

Parachinar Faces 'Genocide and Terrorism'

Dozens of Shia Muslims in Pakistan's northwest have been killed by extremist groups



A mourner stands beside the dead bodies of victims who were killed in the attacks in Kurram district.

Iran to hold talks with European powers on regional and nuclear issues

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baqaei announced on Sunday that a meeting of deputy foreign ministers from Iran, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom is scheduled for Friday, December 9. The discussions will focus on a wide array of bilateral, regional, and international issues, he said.

Baqaei emphasized Iran's commitment to fostering interaction and cooperation with other nations, grounded in principles of dignity, wisdom, and expediency. He described the upcoming talks as a continuation of "fruitful" discussions that took place during the recent United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"The meeting is part of our ongoing dialogue with these European countries," Baqaei stated. "We aim to address various topics, including pressing regional matters such as Palestine and Lebanon, as well as issues related to our nuclear program."

A spokesperson for the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) also reacted to the news, telling Iranian media that London aims to "reduce tensions" regarding Iran's nuclear issue through various diplomatic channels. ▶ Page 3

Iran-Russia defense, security ties to expand under pending strategic pact

TEHRAN – Russia's deputy foreign minister has revealed that a forthcoming comprehensive strategic partnership treaty between Tehran and Moscow will encompass defense and security cooperation, marking a significant expansion of bilateral ties.

In an interview with TASS news agency, Andrei Rudenko confirmed the broad scope of the new agreement while maintaining discretion about specific details.

"I would only note that it will meet challenges and requirements of our time and cover almost all current and promising spheres of Iranian-Russian cooperation, including defense and security," Rudenko said.

The new treaty builds upon a previous strategic agreement established in 2001, which focused on industry, technology, security, energy, and nuclear power plant development.

While the original agreement has been extended until 2026, both nations have agreed to draft a new, more comprehensive long-term partnership. ▶ Page 3

Iranian FM to attend UNAOAC global forum in Portugal

TEHRAN- The Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs is set to visit Portugal to attend the 10th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOAC) and engage in discussions to foster international peace.

As reported by Iran's foreign ministry, Abbas Araghchi will arrive in Portugal on Monday, November 25, to participate in the assembly and deliver a speech during the event.

Focusing on the overarching theme, "United in Peace: Restoring Trust, Reshaping the Future — Reflecting on Two Decades of Dialogue for Humanity", the Forum will highlight and celebrate the achievements of UNAOAC since its inception, and map the blueprint for "One Humanity" in the years to come.

The three-day event opens on Monday in Cascais, Portugal.

This summit was initiated by José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, the former Prime Minister of Spain, during the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

Israel intensifies air raids as Lebanese air comments on Hochstein's truce proposal

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT- Whenever the US envoy Amos Hochstein leaves Beirut, Israel escalates its bombardment of Lebanon. Now the Lebanese are accustomed to this.

In his recent visit, after propagating a positive atmosphere regarding a "settlement" to the war, Hochstein claimed that Washington is putting serious pressure on Israel to agree to a ceasefire.

As soon as Hochstein left Beirut on Wednesday, November 20, Israel escalated attacks with intensified air raids on Beirut's southern suburb (Hezbollah's stronghold), and the targeting of the popular suburb of Basta.

On Saturday, November 23, Israel committed the Basta massacre in Beirut. It fired four bunker-busting missiles at an eight-story residential building, leveling it to the ground. The crime has led – at the time of writing – to the death of 20 people and injury of about 70 others.

Hezbollah strikes Tel Aviv with missiles

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN – Hezbollah has maintained its equation of striking Tel Aviv in response to Israeli airstrikes on the Lebanese capital Beirut.

The regime waged indiscriminate attacks on residential buildings in central Beirut on Saturday, which killed at least 20 civilians.

The Israeli military claimed the targets were linked to Hezbollah but provided no evidence and Lebanese authorities as well as Hezbollah rejected the unsubstantiated claims.

According to experts, the Israeli military has been bombing civilian areas of Beirut in an effort to turn the people against the resistance movement, which has foiled the Israeli ground invasion and struck sensitive Israeli military bases.

Since the Israeli government escalated the war on Lebanon, Hezbollah has stuck to an equation that strikes on the Lebanese capital would be met with attacks on the Israeli capital.

Despair grips Israel as hopes for captive release fade

TEHRAN – A growing sense of frustration and anger among Israelis is replacing the hope of returning captives in the wake of the regime's failure to achieve its objectives in the Gaza war.

Thousands of people staged rallies in cities such as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem (al-Quds) and Haifa at the weekend calling for a ceasefire deal with Hamas to secure the release of Israeli captives.

Protesters came down hard on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over his inability to return the captives.

The mother of one of the captives held in Gaza accused the premier of prolonging the war for his political interests.

"We have a prime minister who has failed to bring my son home for over a year," Einav Zangauker told protesters in Tel Aviv.

She added that Netanyahu "doesn't care about the soldiers who fall in battle. He only cares about his government."

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"In the Arms of the Tree" wins Special Jury Prize at 10th Asian World Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian feature film "In the Arms of the Tree" written and directed by Babak Khajepasha won an award at the 10th Asian World Film Festival (AWFF), which was held in California, the U.S., from November 13 to 21.

The evocative family drama received the Special Jury Prize as it captured the jury's attention with its heartwarming and deeply emotional narrative, Mehr reported.

The AWFF screened more than 60 films, including 24 features in the race for the international Oscar. "In the Arms of the Tree" is Iran's submission for the 97th Academy Awards. It tells the story of Kimia and Farid, a couple married for 12 years, whose life crisis shatters their children's world, children who know nothing but simplicity and kindness in life. ▶ Page 8



Germans call for arms embargo on Israel

TEHRAN – People in Germany have held rallies to express their outrage over Israel's brutal onslaught on the Gaza Strip.

Protesters in Berlin and Hamburg chanted slogans against the German government for supplying weapons to Israel.

Protesters held banners and signs with messages such as "Germany, stop arming Netanyahu's fascist regime".

They also called for ending Israel's war of genocide on Gaza.

Police clashed with protesters and made several arrests.

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Europeans dance to the tune of Zionists

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam analyzed the IAEA Board of Governors' move in endorsing an anti-Iran resolution drafted by the European trio of Britain, Germany and France, collectively known as E3 or the European troika. It wrote: This resolution was approved while its main content was based on the claims of the Zionist regime, and the three European countries, England, France, and Germany, have been insisting on this bogus claim for a long time. Issuing an anti-Iran resolution, backed by the Europeans, indicates that the decision was made elsewhere, and naturally, Iran's positive steps could not influence the decision. The Europeans were so persistent in their anti-Iran action that they did not even wait for the results of the Agency's Director General's visit, and in a countermeasure, they presented a resolution against Iran at the Board of Governors. Undoubtedly, this politicized, unrealistic, and destructive approach poisoned the positive atmosphere created by Iran. This action, at a time when Iran and the IAEA were on the path of constructive interaction, proved once again that the three European and American governments were not at all honest in their claim to maintain the credibility of the IAEA, and that Iran's nuclear program is just an excuse and a pretext to advance their illegitimate goals.

Sobh-e-No: Delusional and extravagant Europe

The news of Grossi's trip to Iran and his visits to the Fordo and Natanz nuclear facilities hit the headlines in the world's media. This trip could provide space for more constructive interactions. Iran has always tried to create a suitable environment for cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, the behavior of some Western countries, especially the three western European ones, is still a serious obstacle to putting Iran and IAEA interactions in a legal and technical framework. These countries have complicated the process of cooperation by politically exploiting the Iran nuclear issue. The possibility of issuing a resolution against Iran can increase tensions instead of solving problems. According to Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's representative in Vienna, some Western countries have abandoned diplomacy and escalated tensions. Considering the disloyalty of America and Europe towards the JCPOA, the Islamic Republic of Iran should appear as a claimant in

this case and use all its capacities to defend its nuclear rights. If the Western countries show no rationality and continue with their hostile policies, the consequences will be on their shoulders.

Hamshahri: Two imaginable scenarios in the West-Iran ties

Hamshahri discussed the relations between Iran and the West in an interview with Amir Ali Abolfath, an expert on international issues. He said: It seems that Iran and the West are heading for a collision course. The first scenario is "collapse", in a way that the Western side would activate the trigger mechanism in October 2025 and return the sanctions on Iran. The return of sanctions will increase the economic pressure on Iran. But the Westerners also lose from the activation of the trigger mechanism, because Iran may move towards changing its nuclear doctrine. But the second scenario is a "new understanding". In such a situation, the risk of the return of the Iran sanctions will be canceled, and changing Iran's nuclear doctrine will not pose any danger to the Western parties. Changing Iran's military-nuclear doctrine will create many problems for the West in the Middle East because in that case, we will witness an arms race in the region, an issue considered an undesirable option for America and Europeans.

Iran: Israel's security and intelligence failures

In a commentary the Iran newspaper wrote before October 7, 2023, the Zionist regime was proud of its small, cohesive, and impenetrable society. However, the events that followed the Al-Aqsa Storm put an end to the myth of Israel's security-intelligence power and invincibility. Now every resident of the occupied territories is considered a potential spy against Israel. Some Zionists, according to the regime's claim, provide security and military information to Iran in exchange for money. The intelligence battle between Iran and Israel is one of the most complex in the world, and publishing the news of the arrest of spies in the occupied territories is the Zionist regime's attempt to cover up its intelligence failures in the face of Iran. The approval of a law to establish a new intelligence organization in the occupied territories is a step in the direction of reforming Israel's intelligence structure, especially as the Zionist regime has been engaged in a full-scale war with Lebanon and Gaza and intelligence confrontation with Iran.

New advanced centrifuges activated, says Iran's parliament speaker



Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and several lawmakers chant slogans in support of the nuclear program during a parliamentary session on November 24, 2024.

TEHRAN – Iran has commenced operating new advanced centrifuges following a contentious International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) resolution, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf announced.

"Iran's reciprocal response to the political misuse of the IAEA's Board of Governors was immediately put on the agenda," Ghalibaf stated during Sunday's parliamentary session, confirming that "a series of new and advanced centrifuges has been launched."

The move follows the IAEA Board of Governors' recent resolution, which passed with 19 votes in favor, 3 against, and 12 abstentions. It condemns Iran for "insufficient cooperation" with the UN nuclear watchdog under the JCPOA without addressing the West's continuous shunning of the deal.

Shortly after the resolution was enacted,

the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) and the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a joint statement declaring the country's plans to enhance uranium enrichment capacity and speed up the development of advanced centrifuge technology.

Ghalibaf denounced the "unrealistic, politicized, and destructive approach" of the European troika and the U.S., noting that it resulted in the issuance of the "unjustified and non-consensus" resolution concerning Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

'The most egregious war criminals in history'

The Parliament Speaker also addressed the recent International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Russian embassy in Tehran condemns West's anti-Iran actions at IAEA

TEHRAN – The Russian embassy in Tehran has issued a statement criticizing the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France for their recent actions in the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

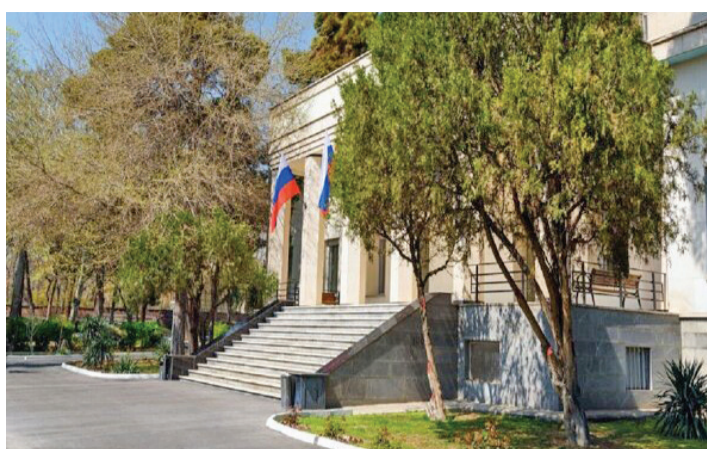
Labeling these moves as both anti-Iranian and provocative, the embassy expressed serious concerns over a draft resolution targeting Iran's nuclear safeguards, describing it as part of a broader campaign to escalate tensions and deflect global attention from other critical issues, such as the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

According to the embassy, the resolution—initiated by the U.S., U.K., Germany, and France—is a deliberate effort to portray Iran as a primary threat in West Asia.

The Russian statement emphasized that this narrative is being pushed in disregard of these nations' own non-compliance with international agreements, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Moscow accused the four Western countries of abandoning their obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and undermining efforts to revive the agreement.

The embassy highlighted the hypocrisy of the resolution's authors, suggesting they hope to obscure their role in the JCPOA's stagnation. By closely collaborating



with Washington, the European signatories have, in Russia's view, systematically tarnished Iran's image while shifting the blame for the nuclear agreement's failure entirely onto Tehran.

The embassy argued that had the JCPOA remained active, doubts about Iran's nuclear program could have been resolved automatically. Instead, certain Western powers have chosen to exploit tensions for political gain, perpetuating baseless fears about Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

Russia categorically rejected the resolution, which received approval from only 19 of the 35 member states of the IAEA Board of Governors.

The embassy noted that a significant number of countries—representing the majority of the international community—either abstained or voted against the

measure. Moscow views the resolution as counterproductive and misaligned with the true objectives of nuclear non-proliferation.

In its statement, the Russian Embassy argued that the resolution is aimed not at addressing genuine nuclear concerns but at disrupting the constructive engagement between Iran and the IAEA.

This disruption was particularly evident, the embassy claimed, as the resolution was circulated prior to the release of relevant IAEA reports and coincided with IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi's visit to Tehran. During his visit, Grossi met with senior Iranian officials and personally inspected nuclear facilities alongside agency inspectors.

The embassy expressed disappointment at what it sees as a Western aversion to improved

cooperation between Tehran and the IAEA. According to Moscow, the "maximum pressure" policy spearheaded by Washington—dating back to the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA in 2018—has been destructive and counterproductive. Far from achieving its objectives, the policy has only served to heighten regional tensions and fuel unnecessary conflicts.

Russia called on the IAEA leadership to resist undue influence from countries driven by political agendas and anti-Iran sentiment.

Referring to Grossi's remarks during his visit to Tehran, the embassy praised his emphasis on maintaining constructive dialogue with Iran.

Moscow expressed hope that the IAEA Director-General would continue along this path and disregard biased resolutions lacking legal and moral credibility.

In concluding its statement, the Russian Embassy reiterated its opposition to the Western nations' actions, framing them as both legally dubious and diplomatically unhelpful.

Moscow urged the international community to adopt a balanced and fair approach toward Iran, warning that failure to do so risks perpetuating unnecessary conflict and undermining the credibility of international agreements and institutions.

Iran names new ambassador to Afghanistan



Alireza Bigdeli (L) will be replacing Hassan Kazemi Qomi (R) as the new Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan.

TEHRAN – Alireza Bigdeli will be replacing Hassan Kazemi Qomi as the new Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, according to reports published on Sunday.

Qomi was appointed as the Iranian president's special envoy two months before the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Sometime later, he also assumed the role of Iranian ambassador

to Kabul. The title of special envoy will be eliminated with the appointment of Bigdeli as the new ambassador.

Given the sensitive and crucial nature of Iran's relationship with Afghanistan, Iran is working to cultivate close ties with the ruling Taliban government while simultaneously advocating for the inclusion of all Afghan political groups. Immigration and trade are another key aspect of the bilateral relationship.

Career background

Bigdeli has a PhD in Political Philosophy and has spent several decades in different ranks of the Iranian foreign ministry.

After serving as an analyst on East Europe, the diplomat began his first major role at the foreign ministry as deputy ambassador to Moscow from 1988 to 1992, subsequently serving as chargé d'affaires in Kazakhstan.

Throughout his career, Bigdeli has held several ambassadorial positions, including serving as Iran's ambassador to Azerbaijan, Cyprus, and Turkey. He has also played a crucial

role in Afghanistan's economic reconstruction efforts from 2002 to 2007.

In addition to his diplomatic missions, Bigdeli has contributed to various departments within the Iranian foreign ministry, including planning and research roles. In December 2021, he was appointed as the foreign ministry's acting deputy for consular and parliamentary affairs.

New envoy to Finland outlines visions

Furthermore, on Saturday, the new Iranian ambassador to Finland left for the European country after sharing his plans and visions in a meeting with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

Javad Aghazadeh Khoei emphasized the importance of building on the existing positive trajectory of Iran-Finland relations.

Araghchi welcomed Khoei's proposals and highlighted the necessity of pursuing a comprehensive agenda that aligns with Iran's broader foreign policy goals. He expressed optimism about the potential for increased engagement and cooperation between the two countries.

Deputy FM heads to Kazan to address police violence against Iranian students

TEHRAN – In response to a troubling incident involving two Iranian students in Kazan, Russia, the Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular and Parliamentary Affairs, Vahid Jalalzadeh, is set to travel to Kazan to address the matter directly.

This visit will focus on further investigating the incident, which occurred at Kazan Federal University, and ensuring that the

students' rights are upheld.

Davoud Mirzakhani, the Iranian Consul General in Kazan, recently met with the students who were injured in an altercation reportedly involving local police.

During the meeting, he reviewed the students' health conditions and assessed the progress of legal proceedings related to the case.

As part of the follow-up, the

Consul General also discussed logistical plans for the Deputy Consular Minister's upcoming visit to Kazan, accompanied by a delegation.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has emphasized its commitment to safeguarding the well-being and rights of its citizens abroad and has vowed to pursue this case through appropriate diplomatic and legal channels.



Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Vahid Jalalzadeh

Leader's foreign policy advisor reaffirms unwavering support for Resistance Axis

TEHRAN – Ali Akbar Velayati, senior foreign policy advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, reaffirmed Iran's unwavering support for the Resistance Axis and its opposition to the Zionist regime.

In an interview with IRNA, Velayati highlighted Iran's continued robust support for Resistance groups actively combating Zionism, despite facing international pressure.

He characterized the current geopolitical landscape as one of significant change, particularly in West Asia, where he asserted the Zionist regime, contrary to the hopes of its supporters, is demonstrating weakness in its struggle against oppressed populations.

Velayati expressed confidence in the eventual downfall of Benjamin Netanyahu's violent regime and a consequent victory for the Resistance Front. He emphasized that despite Western

support for the Zionist regime, the Resistance Axis will ultimately prevail, and Iran remains steadfast in its support.

Commenting on the recent ICC arrest warrants for Israeli leaders, Velayati stated that the Zionist regime's decline is evident, citing even its allies' tacit approval of the Hague court's ruling, and highlighting the opposition from countries like Ireland, the Netherlands, and Australia.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the advisor interpreted Western attempts to implicate Iran in the Ukraine conflict as a sign of Western vulnerability, suggesting a pattern of Western nations avoiding direct confrontation by instigating conflicts elsewhere.

Despite European efforts to draw Iran into the Ukraine conflict, Velayati reiterated Iran's commitment to regional peace and de-escalation.



A new mural in Tehran's Palestine Square, unveiled November 24, 2024, depicts Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former War Minister Yoav Gallant as "Wanted Criminals".

Iran to hold talks with European powers on regional and nuclear issues

From Page 1 ▶ The announcement comes as ties between Iran and Europe have been deteriorating in the past years. Tehran has been criticizing the European trio for failing to uphold their commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a 2015 nuclear deal that has been in shambles for the past seven years after Washington unilaterally withdrew from the deal and reinstated sanctions against Iran. Britain, France, and Germany despite remaining as official signatories to the pact have failed to take the sting out of U.S. sanctions.

Europe has even come up with its own sanctions against Iran, with its most recent bans targeting Iranian air and shipping lines. The sanctions have been imposed under the pretext of



Iranian weapon supplies to Russia, a claim Iran has repeatedly denied and asked Europe to provide evidence for.

Critical times

Ties between Tehran and Europe took a new hit on Friday when an anti-Iran resolution

drafted by E3 was passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors. The resolution condemns Iran for "insufficient cooperation" with the IAEA under the JCPOA without addressing the West's complete shunning of the deal.

The resumption of talks on

Iran's nuclear program—stalled since 2022—is particularly important, as the "snapback" mechanism in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, allowing the re-imposition of UN sanctions against Iran, is nearing expiration.

Europe is expected to activate the snapback and reinstate UN sanctions against Iran if dissension over the West's noncompliance with the deal is not resolved. It is believed that Iran would leave the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) if Europe goes that route.

The Iranian public is increasingly demanding the abandonment of the NPT and a reassessment of the nation's nuclear doctrine, fueled by growing skepticism toward the West's commitment to resolving disputes through dialogue and diplomacy.

US, European states ramp up pressure on Iran for its nuclear program in new statement

TEHRAN – The United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany have issued a joint statement urging Iran to renew its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The statement follows the adoption of a resolution critical of Tehran in the IAEA Board of Governors, spearheaded by these Western nations. Iran has denounced the resolution as politically motivated and accused the countries of undermining constructive engagement.

The joint statement, published on the U.S. State Department's website, claims the resolution is a response to Iran's alleged failure to address unresolved questions about undeclared nuclear materials discovered at multiple sites.

According to the statement, these issues are "essential for the IAEA to ensure the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program." The Western countries emphasized Iran's legal obligation under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to fully cooperate with the IAEA and provide a complete account of its nuclear activities.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, had previously explained that the IAEA's concerns stem from claims dating back decades. "The

IAEA raised four safeguards issues five to six years ago based on documents and information it received, alleging the presence of nuclear activity and materials at certain sites. These claims relate to activities that supposedly occurred two to three decades ago," Gharibabadi said.

He added that Iran had provided detailed responses to these allegations at the time and resolved two of the four issues by demonstrating that no nuclear activity or materials were present at the disputed sites. "We are confident that through continued cooperation, free from political pressure, we can also resolve the remaining two cases," Gharibabadi stated.

Despite Iran's assertions, the joint statement from the U.S. and European signatories accuses Tehran of failing to provide the necessary transparency. It notes that the IAEA Board of Governors previously warned in June that



additional actions would be required if Iran did not deliver "full, clear, and unambiguous cooperation." The Western nations allege that Iran has instead responded with "threats and provocations," failing to address critical safeguards concerns for nearly five years.

The Western criticism stands in contrast to Grossi's remarks following his recent visit to Tehran. Grossi praised Iran's agreement to limit its stockpile of 60%-enriched uranium, describing it as "a significant development and a constructive step."

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran-Russia defense, security ties to expand under pending strategic pact

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"I would only note that it will meet challenges and requirements of our time and cover almost all current and promising spheres of Iranian-Russian cooperation, including defense and security," Rudenko said.

The new treaty builds upon a previous strategic agreement established in 2001, which focused on industry, technology, security, energy, and nuclear power plant development.

While the original agreement has been extended until 2026, both nations have agreed to draft a new, more comprehensive long-term partnership.

Rudenko emphasized the evolution of bilateral relations over the past twenty years, noting that Russia is "closely coordinating approaches with its Iranian friends and taking necessary measures to strengthen peace and security in the region."

Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, recently indicated that the path to finalizing the agreement is clear, with both nations working to schedule President Pezeshkian's Moscow visit for the official signing ceremony of the new treaty.

The enhanced partnership agreement is expected to be more comprehensive than its predecessor, incorporating various sectors including energy, industry, transport, and agriculture, alongside the newly emphasized defense and security components.

Tehran preparing for attack against Israel: Ayatollah Khamenei's aide

TEHRAN – In an interview published on Sunday, Ali Larijani, an advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, announced Iran is preparing to respond to Israel following the regime's October assault on Iranian territory.

The interview conducted by the Tasnim News Agency followed Larijani's trip to Lebanon and Syria, where he met with top officials from both countries to convey the Leader's message regarding the regional situation.

During the discussion, Larijani emphasized the importance of responding adequately to the actions of the Zionist regime. He acknowledged that while some may argue that certain provocations from Israel may not warrant a significant response, it is crucial for Iran to maintain a posture of deterrence.

"This is an important issue, and the relevant officials are closely monitoring the situation to ensure that the response given to Israel possesses the characteristics necessary for effective deterrence," Larijani stated.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)



On Saturday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei remarked in a post published in the Hebrew language on X: "All the political and military captains of the criminal Zionist terrorist gang must be prosecuted."

Zob Ahan edge Havadar in 2024/25 Hazfi Cup Round of 32

TEHRAN – Zob Ahan football team defeated Havadar 1-0 in the 2024/25 Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 32 on Sunday.

In the match held in Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium, Fariborz Gerami scored the solitary goal of the match in the 94th minute.

Nassaji Mazandaran earned a late 1-0 win over Mes Shahr-e Babak, courtesy of Siamak Nemati's stoppage time goal.

Malavan defeated Chadormalou 4-3 in Yazd on penalties after a 2-2 draw in regular time.

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

Sepahan are defending champions.

Persepolis to face Al Rayyan in ACL Elite

TEHRAN – Al Rayyan ended a run of three consecutive defeats with their 1-0 win over Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor on Matchday Four and will be hoping to carry that form into their tie against Persepolis.

Inconsistency has been a bane this season, with their form in the Qatar Stars League 2024/25 also underwhelming with a 2-1 defeat to Al Shamal on Friday leaving them ninth in the standings on 10 points, 15 behind leaders Al Duhail SC.

Persepolis have also found the going tough on the continental stage, managing just two draws but will count on their record against Al Rayyan to get on the winning trail - having won two and drawn one of their last three meetings with the Qatari side.

Their domestic form has been good, advancing to the Round of 16 of the Hazfi Cup with a 3-0 defeat of Soongoun on Thursday and sitting just a point behind leaders Sepahan in the Iran Pro League 2024/25.

The match will be held in Doha's Ahmad bin Ali Stadium Monday night.

Esteghlal, Pakhtakor to square off just for win

TEHRAN – Victory is the only option Esteghlal and Pakhtakor have when they square off in their AFC Champions League Elite 2024-25 tie on Monday.

Iran's Esteghlal are in eighth place in the standings with three points while Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor - on two points - are 10th with the top eight teams to advance to the knockout stage from the West Zone.

Three defeats have followed Esteghlal's opening day 3-0 win against Qatar's Al Gharafa and another loss would make it their longest run without victory on the continental stage.

They have been struggling domestically as well, sitting 10th in the standings on 11 points, 10 behind pacesetters Sepahan.

Goals have also been hard to come by as their last three matches ended without Esteghlal finding the back of the net and they desperately need to have their shooting boots on against Pakhtakor if they are to challenge for a knockout stage berth.

The Uzbekistan side, have also found the going tough with a run of two draws and two defeats and will head into the tie having not beaten teams from Iran on the continental stage in their last six meetings.

The head-to-head is, however, in Pakhtakor's favor with two wins in their previous three meetings but it has been a difficult season for the team on the domestic and continental stages, with a 2-0 loss to AGMK on Thursday their ninth defeat in the Uzbekistan Super League.

The match will be held in Dubai's Rashid Stadium.

Iran freestyle team defeat Russia in friendly

TEHRAN – Iran's freestyle team defeated Russia in a friendly match held in Moscow, Russia Saturday night.

The match ended in 5-5 in 10 weight categories but the Iranian team won the match due to two better wins in 97kg and 125kg.

The winners were awarded \$10,000 cash prize and the losers granted \$5,000.

The competition took place on Nov. 23 in Moscow at the Dynamo Volleyball Arena.

Iran's Greco-Roman team had also defeated Russia Friday night.

57kg: Magomedrasul Idrisov df. Ali Momeni, 3-0

61kg: Zaur Uguev df. Reza Momeni, 5-1

65kg: Shamil Mamedov df. Rahman Amouzad, 10-7

70kg: Kurban Shiraev df. Sina Khalili, 5-2

74kg: Zaurbek Sidakov df. Amir Mohammad Yazdani, 12-1

79kg: Mehdi Yousefi df. Magomed Magomaev, 7-5

86kg: Kamran Ghasempour df. Ibragim Kadiev, 8-5

92kg: Amirhossein Firouzpour df. Magomed Kurbanov, 5-4

97kg: Mojtaba Golei df. Samdan Bady-Maadyr, 11-1

125kg: Amirhossein Zare df. Shamil Musaev, 12-2

Gholizadeh scores as Lech Poznan defeat GKS Katowice

TEHRAN – Lech Poznan defeated GKS Katowice 2-0 in the PKO BP Ekstraklasa match at the Poznan Stadium on Saturday.

Mikael Ishak won on target just three minutes into the match and Ali Gholizadeh made the scoreboard 2-0 in the 57th minute.

In the last five matches, Lech Poznan have won four victories and suffered one defeat.

Lech Poznan strengthened their position as the leaders with 37 points in 16 matches. GKS Katowice rank 11th with 19 points.

In the next match, Lech will face Piast Gliwice.

Jahanbakhsh happy to return to De Kuip

TEHRAN – Alireza Jahanbakhsh is happy to return to his old club but this time as Heerenveen player.

Heerenveen lost 3-0 on Saturday against Feyenoord at the De Kuip.

After three years at Feyenoord, Jahanbakhsh's contract expired and he joined Heerenveen.

Jahanbakhsh has not forgotten his old club. He gave an interview to ESPN.

"It's nice to be back," said Jahanbakhsh "I didn't expect to ever play against Feyenoord again, but it's just part of the job. As I said, it's nice to come back, unfortunately not the best game on our part."

"The first half was just a one side-match and the second half we tried to create opportunities. I think the first 20 minutes of the second half was better, but not good enough. In general, it was nice to come back," he added.

Jahanbakhsh was asked if it was nice to return to De Kuip. "Yes, for sure. I feel good every time I get the chance to play here and I have made a lot of nice memories with teammates in three years, but now I am a player of SC Heerenveen and I will do my best for my club."

ECO nations to convene in Iran for key ministerial summit



Economic Cooperation Organization

TEHRAN – Iran will host the 28th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in the northeastern city of Mashhad. The meeting, scheduled for next week, will bring together ministers and high-ranking officials from the organization's ten member states under Iran's 2024 presidency.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi will chair the summit, which will include participation from ECO's specialized departments and representatives of various multilateral economic bodies, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baqaei announced on Sunday. The ECO, founded in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, has evolved into a prominent regional bloc spanning Central and South Asia.

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the organization underwent significant expansion in 1992, welcoming seven new members: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Headquartered in Tehran, the ECO functions as a platform to foster economic, technical, and cultural cooperation in a region that links West Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia, encompassing a market of over 500 million people.

Iran stresses expansion of trade ties with Africa

TEHRAN – The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has stressed the need for finding new and innovative ways to increase the share of the Islamic Republic in the African markets, IRNA reported.

Referring to the importance of developing trade with the African continent, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi emphasized the need to provide operational proposals and define projects to gain a bigger share of this market.

He emphasized that entering the African market requires initiative, saying: "The private sector is the creator of initiative in trade, because ultimately they want to pursue trade in Africa. Therefore, they know the problems better and can prescribe a procedure to overcome them."

Earlier this year, the head of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce called for strategic planning to enhance Iran's trade relations with the continent, which currently stand at about \$1.3 billion.

The current trade volume is significantly lower than the potential trade opportunities between Iran and Africa, Masoud Berahman said at a conference on Iran-Africa trade opportunities in the city of Zanjan in August.

Africa boasts a staggering \$1.5 trillion in trade turnover, which is split quite evenly between imports and exports, Berahman said at the conference.

He pointed to the continent's rich natural resources, environmental assets, and agricultural potential, which remain largely untapped by Iranian traders.

He stressed that Iran must work to carve out a larger share of the African market.

Over the past 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never given up on its principled policy towards Africa due to political and cultural commonalities, despite the sanctions, pressure, and disruptions of the West, and has always maintained itself alongside the people and countries of Africa.

During the Iranian calendar years 1384 and 1385 (March 2005-March 2007), the relations between Iran and the African continent increased in terms

of trade. Still, since 1386, the economic relations between Iran and Africa have decreased due to the economic crisis and cruel sanctions against Iran.

Surveys show that in the past years, due to the lack of restoration of economic relations with Africa, the amount of trade with the countries of this continent has remained at the level of \$1.2 billion, but according to Mohammad-Sadegh Ghanadzadeh, Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) deputy head for International Business Promotion, facilitating the trade route with Africa is happening now and it is expected that the trade figure with this continent will reach \$10 billion in the next three years.

In fact, good steps have been taken to use Africa's capacity, and Africa can be a suitable market for Iranian goods, Ghanadzadeh stated.

Last year, the official referred to the beginning of the 13th government's measures to develop relations with the African continent and said: "Over the past [Iranian calendar] year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), a series of measures have been initiated, which were resulted in the visit of about 60 African trade delegations, active presence in the exhibitions of this continent, the opening of 10 trade centers, and the dispatch of three commercial attachés.

"As the result of these measures, Iran's trade with Africa experienced a 100-percent growth from \$650 million in the Iranian year 1399, and also in the first nine months of the year 1401, Iran-Africa trade was equal to the total trade of the previous year, and we also experienced a growth of about 700 percent in the export of technical and engineering services", he added.

Also as announced by Ruhollah Latifi, the value of trade between Iran and Africa rose two percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

He put Iran-Africa annual trade at 2.545 million tons worth \$1.278 billion.

Iran exported 2.452 million tons of products valued at \$1.183 billion to 49 African countries in the past year, showing one percent fall, and imported 92,898 tons of goods worth \$95.316 million from 23 African countries, indicating 59 percent growth, year on year, according to Latifi.

Iranian economy minister to attend WAIPA Conference in Riyadh



TEHRAN – Iran's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati is traveling to Saudi Arabia to participate in the 28th World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

(WAIPA) Conference which is due to be held from November 25 to 27, 2024 in Riyadh.

Held under the theme "Future-ready IPAs: Navigating Digital Disruption and Sustainable Growth," the World Investment Conference is an international event that promotes foreign direct investment (FDI), trade, and technology.

The summit is an opportunity for discussion and dialogue between policymakers and investors, business institutions and investment protection agencies to address key emerging challenges and opportunities and create an enabling environment for investment and trade at the global, regional and national levels.

Export from Golestan province rises 44% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, the value of non-oil export from Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 44 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Darvish-Ali Hassan-Zadeh, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said non-oil goods worth \$244 million were exported from the province in the seven-month period of this year.

He named Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Iraq as the three top countries to them commodities from Golestan are exported.

The official further announced that Golestan province exported non-oil commodities valued at \$326 million in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

As previously announced by the former head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's foreign trade reached \$99.7 billion during the first seven months of the present Iranian year.

Mohammad Rezvanifar said that of the mentioned figure, \$60.2 billion was the value of the country's export, and \$39.5 billion was the worth of the import.

He put the value of non-oil export at \$32.5 billion, the oil export at \$27 billion, and technical-engineering export at \$700 million in the seven-month period.

Saying that the value of the country's non-oil export rose 15 percent in the first seven months of this year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the official put the weight of non-oil export at 88.7 million tons in the mentioned seven-month, with 11.48 percent growth, year on year.

He further put the weight of the seven-month import at 21.7 million tons.

According to Rezvanifar, the average value of each ton of exported goods has increased by three percent to \$367 and the average worth of each ton of imported products has risen six percent to \$1,819 in the first seven months of this year, as compared to the same time span of the past year.

Gas supply to power plants up by 3.3 mcm/d



TEHRAN – Natural gas delivery to power plants stood at 182 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) during the week ended on 23 November, implying 3.3 mcm/d up against a similar period last year.

As Shana reported, rising gas delivery to power plants comes at a time when the average air temperature is lower than last year and several precipitation systems entered the country in November, with snowfall in some parts of the country.

At the same time, rising coverage of natural gas services for household and industrial sectors is continuously raising the volume of gas consumption in the country.

Despite rising gas consumption by the household sector, the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has said that it considers gas delivery to power plants a priority. The household, business and small-scale industries consumed as much as 455 mcm/d of natural gas during the last week of the Iranian month of Aban, leading to November 21.

Back in July, the director of supply and distribution at the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) said the company supplied 30 percent more fuel to the country's power plants in the first 131 days of the current Iranian calendar year (started in late March) compared to the previous year.

"In the first 131 days of the current year (March 20 to July 28), a total of 5.953 billion liters of liquid fuel was delivered to power plants, which includes 3.223 billion liters of oil and gas and 2.7 billion liters of fuel oil," Morteza

Abedini said.

Referring to the holding of numerous coordination and planning meetings for power plant fuel supply with the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) and the Ministry of Energy, Abedini added: "Considering the current conditions and the increase in electricity consumption, with positive interaction with the National Iranian Gas Company, the Oil Ministry is trying to provide the fuel for power plants mostly from natural gas so that we can increase the volume of liquid fuel storage in power plants."

Earlier in May, Head of the NIGC's Dispatching Department Saeed Aghili said gas supply to the country's power plants increased by 11 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) compared to the year before.

According to Aghili, the NIGC supplied 79 billion cubic meters of natural gas to the power plants across the country in the previous year.

He put the country's total gas consumption in the previous year at 249 billion cubic meters, which was also 7.0 billion cubic meters more than the figure for a year earlier.

Based on the data released by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), the company has also supplied more than \$3.8 billion worth of liquid fuel for the power plants over the past 2.5 years.

As reported, during the mentioned period, 3.6 million liters of gas oil and 2.5 million liters of fuel oil were supplied to 110 power plants across the country.

Iran intensifies efforts on South Pars pressure boosting project

TEHRAN – Iran's Oil Minister has underlined "pressure boosting" in the South Pars gas field as one of the National Iranian Oil Company's (NIOC) top priorities, pledging significant progress by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2025).

"We are diligently advancing preliminary studies for the South Pars pressure boosting project, and I expect to announce promising updates regarding the finalization of certain contracts before the year's end," Minister Mohsen Paknejad said on Saturday.

The South Pars gas reservoir, a critical energy source for Iran, is experiencing pressure declines, raising alarms across the energy sector. Experts have repeatedly warned

about the potential consequences, with the Parliament's Research Center highlighting the deteriorating gas balance in the country.

In a recent report, the center projected that by 2041, daily gas production in Iran might reach 898.7 million cubic meters, significantly falling short of the anticipated demand of 1,410.8 million cubic meters. This shortfall of 512 million cubic meters per day could lead to severe challenges in meeting energy needs, especially during the winter months.

"The declining pressure in South Pars is a pressing concern for both the oil industry and the country at large," the oil minister said, calling for immediate action to be taken to address this issue.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Home-made super heavy duty cone crusher unveiled in ConMine 2024

TEHRAN – Iran unveiled the country's largest domestically-developed heavy-duty cone crusher on Saturday at the 18th International Exhibition for Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery and Related Industries and Equipment (Iran CONMINE) in Tehran.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Indus-

tries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh, and two other ICCIMA board members, Mohammad Reza Bahraman and Payam Bagheri.

According to the representatives of Teknotak Company, the manufacturer of this equipment, the Super 66 cone crusher has a crushing capacity of 600 tons per hour in the fine-crushing model and 1,200 tons per hour in

the heavy-duty model.

The importance of this device lies in the fact that nearly 100 million tons of iron ore and 27 million tons of copper ore are extracted annually in the country, while 40% of the machinery and mining equipment are worn-out.

So far, the company has exported its products to more than 28 countries worldwide, and with

the production of this new device, it can eliminate the need for imports in this sector.

Iran CONMINE, which opened in the Iranian capital on Saturday, showcases advancements in mining technology, aims to foster collaborations, and addresses key challenges in the sector. It will run for four days at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

"Iranian mining sector needs €55b in foreign investment in five years"

TEHRAN – The Deputy Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Mohammadreza Bahraman has stated that Iran's mining sector requires €55 billion in foreign investment over five years.

Speaking at a press conference on the sidelines of the 18th International Exhibition for Mines, Mining, Construction Machinery and Related Industries and Equipment (Iran CONMINE), Bahraman stressed that the investment is needed to ensure achieving the anticipated 13 percent growth outlined in the country's Seventh Development Plan.

He emphasized the importance of attracting external capital to boost the sector. "This is not about government involvement; our focus must be on drawing in foreign investors," he said.

Bahraman announced that Iran's House of Mine, which spearheaded the sector's strategy, plans to participate actively in the 2025 Riyadh mining exhibition in Saudi Arabia to build international collaborations. He highlighted the need to strengthen partnerships with mining-focused nations, particularly in Africa and the region.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce vice president also stressed the critical role of the private sector in meeting the growth target. "If we fully utilize the private sector's potential, a significant portion of this 13 percent growth goal can be achieved within five years," Bahraman said.

He also stressed the need for Iran to resolve its financial challenges, including being blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). "Without addressing FATF issues, even the lifting of US sanctions will not suffice to attract foreign investment," he added.

Alumina powder output exceeds 138,000 tons in 7 months

TEHRAN – Production of alumina powder in Iran reached 138,859 tons in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), according to the data released by the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Based on the IMIDRO data, the country's seven-month production of alumina powder stood at 136,117 tons in the previous year.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corro-

sion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

Parachinar faces “genocide and terrorism”

Dozens of Shia Muslims in Pakistan’s northwest have been killed by extremist groups

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The plight and sufferings of Shia Muslims in Pakistan’s restive northwest have come to the fore in the wake of the recent deadly attacks in the region.

Shia Muslims in Kurram district in Pakistan’s northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have regularly been targeted.

Dozens of people were killed and scores of others injured in renewed violence in Kurram last week.

On Thursday, gunmen ambushed and killed 42 Shia Muslims, including women and children in the area.

The victims were traveling in a convoy of multiple vehicles from



Pakistani premier said those behind the killing of innocent civilians will not go unpunished. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi labeled the shootings a “terrorist attack.”

Shia groups in Pakistan announced a three-day mourning period following Thursday’s killings. They also organized protests in all of Pakistan’s major cities, including Lahore and Karachi.

Funerals were held for the victims on Friday. Markets, shops and schools were closed in Parachinar, which is located near the Afghanistan border. Locals and families of the victims staged a sit-in, demanding action against the perpetrators.

But violence against Shia Muslims showed no sign of abating as nearly 20 others were killed overnight on Saturday during fresh attacks.



NY Times: Allama Ahmed Iqbal Rizvi, a Shia leader, said Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the local branch of ISIS have been targeting the Shia population in Kurram for a long time.

Parachinar, the Shia-majority and the main town in Kurram, to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Survivors said the attackers exited a vehicle and opened fire on the buses and cars.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari denounced the attack. The

Videos and images on social media showed a market consumed by fire and orange flames in the night sky. Gunfire could also be heard.

People have protested in Kurram and blamed the government and the authorities for failing to provide security to the citizens in the area.

Affiliates of terror groups such as ISIS, also known as ISIL and Daesh, stand accused of carrying out attacks against Shia Muslims in Kurram in an attempt to establish their presence in the district.

Allama Ahmed Iqbal Rizvi, a Shia leader, said various militant groups, such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and the local branch of ISIS; the so-called Islamic State Khorasan Province, or ISIS-K — have been targeting the Shia population in Kurram for a long time, according to the New York Times.

“It is the incompetence of the government and state institutions,” Rizvi added, based on a report published by the Times.

Relatives of the victims and local leaders have demanded immediate action against the perpetrators of such crimes against Shia Muslims. Human rights organizations have also condemned such attacks as a form of genocide.

Armed extremists besieged Parachinar from 2007 to 2012 and obstructed the delivery of essentials such as food and medicine for the Shia community. The siege resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives. Thousands of others were also displaced.

The recent developments underscore the urgent necessity for the Pakistani government with the help of peace activists, civil society organizations, and high-profile figures to draw up



Armed extremists laid siege to Parachinar between 2007 and 2012, hindering the supply of essentials which led to the tragic loss of hundreds of lives.

effective strategies to address these heinous attacks against Shia Muslims, ensuring that the residents of Parachinar can enjoy a secure and tranquil life.

The Pakistani government should also ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and brought to justice.

Hezbollah strikes Tel Aviv with missiles



From page 1 ▶ On Sunday, the Lebanese resistance movement stayed true to its pledge. More than 200 rockets have been fired from Lebanon by the resistance forces, targeting many areas inside Israel by evading Israeli air defense systems.

Hezbollah launched scores of long-range surface-to-surface missiles as well as drones on the Israeli commercial hub.

Footage taken by Israelis documented the impacts of missile salvos on Tel Aviv.

Hezbollah published a statement that read: “In support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, in backing their valiant and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people, and in response to the targeting of the capital Beirut and the massacres committed by the Israeli enemy against civilians, and within

the framework of the Khaybar operations series, and in response to the call ‘Labbaik Ya Nasrallah,’ the fighters of the Islamic Resistance, in a complex operation on Sunday, November 24, targeted a military site in Tel Aviv city with a salvo of qualitative rockets and a swarm of assault drones, and the operation achieved its objectives.”

In a second complex operation Hezbollah “targeted the Palmachim base (a primary base for the Israeli Air Force, containing squadrons of unmanned aircraft, military helicopters, a military research center, and the Hetz missile and air defense system), located 140 kilometers away from the Lebanese-Palestinian borders, south of Tel Aviv, with a salvo of qualitative rockets, and the operation achieved its objectives.”

The Gilot base (headquarters of the Military Intelligence Unit 8200) on the outskirts of Tel Aviv was also targeted with a salvo of qualitative rockets, Hezbollah said.

Israeli media showed scenes from the sites of missile impacts in Petah Tikva on the outskirts of Tel Aviv.

A number of casualties have been reported. About 40 cars were severely damaged, Israeli media reported.

Hebrew media also published footage of the aftermath of rockets falling in Nahariya

and Haifa, where a 5-story building was at risk of collapsing.

Yona Yahav, the mayor of Haifa, has been cited as saying “the streets are empty, shops are closed, and the city is facing a severe economic crisis.”

Hezbollah also said that its fighters have, for the first time, launched an aerial operation with a swarm of assault drones on the Ashdod naval base 150 kilometers from the Lebanese-Palestinian border and struck their targets precisely.

This is the second time the Lebanese resistance has struck a target 150 kilometers away. Several days ago, Hezbollah announced it targeted an Israeli military base in Eilat.

The Hezbollah operations on Sunday also included the bombing of northern settlements in Israel, including Kiryat Shmona, on two occasions, targeting an Israeli drone and forcing it to leave Lebanese airspace as well as attacks on Israeli troops near the border town of Kham. Sirens sounded in Acre and its surroundings as well as Safad.

Israeli analysts have warned against announcing the defeat of the Lebanese group as it evidently enjoys a strong missile stockpile and other military capabilities.

Israel intensifies air raids as Lebanese air comments on Hochstein’s truce proposal

From page 1 ▶ Also, last July, in the context of what was called “the success of American diplomacy in preventing Israel from taking action that would lead to a comprehensive confrontation with Hezbollah,” Washington facilitated the assassination of senior Hezbollah commander Sayyed Fouad Shukur.

Then in September, Washington claimed to intensify its diplomatic efforts to stop the escalation between Hezbollah and Israel.

However, this lie was quickly exposed by the “Pager & Talkie-Walkie Massacre” and

then the assassination of the leaders of Hezbollah’s Radwan Force and Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and the start of the ground invasion.

Although diplomatic sources confirm that “the US administration is on the verge of completing the agreement,” observers view the escalation as an Israeli response to the Lebanese comments on the US proposal, meaning that Netanyahu does not want a “ceasefire” and is following the Gaza-style negotiations in Lebanon.

The Hebrew Channel 12 quoted prominent sources as saying

that the Lebanese amendments to Hochstein’s proposal were not welcomed by the Israeli side, which rejects a ceasefire and wants a 60-day truce to verify “the extent of Hezbollah and Lebanon’s commitment to the terms of the American proposal.”

On the ground, the Israeli enemy is trying to score achievements in the border areas, whereby the resistance fighters are clashing with them at zero distance, killing and wounding Israeli soldiers.

Meanwhile, the enemy forces have not succeeded in tightening their control over the city of

Khiyam, where the resistance fighters are targeting them with intensive missile barrages and swarms of attack drones.

Within the framework of the Khaybar Operations, Hezbollah continues to target the occupation regime’s heart.

The resistance fighters targeted the Shraga base (the Golani Brigade’s administrative headquarters) north of the occupied city of Acre. It also bombed the Mishmar al-Karmel site, south of the city of Haifa, which is 40 km from the Lebanese border.

Despair grips Israel as hopes for captive release fade

From page 1 ▶ Yifat Calderon, the cousin of another captive, also lashed at Netanyahu for “endangering the captives’ lives” over his offer to pay Gazans \$5 million for returning each captive.

The weekend protests came as Hamas announced that one female captive was killed and another injured in an Israeli attack on northern Gaza.

The Israeli military has acknowledged the announcement, vowing to launch an investigation.

Protests against the Israeli cabinet’s failure to release captives have become a regular occurrence since the start of the Gaza onslaught.

Israel launched a war of genocide on Gaza following the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation. It was a surprise military attack that was carried out by Hamas on October 7, 2023.

The operation humiliated Israel and shattered the image of the regime’s invincibility. More than 1,100 people were killed in the attack that was conducted in southern Israel and about 250 others were taken captive.

Hamas freed more than 100 captives following a swap deal in November last year. The Israeli army has freed 12 captives and recovered the bodies of 37 others.



Nearly 100 other captives remain in Gaza; dozens of whom are believed to have died in Israeli strikes on the enclave.

The Israeli army has so far killed more than 44,000 Palestinians, including 17,400 children in Gaza but it has failed to make good on its promise to release all captives and eliminate Hamas.

Anti-Netanyahu protests have highlighted deep divisions inside the Israeli society.

Israel has also become more isolated than ever across the globe in the face of its atrocities against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for Netanyahu and his former war minister Yoav Gallant show global resentment against the apartheid regime.

The end of the liberal West

By Joschka Fischer,
Ex-German foreign minister

BERLIN – We all think, speak, and write within certain intellectual frameworks that we largely take for granted. But, eventually, the passage of time renders familiar categories and ideas obsolete. For example, who still talks about the “Soviet Union” today, apart from historians?

In a similar vein, this year’s presidential election in the United States was the most significant political event of 2024, and it will almost certainly be remembered as a historical turning point. The outcome will shape global events for decades to come.

“There is nothing to stop Trump from reshaping American liberal democracy into an illiberal oligarchy.”

The effects will be felt on two levels. The first is the more immediate, practical, operational level of day-to-day governance. With Donald Trump back in the White House, the US will withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, impose new tariffs on its trade partners, and launch a massive campaign to round up and expel millions of undocumented immigrants. Taken together, this all represents a fundamental shift in how the world’s most powerful country operates, and in what it represents.

Then there is the global dimension, where many scenarios are possible – from major power shifts to the dissolution of long-standing alliances and the disintegration of the world’s governing institutions and norms. What will happen to transatlantic relations? What about Ukraine? Will the US develop closer ties to Russia and other authoritarian regimes at the expense of the European Union and other allies?

Trump won decisively despite his contempt for democratic institutions, his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, and his subsequent 34-count felony conviction. Though voters know about his chaotic approach to governance, his habitual mendacity, and his sinister immigration policies, he won every swing state. Even with full knowledge of who Trump is, more Americans voted for him than for Kamala Harris.

We must not mince words: liberal democracy in the US has suffered a lethal blow. It will be under increasing pressure on both sides of the Atlantic, and there is no guarantee that it will survive. After all, can there be any future for the liberal West without the US as its leader? I believe the answer is no.

Trump will begin his second term with Republican control over both houses of Congress, and many observers expect the 6-to-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court to back him unequivocally. In June, the Court ruled, in a case brought by Trump, that presidents enjoy broad immunity from criminal prosecution for “official” acts. Thus, he will be able to govern – indeed, to rule – unimpeded. There is nothing to stop him from reshaping American liberal democracy into an illiberal oligarchy.

Obviously, the pressure on European democracies to contribute more to their own security will intensify. But Trump has no interest in strengthening the EU – quite the opposite, in fact – and the EU’s capability to advance independently without the tacit support of the US is doubtful. Doing so would require a fundamental shift in Europeans’ political mentality, and such a change is currently nowhere in sight. Moreover, the Franco-German engine that has always propelled the EU is no longer operational, and no one knows when, or if, it will be restarted.

Another major issue is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Will the current Israeli government now rush to annex the West Bank? What will it do about Iran, which has been amassing near-weapons-grade uranium? All signs point to a major war in the region – to a violent restructuring that will bring anything but peace or even a lasting ceasefire.

That brings us to the final, all-important question: What will the world look like without a liberal West? For decades, the transatlantic alliance projected power (both hard and soft) and modeled the values that underpinned a cohesive global order. But now the global order is in the midst of a chaotic transition.

If Europe fails to come together at this moment of tumultuous change, it will not get a second chance. Its only option is to become a military power capable of protecting its interests and securing peace and order on the world stage. The alternative is fragmentation, impotence, and irrelevance. The challenge is compounded by a massive technological shift toward digitalization and AI, as well as by Europe’s demographic crisis. Though the continent has too many elderly people and too few young people, it is increasingly opposed to immigration.

So, what now? Will Europe prepare itself, or will it revert to a structure resembling the one that followed the 1814-15 Congress of Vienna, in which Russia’s influence was dominant and pervasive? Europeans woke up on November 6 to a result that will affect them more profoundly than all their own elections combined. Trump will not only change America (for the worse); he will also shape European history – if we let him.

(Source: Project Syndicate)

Archaeologists claim to identify site of historic Battle of al-Qadisiyyah using Cold War satellite images



TEHRAN - A team of archaeologists claims to have identified the location of the historic Battle of al-Qadisiyyah, fought in c. 636 CE between Iran's Sasanian Empire and an invading Arab army in present-day Iraq.

The Arab victory over the army of Yazdegerd III marked the end of his dynasty and the beginning of Arab and Islamic rule in Persia.

The discovery, based on declassified U.S. spy satellite images from the 1970s, sheds new light on one of the pivotal events in the early Islamic conquests, ILNA reported on Sunday.

The findings, published in the journal *Antiquity*, result from a collaborative effort between archaeologists from Durham University in the UK and scholars from Al-Qadisiyyah University in Iraq. The research points to a site approximately 30 kilometers south of Kufa, in Iraq's Najaf province, as the likely battlefield.

The Battle of al-Qadisiyyah, fought on the border of the Mesopotamian floodplain and the desert, holds significant historical and cultural importance, particularly in the Arab world, and has been extensively documented

in historical texts.

Role of satellite imagery

The research utilized Cold War-era satellite images, which offer insights into features that have since been altered or obscured by agricultural expansion and urbanization. These older images reveal trench-like formations, canals, and fortifications associated with the battlefield. According to the researchers, such features are no longer as discernible in contemporary satellite images due to significant environmental and developmental changes in the region.

A prominent discovery includes a 10-kilometer double-walled structure, possibly a canal, linking a square fortress on the desert's edge to a settlement near the floodplain. These features align with historical descriptions of the battle's geography, further supporting the site's identification.

Future excavations planned

The archaeological team plans to conduct further excavations at the site within the next year to gather additional evidence and verify their findings. If confirmed, the discovery could provide deeper insights into the military strategies and environmental conditions of the period, while also enhancing our understanding of this transformative moment in Middle Eastern history.

According to the archaeological team, this groundbreaking study not only offers a tangible connection to an event of immense historical importance but also demonstrates the power of modern technology, including declassified imagery and digital mapping, in uncovering the secrets of the past.

Iran participates in intl. tourism fair in Ankara



TEHRAN - The Embassy of Iran in Ankara promoted arrays of the country's rich cultural heritage, stunning natural landscapes, and diverse travel offerings at a recent international tourism fair in the Turkish capital.

The Iranian cultural office in the city hosted a dedicated booth, showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage, including Persian handicrafts, carpet weaving, tourist attractions, and the Persian literary tradition at the 7th International Tourism and Travel Fair aka TRAVELEXPO ANKARA, CHTN reported on Sunday.

The booth received significant attention from visitors, who were offered insights into modern Iran and the benefits of visiting the country, particularly for Turkish citizens, the report said.

During the expo's opening ceremony, attended by a number of international diplomats, and cultural representatives, the Iranian cultural attache, Seyyed Qassem Nazemi, engaged with counterparts from Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Africa, and Ethiopia, exchanging views on fostering cultural exchange and sharing tourism expertise, the report explained.

Held from November 14 to 17 at the ATO Congressium Convention and Exhibition Centre, this year's expo, covering 10,000 square meters, featured conferences, panels, concerts, and bilateral meetings, offering participants a comprehensive view of the tourism sector's potential.

One of Türkiye's premier tourism events, the event featured participants from 30 countries, 14 cities, with over 240 exhibitors, providing an opportunity for Iran to enhance its visibility on a global stage and promote tourism, while strengthening diplomatic and cultural ties with the neighboring country.

Organizers described TRAVELEXPO ANKARA as a pivotal platform for shaping the future of the tourism sector, bringing together industry leaders to explore new opportunities and collaborations. Iran's presence underscored its commitment to promoting its cultural and historical treasures on the global stage.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites: Iguazu National Park

Located in Misiones province in the north-eastern tip of Argentina and bordering the Brazilian state of Parana to the north, Iguazú National Park, jointly with its sister park Iguazu in Brazil, is among the world's visually and acoustically most stunning natural sites for its massive waterfalls. The property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1984.

According to UNESCO, across a width of almost three kilometres the Iguazú or Iguazu River, drops vertically some 80 meters in a series of cataracts.

The river, aptly named after the indigenous term for "great water" forms a large bend in the shape of a horseshoe in the heart of the two parks and constitutes the international border between Argentina and Brazil before it flows into the mighty Parana River less than 25 kilometres downriver from the park. Large clouds of spray permanently soak the many river islands and the surrounding riverine forests, creating an extremely humid micro-climate favouring lush and dense sub-tropical vegetation harbouring a diverse fauna.

(Source: UNESCO)

Late Bronze Age discovery in southern Tehran may rewrite ancient Rey's history

TEHRAN - Archaeologists have uncovered significant evidence of the Late Bronze Age (1900-1500 BC) during recent excavations at the ancient Rashkan fortress in Rey, marking the first discovery of its kind in the region, located south of Tehran.

The findings, led by Iranian archaeologist Qadir Afrovand, shed new light on the historical depth of the ancient city of Rey and underscore its importance for preservation and potential UNESCO World Heritage designation, ISNA reported on Sunday.

After a 17-year hiatus, this latest phase of research focused on defining the boundaries and proposing a protective perimeter for Rashkan fortress, a key site in Rey's ancient urban center. Unexpectedly, archaeologists unearthed a two-meter-thick cultural layer containing an abundance of gray pottery shards. These artifacts, found beneath Islamic-era deposits, provide evidence of a vibrant pre-Islamic settlement associated with the Late Bronze Age.

Afrovand noted that the discovery was both unexpected and transformative for the understanding of Rey's history. "We had encountered gray pottery fragments in surface surveys and among the debris on the fortress's slopes, but their origins were unclear," he explained. "This excavation



Iranian archaeologist Qadir Afrovand noted that the discovery was both unexpected and transformative for the understanding of Rey's history.

has now confirmed that these materials belong to a previously unknown Late Bronze Age settlement in Rey."

The site, spanning at least one kilometer and covering several hectares, reveals a 400-year presence during the Bronze Age. This period bridges the gap following the decline of nearby Tepe Cheshmeh Ali, another prominent prehistoric site in the region.

The discovery is especially significant as it highlights an era that has remained largely undocumented in Rey's archaeological record. "This newly identified period rewrites part of Rey's prehistoric timeline," Afrovand stated, emphasizing its value for future research.

Afrovand urged Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to prioritize the restoration and preservation of Rey,

advocating for its World Heritage recognition. Once a political and cultural capital in various historical eras, Rey's archaeological treasures have been under-explored and undervalued in global heritage contexts.

The ancient city of Rey, located near modern-day Tehran, has long been a focal point of Iranian history, known for its contributions to Persian culture and urban development. This latest discovery strengthens its case for global recognition and conservation, offering new insights into the Late Bronze Age's role in shaping the region's historical narrative.

Further excavations are planned to explore the extent and characteristics of this newly identified settlement, promising a deeper understanding of Rey's prehistoric legacy, the report said.

According to Afrovand, Rey is one of the oldest cities in the central Iranian plateau with a history of human settlement that stretches over 8,000 years. As mentioned by the Encyclopedia Britannica, the history of Rey featured in the Avesta (the original document of Zoroastrianism, an Iranian religion) as a sacred place, and it is also mentioned in the book of Tobit, of the biblical Apocrypha, and by classical authors.

Iranian and Chinese archaeologists collaborate on Masuleh highlands excavations

TEHRAN - A team of Iranian researchers and archaeologists, joined by Chinese fellows, has embarked on new excavations in the highlands of Masuleh to uncover the region's rich metallurgical heritage.

The findings aim to strengthen Masuleh's case for World Heritage Site status under UNESCO, following the deferral of its nomination last year.

The archaeological work, led by Iranian experts Solmaz Raouf and Behzad Ali Talashi, is centered on two key sites: the "Kohneh Masuleh" and the "Siyapasieh" areas, the latter located at an altitude of 2,500 meters.

Siyapasieh, which translates to "burnt black" due to the abundance of ash darkening its soil, is believed to have been a significant center for iron smelting and metallurgy in ancient times.

For the first time since its initial discovery in 2017, the site has yielded evidence of ancient metalworking furnaces. However, the excavation is challenging due to its steep 35-degree slopes, extreme weather, and avalanche-prone terrain. These conditions have slowed progress, leaving the full extent of the furnaces still buried beneath the soil.



The ongoing research is further enriched by the involvement of a Chinese archaeological team specializing in metallurgy. They are conducting detailed analyses of furnace samples to identify the sources of Masuleh's iron ore, assess the technological sophistication of its metallurgical practices, and explore its trade links with neighboring and distant regions.

Preliminary results from systematic surveys suggest that Masuleh was a hub for alloy production and iron smelting, with evidence pointing to interactions with cities like Ardabil, Zanjan, and Tabriz. Yet critical questions remain unanswered: When did the iron

smelting industry in Masuleh begin, and how long did it thrive? What volume of tools and weaponry was produced, and which governing powers were its primary beneficiaries?

The historical significance of Masuleh's metallurgy is underscored by its later role during the Qajar era when it supplied cannonballs to the royal armory under Fath-Ali Shah's administration. Despite this, the broader reach of its metallurgical industry remains unclear.

Masuleh, a terraced village located 25 kilometers southwest of Fuman in Gilan province, was listed as a national heritage site in 1975 and temporarily registered on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2007. Following the deferral of its case by ICOMOS in 2023, Iran has been given the opportunity to address ambiguities and resubmit the nomination.

The ongoing excavation is expected to provide crucial insights into the ancient metallurgical traditions of Masuleh, paving the way for its potential recognition as a World Heritage site. This research not only contributes to the understanding of Masuleh's cultural and historical legacy but also highlights its enduring significance in the broader context of Iran's metallurgical history.

Tourism makes history at COP29 as 50 countries back climate action declaration for sector

For the first time in the history of the summit, COP29 featured a Tourism Day, with a First Ministerial Meeting dedicated to positioning tourism policy to support national climate goals.

In Baku, public and private sector leaders recognized the significant impact of climate change on the tourism sector and its contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At the same time, they emphasized tourism's potential to actively foster climate adaptation and regeneration strategies. Over 700 stakeholders participated in the Tourism Day events.

Governments united around climate action in tourism

The First Ministerial Meeting was chaired by Mr Fuad Naghiyev, Chairman of the State Tourism Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and included the COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UN Tourism, UNEP and UNFCCC.

Both UN Tourism Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili, and UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen, underlined the need for a science-based approach, referring to advanced new research to be further adapted from the University of Queensland (an Affiliate Member of UN Tourism) indicating that tourism represents 8.8% of global emissions (including direct and indirect emissions).

Addressing delegates, Pololikashvili said: "For the first time, the Action Agenda of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties has included tourism. The First Ministerial Meeting on Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism marks a turning point, when ambition meets action, and vision transforms into commitment. At COP29, the global tourism sector made clear its commitment to positive transformation for a better future for our planet."

The Ministerial welcomed ten Ministers of Tourism (United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Belarus,

Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Iran, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Montenegro, North Macedonia), two Ministers of Environment (Costa Rica and Maldives) and four Deputy Ministers (Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Uzbekistan). Secretaries of State from Moldova, Portugal, Zambia and Zimbabwe were also present. The Caribbean Tourism Organization and the Pacific Tourism Organization delivered statements on behalf of their members. The World Travel and Tourism Council and the World Sustainable Hospitality Alliance also took the floor.

On the back of the high-level discussions, 52 governments signed the COP29 Declaration for Enhanced Climate Action in Tourism.

Measurement, decarbonization, adaptation, regeneration, finance, innovation

The High-Level Roundtables brought together experts from academia, policymakers and private sector to raise the climate ambition of the tourism sector.

The UN Statistical Framework for Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism was presented by UN Tourism Executive Director Zoritsa Urošević as key tool for advancing the sector's climate action ambitions. Climate Finance Innovation was also covered in a keynote presentation.

Carbon measurement was discussed at four levels: globally, to understand the scale of the challenge; at the country level, to inform tourism policies and align them with climate goals; at the business level, to ensure accountability for change; and at the product labelling level, empowering consumers to make informed, sustainable choices. While scaling up measurement efforts offers opportunities for evidence-based action, experts highlighted challenges such as the limits of technology-driven improvements, the need for innovative business models, and the critical role of behavior change.

(Source: UN Tourism)

Iran ranks first in 4D printing publications among Islamic nations

TEHRAN – With 65 publications on four-dimensional (4D) printing, Iran ranks first among Islamic countries, according to a report released by the Web of Science.

The report has included data from 2014 to 2023. The country's global ranking in 4D printing publications is 11, IRNA reported.

Iran also ranks second in publications related to the fifth generation of the industry (Industry 5.0) with 1,625 documents. Turkey (with 1,817 documents) and Malaysia (with 1,611 documents) rank first and third, respectively.

3D printing refers to the process of creating three-dimensional objects layer by layer. Each layer is placed one after another.

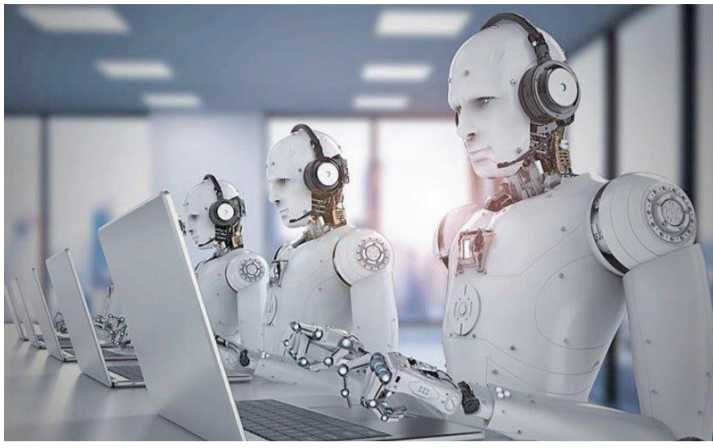
Four-dimensional printing (4D printing) uses the same techniques of 3D printing through computer-programmed deposition of material in successive layers to create a three-dimensional object.

However, in 4D printing, the resulting 3D shape is able to morph into different forms in response to environmental stimulus, with the 4th dimension being the time-dependent shape change after the printing.

It is, therefore, a type of programmable matter, wherein after the fabrication process, the printed product reacts with parameters within the environment (humidity, temperature, voltage) and changes its form accordingly.

The Fifth Industrial Revolution follows the Fourth Industrial Revolution and measures the countries' progress in the first decade of the 21st century.

This generation of industry not only focuses on meeting economic needs but also pays specific attention to environmental needs and emphasizes green production as a key priority.



The Fifth Industrial Revolution incorporates concepts such as sustainability, human-centeredness, and concern for the environment in addition to transforming the industrial structure through the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI), internet of things (IoT), and big data, which was debated in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The fifth-generation industry seeks to strengthen the role of these technologies in response to new needs and emerging requirements in the industrial, social, and environmental fields, and this approach includes the extensive use of data and artificial intelligence to increase the flexibility of production and creation of value chains will be more powerful in the era of digital transformation.

Industry 5.0 is all about the integration of humans and machines. This means that instead of machines working independently from humans, they will work together to create things more efficiently.

In the fifth generation of the industry, technologies such as 4D printing, collaborative robots (cobots), augmented and virtual reality, cognitive computing, digital twin and additive manufacturing are used.

Iran ranks 23 in additive manufacturing technologies, 29 in cog-

nitive computing, 37 in virtual reality, 38 in digital twin technology, 42 in augmented reality, and 60 in collaborative robots globally.

Iran ranks first in neural network technology

According to a report released by the Web of Science database, Iran (with 17,458 documents) ranks first in neural network technology as well as multi-agent systems (with 351 documents) among Islamic countries.

The report included data in a twenty-year period from 2004 to 2023.

The country secures a ranking of 6th in neural network technology and 12th in multi-agent systems globally.

Turkey with 9,078 and Saudi Arabia with 7,971 documents in neural network technology rank second and third respectively.

In multi-agent systems, Tunisia with 233 documents, and Morocco with 231 documents are placed second and third.

Iran ranks second in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and robotics among Islamic nations.

The country also ranks 16th in the world in AI technologies; 25th in visual computing and natural language processing; 17th in machine learning; and 27th in robotics.

The trend of scientific production in neural networks, machine learning, and AI technologies in Iran has been upward in the last decade compared to other AI-related technologies.

According to the results, in the field of neural networks, the trend of scientific production has been upward increasing from 950 documents in 2014 to 2,207 documents in 2023.

In machine learning, scientific productions have risen from 81 documents in 2014 to 1656 documents in 2023.

Also, in the field of artificial intelligence, scientific productions have escalated from 98 documents in 2014 to 647 documents in 2023.

Over the past 20 years, the majority of scientific productions in the field of artificial intelligence have been associated with the University of Tehran, Tabriz University, and Amirkabir University of Technology; and in visual computing and natural language processing, the University of Tehran, Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology are ranked first to third respectively.

The majority of scientific production in machine learning is connected to the University of Tehran, Amirkabir University of Technology, and Tarbiat Modares University; and in robotics, it is attributed to the University of Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, and Amirkabir University of Technology.

University of Tehran, Tabriz University, and Iran University of Science and Technology in neural networks, and Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, and University of Tehran in multi-agent systems, account for a significant share of scientific productions.

Health professionals attend WHO course on managing mass casualty incidents

TEHRAN –Healthcare professionals have participated in a training course organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) on skills and knowledge needed to effectively manage mass casualty incidents (MCIs).

Led by nationally certified facilitators trained by the WHO in June 2023, the course brought together a diverse group of healthcare professionals, including emergency medicine specialists, nurses, paramedics, and heads of emergency units.

The WHO has conducted its second mass casualty management (MCM) training course in Tehran (27–30 October 2024), empowering 38 first responders from the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Kerman, and Khorasan Razavi, the WHO website announced in a press release on November 12.

The initiative, funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), underscores WHO's commitment to enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities in the Region.

MCIs, characterized by a sudden surge of casualties that can overwhelm existing healthcare resources, pose a significant challenge to healthcare systems. MCIs can have many causes, including natural disasters, accidents, and acts of violence. WHO's MCM training aims to address systemic gaps in emergency response by establishing minimum standards and providing specialized training for frontline MCI healthcare providers.

"During critical events, hospital-based emergency units are vital in providing immediate medical assistance and triaging patients effectively," said WHO representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain.

"When these units become overwhelmed, both direct and preventable mortality rates can rise significantly. By empowering health

care professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge we can improve emergency response capacities and save lives during crisis situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

WHO's proactive approach to MCM training reflects its dedication to strengthening health systems and ensuring that countries are better prepared to respond to emergencies. Through initiatives such as this, WHO plays a crucial role in safeguarding health and well-being globally.

The first National Training of Trainers Workshop on MCM was held from July 16 to 19, 2023 in Tehran.

Twenty-five emergency medicine specialists from 18 medical universities in 13 provinces attended this course, organized in collaboration with the Deputy for Curative Affairs of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the Health Managers Development Institute.

Supervised by experts from the Regional Office, along with local experts, the participants learned how to develop a mass casualty management plan for the emergency unit that would promote efficient response, communication, resource utilization, and ultimately the safety of the staff and patients.

The participants actively practiced the learned skills in tabletop exercises using scenarios of mass casualties from the point of triage to the allocation of resources, and ultimately to the definitive treatment pathway.

This workshop not only provided the participants with the knowledge and skills required for developing a mass casualty management plan for their respective hospitals but also taught them how to effectively transfer this knowledge to others responsible for emergency response management, thereby contributing to increased preparedness for mass casualty incidents in the country.

Iran Health Expo 2025 slated for April

TEHRAN –The 26th international exhibition of medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and laboratory equipment (Iran Health Expo 2025) is scheduled to kick off on April 18.

As the most important exhibition in the health sector in the region, Iran Health Expo 2025 provides a great opportunity for domestic and international companies to showcase their latest accomplishments and products.

Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are



domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating

room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market.

Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iran reopens schools under strict health protocols

Over 15 million students attended schools nationwide on Saturday for the new school year under strict health protocols.

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

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

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

بازگشایی مدارس با پروتکل های سختگیرانه بهداشتی

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

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

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

وزیر آموزش و پرورش در این مراسم گفت: امسال آموزش دانش آموزان به سه شکل حضوری، مجازی، و تلویزیونی دنبال می‌شود، اما اولویت ما آموزش حضوری دانش آموزان است. او افزود: همه مدارس باید شیوه‌نامه‌های بهداشتی را به طور جدی رعایت کنند تا مشکلی برای دانش آموزان پیش نیاید.

'Iran highlights empowering women in all aspects'

TEHRAN –Iran has always underscored the economic, cultural, social, and political empowerment of women as a key element in policy-making, legislation, and national planning. Fakhri al-Sadat Fatemi, an advisor to the deputy vice president for women and family affairs, has stated.

To advance women's empowerment in different fields, Fatemi proposed three ways including training, empowering, acquiring skills, and developing opportunities for women's participation, as well as providing legal and executive support, Mehr news agency reported.

She made the remarks on the second day of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference while addressing a roundtable focusing on 'Advancing women's economic empowerment through employment, decent work, social protection, and entrepreneurship'.

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

The official went on to elaborate on Iranian women's progress in scientific, economic, entrepreneurial, social, and political fields.

She pointed out that programs that have been approved and implemented recently in the country include providing insurance for housewives and supporting female heads of households.

Iran, ESCAP to cooperate on empowering women

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), Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, have agreed to collaborate on empowering women as well as dealing with natural and environmental disasters.

In a meeting held on November 21, in Bangkok on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference, the officials discussed ways for boosting cooperation, Borna reported.

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 access 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.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:12 Dawn: 5:22 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:50 (tomorrow)

Iran's "Melody" competing at Eurasia Intl. Film Festival

TEHRAN- "Melody" by Iranian director Behrouz Sebt Rasoul is on screen at the 17th edition of Eurasia International Film Festival, which is currently underway in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

"Melody" tells the story of a young musician girl, Melody, who is determined to compose a heartfelt piece for children battling cancer, using the recorded sounds of thirty different birds, despite the presence of hunters in the area.

She returns to her home village in order to capture the beautiful sounds of the birds and receives assistance from the speechless caretaker of her family's house, Mango.

After discovering a mere twenty birds, Mango reveals to her that the location of the remaining birds is known only to the wise village singer, who has been driven away from the village by the bird hunters. Melody embarks on a journey to locate both him and the missing birds.

Set in a stunning natural backdrop, the story unfolds amidst the enchanting beauty of the surroundings.

A co-production between Iran and Tajikistan, the film stars Iranian actor Diman Zandi, Alireza Ostad and Meghdad Eslami from Iran as well as Safar Haqdodov and Zulfiya Sadikova from Tajikistan.

In October, Tajikistan officially submitted "Melody" for consideration in the Best International Feature Film category at the 2025 Oscars. This submission represents Tajikistan's first entry in 19 years and stands as its third submission overall.

"Melody" premiered internationally at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa on November 24, 2023. The film is produced by Sebt Rasoul's Tehran-based Nama Film Company in collaboration with the state-owned Tajikistan broadcaster Safina.

Dreamlab Films, the France-based international distributor under Iranian film expert Nasrin Mirshab, is handling the international sales and distribution of "Melody".

The film has garnered significant recognition on the international stage, participating in several



A scene from Iranian director Behrouz Sebt Rasoul's movie "Melody"

prestigious film festivals. It was showcased in the 21st Chennai International Film Festival in India in 2023. Following this, "Melody" was selected for the competitive section of the 42nd Fajr International Film Festival in Iran in February, and the 24th Keswick Film Festival in London in March.

At the 23rd ImagineIndia Film Festival in Madrid, Spain, the film achieved remarkable success, winning several awards including Best Director of Photography, Best Music Design, and Best Original Music. Additionally, it received a nomination for Best Actress and Best Sound Design at the same festival.

With the motto "Cinema Without Borders", the 17th Eurasia International Film Festival will run until November 30.

Filmmakers from more than 15 countries are participating in the event, and the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Kazakhfilm National Film Studio named after Shaken Aimanov are the sponsors of the festival.

A total of 12 films from three continents are set to compete in the event to present works that reflect the rich cultural heritage of their respective countries. Alongside Iran, the competition program includes films from Bangladesh, South Korea, Austria, Qatar and other countries.

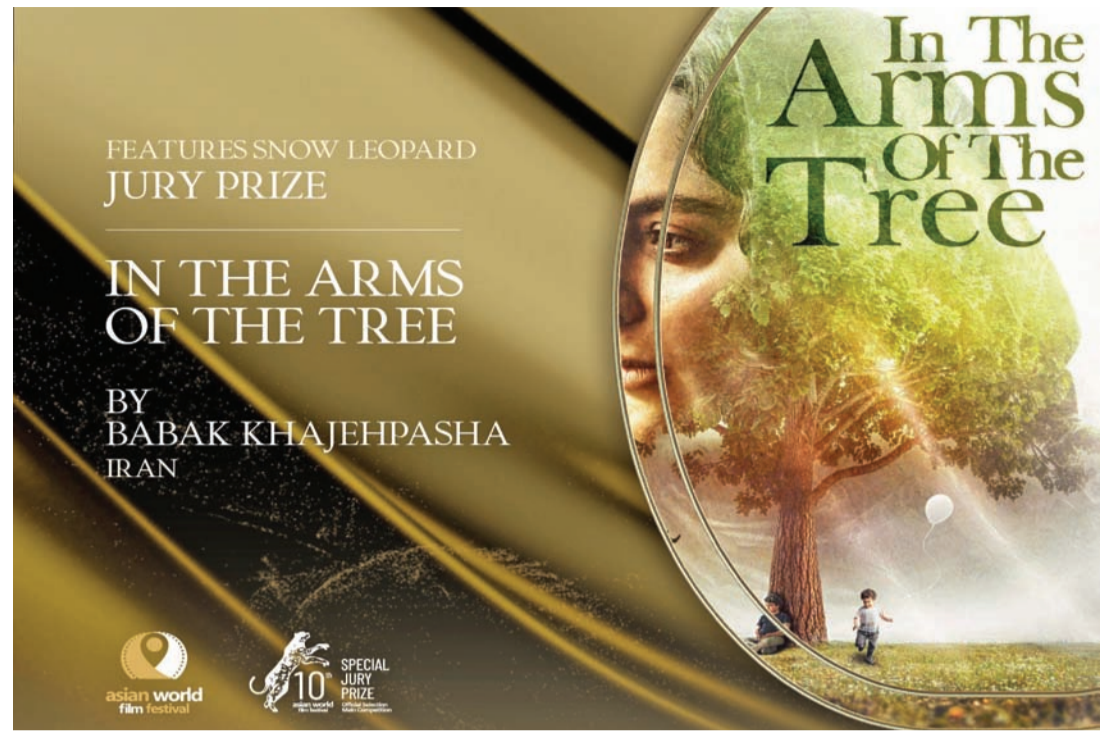
"In the Arms of the Tree" wins Special Jury Prize at 10th Asian World Film Festival

From Page 1 > The film explores themes of familial relationships and emotional reconstructions between parents and children. At the heart of the story is Kimia, a northern mother grappling with the trauma of past abuse and a debilitating fear of distance. Her husband, Farid, an Azeri father with a passion for travel and medicinal plants, adds to the tension as the couple prepares for a separation exercise.

Kimia is about to divorce Farid due to a strange illness, and this process has proceeded in a mutual respect and both are finalizing the divorce. Their two sons, 11-year-old Taha and his five-year-old brother Alisan, unaware of their parents' decision, live their normal lives and spend their days with great interest in each other until they face their parents' decision: now the father wants to take one of the sons and the mother wants to take the other one. They have to prepare the children for this separation and start to teach them to be away from each other. The children's perspective on the story of separation, creates a new course in the life of this couple.

Taha, deeply caring and protective, is determined to shield Alisan from the fallout of their parents' crises. The boys' strong bond and friendship serve as a beacon of hope amid the tumult, highlighting the innocence of childhood and the power of familial love in the face of adversity.

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



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

Maral Baniadam, Javad Ghamati, Rouhollah Zamani, Ahoura Lotfi, and Rayan Lotfi are in the cast among others.

A production of 2023, the film won two Crystal Simorgh awards for Best First Film and Best Screenplay upon its premiere at the 41st Fajr Film Festival.

Moreover, it was named the best film in the international section of the first edition of Iran's Hava International Film Festival in 2023.

The movie has been screened in several international festi-

vals in countries such as China, Switzerland, and the UAE. It also opened the Kazan International Film Festival Altyn Minbar in Russia in September.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Asian World Film Festival was founded by Kyrgyz public figure Sadyk Sher-Niyaz to bring the best of Asian cinema to Los Angeles and to strengthen ties between the Asian and Hollywood film industries. The festival screens feature films from more than 50 countries, spanning from Japan to Turkey and Russia to India and Southeast Asia.

As of 2024, AWWF is the only Los Angeles-based festival that showcases most Asian submissions Academy Award and Gold-

Globe for Best International Feature Film and Best Motion Picture - Non-English Language respectively.

The AWWF is committed to uplifting and showcasing the artistry of filmmakers across Asia, as well as Asian, Asian-American, and multiracial Asian creators worldwide. Its mission is to highlight the rich tapestry of voices within the Asian filmmaking community and to provide a platform for their creative expression. It brings a curated selection of outstanding Asian cinema to the U.S., aiming to enhance the visibility of the region's talented filmmakers and to foster connections between the Asian film industry and Hollywood.

23rd Hafez Awards honors best of Iranian cinema, television

TEHRAN-The 23rd film and television ceremony of Picture World Magazine (also known as Hafez Awards) announced the winners on Saturday in a ceremony held at the Ministry of Interior Hall in Tehran.

The event presented awards to the best of cinema and television and also honored the veteran actor and director Morteza Aghili, ISNA reported.

In the film section of the ceremony, 14 awards were presented.

After the death of the globally renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami in 2016, a special prize was added to the ceremony awards in his honor, to be given to a young innovative filmmaker since Kiarostami was known as an auteur for his creative works.

This year, the Abbas Kiarostami Statuette was given to filmmaker Ahmad Bahrami for his film "The Wastetown".

Soroush Sehat won the best director award for "Breakfast with Giraffes" and Arman Khansarian grabbed the award for the best screenplay for "Orange Forest".

The best actress award went to two actresses Elnaz Shakerdoost (Bodiless) and Banafsheh Samadi (The Sun of That Moon).



Mehran Modiri (L) and Ehsan Alikhani hold their awards at the closing ceremony of the 23rd Hafez Awards in Tehran, on November 23, 2024.

In the category of the best actor, Reza Attaran (Bright House) and Milad Keymaram (The West Sky) shared the award.

In the TV section, 13 statuettes were presented to the winners.

Mehran Modiri was recognized as the most popular TV figure for his reality TV competition series "Guess Which Hand," also known as "Gol ya Pooch".

The special jury prize went to Ehsan Alikhani for the reality show/comedy contest

"Joker 2".

The romance drama series "At the End of the Night" was the big winner of the night, grabbing three awards, including the best series, the best script (Ida Panahandeh and Arsalan Amiri) and the best drama actor (Parsa Piroozfar).

Saman Moghaddam won the best director award for "Viper of Tehran" and Zhila Shahi won the best drama actress award for "Dar-iush".

Ghodratollah Izadi (You Only Go Around Once) and Sogol Khaligh (The Notebook) won the best male and female comedian awards respectively.

This year's ceremony was organized by Ali Moallem's wife Azar Memarian and his son Omid like the past six years.

Launched in 1997, the Hafez Awards is an annual awarding ceremony which is held to honor cinematic achievements in Iranian cinema. It is the biggest cinema and television event organized by the private sector in Iran.

The ceremony is named "Hafez" after the Iranian great poet. The award is a typographical statue resembling Persian written form of the word "Hafez".

Cartoon of Day



ICC's Arrest Warrant for Netanyahu
Cartoonist: Mikail Çiftçi from Turkey

Vahid Yaminpour's travelogue to Japan republished

TEHRAN- The 28th edition of Iranian writer Vahid Yaminpour's travelogue to Japan has recently been published.

Amir Kabir, the publisher of the book entitled "The Kannushi of the Jinja Temple," first released this work in 2020.

Yaminpour was invited to Japan to participate in the Hiroshi-

ma Peace Exhibition, alongside a group of artists, including Maziar Miri and Parviz Parastui. This travelogue is the result of that journey.

During his travels, he encountered people who live with dignity and authenticity, witnessing how contemporary samurais strive to preserve their traditions. He also observed how Jap-

anese women, despite living in a patriarchal society, maintain their grace and integrity with elegance and nobility.

Yaminpour meticulously analyzes the events surrounding him, from Dubai Airport to the airplane and across various cities in Japan. In this book, he delves into the history, geography, culture, and religion of the land,

aiming to provide readers with an authentic understanding of the Land of the Rising Sun, rather than relying on local myths about Japan.

In one part of the book, he asserts, "The further you travel to the East, the brighter a ray of sunlight embeds itself in the human soul."

Arasbaran Cultural Center reviews Woody Allen's "Café Society"

TEHRAN-Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran screened the 2016 American romantic comedy-drama film "Café Society" written and directed by Woody Allen on Sunday.

The film screening was followed by a review session attended by Iranian film critic Kurosh Jahed.

Set in the 1930s, the plot follows a young man who moves to Hollywood, where he falls in love with the assistant to his uncle, a powerful talent agent.

Looking for an exciting career, young Bobby Dorfman leaves New York for the glitz and glamour of 1930s Hollywood. After landing a job with his uncle, Bobby falls for Vonnie, a charming woman who happens to be his employer's mistress. Settling for friendship but ultimately heartbroken, Bobby returns to the Bronx and begins working in a nightclub. Everything falls into place when he finds romance with a beautiful socialite, until Vonnie walks back into his life and captures his heart

once again.

The movie stars Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, Steve Carell, Jeannie Berlin, Blake Lively, Parker Posey, Corey Stoll, and Ken Stott.

The film had its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival on May 11, 2016, and was theatrically released in the United States on July 15, 2016. It received generally positive reviews. It received nomination at the Golden Eagle Award in 2017 for Best Foreign Language Film.