun, killing and wounding its members.

The formidable resistance movement launched eight rocket and missile barrages at different cities, sites, settlements, and Israeli positions both behind and across the border, at varying distances. It also carried out two "Khaybar" special operations with the call "At your service, Nasrallah", targeting critical Israeli sites, including bases in Haifa.

Experts believe the more Tel Aviv continues to bombard Lebanon's residential areas the greater the risk alarms for Haifa, the industrial hub of Israel.

Hezbollah has already displaced settlers in Kiryat Shmona, a district in occupied Palestine on the western slopes of the Hula Valley near the Lebanese border.

Asef Vaziri Mansion: a cultural gem of Kurdish heritage



TEHRAN - The Asef Vaziri Mansion, known as the "Kurdish House," stands as a testament to the rich cultural identity of the Kurdish tribes and is a significant cultural relic in Sanandaj, the capital of Kordestan province in western Iran.

The original structure features a ceremonial hall, various rooms, and corridors dating back to the Safavid era, with additional components added during the Qajar and Pahlavi periods. The building was first established by the Motamed Hashemiha family (Amjad al-Ashraf) and later owned by Mirza Mohammad Reza Vaziri, whose efforts led to its final grandeur, including the construction of the entrance, showcasing an Iranian Baroque brick facade, and enhancements to the eastern and western sections during the Asef Divan period.

Managed by the provincial cultural heritage department since 1997, the mansion was reopened in 2003 as the largest anthropology museum dedicated to the Kurdish culture.

Its exquisite architectural features include

stucco work, antique sashes, carved stones, intricate mirror decorations, and beautifully embowed arches.

The mansion comprises several sections, including the main entrance, corridors, aqueducts, and water distribution rooms, as well as four gates leading to the outer courtyard, inner courtyard, kitchen garden, and staff yard. In the southwest corner, a traditional Iranian bath showcases distinctive lime designs.

Today, the southern part of the mansion has been transformed into a gallery, while another section has become a charming traditional tea house featuring a brick dome. The main pool has been refurbished, complete with a newly constructed porch that invites visitors to enjoy this cultural treasure.

The Kordestan province is home to towering mountains, wide valleys, and gushing waterfalls. It is a popular destination for mountaineers and nature lovers due to its abundance of river lakes, mineral springs, caves, and wildlife. It is also known for its varied, breathtaking natural beauty and rugged road bends.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Archaeologists reveal rare evidence of early human presence in Tajikistan

Archaeologists have discovered a multi-layered archaeological site in the Zeravshan Valley of central Tajikistan that reveals early human settlement in the area.

Zeravshan Valley occupied from 150,000 to 20,000 years ago may have alternately hosted all three human species in Eurasia at the time. The findings from the site, known as Soii Havzak, provide crucial evidence that Central Asia played a vital role in early human migration and development.

Led by Prof. Yossi Zaidner of the Institute of Archaeology at Hebrew University and Dr. Sharof Kurbanov from the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, the research, published in *Antiquity*, revealed a rich array of stone tools, animal bones, and ancient vegetation.

"It turns out that the Zeravshan Valley, known primarily as a Silk Road route in the Middle Ages, was a key route for human expansion long before that—between 20,000 and 150,000 years ago," explained Prof. Zaidner.

"This region may have served as a migration route for several human species, such as modern Homo sapiens, Neanderthals, or Denisovans, which may have coexisted in this area, and our research aims to uncover who were the humans that inhabited these parts of Central Asia and the nature of their interactions."

Scientists have long thought that the cold, arid mountainous realms of Tajikistan and central Asia in general didn't seem so important to the story of human evolution and our migration out of Africa to Eurasia.

It was assumed that Central Asia had been generally unpleasant during the ice age and that reasonable hominins would stay away from hostile areas. But it is not so. Early humans didn't abandon Central Asia even when the climate turned colder, recent research indicates.

Probably due to a lack of search, the Soii Havzak rock shelter, which is naturally carved into a cliff and is currently approximately 40 meters above ground level, is one of only two stratified sites from deep prehistory found in the Zeravshan Valley. Following the discovery of stone artifacts on the slope beneath the rock shelter, archaeologists dug three trenches.

At Soii Havzak, the archaeological team excavated three areas and unearthing layers of human activity. In addition to the possibility of finding human remains that could reveal which species of humans lived in the area, the well-preserved remains provide important hints about the climate and environment of the past.

(Source: *arkeonews.net*)

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Ancient city of Bosra

The name of Bosra occurs in the precious Tell el-Amarna tablets in Egypt, which date from the 14th century BC and represent royal correspondence between the Pharaohs and the Phoenician and Amorite kings. It became the northern capital of the Nabataean kingdom. In the year of 106 CE, a new era began for Bosra when it was incorporated into the Roman Empire.

Alexander Severus gave it the title Colonia Bosra and Philip the Arab minted currency especially for it. During Byzantine times, Bosra was a major frontier market where Arab caravans came to stock up and its bishops took part in the Council of Antioch. Bosra was the first Byzantine city which the Arabs entered in 634 in the phase of Islamic expansion.

Today, Bosra is a major archaeological site, containing ruins from Roman, Byzantine, and Muslim times. Further, Nabataean and Roman monuments, Christian churches, mosques and Madrasas are present within the city.

Its main feature is the second century Roman Theatre, constructed probably under Trajan, which has been integrally preserved. It was fortified between 481 and 1251 CE. Al-Omari Mosque is one of the oldest surviving mosques in Islamic history, and the Madrasah Mabrak al-Naqua is one of the oldest and most celebrated of Islam. The Cathedral of Bosra is also a building of considerable importance in the annals of early Christian architecture.

(Source: *UNESCO*)

Minister inaugurates multi-storey bazaar of handicrafts in Shiraz

By Afshin Majlesi

SHIRAZ - In a grand ceremony on Thursday evening, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, officially inaugurated the Art Bazaar of Shiraz, amid hopes to promote traditional handicrafts and visual arts in the ancient city.

The inauguration was attended by prominent officials, including Fars Governor-General Hossein-Ali Amiri, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage Ali Darabi, Shiraz Mayor Mohammad-Hassan Asadi, and Ali Hemmati, Director of Iran Tourism Development Corporation, along with guests from the cultural heritage and tourism sectors.

During the ceremony, the tourism minister Salehi toured various booths and shops, engaging directly with artisans, most of whom were also the creators of the handicrafts on display.

According to the minister, the opening of the multi-storey complex, designed to support local artisans in Shiraz and the Fars province, marks a significant achievement in the region's recognition as a "City of Handicrafts" by the World Crafts Council.

Speaking to the Tehran Times correspondent and other journalists present at the event, the minister said: "By the end of the Seventh Development Plan, employment in the country's handicrafts sector should reach one million people."

Salehi-Amiri stated, "Currently, over 500,000 individuals



across the 31 provinces of the country are engaged in handicraft production."

He added, "According to the Seventh Development Plan, we are required to create 100,000 jobs annually in this field so that by the end of the five-year plan, this figure reaches one million."

Referring to the opening of the Art Bazaar, Salehi-Amiri added, "The creativity of Iranian men and women is truly remarkable..."

He also mentioned his meeting with officials from various handicraft sectors, saying: "The challenges and issues they face can generally be mentioned in three main areas, which must be addressed."

He outlined these as: job security and insurance, financial facilities, and the expansion of job opportunities and marketing as the most important issues in the country's handicraft sector.

Speaking at the event, Amiri,

the governor-general, expressed his gratitude to the minister, highlighting his dedication to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Fars province. He acknowledged that Salehi-Amiri had prioritized the region from the beginning of his tenure, evidenced by his frequent visits and initiatives to boost local tourism and heritage. The governor also noted the unique heritage of Fars, emphasizing its rich blend of religious, cultural, and ancient artifacts spanning over 3,000 years, which contribute to its status as a hidden treasure poised for economic and social development.

The bazaar, which spans a 2,000-square-meter area and features a total floor space of approximately 5,000 square meters, includes more than 60 commercial units showcasing an impressive array of traditional arts. The focus is on handicrafts native to Shiraz and Fars province, such as woodwork, including

the intricate marquetry, carving, and inlaying techniques Shiraz is famous for. Other showcased crafts include traditional Persian marquetry, metal engraving, and painting on wood. Additionally, the market offers visitors a glimpse into the vibrant handicrafts from other parts of Iran.

The Art Bazaar of Shiraz features booths dedicated to classic Persian art forms, such as the famed seven-color tilework, pottery, and ceramics. Jewelry, with pieces made from gold, silver, and semi-precious stones, and crafts like glass fusion, traditional illumination, and decorative calligraphy, also have dedicated spaces within the complex.

Other units cater to traditional Persian carpet-weaving, tribal textiles like kilims and gabbehs, and fashion items like traditional costumes, and leatherwork artifacts.

A notable feature of the market is its inclusion of handicrafts from other Iranian regions, such as a section devoted to items from Khuzestan province and the Arvand Free Zone, broadening the cultural appeal and diversity of offerings.

Salehi Amiri's visit to Shiraz also included a pilgrimage to the revered shrine of Ahmad bin Musa al-Kazim, commonly known as Shah Cheragh, where he was formally welcomed by local dignitaries.

The inauguration ceremony was coincided with the 3rd International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage, scheduled to conclude on Friday.

Imam Reza (AS) inheritance coin unveiled by tourism minister in Shiraz

SHIRAZ - The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, has unveiled the historical Imam Reza (AS) inheritance coin, at a cultural heritage museum located within the revered Shah Cheragh Museum in Shiraz.

During a visit to the museum on Thursday afternoon, Salehi-Amiri who was accompanied by Fars Governor-General Hossein-Ali Amiri the unveiled the ancient coin, which has significant historical and religious importance. The unveiling coincided with the third annual International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage, which also features an exhibition highlighting Iran's civilizational heritage from the Islamic period.

The coin, which has been put on show at the museum, was minted in the year 203 AH (818 CE) under of Caliph Ma'mun the orders of the Abbasid dynasty, commemorating the arrival of the eighth Shia, known as Imam al-



Rauf, in Shiraz.

This coin is said to represent a vital historical artifact documenting Imam Reza's journey to Merv, which included a passage through Shiraz.

The Shah Cheragh Shrine, meaning "King of the Light" in Persian, is located in the heart of Shiraz, southern Iran. The shrine marks the final resting place of Sayyed Mir Ahmad, the

brother of Imam Reza (AS), and it has long been revered by Shia Muslims as a beacon of spiritual significance.

With a history that spans several centuries, the shrine showcases an eclectic mix of architectural styles, blending elements from various eras. Its courtyard and intricate tilework feature late-Qajar period embellishments, while its iconic blue-tiled dome and towering minarets with golden tips catch the eye of anyone approaching the complex.

The shrine's interior is a testament to both divine beauty and human craftsmanship. The grand chamber of worship is adorned with towering chandeliers that sparkle like frozen rain, while smaller green lamps protrude from the walls. Stained-glass windows on high filter sunlight, casting a dazzling array of colors that reflect off the shrine's countless jewels and shards of glass, creating an ethereal glow.

Tourism minister visits historical sites in Firuzabad of Fars province

SHIRAZ - On Friday, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, visited a number of historical sites and structures in Firuzabad county in southern Iran.

This visit was part of his broader tour across Fars province, focusing on Firuzabad notable cultural sites and historical landmarks within the ancient city of Meymand, about 120 kilometers south of Shiraz.

During his visit, Salehi-Amiri explored several key sites in Meymand, including the nationally registered Jameh Mosque, dating back to the Qajar era, as well as the Imamzadeh Esmail Shrine, an old public bathhouse, and the Meymand Anthropology Museum.

The minister underscored the need for conservation efforts, particularly for the historical bathhouse, which serves as an anthropology museum. He un-

derlined that a restoration project is needed to begin for the bathhouse, ensuring that its original layout and design are preserved.

The minister also took time to tour a glassblowing workshop in Meymand, highlighting the city's rich potential in handicrafts and traditional industries. Notably, he recognized the importance of rose and rosewater production, which is a central feature of Meymand's local economy and a significant attraction for tourists.

Talking to the minister, several people in Meymand presented various investment proposals to expand the rose and rosewater industry, as they underscored its importance to boost domestic tourism for the region.

Salehi-Amiri also visited some other regions of Firuzabad such as the famous Qaleh Dokhtar, a defensive fortress built by the founder of the Sasanian Empire to protect its first capital.

Recognized as a national heritage site since 1937, this historical structure remains a vital part of Firuzabad's cultural landscape. During his visit, the minister emphasized the need to facilitate public access to the fortress and enhance visitor experiences.

He also suggested to use of the area's cable car system based on based on thorough research and expert analysis to improve accessibility to Qaleh Dokhtar and attract more tourists to the region.

The minister further expressed the ministry's commitment to preserving these historical sites, welcoming well-structured proposals for maintaining and promoting Iran's cultural heritage.

Firuzabad was named the city of Gor in the ancient times. When the Achaemenid period was came to an end, it was destroyed by Alexander the Great. Centuries later, Ardashir I, the founder of the Sasanid Empire, revived

the city before it was ransacked during the Arab Muslim invasion of the seventh century. It was again revived by the Buyids under Fanna Khusraw, but was eventually abandoned in the Qajar period and was replaced by a nearby town, which is now Firuzabad.

Firuzabad is home to many UNESCO-tagged relics and sites as well. In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"— to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art that later made a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Lake Urmia's water volume, level grow yr/yr

TEHRAN—Lake Urmia is currently in better condition in terms of level and volume of water compared to last year, an official with West Azarbaijan governor general's office has said.

Lake Urmia in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province started to dry up in the 2000s. The lake is the largest in West Asia and the sixth-largest salt lake in the world with a water surface area of 5,000 to 6,000 square kilometers.

"The current level of Lake Urmia is 1270.2 meters and the volume of water amounts to 1.140 billion cubic meters", IRNA quoted Yaser Rahbardin as saying.

The area of Lake Urmia is now around 850 square kilometers which is in a better condition compared to last year, he added.

Considering the favorable rainfalls in autumn so far, and the persistence of the precipitations in the current water year which started on September 22, water will be released from reservoir dams to further help the restoration of the lake.

According to West Azarbaijan Province's Regional Water Company, in the previous water year, some 467 million cubic meters of water was projected to be released into the lake. However, more than 1.180 billion cubic meters of water was actually released in Lake Urmia, Rahbardin noted.

Establishing specialized groups to monitor underground and surface water, dredging



and organizing rivers, filling and decommissioning unauthorized wells, building online stations to monitor surface and underground water, installing water smart meters, adjusting 40 percent of allocated water resources from five-year development plans, and releasing more amount of water from reservoir dams are among taken measures and projects to help the revival of the lake, he highlighted.

Lake Urmia's area expands year on year

Satellite images showed that the area of Lake Urmia measured on February 22 was equal to 2,061 square kilometers which has increased compared to 1,819 square kilometers on March 7, 2023.

Following the recent precipitations across the country and the importance of reviving wetlands and lakes, the country's mapping organization monitored Lake Urmia's area using satellite images from the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022- March 2023) to 1402 (March 2023-March 2024), ISNA reported.

Japan-funded FAO project

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the support of the government of Japan, identified technical agricultural solutions to increase water efficiency in the agriculture sector at the Lake Urmia basin, which may be efficient in saving the internationally known biosphere reserves.

Since 1995, Lake Urmia has been shrinking due to rapid upstream agricultural expansion and climate change. These forces have pushed the precious lake to the verge of depletion and have put the region's health, economy, environment, industry, and agriculture at risk.

Despite the efforts of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program National Committee and its focus on the Lake's restoration since 2013, the continuation of the critical situation demonstrates that sustainability, macro and micro, management solutions should be considered as the main essence of action plans.

In a concerted effort to address the challenges facing the Lake Urmia Basin in 2016, FAO launched the "Integrated Program for Sustainable Water Resources Management in the Lake Urmia Basin," which was funded by the Government of Japan.

Key technical outcomes of this initiative included the implementation of a water accounting plus project in the Lake Urmia Basin and the identification of water-consuming hotspots within the basin. Notably, water accounting revealed the significant contribution of irrigated and rainfed agriculture to the Lake's total evapotranspiration, emphasizing the importance of water-saving measures for the Lake's restoration.

Over 30 Iranian universities in QS Asia University Rankings

TEHRAN –The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Asia University Rankings has placed 32 Iranian universities in the list of top universities in 2025, compared to 31 universities in 2024.

Published annually since 2009, the QS Asia University Rankings highlight the top universities in Asia each year.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 87) is placed first among Iranian universities, followed by Sharif University of Technology (ranking 97 globally) and Amirkabir University of Technology (ranking 114 globally), Mehr news agency reported.

Isfahan University of Technology, Shiraz University, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, University of Tabriz, Shahid Beheshti University, and University of Isfahan are ranked fourth to tenth, respectively.

A total of 984 universities from Asia are included in this year's QS Asia University Rankings.

Peking University has been ranked as the best university in the region. The University of Hong Kong and National University of Singapore are ranked second and third, respectively.

The methodology used to create the ranking is similar to that used for the QS World University Rankings.

This set of criteria, developed in consultation with regional experts and stakeholders, is designed to reflect key priorities for universities in Asia.

The 11 indicators used to compile the QS Asia University Rankings are as follows. Academic reputation (30%), Employer reputation (20%), Faculty/students ratio (10%), International research network (10 percent), Cited per paper (10 percent), Paper per faculty (5 percent), Staff with PhD (5 percent), proportion of international faculty (2.5 percent), proportion of international students (2.5 percent), proportion of inbound exchange students (2.5 percent), and proportion of outbound exchange of students (2.5 percent).

Recent rankings

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 placed 85 Iranian universities among the top institutions compared to 75 universities in 2024.

The 2025 rankings include 2,092 ranked universities from 115 countries. There are 185 new entries compared with last year.

Recognized as the world's most comprehensive evaluation of university performance, the latest methodology includes 18 carefully calibrated indicators to assess institutions across five key areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry engagement, and international outlook.

Sharif University of Technology ranked first in the country with a global ranking of 301-350.

Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology (ranking globally 351-400) were placed second.

Kermanshah University of Medical Science, and University of Tehran were placed third with a global ranking of 401- 500.

Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Shiraz University of Technology, and Tehran University of Technology were ranked joint fourth, they ranked 601-800, globally.

A total of 100 universities from Iran were ranked by EduRank based on research outputs, non-academic prominence, and alumni influence.

The rankings were determined by analyzing 14.9 m citations received by 1.26 m academic publications made by 310 universities from Iran, the popularity of 867 recognized alumni, and the largest reference database available.

This year, 14131 universities from 183 countries were ranked across 246 topics.

According to the report University of Tehran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology were the best universities in the country, IRIB reported.

The Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities, also known as the National Taiwan University (NTU) Rankings, placed 21 Iranian institutions among the top 1,200 universities worldwide, compared to 18 universities in 2023.

University of Tehran won the best ranking among Iranian institutions, ranking 291 globally.

University of Tehran ranked 30 in chemical engineering as well as energy science and engineering, 34 in mechanical engineering, and 73 in agriculture.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (with a global ranking of 359), Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences (491), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences(540), and Tarbiat Modares University (577) were placed second to fifth, respectively.

Tehran University of Medical Science's best ranking globally was 22 in pharmacology and toxicology.

Moreover, Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology and Yasouj University were among the top 1200 institutions in the world based on full-time academic staff.

The 2024-2025 edition of Best Global Universities rankings included 69 Iranian universities, up from 52 in 2023, among the world's 2,250 top universities.

These institutions from 104 countries were ranked based on 13 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations which helps students to explore the higher education options that exist beyond their own countries' borders and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions.

University of Tehran (with a global ranking of 275), Islamic Azad University (374), Sharif University of Technology and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (516), University of Tabriz (521), and Amirkabir University of Technology (649) ranked first to fifth in the country, respectively.

Shanghai ranking 2024 placed nine Iranian universities among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was released by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy.

Since 2003, ARWU has been presenting the world's top universities annually based on transparent methodology and objective third-party data. It has been recognized as the precursor of global university rankings and the most trustworthy one.

This year, more than 2,500 institutions were scrutinized, and the best 1,000 universities in the world were published.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences and University of Tehran, which were among the top 500 universities in the world with a rank of 401-500, were placed top in the country.

Tarbiat Modares University (601-700) was placed second.

Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti of Medical Sciences, and Sharif University of Technology with a ranking of 701-800, shared the third rank in the country.

Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tabriz (901-1000) were ranked joint fourth.

According to data released by Web of Science (WoS), Iran's ranking in Quantum Science and Technology publications improved from 23 in 2014 to 16 in 2023, placing the country top among Islamic nations in all quantum technology fields.

Iran's best global ranking was in quantum remote sensing technology. The country was ranked eighth worldwide.

The country's other global ranking included photonic network technologies, 17; superconducting circuits, 18; spin qubit, 16; neutral (cold) atoms, 21; Trapped ions, 19; quantum key distribution, 24; quantum repeater, 26; quantum clock, 12; quantum imaging, 14; and quantum radar, 15.

The Times Higher Education (THE) included 33 universities from Iran among the top 1,500 universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDG) compared to 27 universities in 2023.

THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401- 600); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Tehran (ranking 601 -800); Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, University of Kurdistan, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences (ranking 801-1000), Mehr news agency reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology achieved the highest ranking in industry innovation and infrastructure, placing 27th.

Intl. Week of Science, Peace fosters co-op to promote peace

TEHRAN – Celebrated annually from November 9 to 15, the International Week of Science and Peace contributes to global understanding and opportunities for cooperation in the applications of science for the promotion of peace.

The week raises awareness of the relationship between science and peace among the general public.

In Iran, science promotion week is being celebrated from November 8 to 14 by holding different programs including a two-day science exhibition on Saturday and Sunday.

Also, the 25th science promotion award ceremony is scheduled to be held on the last day of the event.

Promoting science refers to the attempt to reflect scientific ideas in a way that everyone can understand its basic concepts. In other words, science promotion involves any activity that aims to popularize science, expand scientific thinking and mindset, and make individuals interested in science and scientific activities.

World Science Day for Peace and Development

During the week, on November 10, the World Science Day for Peace and Development will be celebrated.



Young people will have the opportunity to ask questions to distinguished scientists about the ways in which science affects our daily lives and contributes to finding solutions to the most pressing challenges that the world is facing from local to global levels.

By linking science more closely with society, World Science Day for Peace and Development aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of our planet and in making our societies more sustainable.

This year's theme at UNESCO Headquarters is 'Why Science Matters - Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures'.

The Day has helped foster cooperation between scientists living in regions marred by conflict – one example being the UNESCO-supported creation of the Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO).

The rationale for celebrating World Science Day for Peace and Development has its roots in the importance of the role of science and scientists for sustainable societies and in the need to inform and involve citizens in science.

The World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. The Day also underlines the importance and relevance of science in daily living.

This year, the day is observed under the theme of youth at the forefront.

It will present an opportunity to engage a wide-range audience, with a focus on young people and non-scientific participants in discovering and exploring the role of science in our rapidly-changing digitalized world.

ENGLISH IN USE

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COVID-19 lockdown moves most cities out of "red" zone

Strict COVID-19 restrictions which took effect on October 26 have caused 87 out of 89 infected cities to get out of the high-risk "red" zone.

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control started strict restrictions in 43 cities that had the highest rate of infection in the country.

The plan divided cities into three levels of alert, namely red, orange, and yellow.

All of the cities, except for two, are now out of the red condition and have turned orange or yellow so that the hospitalization rate has decreased, said Alireza Raeisi, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control spokesman, expressing hope that the death toll will also drop within two to three weeks.

اعمال محدودیت ها اکثر شهرها را از وضعیت قرمز خارج کرد

علیرضا رئیسی، سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: از ۸۹ شهری که از پنجم آبان محدودیت‌های کرونایی در آنها اعمال شده است، ۸۷ شهر از وضعیت قرمز خارج شده اند.

او با اشاره به محدودیت‌های کرونایی در ۴۳ شهر (از ۵۵ آبان در ۴۳ شهر و از ۱۴ آبان در ۴۶ شهر) اعمال شده است، گفت: از این تعداد به جز دو شهر همه شهرها از حالت قرمز خارج و به نارنجی یا زرد تبدیل شده اند. با توجه به ورودی بیمارستان ها و اینکه میزان بستری هم کاهش یافته است امیدواریم روند فوتی ها هم تا حدود دو تا سه هفته دیگر آثار خود را نشان دهد و روند کاهشی پیدا کند.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who is greedy is disgraced; he who discloses his hardship will always be humiliated; he who has no control over his tongue will often have to face discomfort.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:27 Dawn: 5:09 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:35 (tomorrow)

Three Iranian films, series honored at Accolade Global Film Competition

TEHRAN—One series and two Iranian films have received awards from the Accolade Global Film Competition in California, the U.S.

The series “The Asphalt Jungle” directed by Pejman Teymourtash, and the films “The Last Request” by Taha Mohammadi and Bitah Alemi and “Smile at Me” written, directed, and produced by Keyvan Azad are the works from Iran, which were honored at the event, IRNA reported.

“The Asphalt Jungle” received the special mention of the Awards of Excellence. It is about a girl named Hengameh, who risks everything to save her brother from execution.

The series delves into the complexities of human resilience and survival, a gripping tale of desperation, courage, moral ambiguity. It is not just a drama, but a profound exploration of human spirit.

The stellar cast includes Navid Mohammadzadeh, Amir Jafari, Merila Zarei, Farshid Hosseini, and Alireza Jafari among others.

The Iranian short films “Smile at Me” and “The Last Request” were among the recipients of the Award of Merit.

“Smile at Me,” a 6-minute social drama, is about a young boy who decides to commit suicide by jumping off a bridge as a result of having difficult problems in life including loneliness, financial strains, and so on. However, on his way to the bridge, he faces a reality that completely changes his decision.

The cast of the 2024 production includes Amirhossein Fahadan, Arian Farshizadeh, Parham Gholamli, Arian Tavasoli, Ayhan Ghorbani, and Samiyar Bagheri among others.

In September, the short flick received an honorable mention from the 4th Youality International Short Film Festival in France.

“The Last Request” depicts siblings Maryam and Amin who lost their father in an accident. Their father's wish and last request was to be buried in his hometown, which is located in another province. However, Amin and Maryam do not have enough money or conditions to do that. Moreover, they know that if the news of their father's death reach anyone, they would send them to the orphanage. So, they decide to hide the body at home and start making money to transport their father's body to his hometown.

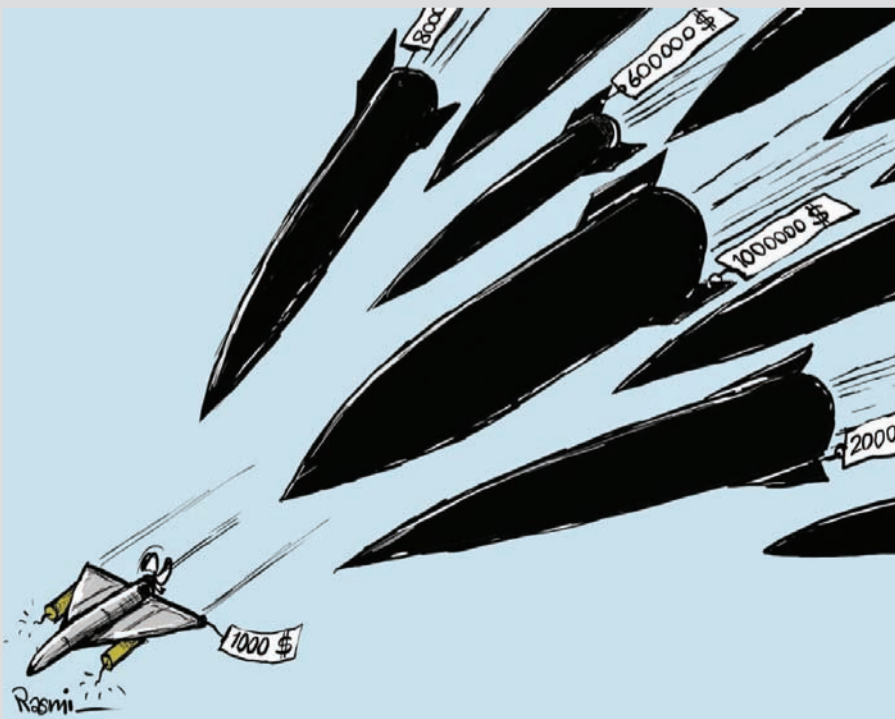
A production of 2023, the 13-minute experimental student film has Mhsa Faraji, Amirali Bahoush, Majid Tizro, Aliasghar Habibi, Tina Hajmohamadreza, Dianoush Bonakdar, Seyed Amir Naghibi, Alireza Yektan, and Rasoul Molaghanbary in the cast.

Accolade Global Film Competition is the original, top-tier, internationally respected global virtual online competition – recognizing film, TV and media professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and storytelling.

Accolade is unique and the industry leader of virtual film competitions. Attracting both powerhouse companies as well as talented new filmmakers, it is an unparalleled, truly international awards competition, not a traditional film festival – which allows filmmakers from around the world to enter their films in this prestigious competition.

Established in 2003, Accolade gives talented directors, producers, actors, creative teams the positive exposure they deserve. It discovers and honors the achievements of filmmakers who produce high quality projects. The Accolade promotes award winners through press releases to over 100,000 filmmakers and industry contacts through FilmFestivals.com.

Cartoon of Day



Israel's million-dollar weapons are unable to intercept the cheap drones of the Islamic resistance.

cartoonist: Amjad Rasmî from Jordan

Children's theater festival concludes in Hamedan

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

HAMEDAN—The 29th edition of Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults came to an end during a ceremony held in Hamedan on Thursday morning, honoring the winners in various sections.

In the international section of the festival, stage director Sultonov Tavakkal from Uzbekistan received an award in recognition of creativity in direction for his play “Musical Teahouse.”

Armenian director Sona Martirosyan was also honored in this section for her play “Traviata Circus.”

Six international groups from Uzbekistan, Armenia, Iraq, Brazil, Turkey, and Russia, as well as special guests from Morocco, attended this edition of the festival.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the event, Amir Mashhadi Abbas, the secretary of the festival expressed hope that officials would foster hope in the hearts of artists by supporting theatrical arts.

Mashhadi Abbas, appreciating the people's magnificent presence at this event, remarked: “We hope the festival has brought joy to the people of Hamedan.”

He emphasized that fostering hope is crucial for transforming children into successful adults, adding: “In the second step of the revolution, hope and optimism are highlighted, which are among the main themes of this festival.”

The festival secretary noted that groups contributed significantly to children's theater with minimal support, expressing hope that officials would invest in the arts to nourish the artists' hopes.

For her part, Nadereh Rezaei, the newly-appointed Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs thanked all the artists and participants for their efforts that, along



Armenian stage director Sona Martirosyan is holding her award at the closing ceremony of the 29th edition of Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults in Hamedan on November 7, 2024.

with the unwavering support from the related organizations, made the festival possible.

She noted that a lot of work has gone into organizing this festival, and Hamedan has witnessed twenty-one festivals so far. She also emphasized the importance of returning eminent figures in theater to enhance the quality of the festival's works.

She identified the return of distinguished artists to the stage as one of her main objectives, noting that some artists have become isolated while others have voluntarily withdrawn, stating that she will strive for their return.

She also highlighted quality enhancement as another significant approach.

Rezaei also expressed hope that they could elevate the quality of the works using the experiences of theater veterans, urging media colleagues to monitor this area for more effective programming.

Continuing the program, Seyyed Masoud Hosseini, the Mayor of Hamedan, expressed his delight at hosting the festival in the city and thanked the organizers for bringing joy to Hamedani children and teenagers.

Torabi the awards for Best Playwright and Best Director.

In the Children section, “Everyday Is Nowruz,” directed by Amir Hossein Ensafi from Tehran, was named Best Play, while “Shangoul and Mangoul,” by Gharib Manouchehri from Hamedan, received the Best Director award.

In the Young Adults section, “Atropats,” by Hossein Asadi from Khark Island, won the Best Play award. The play also secured Asadi the Best Director award.

The 29th Iran's International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults was organized by the Dramatic Arts Center of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, supported by Hamedan Municipality and in partnership with the Hamedan province's Cultural and Islamic Guidance Office, as well as the Iranian Dramatic Arts Association.

The event aimed at enhancing unity and companionship, growth, awareness, and the confidence of Iranian children through the medium of theatre as well as achieving social participation of children and adolescents, promoting public culture, strengthening the foundations of family and inter-generational communication, and educating citizens and increasing responsibility through the active participation of Iranian children and adolescents in the production of theatrical works.

The mayor emphasized that this festival plays a significant role in developing tourism in the province, stating that it has created a platform for tourism.

He pointed to the collaboration with artists and theater veterans throughout the festival, emphasizing that the conclusion of the international festival marks the beginning for them, and a permanent secretariat has been established that must carry out future programs.

He also highlighted the need for more attention to the region's theater halls and infrastructure, advocating for the establishment of a permanent puppet exhibition and a museum for artists' works. He stressed that focusing on cultural planning is essential and urged the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to enhance the quality of performances.

Recalling the innocent children of Gaza and Lebanon, he wished for peace and friendship for all children around the world.

In the national section of the festival, in the Young Children category, “We All Have One Heart” from Hamedan was crowned Best Play. The production also earned Hamedan

Allama Muhammad Iqbal Lahori and his message to the mankind

By Zahid Munir Amir

Professor at Faculty of Literature & Humanities, University of Tehran

How can a poet be relevant to the present world, who was born in the 19th century and departed in the first half of the twentieth century? This is a natural question. Before coming to a direct answer to this question we have to see what a poet says. In other words, we have to know what is poetry all about.

The subject matter of poetry is the same as that of all global literature. What is the subject matter of literature? The subject matter of literature, philosophy, and all the spiritual books is one, i.e.: man and his life. If the subject matter of man and life is relevant to the present world, and this can not be denied, then Iqbal's poetry and his philosophical thoughts are also relevant to the present world. This is one dimension of the relationship of Iqbal's thoughts with us.

Muhammad Iqbal was born on November 9, 1877 in Sialkot, (a city in Pakistan). His father Sheikh Noor Muhammad was a self-contented person. Iqbal received his initial education in Arabic and Persian from Syed Meer Hassn, who was a devoted teacher and friend of his father. He passed his Matriculation and Intermediate from the Scotch Mission School and College Sialkot. For graduation, he was admitted to the famous Government College, Lahore (now university) in 1895. He did his Masters in Philosophy from the same college in 1899. He then entered his practical life in 1899 serving as Macleod Arabic Reader at the Oriental College of the Punjab University. He also taught Philosophy and English at the Government College, Lahore. He, however, still wished to learn more and therefore went to London for further studies in 1905. He stayed in London and Germany till 1908 and received his PhD degree in Philosophy by writing his thesis on ‘The Development of Metaphysics in Persia’. He did his Bar at Law from the Lincoln's Inn. After returning from London he taught at the Government College, Lahore as Professor of Philosophy. He also practiced law at the Lahore High Court till 1934.

Side by side Iqbal also served his nation as a practical politician. He was elected as a Member of the Punjab Legislative Council in 1926 and President of the All India Muslim League in 1930. As President of All India Muslim League, he delivered his famous Allahabad address in which he

presented the idea of a separate Muslim state in the subcontinent. Resultantly Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into being on 14 August 1947.

In his life, Iqbal proved himself a dynamic person by traveling widely. His travels to Europe for studies have already been mentioned. In 1931 and 1932 he visited London to represent the Indian Muslims in the Round Table Conferences convened by the British Government. In 1933 he visited Afghanistan upon an invitation from King Nadir Shah. He also traveled to Bhopal for his medical treatment. Iqbal breathed his last on 21 April 1938.

Iqbal provides a new philosophical premise for the concept of selfhood. In his book Asrar-e-Khudi, Iqbal has presented an order for the training of selfhood comprising three stages.

The first stage is اطاعت (obedience) while leading his life, man should be obedient to his Creator so that his weakness turns into power

در اطاعت کوش ای غفلت شعار

می شود از جبر پیدا اختیار

(O ignorant man! be obedient [to God], so that as a reward for this obligation, you are endowed with the wealth of authority)

The second stage is that of ضبط نفس (self-control) in this stage man conquers worldly things by acquiring control of himself as otherwise he would have to be subservient to the world.

When a man successfully completes these two stages, he is granted the elevated position of being God's caliph. About this caliph of God, Iqbal says:

نوع انسان مزرع و تو حاصلی

کاروان زندگی را منزلی

(The humanity is a crop, the fruit of which is the person who trains himself to the extent of attaining the status of God's caliph. In fact, this very person is the end product of life's caravan.)

After the training in selfhood, Iqbal wants man to devote himself to the collective interest of the nation. He names this stage as the بیخودی (The basis of the collectiveness of the nation is the concept of the oneness of God and the Prophethood. The Muslim nation was founded on this concept. It develops on a charter and its center is Khana-e-Kaba. The objective of the Muslim nation, according to Iqbal, is the protection of the Haram.

ایک ہوں مسلم حرم کی پاسبانی کے لیے
نیل کے ساحل سے لے کر تابخاک کاشغر

(It is necessary that the Muslim world should get united and that the Muslims scattered all over the world, from the banks of the river Nile to the land of Kashghar, become one to guard the Haram.)

پہر سیاست چھوڑ کر داخل حصار دین میں ہو

ملک و دولت بے فقط حفظ حرم کایک ٹہر

To Iqbal, the protection of the Haram is the most important and the most basic purpose as compared to other undertakings of life. If a person gets the greatest success at the cost of this purpose, it is in vain. (In other words, the protection of the Haram is a metaphor for a strong association with Islamic teachings. If a person gets some worldly success at the cost of this association, it would in fact be a loss, Iqbal thinks.

Iqbal wants to make man a strong and productive member of society through his training. He wants the man to have the qualities of a Qalandar, which would make him a true Muslim with all the noble qualities of a human being. For him, the greatest achievement for a person is to become a 'complete man'. Only a 'complete man' can steer the marooned convoy of humanity to its destination. In one of his letters, Iqbal wrote about this concept in the following words:

“According to me, every person who has completed all the stages of training in selfhood is the 'complete man'.”

Iqbal believes that humanity has to depend upon the creative powers of man for progress. The creative powers of a person or a society have a pivotal importance in human life. In his view, man is different from the other creatures because of his creative gift. His creativity gives him respect and reliability in the universe. In order to restore the confidence of humanity with regard to human values, it is necessary to brighten the darkness of materialism with sincerity and respect. On 1 January 1935, Iqbal, in his radio message of New Year, said:

“The secret to human survival is in the respect for humanity. Until the intellectual forces focus their attention on the lesson of respecting humanity, this world will continue to be a place of beasts.”