

Wanted Butcher

Israel has been gripped by fear in the wake of the arrest warrant issued by the ICC against PM Netanyahu

- ICC's warrant: Plan B for Saving Israel
- It is "outrageous" that Biden opposes arrest warrant against Netanyahu
- World reacts to ICC arrest warrants



Tehran, Caracas deepen strategic ties with new cooperation agreements

TEHRAN – In a landmark visit to Venezuela, Iran has signed a series of agreements aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

The high-level Iranian delegation, led by Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, marked a significant step in fostering closer ties between the two nations during the 10th meeting of the Iran-Venezuela Joint Economic Cooperation Commission in Caracas.

General Nasirzadeh, who also heads Iran's side of the Joint Commission, met with Venezuelan Vice President and Oil Minister Delcy Rodríguez as well as President Nicolás Maduro.

During these discussions, the two nations signed two key memorandums of understanding, one granting visa exemptions and another focused on technology transfer and training in artificial intelligence (AI).

President Maduro emphasized the growing political and economic trust between the two countries, calling Iran a "technological and scientific powerhouse" that has demonstrated resilience against decades of external pressure. ▶ Page 2



Larijani says he is "sure Hezbollah will win" following Beirut visit

TEHRAN – In an interview with Khamenei, Ali Larijani, an advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, shared insights from his recent back-to-back visits to Syria and Lebanon during a time of escalating tensions due to ongoing Israeli aggressions.

Reflecting on his observations, Larijani emphasized the unwavering spirit of those he met, particularly highlighting the resilience of Hezbollah fighters. "In this journey, I observed spirits that were as steadfast as the resilience seen on Ashura," he remarked, drawing parallels between the Hezbollah fighters' determination and the courage and sacrifice Imam Hossein (AS) and his companions showed in the battle of Karbala.

He recounted a poignant encounter with martyr Mohammad Afif, Hezbollah's media chief Israel assassinated shortly after Larijani left for Tehran, who conveyed a powerful message: "We stand firm; you should know that we are ready to resist. No one among our friends in Lebanon should think we are broken. We are prepared."

Larijani noted that many Hezbollah members exhibited "strong spirits and hope for the future," stating, "This spirit, this steadfastness in work, and this courage in action will lead them to victory." ▶ Page 2

Iran to deploy new advanced centrifuges in response to 'unjust' IAEA resolution

TEHRAN – Iran has decided to activate new advanced centrifuges, rejecting an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors resolution that rebuked Tehran despite its offer of new concessions.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the Iranian Foreign Ministry released a joint statement early Friday, criticizing the IAEA's resolution as politically driven, unrealistic, and unjust.

A significant number of advanced centrifug-

es will be deployed in response to the unconstructive move, the statement read.

The resolution, passed by the IAEA's Board of Governors with a vote of 19 to 3 and 12 abstentions, accused Iran of "insufficient cooperation" and demanded a comprehensive report on its nuclear activities by spring 2025.

The statement added that despite taking new measures to accelerate its nuclear program, Iran will maintain its technical cooperation with the IAEA based on previous agreements. ▶ Page 3



\$1.4b to be allocated for completing 39 projects in Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN – As his first provincial visit, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian traveled to Sistan-Baluchestan Province in the southeast of the country on Thursday, during which a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for implementing 39 economic projects was signed.

Based on the mentioned MOU which was signed during a meeting with the province's economic operators and officials on Thursday, 700 trillion rials (about \$1.4 billion) is going to be allocated for completing 39 economic projects in the province.

As ISNA reported, the mentioned projects are mostly in the fields of agriculture, mining, and fisheries. ▶ Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Repeating a wrong path, a thousand times

Kayhan addressed Iran's acceptance to stop enriching uranium to 60% and wrote: Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, declared that Iran had accepted a cap on its stockpile of 60% enriched uranium. This decision of our country was made with the aim of goodwill and reducing existing tensions between Iran and the IAEA, as well as preventing the creation of a basis for issuing a new resolution against Iran at the Board of Governors. However, according to the path taken so far, the future will clearly show that this retreat and reward to Europe will not lead to a tangible achievement in the path of nuclear negotiations and the settlement of issues related to Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Also, sending a pulse of weakness will increase the basis for intensifying pressures. This means that the Europeans will move towards activating the trigger mechanism. For this reason, the European parties have turned this issue into a pretext for taking advantage of the Iranian nation and government. The authorities of the 14th (sitting) government should avoid repeating retreats in the face of the European countries considered non-influential players in international politics.

Iran: Iran's diplomacy puts Board of Governors in a dilemma

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed Tehran's proposal not to increase its stockpile of 60 percent enriched uranium. It said: Iran's proposal not to add to its reserves of uranium enriched to 60% caused a wave of doubt among the diplomats at the Board of Governors. Grossi declared Iran's proposal in a public meeting and called it a basis for a different start of cooperation with Iran and said that Iran's policy is not to produce nuclear weapons. To reduce the tense atmosphere among members of the IAEA Board of Governors regarding the European-drafted anti-Iran resolution, Tehran put forward the path of "constructive cooperation and preparing a retaliatory response". Everything that Iran had proposed to the Agency with its goodwill is only applicable if the Board of Governors refrains from approving the proposed resolution (by France, Britain and Germany) or at least does not link it to the clauses that provide the basis for referring the Iran nuclear case to the UN Security Council.

Fahrikhetgan: A journey with the goal of a ceasefire

In an interview with Seyyed Reza Sadr al-Hosseini, an expert and analyst of regional issues, Farahkhetgan dealt with the dimensions of the visit of Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar to Tehran. He said: The Qataris play an important role in mediations in the region and any trip by the officials of this country, especially in the middle of tensions, has significant dimensions. Some observers have considered Qatar's Foreign Minister to be the messenger of the Americans in the context of the escalation of tensions in the nuclear case. Others linked the trip to regional conflicts based on developments related to the war in Lebanon and Gaza. The Resistance front accepts mediation by any thinker or leader to reach a cease-fire and lasting peace. Therefore, the visit of Qatar's Foreign Minister can also be effective in this regard. But what is clear is that the declaration of a ceasefire in the current situation, especially in the framework of the American peace plan.

Jam-e-Jam: Pressure policy against Iran will backfire

In recent years and especially in the past months, we have seen that European countries have intensified their pressure campaign against Iran. However, the policy of pressure, resolutions against Iran, or any hostile move has always faced the further development of Iran's nuclear program and produced opposite results. Westerners try to put countries not allied to them as hostile. For this reason, we have seen that the quality of their policy towards Iran has changed. As we get closer to the JCPOA sunset, the opposite sides are trying to strengthen their pressure on Iran so that if they ever want to sit at a negotiating table with Tehran, they have the upper hand. They see Iran and the Axis of Resistance as opposed to Israel and its allies. For this reason, they are trying to put pressure on Iran under various pretexts. The opportunity to revive the JCPOA negotiations is limited, and these actions of Europe have complicated the process of revitalizing it further. Also, Europeans are deliberately trying to increase the tension and distance themselves from the possibility of a solution.

Students unite for Resistance in Tehran gathering



TEHRAN – Iranian students gathered to showcase their support for the Axis of Resistance in inaugural national assembly of "Resistance Ambassadors" which took place on Thursday morning in Tehran.

The event, hosted at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adult, was attended by Hojatolislam

Mohammad Qomi, head of the Islamic Development Organization, alongside student representatives from the assembly's network.

During the gathering, Iranian students voiced their solidarity with the oppressed children and youth of Gaza and Lebanon, while strongly condemning the actions of the Zionist regime.

Iran denounces Canada-pushed UN resolution on human rights as 'politically motivated'

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi has firmly rejected the "unjust and politically motivated resolution" on Iran's human rights situation.

During a Wednesday session at the UN Third Committee, Ershadi confronted the Canadian-sponsored anti-Iran resolution with evidence of Western double standards.

The resolution, introduced annually against Iran, received backing from 77 countries. A significant 94 nations either opposed or ab-

stained, indicating widespread skepticism towards the Western-backed initiative.

The resolution accuses Iran's law enforcement of "violating international obligations" concerning detainees and prisoners.

"Iran rejects the unjust and politically motivated resolution concerning the human rights situation in our country," declared the envoy, highlighting "the selective, biased, and hypocritical nature" of the resolution.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Tehran, Caracas deepen strategic ties with new cooperation agreements

From page 1 ▶ He hailed the new agreements as the beginning of a "new chapter" in bilateral relations, aimed at creating opportunities in trade, tourism, and cultural exchange. "Venezuela is ready to welcome Iranian families and tourists as part of this growing partnership," Maduro said.

Maduro highlighted the strategic importance of the Iran-Venezuela relationship in the context of a shifting global order. "Iran and Venezuela represent nations striving for freedom and the end of colonialism, hegemony, and fascism," he declared, describing the partnership as part of a larger vision for a multipolar and multicentric world.

General Nasirzadeh echoed these sentiments, describing the two nations as "friends and brothers in a single boat navigating shared challenges." He criticized imperialist efforts to undermine sovereign nations and praised the cooperation



Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh (L) shakes hands with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas on November 21, 2024.

between Tehran and Caracas as a model of resistance.

"This commission will serve as a milestone in advancing relations between our countries," he added.

The discussions also highlighted progress in various fields, including

transportation, tourism, education, and cultural integration.

Venezuelan Transport Minister Ramon Velazquez revealed that an Iranian entrepreneur plans to equip 50 Venezuelan schools with AI learning tools, calling them "scientific

seedbeds" for future generations.

Iran and Venezuela, both under stringent U.S. sanctions, have expanded their collaboration significantly in recent years. A 20-year partnership deal signed in 2022 covers cooperation in oil, petrochemicals, defense, agriculture, and other sectors.

Notably, Iran provided critical assistance to Venezuela in 2020 when U.S. sanctions caused severe fuel shortages, supplying crude oil, condensate, and technical support to modernize Venezuela's refining infrastructure.

Nasirzadeh reaffirmed Iran's commitment to deepening ties with Venezuela, pledging to facilitate private-sector contracts and ensure the successful implementation of bilateral agreements. Reports suggest that both sides remain focused on following up on these commitments to sustain their strategic partnership.

Larijani says he is "sure Hezbollah will win" following Beirut visit

From page 1 ▶ He expressed confidence in Hezbollah's capabilities, asserting that the Resistance group remains resilient despite Israeli bombardments. "The main capacities of Hezbollah have not yet been depleted. They still have extensive resources and have become self-sufficient in producing their capabilities," he explained.

Addressing the strategic miscalculations of the Israeli regime, Larijani stated, "I think the Zionist regime made a mistake here, thinking that after the bombings and the discussions about pressure, they would reach the Litani River within a week or two." He pointed out that over thirty days have passed without significant ground movements from Israel on its ongoing offensive against Lebanon, leading to continuous casualties for their forces.

Larijani also underscored Iran's commitment to



Ali Larijani, advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, discusses recent visits to Syria and Lebanon in an interview published on November 21, 2024.

supporting Lebanon as a whole. "We defend the entirety of Lebanon and the whole government of Lebanon... it is a strong bastion for defending the land of Lebanon and preventing this Israeli aggression against the entire region," he asserted. He acknowledged ongoing diplomatic efforts led by Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri to resolve the crisis, expressing hope for a fruitful outcome.

When asked about the reactions of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Speaker Berri to Ayatollah Khamenei's messages, Larijani reported that both leaders expressed deep respect for the Leader's insights. "They view him as a guiding figure in regional issues and deadlocks," he noted. Larijani added that both leaders welcomed the messages, stating that they align with what is needed in today's circumstances.

IRGC chief urges Muslim nations to sever ties with Israel

TEHRAN – The commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps highlighted the offenses perpetrated by the Zionist regime in the region and urged Muslim nations to cut ties with it.

During a gathering of Basij members in Ahvaz City on Friday, Major General Hossein Salami urged Islamic nations to unite against this occupying regime and to obstruct any support until it is entirely dismantled.

Salami warned that destruction looms over Israel, noting that the Zionist regime is experiencing a political crisis and profound isolation, which he described as a form of political death.

The IRGC chief asserted that Israel stands isolated within the international community and predicted the imminent downfall of this regime.

Salami emphasized, "The unity of Muslims will lead to the downfall of this corrupt regime, igniting the spirit of Islamic resistance and

heralding further victories for the resistance coalition. Consequently, Muslim nations must sever their ties with this illegal regime."

The IRGC official also pledged a decisive response to Israel's October attack against Iran. "Israel's significant transgression of violating Iran's red line by launching an attack on our territory will not go unaddressed."

Israeli warplanes fired missiles at Iranian military installations from Iraqi airspace on October 26th, martyring four Army military personnel and one civilian.

The assault came in response to Iran's Operation True Promise II, which struck multiple Israeli military bases inside the occupied territories on October 1 in retaliation for the regime's assassination of several top Resistance figures. Iran's first direct attack against Israel happened in April.

Iranian officials have said that the upcoming operation would be harsher than the first two.

Iran will leave NPT if snapback sanctions triggered, warns deputy FM

TEHRAN – Iran has issued a stark warning to European powers, stating it will exit the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if UN Security Council sanctions are reimposed through the snapback mechanism.

In an interview with Iran's national television, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi stated that Iran's stance was communicated to European leaders through an official letter during the late President Ebrahim Raisi's administration. "This position remains unchanged," the diplomat declared.

The snapback mechanism outlined in UN Resolution 2231 permits permanent members of the Security Council and Germany to reinstate UN sanctions if Iran violates its JCPOA obligations.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was signed between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries in 2015. It limited Iran's

nuclear program in exchange for the termination of Western sanctions.

The deal, however, fell apart in 2018, when then-U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the deal and reinstated sanctions against Iran. Tehran began to scale back on some of its obligations 1.5 years later as the remaining European signatories to the deal failed to neutralize the sanctions.

In his Thursday remarks, Gharibabadi indicated that European countries appear hesitant to trigger the snapback mechanism, cognizant of Iran's potential response.

Addressing the recent anti-Iran IAEA resolution, Gharibabadi noted that it is distinct from matters related to the UN Security Council and will not lead to an NPT withdrawal. He also warned against utilizing international organizations as political tools against Iran.



President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the national gathering of Student Basij and Basiji Seminary members held at the holy shrine of Imam Khomeini on Friday.



Iranians gathered in front of the UN Tehran office on November 22, 2024, to call for Israel's expulsion from the body, a day after the ICC issued arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant.

Iran to deploy new advanced centrifuges in response to 'unjust' IAEA resolution

From Page 1 ▶ Referring to the IAEA chief's recent trip to Iran, the statement explained that Rafael Grossi's meetings with senior Iranian officials and his subsequent visits to the Fordow and Natanz nuclear sites showed a solid foundation for enhanced collaboration between Iran and the nuclear agency.

It accused the UK, France, Germany, and the U.S. of advancing political agendas under the guise of nuclear concerns, especially in light of their past failures to uphold agreements like the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The JCPOA was established in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 countries. It imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities in return for the termination of West-



ern sanctions. However, the accord collapsed in 2018 when U.S. President Donald Trump decided to withdraw the United States from the agreement and reimpose sanctions on Iran.

'Considerable boost in uranium enrichment capacity'

In a televised interview on Friday, AEOI spokesperson Behrouz Kamalvandi confirmed the im-

mediate implementation of "compensatory actions," including a substantial increase in uranium enrichment capacity alongside the accelerated development of advanced centrifuge technology.

"We will significantly increase our enrichment capacity, deploy various advanced machines, and enhance the speed of industrial research and development for each machine," he added.

Tehran had reportedly agreed not to expand its stock of uranium enriched to up to 60% purity during Grossi's visit to Iran. Kamalvandi said the agreement is no longer viable, as Iran had only taken up the offer contingent upon the fact that the IAEA does not pass a censure against the country.

Israel's aggressions will not go unanswered, international law to guide response: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has declared that Tehran's response to recent Israeli military actions will be both inevitable and resolute, emphasizing that the timing and method of retaliation would be determined by strategic conditions.

Speaking to Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen network on Thursday, Araghchi underlined Iran's commitment to act firmly but responsibly, avoiding any impulsive moves.

He confirmed that the planned Operation True Promise III would proceed as previously announced, reiterating that Iran remains undeterred by provocations.

"The Zionist entity has sought to lure Iran into a regional war, but we have wisely avoided falling into their trap," Araghchi stated. He assured that while the response would not be delayed, it would also not be rushed, emphasizing Iran's adherence to international law in its actions.

Araghchi issued a stark warning against

potential Israeli strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities, dismissing claims of their vulnerability and highlighting the nation's robust air defense systems. He cautioned Israel against missteps, warning of proportional retaliation to any aggression.

The Iranian diplomat also pointed to a growing alignment among regional nations against Israel's policies, highlighting a wave of solidarity in the region.

He warned that Israel's ongoing war in Gaza and broader regional aggression risk destabilizing West Asia, with the potential to escalate into a broader conflict. "The region is facing unprecedented circumstances due to the continued aggressions of the Zionist regime," he noted, adding that such actions could draw neighboring countries into the conflict.

Araghchi further criticized Israel's diminishing standing in the region, describing it as an outcast regime. He noted that many countries regret normalizing ties with Israel, citing increased awareness of its policies and actions as

a turning point. "The countries in the region are beginning to realize the error of normalization with the Zionist regime," he remarked.

He also condemned Western nations, particularly the United States, for enabling Israeli aggression. Araghchi accused them of providing Israel with political and military support, which has facilitated actions that violate international law and humanitarian principles.

Reflecting on the ongoing conflict, he condemned Israel's offensive in Gaza, which began on October 7, 2023. The Gaza Health Ministry reports that over 44,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, have been killed, with more than 104,000 injured. Israel also faces a genocide case filed by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

As tensions rise, Iran's leadership remains steadfast in its position, warning of far-reaching consequences for the region and signaling the potential for a unified front against Israeli policies.

U.S. 'maximum pressure' on Iran: beating a dead horse?



By Mohammad Khatibi

TEHRAN – U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's national security and foreign policy picks have fueled speculation about a renewed "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

In a recent Washington Institute for Near East Policy article, "Before Maximum Pressure, Trump Needs an Iran Strategy," Richard Nephew outlines potential scenarios for future U.S.-Iran relations.

The article tries its best to address the 'maximum pressure' flaws in Trump's first term as president however it fails to give an alternative for the policy. It only advises Trump to keep the pressure on Iran but this time with a much more practical approach.

Axis of Resistance

Nephew argues that Iran's present strategic position could be more favorable for negotiations with the U.S. He states, "Iran being in a weaker position regionally after Israel's evisceration of Hezbollah and Hamas—could actually facilitate wide-ranging talks."

However, despite Nephew's claims, the strength of Iran and its allied groups is still intact.

According to the Israeli army, nearly 50 soldiers have died in combat during ground operations in Southern Lebanon. The heavy toll comes as Israel pounds Beirut and has assassinated top Hezbollah leaders including the group's late

Secretary General Sayyad Hassan Nasrallah. Ground operations in Southern Lebanon have not brought any significant territorial gains for Israel and the regime in Tel Aviv has not yet achieved its goal of returning Israeli settlers up to the north of occupied Palestine.

Furthermore, Hezbollah's missile and drone capabilities are still in place and it is continuously launching operations deep inside occupied Palestine including Tel Aviv.

In the Gaza front, Israel may have achieved some of its announced goals including the killing of the late Hamas leader, Yahya Sinwar but has failed to defeat the group in action.

The recent siege on Northern Gaza after occupying it once since the onslaught began on October 2023 shows the failure to contain Hamas in military terms in the coastal territory.

Hamas is still inflicting human losses on the Israeli military and the regime has no "day after" strategy for Gaza. Continued occupation of northern Gaza and building settlements there or appointing the Palestinian authority to rule Gaza is not practical due to previous operational failures just like in the 2000s.

On a third front, Ansarullah's Red Sea operations have disrupted trade routes to Israel. Despite the U.S.-led "Operation Prosperity Guardian," Yemeni drone and missile attacks on Israeli positions in the Occupied Territories continue unabated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Unilateral sanctions undermine sovereignty, says Iranian envoy

TEHRAN – Iran's UN envoy to Geneva, Ali Bahreini, denounced unilateral sanctions as violations of international law and attacks on national sovereignty.

Speaking at a Geneva conference on "Sanctions, Trade, and Human Rights," Bahreini stated that sanctions framed as promoting democracy or human rights are a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of other nations.

The November 21st conference included high-level officials from 18 countries, regional organizations, humanitarian agencies, legal experts, and researchers.

Bahreini cited the targeting of Iran Air and Iranian shipping lines as examples of Western nations prioritizing unilateral actions over the UN framework.

He highlighted the devastating humanitarian consequences of sanctions, citing increased mortality rates, restricted access to medicine, and reduced life expectancy, referencing World Health Organization research linking sanctions to higher rates of child mortality and malnutrition.

He added that such actions weaponize economic power to exert political pressure, undermining the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and peaceful resolution.

It's important to note that the impact of these sanctions on Iran has been significant, affecting not only the country's economy but also its ability to respond to challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Iran third at 2024 IWBF U23 Asia Oceania Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated the Philippines 66-19 on Friday to come third at the 2024 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) U23 Asia Oceania Championship.

Iran started the competition on Monday, defeating the Philippines 80-28 but lost to Australia 71-48 later in the day.

Iran also lost to Japan 65-58 in their third match but emerged victorious over Saudi Arabia 76-24, Thailand 60-25 and India 71-20.

The championship has brought together seven nations – Iran, Australia, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, and Thailand—to compete for the coveted title and the spots in the 2025 IWBF Men's U23 World Championship.

The top three teams will qualify for the 2025 IWBF Men's U23 World Championship.

The 2024 IWBF U23 AOC Championship is being held in Bangkok, Thailand from Nov. 17 to 22.

Iran awarded win over Kazakhstan at 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualification

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team were awarded a 20-0 win over Kazakhstan in Group E of the 2025 FIBA Asia Cup qualification.

Kazakhstan didn't travel to Tehran to face Team Melli and Iran won the match.

Iran, headed by Sotiris Manolopoulos, will face Qatar on Nov. 25 in Doha.

The Iranian team lead the table with six points.

The 2025 FIBA Asia Cup will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from Aug. 5 to 17.

Masoud Juma linked with Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN– Kenyan forward Masoud Juma Choka has been linked with a move to Iran's Esteghlal football team.

The 28-year-old player most recently played for Saudi Arabian club Al-Jabalain.

Masoud Juma has been a member of Kenya national football team since 2017.

Kyrgyzstan striker Joel Kojo had also been linked with the Iranian team.

Esteghlal, headed by Pitso Mosimane, sit 10th in the Iran league's 16-team table.

Esteghlal's Rezaeian fit for Pakhtakor match

TEHRAN – Esteghlal right-back Ramin Rezaeian will be fit for the match against Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

Esteghlal will meet Pakhtakor on November 25 at the Emirates Stadium in Dubai, the UAE on Matchweek 5.

Rezaeian was forced to leave the field in the match against Al Hilal, where the Iranian team lost 3-0.

Esteghlal sit eighth in the 12-team table.

The top eight teams will advance to Round of 16.

Asian Club League Handball Championship: Mes lose to Al-Kuwait

TEHRAN – Iran's Sanat Mes lost to Kuwait club Al-Kuwait 32-27 on Thursday at the

27th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship.

Mes are scheduled to meet Al-Shabab Club of Bahrain in the seventh-place match on Saturday.

The event is taking place from November 11 to 22 and serves as a qualifier for the 2025 IHF Super Globe.

Khaleej Club entered the tournament as the defending champions, having secured its first title in the 2023 edition held in Sabah Al-Salem, Kuwait.

Mehdi Taremi in starting XI against Hellas Verona

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi and Yann Bissecck will be part of the Inter Milan starting eleven for Saturday's Serie A clash with Hellas Verona.

This according to Rome-based newspaper Corriere dello Sport, via FCInterNews, Kristjan Asllani will also start the match in midfield.

Inter will return to action in Serie A after the third international break of the season.

The Nerazzurri will travel to the Bentegodi to face Hellas Verona.

Inter coach Simone Inzaghi is considering his choices for the starting eleven. The coach is not just thinking about tomorrow's match. Inter has several matches right on the way after tomorrow's match as well, starting with Tuesday's Champions League match against RB Leipzig.

Inter will be playing virtually twice a week for the foreseeable future.

In the captain's place, the newspaper reports, Iranian international and former Porto striker Mehdi Taremi will start for Inter.

Therefore, Inzaghi will have at least one eye on squad rotation in tomorrow's match. Not least with some players having been in action during the international break.

One of Inzaghi's biggest decisions comes in attack.

Inter captain Lautaro Martinez has made a late return from the international break. He had played for Argentina during the break, scoring in a World Cup qualifier against Peru.

And according to the Corriere, Inzaghi is ready to respond to this by resting Martinez tomorrow.

Then, in defense, Benjamin Pavard has been part of the France squad during the break. This follows a couple breaks in which he has been frozen out of the Les Bleus setup.

On the other hand, Yann Bissecck did not receive a senior call-up for Germany.

Therefore, Bissecck stayed back and trained with Inzaghi and the Inter squad. As such, Inzaghi considers him fresher than Pavard, and is ready to give him the nod against Verona.

Tractor out of Iran's Hazfi Cup

TEHRAN – Tractor football team were knocked out of 2024/25 Iran's Hazfi Cup after suffering a 2-1 home loss against Gol Gohar in Tabriz.

Sokol Cikalleshi gave an early lead to Tractor at the Yadegar-e Emam Stadium from the penalty spot but Mehdi Tikdari leveled the score before the halftime.

Pouria Latiffar scored the winner in the 64th minute to give the visiting team a 2-1 win in the Round of 32.

Elsewhere, Sepahan defeated Pars Jonoubi Jam at the Takhti Stadium in Jam 2-0.

Fard Alborz lost to Kheybar Khoramabad 1-0 in their home match.

On Thursday, Persepolis defeated Mes Songoon 3-0 in Tebriz's Shahr-e Qods Stadium.

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

Sepahan are defending champions.

Iran underlines forming joint business council with Kazakhstan

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has highlighted the need to establish a joint business council with Kazakhstan, the TPO portal reported.

During a meeting with the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Tehran Ontalpay Onalbayev on Wednesday, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi said: "The formation of a business cooperation council between the two countries can help in the process of developing trade relations between the two countries, and we are interested in forming this council with the participation of the Iranian and Kazakh Chambers of Commerce."

He further pointed out the importance of transit and transportation of goods for Iran, adding: "Activating a railway route between the two countries can also play a role in the development of international corridors."

Regarding the need to expand trade between Iran and Kazakhstan, he said: "We are prepared to develop trade between the two countries, both in imports and exports, and we do not have a priority in which direction our trade should be oriented. Because good imports bring prosperity to the people, and exports contribute to employment and production."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the TPO head mentioned Iran's potential and capacities to export technical engineering services to Kazakhstan, saying: "Our companies have good technical knowledge and expertise and can complete various projects with the best quality and the lowest price. Many projects, completed by Iranian contractors in the region, have been appreciated as exemplary projects." He called on the Kazakh side to facilitate bank guarantees for Iranian contractors.

Dehghan Dehnavi continued by emphasizing that the Eurasia Exclusive Exhibition in Iran is a good opportunity for the presence of Kazakh traders, merchants, and manufacturers in Iran, saying: "This year, given that the Free Trade Agreement

with Eurasia is being ratified in the parliament, we hope that Kazakhstan will have a more serious presence in the exhibition, which can pave the way for the development of trade relations between the two countries."

During a meeting with the Kazakh ambassador in early August, the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (IC-CIMA) criticized the low volume of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan, underlining the need for the implementation of joint cooperation agreements between the two countries as soon as possible.

"The \$300 million trade between Iran and Kazakhstan is not proportional to the facilities and capacities of the two countries, and we should all try to achieve the target of 3 billion dollars of trade set in the joint cooperation agreement," Samad Hassanzadeh said in the meeting with Ontalpay Onalbayev.

"Iran Chamber of Commerce is pursuing the faster implementation of the joint cooperation agreement between Iran and Kazakhstan with the aim of increasing the trade relations between the two countries," the official added.

Referring to the logistics agreement between Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia, Hassanzadeh added: "We should be able to use this opportunity in the field of transportation to promote the trade among the countries in the region."

The ICCIMA head invited the head of the Kazakhstan Chamber and the businessmen of the country to visit Iran, and said: "Considering Iran's capabilities in the fields of technical and engineering services, the establishment of power plants, the development of petrochemical industries, food, agriculture and livestock industries, construction, Pharmaceuticals and medicine, tourism, handicrafts, information and communication technology and knowledge-based products, we can form good cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries."

stimulate and grow Iran's economy."

Elsewhere in his article the CEO urged the need for further changes to keep up with evolving innovation and technology, and the emergence of new business models in the banking industry. "The slow pace of adaptation and resistance to change have deprived banks of understanding market developments and maintaining meaningful connections with customers. Banks now find themselves at the final juncture of competition with digital rivals and must decide how to overcome the remaining adaptation challenges."

"At Bank Melli Iran, we have recognized this shift and prioritized agility as one of the bank's core strategies. As part of this agility initiative, we have pursued the divestment of Bank Melli Iran's stakes in enterprises and companies as an effective operational solution. Since the beginning of the Persian calendar year 1402 (March 2023), this approach has led to the bank's exit from managing eight affiliated enterprises valued at 350 trillion rials. We are determined to continue this path and fully exit enterprise ownership, thereby freeing up the bank's resources and assets to finance production and support national development projects."

Najjarzadeh has also explored various factors and elements in detail related to the banking system's role in driving Iran's economy. Key excerpts from his analysis are provided below:

Banks as drivers of economic growth

The ability to create money is an exclusive characteristic of banks compared to other economic entities. Furthermore, their primary inherent advantage is accepting debt as a medium of exchange. This exclusivity and advantage obligate banks to finance enterprises and households to promote a society's economic growth and prosperity.

By extending credit, banks facilitate economic transactions among households and businesses, enabling income transfer across various economic sectors. Financing and facilitating monetary exchanges are key value propositions of banks, with "enterprise

Iran's oil output up by 60,000 bpd

TEHRAN – The head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said that the country's daily oil production volume has increased by 60,000 barrels.

"With the planning and efforts made in this regard, despite some unforeseen repairs that occurred, fortunately, more than 60,000 barrels per day have been added to the country's oil production since August this year," Hamid Bovard told IRIB.

The deputy oil minister stated that since the 14th administration took office in August, Iran's daily oil production has increased by 60,000 barrels, predicting that the country's oil output will rise by 200,000 to 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the end of the current Iranian calendar year



(March 20, 2025).

He further pointed out that this additional production capacity mainly comes from plans implemented in the oil-rich areas of the south including West Karoun, and the operational areas covered by Arvandan Oil and Gas Production

Company.

According to the official, the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) also has been able to raise oil production by bringing new wells into operation and carrying out desalination projects.

Referring to the oil minister's

promise in the parliamentary vote of confidence session to increase daily oil production by 400,000 barrels within a year, he said that all branches of the government, including the National Development Fund (NDF), the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), and Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) have assisted the ministry in securing financial resources to achieve the goal.

Concerning oil exports, the NIOC head also mentioned that despite all the problems, the situation is good and satisfactory.

Extensive efforts are underway to achieve maximum oil production, so we plan to finalize the contracts for all projects that face uncertain contractual status by the end of this year, Bovard added.

Exports from mining sector exceeds \$7.5b in 7 months

TEHRAN – Exports from Iran's mining sector reached \$7.537 billion in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to October 22, 2024), up one percent from the same period last year.

According to the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), exports from the mining sector, including metals and minerals, increased by two percent in weight over the same period to reach nearly 36.6 million tons.

The company said exports of steel,

aluminum, and copper amounted to over 19 million tons worth \$5.810 billion in the seven months to late October, IRNA reported.

The figures are a sign that Iranian metals producers have managed to recoup some of the losses they suffered in the earlier months of this year when lower supplies of electricity and natural gas affected their output and exports.

Figures published in mid-October showed that Iran's steel output had dropped by up to 10 percent in some categories of production

because of power cuts ordered for industries over the summer months when demand for cooling hit record highs in the country. IMIDRO said later that month that aluminum ingot output in four major smelters in Iran had also dropped by four percent year on year in the seven months to late October.

Iran is one of the 10 largest steel producers in the world. The country has reported a steady increase in production and exports of steel in recent years amid a war between Ukraine and Russia that has affected regional supplies.

\$1.4b to be allocated for completing 39 projects in Sistan-Baluchestan

From page 1 ▶ During this trip, Pezeshkian also ordered the implementation of 33 resolutions with a total credit of 45 trillion rials (about \$90 million) to complete some semi-finished projects across the province.

Upon arrival at Zahedan International Airport on Thursday, President Pezeshkian told the press that the main goal of his provincial visits would be to hear people's voice and their concerns and to follow up on the

development projects in various provinces.

As reported, 11 members of the cabinet accompanied the president on his trip to Sistan-Baluchestan.

The members of the government delegation visited various cities of the province to convey the president's greetings, participate in public gatherings, and inaugurate some projects in different parts of the province.

Alipour appointed as new head of Iran Privatization Organization

TEHRAN – Zahra Alipour has been appointed as the new head of the Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO), Tasnim News Agency

reported. Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati appointed Alipour to the post replacing Malek Rahmati.

Alipour, who holds a PhD in economic management, was appointed as the caretaker of the IPO in August.

'Enterprise creation' acts as a catalyst for strengthening Iran's economy

Banks undeniably play a pivotal role in financing domestic production and driving economic growth. In that regard, Dr. Abolfazl Najjarzadeh, CEO of Bank Melli Iran (BMI), in his latest exclusive article, has highlighted the importance of revitalizing Iran's economy, emphasizing the need for Iranian banks to function as dynamic, living mechanisms that actively support economic activities.

"For this to happen, the Iranian banking network must address challenges such as inadequate capital adequacy ratios in some banks, increased overdrafts from the central bank, and growing accumulated losses in others," part of the article reads.

As mentioned by Najjarzadeh, Iran's banking system, apart from grappling with the adverse effects of unjust sanctions against the Iranian people, must prepare for changes in the banking industry's operational environment. These include the adoption of artificial intelligence in banking, asset tokenization, and offering banking products and services through blockchain platforms.

Effectively addressing these challenges and transformations can pave the way for Iran's economic revival and prosperity, leveraging the banking network to finance enterprises and households. Achieving this vision hinges on banks functioning as vibrant mechanisms serving "enterprise creation" to foster Iran's economic growth.

"Alongside grappling with the effects of the unjust sanctions imposed on the Iranian people, our country's banking network must prepare to face changes in the operating environment of the banking industry, such as the application of artificial intelligence in banks, tokenization of assets, and the provision of banking products and services on blockchain platforms," Najjarzadeh wrote.

"Effectively addressing these challenges and transformations can pave the way for the revitalization and flourishing of Iran's economy, relying on the financing of enterprises and households by the country's banking network. To achieve this vision, we need, above all, for banks to function as living mechanisms serving 'enterprise creation' to

creation" emerging as a significant outcome of their financing role.

An Iranian bank with a dynamic mechanism, alongside adapting to changes in the banking industry, must also respond actively to customer needs. It should position itself as a financial ally for economic enterprises, fulfilling their requirements and protecting their interests.

Banks must exit enterprise ownership and cease competing with private businesses in other markets. Divesting their enterprise-related holdings to the public and genuine private sectors will enhance production efficiency, optimize asset productivity, and improve the economy overall.

Exiting enterprise management will also improve credit access for other businesses, as banks will no longer face conflicts of interest when allocating credit to affiliated versus non-affiliated enterprises. This transition will revitalize business models, accelerate the sale of surplus assets, and reform banks' attitudes toward addressing loan repayments and debt recovery.

Dynamic banks for economic advancement

A bank operating as a dynamic mechanism must prioritize its credit health and vibrancy in financing and driving economic growth over merely rebuilding competitive advantages.

To revitalize Iran's economy, banks should unlock resources tied up in assets, properties, and enterprises by reallocating them to bolster their capital adequacy ratios and fund projects that stimulate production and national development. Properly playing their intermediary role, banks should diversify financing processes using financial instruments and establish financial entities such as "project funds" to support development and innovation.

Banks committed to a vision for the future must build institutions that function like living mechanisms in the banking industry. Drawing inspiration from natural systems for innovation and problem-solving, these banks can harness artificial intelligence



to strengthen customer engagement and adapt to changes. Banks that utilize their data and analytical capabilities dynamically can respond to diverse customer needs and design products beyond traditional banking services. This will enable them to compete effectively with technology-driven rivals such as fintech companies.

Customers trust banks to safeguard their money but often do not view them as financial partners in managing their assets. Changing this perception requires dynamic banks that align their interests with customers. For instance, instead of holding overdue mortgage debts, banks could negotiate repayment options with borrowers. Similarly, analyzing customer behavior regarding investment deposits can lead banks to suggest tailored investment opportunities, fostering a win-win relationship for both parties.

Enhancing customer relations

To improve customer relations, banks should leverage accurate data to gain accurate insights into their clients and develop cohesive communication programs through digital channels, offering custom-made financial advice and solutions. Banks must evolve into proactive advisors, aligning their services with customer preferences and needs.

For example, Bank Melli Iran has taken steps to adopt a dynamic role in financing various sectors of the economy, from households to enterprises. Initiatives such as the "Kindness Plan" provide low-interest loans to support families, while other schemes offer financing for small businesses and trades.

Additionally, Bank Melli is exploring crowd-funding, financial supply chain management (SCF), and developing a "beyond banking" ecosystem to cater to customer needs with agility and dynamism.

Banking amid economic and technological change

The evolving economic landscape and rising expectations demand that banks shift their business models. Factors such as the growth of the creative economy, the emergence of digital assets, and platform-based business models are reshaping the banking industry. To remain competitive, banks must integrate themselves into digital ecosystems, offering financial solutions that align with modern lifestyles and customer demands.

Adopting artificial intelligence and digital tools can streamline processes, enhance product offerings, and enable banks to meet the growing demand for personalized services. At the same time, banks must exit non-banking enterprises and focus on enterprise creation, as emphasized by Iran's leadership, national policies, and the Seventh National Development Plan.

Bank Melli Iran, along with the broader banking network, is committed to divesting its non-banking holdings and supporting private enterprise creation, bolstering Iran's economy. For banks to succeed as dynamic mechanisms serving Iran's economic growth, policymakers must support transformative measures that enable them to achieve this vital role.

Wanted butcher

Israel has been gripped by fear in the wake of the arrest warrant issued by the ICC against PM Netanyahu

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been like a cat on hot bricks since he found himself in the crosshairs of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ICC issued arrest warrants against Netanyahu and his sacked war minister Yoav Gallant on Thursday over committing war crimes in the Gaza Strip in the wake of the Israeli army's genocidal war in the Palestinian territory.

Judges at the ICC stated that there were "reasonable grounds" to conclude that Netanyahu and Gallant "intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival".

Impact of arrest warrants

The Rome Statute, the treaty that established the court, includes 124 state parties across the world. Countries that are members of the ICC are legally obligated to execute its arrest warrants as stipulated by the statute.

The ICC has the authority to prosecute individuals charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes on the territory of states party to the Rome Statute.

Hence, if either of the two Israeli officials set foot in any ICC member state they must be arrested and handed over to the court.

Multiple countries have said that they will comply with the ICC's rules. It is yet to be determined whether the court's members, which include Israel's close European allies, will effectively implement the arrest warrants.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell has described the ICC decision as binding on all EU member states.

Britain, a key Western ally of Israel and an ICC member, however, has evaded questions regarding the enforcement of the ICC's arrest warrants.

Israel's main Western ally, the United States, which is not an ICC member, has rejected the court's decision. President Joe Biden described the warrants as "outrageous".

Dubious diplomacy

Biden's reaction to the ICC arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant has highlighted the double standards of the White House.

The US had previously welcomed ICC war crimes warrants against Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials.

In 2020, then US president Donald Trump imposed sanctions on the ICC, aimed at court officials and their families. The then secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, said at that time that the punitive measures were imposed because the court had begun investigating the actions of the US and its allies in Afghanistan, as well as Israeli military operations in the occupied territories.

Since its creation more than two decades ago, the ICC has issued arrest warrants for leaders of sev-



International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan has urged member states to fulfil their obligations under the Rome Statute following the issuance of arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and sacked war minister Yoav Gallant.

eral countries.

History of ICC arrest warrants

The court issued an arrest warrant for Putin in 2023 over alleged crimes committed during Russia's war with Ukraine.

Since then, the Russian president has made several international trips, including to China, which is not a member of the court.

He also visited Mongolia, an ICC member, in September and was warmly welcomed.

The issuance of arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant represents the inaugural instance in which the ICC has brought charges against leaders from a Western ally.

Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the deposed president of Sudan, is also on a list of sitting leaders charged by the ICC. The court issued warrants for him in 2009 and 2010. Al-Bashir, who was deposed in 2019 after three decades in power, had been accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in the western region of Darfur.

Al-Bashir traveled to an African Union summit in South Africa in 2015 but was not arrested.

Libya's former leader, Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi, Kenya's former deputy president, William Ruto, and the former president of Ivory Coast, Laurent Gbagbo were also among those targeted by the ICC.

Israeli atrocities

But the case of Israel is completely different. Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In late January this year, the ICJ ordered

Israel to do all it can to prevent death, destruction and any acts of genocide in Gaza. However, Israel turned a blind eye to the ruling and continued its deadly strikes in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army has slaughtered more than 44,000 Palestinians in Gaza since launching war on the enclave on October 7, 2023. Most of the victims are women and children.

Global anger at Israel's atrocities in Gaza has also been growing.

Protests across the world over Israel's brutalities in Gaza which later expanded into Lebanon have become a regular occurrence.

Earlier this month, more than 500 scholars and practitioners of international law, international relations, conflict studies, politics and genocide studies called on the United Nations General Assembly and its member states to unseat Israel from the world body.

In a joint letter, they outlined a comprehensive array of violations committed by Israel over the past decades.

It pointed to the consistent breach of resolutions issued by the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as ICJ rulings. The signatories said the UN General Assembly should fire Israel as it expelled apartheid South Africa in 1974.

In October, more than 1,100 authors also launched "a mass boycott of Israeli publishers complicit in the dispossession of the Palestinian people."

A coalition of solidarity groups said in a press statement that the declaration was the biggest cultural boycott against Israeli institutions in history.

"Signatories have stated that they cannot in good conscience engage with Israeli institutions without interrogating their relationship to apartheid and displacement," it said.

For now, the ICC arrest warrants have thrown a spotlight on the Israeli apartheid regime's international isolation amid its heinous crimes in Gaza and Lebanon. In

addition to its genocidal war on Gaza, the Israeli army has killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon since October last year.

The court's move could lead to international pressure on Israel to end its savage war in Gaza. It could also give rise to domestic protests against Israel's military failures in Gaza and Lebanon. The Israeli army has massacred civilians in Gaza and Lebanon but its forces have failed to bring resistance fighters to their knees on the battlefield.

Fugitive from justice

The ICC arrest warrants against the Israeli premier and former war minister, who are now fugitive criminals, extend beyond these implications. Israel is the first ally of the West that has been charged by the court.

The issuance of arrest warrants has dispelled Israel's perception of itself as a purported democratic state.

The entire world has also woken up to the fact that Israel is an apartheid and bogus regime whose survival hangs in the balance.

Hamas shattered the image of the Israeli army's myth of invincibility when it carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Storm. It was a military attack that was launched by the Palestinian resistance movement in southern Israel on October 7 last year which led to the genocidal war on Gaza.

In addition to suffering military setbacks, the rulings such as those issued by the ICC have dealt a significant blow to Israel's global standing and have further deepened its international isolation.

In other words, Israel has experienced significant setbacks both in military engagements and within the realm of international politics.

In the wake of the ICC ruling, US-backed allies may fall short of arresting the Israeli premier. But fears of arrest will make the blood of Netanyahu and other Israeli criminals run cold.

World reacts to ICC arrest warrants

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The International Criminal Court's decision to issue arrest warrants for senior Israeli leaders has been strongly welcomed by many but rejected in some corners.

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Minister for War Yoav Gallant are now officially wanted as war criminals, international reactions have been pouring in over the decision.

Here are some of those reactions from around the world:

PALESTINE

In the Gaza Strip, where Netanyahu and Gallant have been accused of committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, Hamas has welcomed the move by the ICC.

The resistance movement, which is fight-

ing off a U.S.-backed genocidal Israeli war has called on the ICC to extend the warrants to all Israeli leaders complicit in war crimes.

"We call on the International Criminal Court to expand the scope of accountability to all criminal occupation leaders," Hamas emphasized.

In a statement, Hamas political bureau member Basem Naim added, "[It's] an important step towards justice and can lead to redress for the victims in general, but it remains limited and symbolic if it is not supported by all means by all countries around the world."

Asked by AFP about Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif's arrest warrant, the third person, whom the ICC named a Hamas official, said there was "no comparison between the criminal occupier and the victim".

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

It is "outrageous" that Biden opposes arrest warrant against Netanyahu

Netanyahu and Biden finally find themselves ill-fated

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN - U.S. President Joe Biden has called an International Criminal Court's arrest warrant against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza "outrageous". But, in reality, Biden's objection to the arrest warrant is outrageous.

While judges were saying there were "reasonable grounds" to believe that Netanyahu bore "criminal responsibility" for crimes in Gaza, it is dreadful that Biden says the decision is outrageous.

The main reason for the U.S. president's strong opposition to the arrest warrant is that the ICC decision somehow implicates him too because his administration has facilitated war crimes,

crimes against humanity, and in one word genocide in the Gaza Strip since October 2023.

Biden is unsettled because he is internationally recognized as complicit in the Gaza crimes and got the title "genocide Joe" by American citizens.

His administration has frequently vetoed UN Security Council resolutions demanding an immediate end to Israel's horrible war on Gaza (the latest one was on Wednesday), approved about 18 billion dollars in military aid to Israel, provided extremely lethal weapons, such as 2,000-pound bombs, to the regime in defiance of strong demands by the international community to impose an arms embargo against Israel.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ICC's warrant: Plan B for saving Israel

How did the West help Israel survive collapsing from within through a "Political Hannibal Directive"?

By Ehsan Etesam

TEHRAN - In an unprecedented move, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a decision Thursday that has sent shockwaves through the international community. The court's bombshell announcement, delivered on Nov. 22, has sparked widespread discussion and debate about its implications and potential consequences.

But the big question remains: Does this really mean anything to the Palestinians? The answer is yes and no.

In one hand, further intensified pressure on Israel to end its war crimes in Gaza can be anticipated. This could yield short-term gains for Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, including increased humanitarian aid to the Strip and even, from a very skeptical standpoint, a quicker end to the aggression than Israeli authorities have projected. In other words, in an ever-tightening world for the Israeli officials against the background of ICC's warrant, continuing war on Gaza is a gamble with catastrophic international consequences for the government.

On the other hand, from a more realistic perspective, ICC's arrest warrant for the two top

Israeli figures is merely the beginning of a "Plan B" for Israel. This strategy, employed since the war's outset alongside the initially stated objectives, aims to enable Israel to withstand an internal collapse.

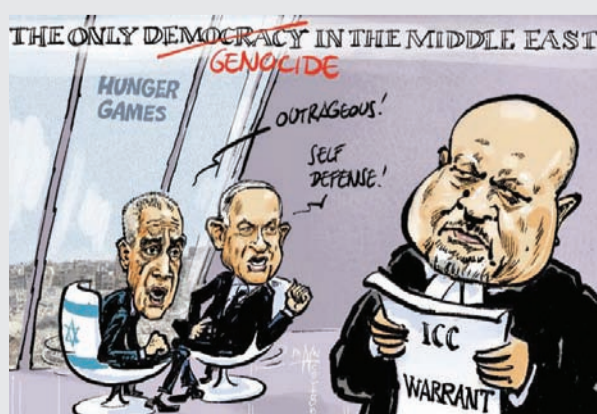
Political "Hannibal Directive"

Plan B, therefore, is not a twist in the story of Israel's plot to expand territory and remove adversaries, but the pre-designed next stage should the plan to achieve those objectives "fail": the political life of an individual in exchange for the life of an entire, albeit unlawful, state.

In simple words, Netanyahu's government was greenlighted to "do whatever it takes" to fulfill the purpose of this war since its outset and was warned that he would end up politically dead if the goals were not met. As the prospect of defeat looms, implementation of the "Hannibal Directive" has been initiated at the political level.

Since the start of the recent war on Gaza, which later expanded to Lebanon, this strategy has been the elephant in the room no one was willing to discuss publicly.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



Iranian tourism minister meets Azerbaijan's PM at COP29



TEHRAN - Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, met with Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Ali Asadov on the sidelines of COP29, the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Baku from November 11 to 22.

During their meeting on Wednesday, both officials emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in the field of tourism.

They expressed a shared commitment to further developing cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

The discussion also addressed the current status of ties between the two nations, exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration in mutually beneficial areas, including the resumption of tourist exchanges.

PM Asadov also emphasized that advancing climate action in tourism is a key priority under Azerbaijan's COP29 Presidency.

Salehi-Amiri attended COP29 to participate in a ministerial meeting focused on climate action in tourism, reaffirming Iran's dedication to sustainable tourism development.

ment.

Salehi-Amiri has recently emphasized that tourism is a priority for the Islamic Republic. "With our vast historical sites, beautiful natural landscapes, and a culture of hospitality, Iran has immense potential as a travel destination."

Based on available data, a total of 1.223 million Azerbaijanis ventured abroad in the first seven months of 2023, marking a 23.1% increase compared to the same period a year earlier.

Turkey emerged as the top destination, attracting 41.2% of Azerbaijani travelers, followed by Russia (21.4%), Georgia (8.7%), and Iran (8.6%).

The remaining 20.1% explored other countries across the globe.

Also, Iran's tourism industry witnessed a 21% upsurge in 2023, signaling a strong recovery in the post-COVID-19, according to data compiled by the World Travel and Tourism Council.

According to the WTTC, the increase was part of a broader recovery following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the industry plummet by 45% in 2020.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 28 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Oldest known alphabet unearthed in ancient Syrian city, 500 years older than thought

Johns Hopkins University researchers uncovered evidence of the oldest alphabetic writing in human history. The writing was etched onto finger-length clay cylinders discovered during a dig at an ancient Syrian city.

The discovery was announced at the American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR) annual meeting.

During an excavation at an ancient tomb in Tell Umm-el Marra, the team, under the direction of Professor Glenn Schwartz, discovered small clay cylinders marked with what may have been alphabetic symbols.

Once a major city in western Syria, Tell Umm-el Marra is renowned for being one of the first urban centers in the area. Along with researchers from the University of Amsterdam, Professor Schwartz, an authority on ancient cities, co-led a 16-year excavation at the site. Early Bronze Age tombs were found during the excavation.

One of the best-preserved tombs contained six skeletons, gold and silver jewelry, cookware, a spearhead, and intact pottery vessels.

Four small clay cylinders that looked to have early alphabetic writing were discovered by researchers close to the pottery vessels.

Each cylinder had a hole in it, and the clay was only lightly baked. According to Professor Glenn Schwartz, the items may have served as labels.

The 4,400-year-old clay object discovered at the ancient city of Umm el-Marra, Syria. Image credit: Glenn Schwartz, Johns Hopkins University.

The writing, which is dated to around 2400 BCE, precedes other known alphabetic scripts by roughly 500 years, upending what archaeologists know about where alphabets came from, how they are shared across societies, and what that could mean for early urban civilizations, according to the researchers.

"The cylinders were perforated, so I'm imagining a string tethering them to another object to act as a label. Maybe they detail the contents of a vessel, or maybe where the vessel came from, or who it belonged to," Schwartz said. "Without a means to translate the writing, we can only speculate."

Using carbon-14 dating techniques, researchers confirmed the ages of the tombs, the artifacts, and the writing.

(Source: Arkeonews)

Archaeological discoveries shed light on Abu Musa's rich history

TEHRAN - Iranian archaeologist Mohammad Esmaeili-Jelodar has revealed fascinating insights from archaeological excavations conducted on Abu Musa, a strategic Iranian island in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking at a conference organized by the House of Humanities Thinkers in downtown Tehran, Esmaeili-Jelodar on Wednesday emphasized the island's importance in cultural tourism and its historical role, highlighting the Persian Gulf was an ancient hub for trade connecting Iran to Africa, India, and China.

Esmaeili-Jelodar noted that archaeological work on Abu Musa had faced challenges for decades. While earlier attempts in the 1970s yielded no results, his team secured permission to conduct studies in 2012, marking a breakthrough in uncovering the island's archaeological significance.



According to the archaeologist, the team identified seven archaeological sites on the island, uncovering artifacts ranging from pre-Islamic to Islamic eras.

Among the findings were fragments of pottery and stone tools.

The fifth site was particularly notable for pottery attributed

to the late Sassanid and early Islamic periods, though Esmaeili-Jelodar acknowledged that dense vegetation and shifting sands posed difficulties for excavation.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Esmaeili-Jelodar highlighted the island's enduring Persian identity and dismissed attempts by foreign authors to dispute its Iranian heritage.

He also described the island's unique features, including ancient water cisterns and wells, some of which remain functional today.

Additionally, ceramics from various periods, including Seljuk and Qajar dynasties, as well as distinct Chinese-inspired pottery, were discovered, underscoring Abu Musa's role in regional and international trade networks, the archaeologist said.

Esmaeili-Jelodar stressed the need to focus on cultural tourism on Abu Musa, stating that such efforts could further showcase Iran's historical and cultural richness while solidifying the island's significance as an integral part of Iran's heritage.

14th annual Isfahan conference highlights city's heritage



TEHRAN - The 14th annual conference of Isfahan Commemoration Week took place on Thursday evening, coinciding with Isfahan Day.

Organized by local cultural associations and attended by notable figures, the event celebrated the city's rich history and heritage, ISNA reported.

Prominent participants included Mehdi Keyvan, a historian and expert on Isfahan, Abdollah Jabal-Ameli, former head of Isfahan's cultural heritage and tourism department, and Fazlollah Salavati, a writer and researcher.

Environmental and cultural heritage activists from across the city also joined the gathering. The conference underscored Isfahan's cultural and historical significance, with attendees emphasizing the importance of preserving its heritage for future generations.

Isfahan Day, observed annually on Azar 1st (November 21), commemorates the construction of the city's grand defensive wall during the reign of Hasan Rokn al-Dowleh Daylami, who was the first Buyid amir of northern and central Iran (c. 935-976). He was the son of Buya.

The day was first designated in 2005 by Isfahan scholars, who also chose the historic imagery on the tilework of the Qeysarieh Bazaar Gate, depicting the zodiac sign Sagittarius (Azar month)—as the official symbol of Isfahan.

In 2018, the Isfahan City Council formally approved Azar 1st as Isfahan Day, highlighting the city's breathtaking springtime attractions.

A city of historical significance

The ancient city of Isfahan, situated at the

crossroads of Iran's north-south and east-west trade routes, reached its zenith between the 9th and 18th centuries.

During the Safavid era, it became Iran's capital under Shah Abbas the Great.

Renowned for its Persian-Islamic architecture, the city is home to historical landmarks such as Naqsh-e Jahan Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Moreover, the ancient city was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The Persian proverb "Isfahan nesf-e-jahan ast" (Isfahan is half the world) reflects the city's cultural and historical prominence.

Iran ready to restore Azerbaijan's historical sites, says tourism minister

TEHRAN - Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri has announced Iran's readiness to assist Azerbaijan in the restoration of its historical sites.

Salehi-Amiri on Thursday highlighted the shared cultural and religious ties between the two countries and underscored their mutual interest in increasing tourist exchanges.

The minister made these remarks during a meeting with Fuad Naghiyev, the chairman of Azerbaijan's State Tourism Agency, held on Thursday on the sidelines of COP29, the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku.

The Iranian minister expressed willingness to cooperate on joint heritage restoration

projects, global registrations of shared cultural assets, and the exchange of cultural heritage experts.

He noted that Iran's integrated focus on tourism, cultural heritage, and handicrafts aligns with its commitment to fostering regional partnerships, particularly with Azerbaijan.

Moreover, Salehi-Amiri emphasized the potential for collaboration in tourism and cultural heritage, pointing out that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Azerbaijan was the second-largest source of tourists to Iran, with over two million visitors annually.

He expressed optimism about creating conditions to restore and surpass previous levels of tourist exchange.



The Iranian minister also extended an invitation to Naghiyev to attend the upcoming Tehran International Tourism Exhibition, underscoring the importance of cultural and tourism ties in strengthening bilateral relations.

Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C.

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-0040002

1
1829985

Items	Material Description	Quantity
27	PARTS FOR "WENZEL" HYDRAULIC FISHING JAR 3-3/8 IN. OD., 1-1/2 IN. ID., 2-3/8 API IF CONN. VALVE MANDREL HOUSING	135NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 33,942/95 EURO or 15,858,859,544 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.

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Second Announcement



N.I.S.O.C.

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-21-0340002

1
1829990

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	TUBING 4-1/2 IN., API GRADE L-80 , SEAMLESS/VAM,N.VAM, PSL:2/ 13.5 PPF, DRIFT: 3.795 IN.	20,000LE

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Improving habitat quality for Asiatic cheetahs on the agenda



TEHRAN –The Department of Environment (DOE) has placed improving the quality of natural habitats for Asiatic Cheetahs as well as reducing threats to them with the support of the private sector and local communities on the agenda.

The expansion of the cheetah territory, and safeguarding their habitats have increased the number of cheetahs, IRIB quoted Hamid Zohrabi, an official with DOE, as saying.

Highlighting the key role of public participation in the conservation of Asiatic cheetahs, the official said over 400,000 hectares area of land between Turan National Park in Semnan province and Miandasht Wildlife Refuge in North Khorasan province are protected by the private sector.

The plan to increase prey is being implemented by the cooperation of the DOE and local communities, he noted.

Zohrabi added that the DOE has

also taken measures to breed the cheetahs in captivity.

Endangered species conservation committee

In October, the official said that the DOE is planning to organize a committee for the preservation of critically endangered species including cheetahs, black bears, and great bustards.

“The Department of Environment is planning to protect endangered species by establishing conservation committees with the help of non-governmental organizations, as well as fostering cooperation with the public, rangers, experts, and government agencies,” IRNA quoted Zohrabi as saying.

Conserving cheetahs

Growing the population of cheetahs in the wild is the top priority of the DOE, but their breeding in captivity is also scientifically monitored at the Turan National Park Research Center in the city of Shahrud, IRNA quoted Bahram-Ali Zahiri, an

official with the DOE, as saying in April.

Measures are being taken to preserve cheetahs from extinction by raising their population to 50, he added.

The Department of Environment is planning to protect endangered species by establishing conservation committees.

Cheetahs are polygamous mammals. Asiatic cheetahs reach maturity at 2 to 3 years of age and can reproduce until 8 years of age. Female Asiatic cheetahs give birth to multiple cubs, he explained.

A document on the growth and maintenance of Asiatic cheetahs as a valuable and endangered species has been compiled for the first time in Iran marking a

valuable scientific achievement by local experts, Zahiri said.

Studying the physical conditions of these cheetahs from birth to old age has contributed to the development of the growth and maintenance document for Asiatic cheetahs.

According to experts, the best habitat for the Iranian cheetah is the 100,000-hectare area of Turan National Park in the east of Semnan province. However, the biological territory of this valuable species is reported to be 100 to 300 km beyond this national park necessitating measures to be taken to save their lives in the entire Turan region.

To increase the number of cheetahs, the DOE has to lower the threats. Expanding their territory, increasing the number of prey, Hassan Akbari, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE), said.

“We have tried to protect the habitats around Turan with the assistance of the private sector.”

Now, more than 14 assistant rangers are preserving the habitats under the management of the private sector and the supervision of the DOE.

“We will ensure there are enough prey by protecting prey to breed in captivity to ensure the security and survival of cheetahs’ cubs in those habitats,” the official added.

Due to the fact that in the southeast of Turan, there was almost no prey left, a number of rams and ewes were taken to the area and released into the wild.

Enhancing road lighting, and fencing are part of the measures taken to improve the security of the roads.

Some 4,000 authorized Afghans enter Iran daily



TEHRAN –Nearly 4,000 Afghans with valid passports enter the country every day, according to an official with the National Organization for Migration.

Approximately, six million Afghans, including documented and undocumented ones, are residing in the country, ILNA quoted Nader Yarahmadi as saying.

Migration can be due to many factors such as regional crises including political, social, and even natural crises which provoke social changes.

Most of the foreign nationals in the country are unauthorized. They will be located and

dispatched to their home country. However, they still receive services. The rest needs to be organized, Yarahmadi noted.

Stating that foreign nationals entering any country need a deposit of at least 100,000 dollars for a one-year residence permit, the official said the country is looking for thorough documentation of individuals who have entered the country to organize them better.

In August, the deputy chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said, “The establishment of a national organization responsible for protecting the rights of immigrants and refugees is in the final stages.”

The organization will utilize a precise and managed approach to organize foreign nationals, deal with undocumented migrants, and maintain the security and peace of the country, Mehr news agency quoted Ebrahim Azizi as saying.

Deportation of undocumented nationals is the right of the people, and we must stand firm against illegal immigration to the country, the official stated.

The entry of immigrants without observing requirements for legal entry is against the national interests and security of the country, and all institutions are responsible in this regard.

Approximately, six million Afghans, including documented and undocumented ones, are residing in the country.

Some 2 million illegal refugees to be expelled. By the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025), two million undocumented foreign nationals who are residing and working in the country will be located and sent back to their home countries, the Iranian Police Chief, Brigadier General, Ahmad Reza Radan, has said.

They have entered the country through illegal channels, Mehr news agency quoted the official as saying.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Tehran to host INOTEX 2020 in June

The 9th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2020) will be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on June 7-10. It is expected that more than 18,000 people will attend the event which is aimed to attract investment for startups and introduce investment opportunities to them.

Over 500 companies, startups, and investors will set up booths at the exhibition representing their latest achievements, with more than 600 B2B sessions and 20 side events to be held during the three-day event. INOTEX is a platform for innovation and technology, which seeks to introduce latest technologies to large and medium-sized industries and also introduces opportunities to invest in technological projects or start-ups.

تهران میزبان نمایشگاه اینوتکس ۲۰۲۰ در خرداد

نهمین نمایشگاه بین المللی نوآوری و فناوری (اینوتکس ۲۰۲۰) با شعار «کوسیسستم نوآوری و فناوری زیر یک سقف» ۱۸ تا ۲۱ خرداد ماه سال ۹۹ در محل دائمی نمایشگاه‌های بین‌المللی تهران برگزار می‌شود. به گزارش ایرنا، نمایشگاه اینوتکس با هدف اصلی «جذب سرمایه برای استارت‌آپ‌ها و شرکت‌ها و نیز معرفی فرصت‌های نوین سرمایه‌گذاری» برگزار می‌شود.

پیش‌بینی می‌شود بیش از ۱۸ هزار نفر از این نمایشگاه بازدید خواهند کرد. بیش از ۵۰۰ شرکت، استارت‌آپ، و سرمایه‌گذار در این نمایشگاه غرفه خواهند داشت و بیش از ۶۰۰ جلسه B2B و بیش از ۲۰ رویداد جانبی برگزار خواهد شد.

Iran, ESCAP to cooperate on empowering women, dealing with natural hazards

TEHRAN –The Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Zahra Behrouz-Azar, and the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Armita Salsiah Alisjahbana, have agreed to collaborate on empowering women as well as dealing with natural and environmental disasters.

In a meeting held on Thursday in Bangkok on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in Thailand, the officials discussed ways for boosting cooperation, Borna reported.

ESCAP convened the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing +30 review in collaboration with the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, from November 19 to 21.

During the meeting, Alisjahbana announced ESCAP readiness to enhance cooperation with Iran and share its expertise with the country, particularly in combating sand and dust storms.

Lauding Iranian girls and young women's interests and efforts in learning science and developing new technologies, she called for boosting international cooperation and transferring Iran's expertise and experiences to other countries.

Behrouz-azar, for her part, pointed out the negative impacts of unfair, unilateral sanctions and environmental challenges on the quality of life of women and children.

She also highlighted that the gender gap in education in Iran has lowered to three percent.

The official went on to express optimism that the two sides would jointly work to define and implement projects that aim at increasing women's resilience against crises and natural disasters.

Iran aims to promote women's economic, social empowerment

Addressing the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference, Behrouz-Azar stated that the current administration focuses on empowering women in social and economic areas, as well as improving their ac-

cess to social services and facilities through implementing certain national programs.

“Iran has always focused on programs that empower women, particularly those who are heads of household, economically and socially. Actions taken by the country have always aimed to promote women's status by observing the principles of the constitution and Islamic teachings,” Mehr news agency quoted Behrouz-Azar as saying.

Referring to Iran's remarkable achievements in education, health, science, technology, and entrepreneurship, she underscored the prominent role of Iranian women in these fields.

The official further said the seventh National Development Plan has stressed the need to overcome barriers to women's professional development. Accordingly, the current administration has put supporting women's entrepreneurship and home business growth on the agenda despite unfair sanctions.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference

The Conference brought together Ministers, senior officials, and representatives from relevant Ministries, civil society organizations, youth organizations, academia, the private sector, UN entities, independent experts, and other key stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific region to assess progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) in Asia and the Pacific over the past five years.

It also aimed to review current and emerging challenges, good practices, lessons learned, and priority actions required to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and provide a platform for member States and stakeholders to explore policy options and strategies, including innovative approaches, toward realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Tehran grabs LivCom Award Finals 2024

TEHRAN –The environmental project proposed by Tehran municipality has received the 22nd international award for Liveable Communities (LivCom).

The LivCom Awards Finals 2024 was held in conjunction with the Twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, Egypt from November 4-7.

The project, titled ‘Business Environmental Management of Crum Rubber Concert Products from Rubber Waste Recycling’, received the third silver medal in technology and solution project, Mehr news agency reported.

The project competed with 237 other projects submitted by some 57 countries including Germany, the U.S., China, and South Korea, that were invited to Finals.

LivCom Awards were launched in 1997 and is the World's major Awards Competition focusing on International Best Practice regarding the management of the local environment and development.

The objective of LivCom Awards is to develop and share International Best Practices, with the further objective of improving the living quality of individual citizens through the creation of “liveable communities”. As a UN-backed Awards Competition, LivCom partners an MOU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 2007, followed by establishing partnerships with multiple UN Agencies and international organizations afterwards.

Iran advances in Environmental Performance Index

The 2024 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) has ranked Iran 113 among 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

Compared to 2022, Iran's ranking (133) has climbed up by 20 places. The 2024 EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world. Using 58 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

These indicators provide a gauge at a national scale of how close countries are to established environmental policy targets. The EPI offers a scorecard that highlights leaders and laggards in environmental performance and provides practical guidance for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future.

Iran's best rankings are in Marine protection

stringency (first), Marine key biodiversity areas (KBA) protection (39), Fish stock status (17), Net carbon fluxes due to land cover change (10), Household solid fuels (42), and Waste recovery rate (50).

However, adjusted emissions growth rate for carbon dioxide (162), Lead exposure (156), NO2 exposure (150), Anthropogenic particulate matter (PM)2.5 exposure (140), and Terrestrial Biome protection (145) are among unsatisfactory indices.

Indicators that have had negative trend in 10 years include Adjusted emissions growth rate for black carbon (-64.1), Adjusted emissions growth rate for F-gases (-23.4), Adjusted emissions growth rate for methane (-10.7), Regional marine trophic index (-30.4), Ozone exposure cropland (-28.3), Ozone exposure KBAs (-20.2), and Co exposure (-8.4).

EPI indicators provide a way to spot problems, set targets, track trends, understand outcomes, and identify best policy practices.

Going beyond the aggregate scores and drilling down into the data to analyze performance by issue category, policy objective, peer group, and country offers even greater value for policymakers.

This granular view and comparative perspective can assist in understanding the determinants of environmental progress and in refining policy choices.

WUF

WUF was established in 2001 by the United Nations to address one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Convened by UN-Habitat, the Forum is a high level, open and inclusive platform for addressing the challenges of sustainable urbanization.

The World Urban Forum has the following objectives.

Raising awareness of sustainable urbanization among stakeholders and constituencies, including the general public.

Improving collective knowledge on sustainable urban development through open and inclusive debate, exchange of best practices and policies, and sharing of lessons learnt.

Promote collaboration and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies engaged in the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanization.



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NOVEMBER 23, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:13 Dawn: 5:21 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:49 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Mahsa Najafi is underway at Ebteda Gallery.

The exhibition titled "Self Alienation" will run until November 26 at the gallery located at 35 Farrokhi Alley, near Vali-e Asr Square.

* A collection of paintings by Maryam Dormani is on view in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "Entropy" will be running until December 4 at the gallery that can be found at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.

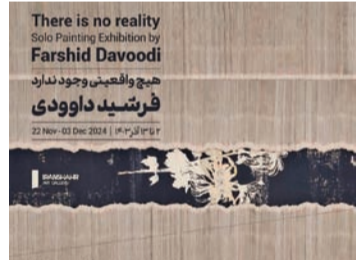


* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Fatemeh Zanjani.

The exhibition entitled "After Us" will be running until December 2 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.

* Bashghah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Parviz Abyazi.

Entitled "The Empty Domain", the exhibition will be running until December 2 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.



* Farshid Davoudi is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition at Iranshahr Gallery.

The exhibit named "There Is No Reality" will run until December 3 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

* Hassan Kargari is displaying his latest paintings in an exhibition at Binesh Gallery.

The exhibit named "Paradise Abstraction" will run until December 1 at the gallery that can be found at 22 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave.



* Paintings by Sina Yaqubi are currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

The exhibition will run until December 6 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Hossein-Ali Zabehi.

The exhibition will be running until December 20 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

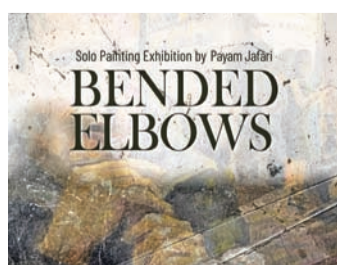


* Delgosha Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Niaz Babatabar.

The exhibit will run until December 27 at the gallery located at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

* CAMA - Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Payam Jafari.

Entitled "Bended Elbows", the exhibition will run November 27 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.



Iran attending 47th Kuwait International Book Fair

TEHRAN-Iran is participating in the 47th Kuwait International Book Fair, which kicked off on November 20 in Kuwait's Hawalli Governorate under the theme "The World in a Book".

A number of publishers from Iran are presenting the latest works of prominent Iranian authors in Arabic and Persian at their pavilions, ISNA reported.

On the first day of the fair, Mohammad Totonchi, Iran's ambassador to Kuwait, met with the participating Iranian publishers, who explained their problems and needs. The fair offers people of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to explore the ever-evolving world of books—a world that continues to captivate and inspire year after year.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Minister of Information and Culture and Minister of State for Youth Affairs, emphasized that the book fair is considered one of the most significant cultural events in Kuwait and stressed its significance in promoting Kuwait's vibrant cultural heritage, which he described as a "way of life and a framework for enlightened thinking".

Al-Mutairi highlighted the fair as a testament to Kuwait's commitment to fostering intellectual



growth and cultural exchange.

"While the works of creators showcase their talents, today we fulfill our duty by recognizing their achievements, ensuring that these contributions continue to resonate in the hearts of future generations," Al-Mutairi said.

He underlined that the event draws broader participation from foremost Arab and foreign publishing houses to surge knowledge and cultural richness, stressing the importance of encouraging younger generations to read and expand their literal and intellectual horizons and in-

ternalize skills and tools based on logic and enlightened thinking.

"At this international fair, numerous publishing houses participate, and we have an ambitious strategy to support, sponsor, and develop cultural activities, as they represent a bright window for Kuwait's cultural and human interaction," he said.

The event, organized by Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, features 544 publishing houses from 31 countries and regions. Jordan is the fair's guest of honor.

Running until November 30,

this year's book fair features approximately 90 cultural activities, including seminars, panel discussions, and training workshops.

The first edition of Kuwait International Book Fair was launched in 1975. The exhibition is the largest cultural event organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature annually in terms of the number of participants.

The exhibition also includes a special hall for children, which includes the publishers specialized in children's books, practical workshops, and clubs to read and write stories.

Biography of Hitler's foreign minister published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book "Ribbentrop" by Michael Bloch has been released in the bookstores across Iran.

Saleh Publication has brought out the book in 598 pages with a translation by Mohammad Javadi, ISNA reported.

Penned by one of the pre-eminent writers of his generation, the book focuses on the life of Joachim von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister from 1938 until the end of the Third Reich.

At the heart of German power during the war, this strange, sinister and intriguing character was violently anti-British, and he encouraged Hitler in a policy that led to war with Great Britain.

His grandiose attempts at alliance-building produced a disastrous military coalition with Italy and Japan, and the infamous Pact with the Soviet Union.

It was a career that would end on the gallows at Nuremberg, where he headed the death procession.

Written with verve, pace and the subtle intelligence of a world-class biographer, Bloch's universally praised book vividly portrays this bizarre and historically neglected figure.

Joachim von Ribbentrop (1893-1946) first came to Adolf Hitler's notice as a well-travelled businessman with more knowledge of the outside world than most senior Nazis and as a perceived authority on foreign affairs.

He offered his house Schloss Fuschl for the secret meetings in January 1933 that resulted in Hitler's appointment as Chancellor of Germany.

He became a close confidant of Hitler, to the dismay of some party members, who thought him superficial and lacking in talent.

He was appointed ambassador to the Court of St James's, the royal court of the United Kingdom, in 1936 and then Foreign Minister of Germany in February 1938.

Before World War II, he played a key role in brokering the Pact of Steel (an alliance with Fascist Italy) and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact).

He favored retaining good relations with the Soviets, opposing the invasion of the Soviet Union. In late 1941, due to American aid to Britain and the increasingly frequent "incidents" in the North Atlantic between U-boats and American warships guarding convoys to Britain, Ribbentrop worked for the failure of

the Japanese-American talks in Washington and for Japan to attack the United States.

He did his utmost to support a declaration of war on the United States after the attack on Pearl Harbor. From 1941 onwards, Ribbentrop's influence declined.

Arrested in June 1945, Ribbentrop was convicted and sentenced to death at the Nuremberg trials for his role in starting World War II in Europe and enabling the Holocaust.

On October 16, 1946, he became the first of the Nuremberg defendants to be executed by hanging.

Michael Bloch, 71, is an author and historian. Educated at Portadown College and St John's College, Cambridge, he was called to the bar by the Inner Temple in 1978 and in 1979 became an assistant to Maître Suzanne Blum, the Parisian lawyer of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

Bloch's books include several about the Duke and Duchess, an authorized biography of James Lees-Milne, a study of the Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe, and a biography of Frederick Matthias Alexander, founder of the Alexander Technique.

"Touching" carpet art at Istanbul's Hagia Sophia highlights Gaza's struggles

The "Touching" carpet installation in Istanbul, Turkey, by the Culture Civilization Foundation (Küme) draws attention to the ongoing crisis in Gaza and Palestine.

Displayed at Hagia Sophia Square, this powerful art installation aims to bring the plight of Gaza to the forefront for both local and international visitors. Running until the end of November, the exhibition features works that evoke the images of destroyed carpets in Palestinian homes, offering a poignant reminder of the human cost of war, Daily Sabah reported.

Serhat Kula, the artistic director of Küme, explained that the installation uses carpets as a metaphor for both the land of a homeland and the warmth of a home.

"Just as a country's land is a symbol of peace, carpets within homes represent the sanctuary of that peace.

Carpets are not only physical objects but also symbols of memory, family and community," he stated. Many of the carpets in the installation were sourced from

Anatolia and the Balkans, regions with deep historical and cultural connections to the Middle East.

Kula emphasized that the carpets in the installation were intentionally recreated to look like they had been pulled from a war zone.

"We wanted to evoke the feelings we often don't experience through images on our screens. This installation provides an opportunity to feel the emotional depth of those images," he said.

The carpets, meticulously handcrafted using traditional techniques, are more than just decorative items; they represent a link between the past and the present, telling the story of long-ing, struggle and shared humanity.

The installation is not only an artistic expression but also a statement of solidarity with Gaza. By placing the work in Hagia Sophia Square, a major historical crossroads in Istanbul, the installation aims to reach a broad international audience.

Kula noted that the exhibit effectively symbolizes Türkiye's stance on Gaza, conveying the

country's sorrow and concern for Palestine.

"This art piece is a visual manifestation of Türkiye's empathy for Gaza," he explained.

The installation consists of 105 handmade carpets covering an area of 300 square meters. Many of these carpets are over a century old, dyed with natural root-based colors.

These carpets blend traditional craftsmanship with contemporary art, created by a team of eight artists who worked for 25 days to complete the installation.

Murat Kösemen, the curator of the "Touching" installation, pointed out the special significance of the carpet in Turkish and broader Eastern cultures.

"The carpet is one of the most distinct cultural objects separating Turkish and Western cultures. There is nothing comparable in the West," he explained.

He emphasized that the carpet is not just a domestic item but a symbol of shared history and human connection. "The carpet is the first point of contact in spatial sharing. It is the place where we

come together, share our meals, our joy and sorrow," Kösemen said.

In addition to its cultural significance, the carpet also serves as a medium of communication. "Each motif tells a story," Kösemen noted.

"The emotions, struggles and joys of the weaver are embedded in the design.

Today, the carpets of Gaza have been touched by war, just as our own might one day be."

Kösemen also discussed the troubling normalization of violent images in the media. "Images of violence from Gaza have become so common that they are increasingly ignored," he said.

The artists behind the installation wanted to shift the perspective by invoking a familiar, intimate object - the carpet.

"By using carpets, we hoped to connect the viewer's own home with the devastation in Gaza. If these carpets, symbols of our home and safety, can be destroyed, perhaps tomorrow, our own sacred spaces will be at risk," he said.