



Double Standards in Global Sports

Leader condemns unfair policies witnessed at the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics

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Iranian president urges Muslim unity against Israeli atrocities

TEHRAN – Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian has joined the chorus of Iranian officials calling for Muslim unity in the face of ongoing Israeli atrocities.

“The differences between Muslims have allowed the Zionist regime to run rampant in our region, slaughtering women, children, the young, and the elderly,” Pezeshkian said during a meeting with Iran’s Sunni scholars and clerics.

“If we stand united, the Israeli regime cannot continue its wicked deeds,” Pezeshkian emphasized. “When Zionists murder our fellow Muslims and we remain indifferent, Islam itself is under threat.”

Pezeshkian condemned apathy towards the struggles of Muslims worldwide, stating, “Indifference towards lives lost, poverty, hunger, discrimination, and injustice is perilous.”

During the annual Islamic Unity Week, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, also met with Sunni scholars and clerics.

“Islamic unity is paramount,” Ayatollah Khamenei said. “Our adversaries seek to sow discord among us, but we must not forget the importance of the ‘Islamic Ummah.’”

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the essential nature of Muslim unity, urging his followers. “Do not let the concept of the ‘Islamic Ummah’ fade into the background.”

Tehran calls on U.S. to reflect on its past before accusing Iran of human rights violations

TEHRAN – On the second anniversary of the riots that convulsed Iran in 2022, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has strongly criticized the United States and certain Western countries for their new pronouncements on Iran’s human rights record.

In a post on his X account on Monday, Kanaani stated, “Those countries should take a long look at their own history, which is replete with human rights violations, before casting stones at Iran.”

He went on to describe the U.S. and its allies as “professional violators of human rights,” accusing them of being “aggressors and imposers of bloody wars on other countries and nations.”

Kanaani further emphasized the hypocrisy of these countries, pointing to their unwavering support for the Israeli regime in its ongoing genocidal war on Gaza as further evidence of their “dark human rights record.”

“The word ‘shame’ seems to be completely foreign to the officials of some countries,” Kanaani concluded his post.

Tehran, Moscow ties to flourish on ‘permanent, stable, and enduring’ path: Pezeshkian

TEHRAN – In a meeting held in Tehran on Tuesday, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Sergei Shoigu, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, underscored their commitment to deepening bilateral relations between Iran and Russia.

In their discussion, the two sides highlighted a shared vision for cooperation as Iran and Russia both face sanctions imposed by Western countries.

Pezeshkian reflected on the historical ties between Iran and Russia, emphasizing that his newly formed administration is dedicated to advancing these relationships. “Our goal is to cultivate a partnership that not only withstands external challenges but also flourishes in a spirit of mutual respect and collaboration,” he stated. Pezeshkian noted that enhanced cooperation would serve as a strategic buffer against the sanctions imposed on both countries.

“Ties between Tehran and Moscow will continue to advance on a permanent, stable, and enduring path,” the president said before mentioning the importance of taking advantage of frameworks like BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Union. ▶ Page 3

Ex-top Israeli general: ‘We’re losing Gaza war in a big way’

Israel claims it has killed thousands of Hamas fighters and dismantled the command structure of nearly all its battalions and pummeled its tunnel network.

But Israel’s military has said that eliminating Hamas isn’t possible — even if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called for “total victory” over the resistance group.

One of Hamas’s most senior officials, Khaled Meshal, maintains that the group is even winning the war and will play a decisive role in Gaza’s future.

“Hamas has the upper hand,” Meshal said in an interview with The New York Times in Doha, Qatar, where he is based. “It has remained steadfast” and brought the Israeli military into “a state of attrition,” he said.

Meshal was the target in 1997 of a failed assassination attempt by Israel in Jordan, and he served as Hamas’s political chief for more than two decades. In early September, U.S. federal prosecutors unsealed charges against him and other Hamas leaders, accusing them of playing a central role in planning and carrying out the October 7 attacks on Israel.

Iraq set to announce date for US withdrawal

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Iraq’s Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani has confirmed that his government will announce the end of the U.S.-led International Coalition’s military presence in Iraq.

Al-Sudani has highlighted that the announcement will be made during Iraq’s participation in the international conference against Daesh set to be held soon, saying this step is “part of the government’s program”.

The Iraqi Premier has emphasized that his country has moved from a period of war to one of stability.

In an interview with the Bloomberg news network, al-Sudani noted the topic was discussed with U.S. President Joe Biden during his trip to Washington, pointing out that the two sides “formed a bilateral committee in August last year between military commanders to begin the dialogue”.

He explained that “the committee has reached understandings regarding the arrangement of the international coalition’s withdrawal, where it was expected to present the results and announce them,

Zionist terrorism will not weaken the Lebanese and their resistance

By Sondos Al-Asaad

BEIRUT - In the midst of what the Israeli enemy calls “changing the situation in the North [of the occupied Palestinian territories]”, a hybrid security incident has been added to the malicious Zionist terrorism.

Indeed, what happened on Tuesday afternoon—despite the casualties it caused—confirms the might of Hezbollah. This unprecedented might has obviously pushed the foolish Zionist enemy to options outside the box; however, this ill-considered criminal act—despite its baseness—is very positive for the resistance and will alert it during the stages of the ongoing conflict.

Since Tuesday morning, after the Shin Bet announced the alleged assassination of a senior Zionist security official, experts predicted the enemy’s intention to carry out some kind of terrorist act. It is worth noting that these wireless devices (pagers) are used by members of various Hezbollah institutions—military, civilian and health workers—and even ordinary Lebanese citizens who are not involved in the resistance.

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Rail transit via Iran increases 47%

TEHRAN - Transit of goods via the Iranian rail network increased by 47 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) compared to the same period in the previous year, Transport Ministry data shows.

Based on the data released by the Transport and Urban Development Ministry, some 773,000 tons of goods have been transited through the country’s railways in the first five months of the current Iranian year while the figure stood at 526,000 tons in the previous year’s same period.

The largest amount of transit goods entered Iran from the borders of Sarkhs and Astara, so that the border of Sarkhs with 536,000 tons and the border of Astara with 129,000 tons had the largest volume of rail freight traffic in the mentioned five months. ▶ Page 4



Pager explosions in Lebanon bring Israel’s malevolence into focus

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israel is once more escalating tensions towards a potential large-scale conflict with Lebanon’s Hezbollah amid the regime’s desperate attempts to distract attention from its unsuccessful nearly yearlong war in Gaza.

Israel’s malevolent intentions came to light on Tuesday following the simultaneous detonation of communication devices used by people across Lebanon. ▶ Page 5

TEHRAN PAPERS

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

Hostile media blame Iran for assassination attempt against Trump

In a commentary, Kayhan addressed the story of an assassination attempt against Trump for the second time and said: This is the second time in two months that it has been claimed that somebody is trying to assassinate Trump. In both failed assassination attempts, some news media have tried to involve Iran in this story. Despite these accusations, federal police officials say that the person who attempted to assassinate Trump acted alone and there is no sign of foreign intervention in this operation. Involving Iran in this matter to cover up the dimensions of Trump's assassinations by directing the media close to the terrorist group of the MKO had a special meaning. The MKO lobby is trying to prevent the realization of Massoud Pezeshkian's plans in the UN General Assembly by creating illusory margins on the eve of the president's visit to New York. The attempt of some anti-Iranian elements to direct American foreign policy after the political developments in Iran is worthy of consideration. Trying to attribute the Trump assassination case to Iran is such a special sabotage!

Iran: The reverse effect of sanctions against Iran

In a note, the Iran newspaper coped with the report of the Washington Post and wrote: According to this newspaper, Pezeshkian has sent this signal since coming to power that he is interested in re-interacting with the West, which can probably lead to the repairing of relations and the lifting of sanctions. Diplomatic sources have said despite such overtures, the efforts of Pezeshkian to strengthen foreign relations are unlikely to divert Iran from its main direction. The recent sanctions under the pretext of missile cooperation between Iran and Russia are part of the policy of constant pressure on Iran. While Iran had declared its readiness to restore and strengthen its relationship with the Western world, a wave of news has surfaced to create a new crisis against the Islamic Republic and affect its military cooperation with Russia. Britain, France, and Germany, in a joint statement they published, claimed that Iran is helping Russia in the Ukraine war by sending these missiles.

Shargh: Ambiguity in Iran's foreign policy

Shargh devoted its editorial to the foreign policy of the new Iranian government and said: The foreign policy of medium and small countries is mostly limited to neighboring

regions and focuses on political, geopolitical, and security matters. Iran, along with most of its neighbors, is involved in political, ideological, and geopolitical issues and regional rivalries, which are directly related to the security of our border areas. But in this context, there is doubt that we can effectively help to solve the country's economic problems by working with our neighbors. Iran has the lowest level of economic interaction in the region due to disputes, sanctions, and its approach toward development. Whereas countries in other parts of the world, even Africa, are increasing interaction and the decisive role of the economy in determining political priorities is noticeable. "Preventing the reduction of capacities in the field of regional transportation and international transit", which is pointed out in Dr. Araghchi's program, is impossible with the continuation of sanctions. Therefore, with the continuation of the conflict it will be difficult to imagine that the future U.S. government, even if it wants to, would be able to convince the internal opponents to lift the sanctions.

Ham Mihan: Strategic patience

In an interview with former diplomat Javid Ghorban Oghli, Ham Mihan discussed Iran's strategy towards Israel and wrote: Israel had failed in its two previous attempts to expand the dimensions and geography of the war and involve Iran in it. Therefore, in the third operation against the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel targeted the head of the political office of Hamas in the capital of Iran. After this assassination, Iran has preferred to put strategic patience on its agenda, because Israel has not directly taken responsibility for the assassination. There is no doubt that martyr Haniyeh was an enemy of Israel and on the terror list of this regime. However, there is an argument about whether a third party or an infiltrator carried out this operation and whether Israel directly interfered. This assassination took place when the new government took office in Iran. This issue also caused any action that would increase the level of tension in the region not be in the interest of Iran. Therefore, this strategy by Iran is advisable because an action similar to the previous one against Israel will greatly increase the level of tension in the region. After all, Netanyahu is strongly interested in expanding the geography of conflict, but America does not welcome it.

Chinese envoy highlights 25-year partnership agreement in talks with Qalibaf



TEHRAN - On Monday, the Chinese ambassador held talks with Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, to enhance bilateral cooperation.

According to ISNA, Cong Peiwu emphasized the significance of strengthening legal and parliamentary ties through bilateral discussions and judicial cooperation, as well as the need to implement the 25-

year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreement.

In March 2021, the two nations entered into a 25-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreement designed to enhance collaboration in economic, political, and strategic areas.

The 25-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership agreement is anticipated to strengthen the relationship between Iran and China by promoting greater Chinese investment in Iran's oil, gas, and transportation industries, while also fostering increased cultural and diplomatic interactions.

Cong Peiwu presented his credentials to the Iranian foreign ministry in May 2024 and is presently serving as China's new ambassador to Iran.

Hosseini referenced a significant meeting between the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Tunisian President Kais Saied in Algeria, describing it as a pivotal moment for strengthening bilateral relations.

Over the years, Iran and Tunisia have developed a distinctive relationship marked by diplomatic engagement and a stance of neutrality. Both nations are part of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Group of 77, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Envoy delivers Araqchi's felicitations to Tunisian FM

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to Tunisia recently held a meeting with the newly appointed foreign minister of Tunisia, Mohamed Ali Nafti, to explore areas of shared interest.

During the meeting, Mir-Masoud Hosseini presented Nafti with a letter from his Iranian counterpart, Abbas Araghchi, extending congratulations on Nafti's new role as foreign minister.

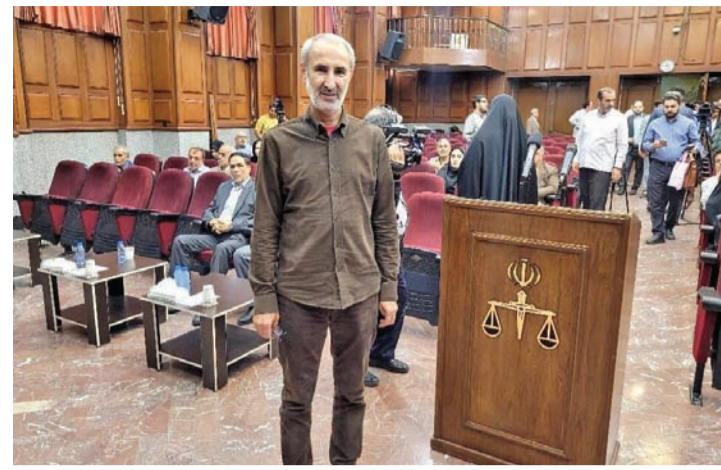
The discussions also focused on enhancing political, economic, and cultural ties between Iran and Tunisia.

Hamid Nouri attends trial of MKO members in Tehran

TEHRAN - The 18th court session for the trial of 104 individuals belonging to the Mujahedin-e-Khalq terror organization (MKO) commenced in Tehran on Tuesday. The plaintiff showing up at the court was a recently released Iranian ex-judiciary official who was the target of a plot by the MKO in Sweden.

Before the trial, Hamid Nouri informed reporters that the session started later than expected, but he expressed his satisfaction that it was finally taking place after four decades.

Nouri was imprisoned in Sweden for five years under allegations put forth by the MKO, which is responsible for the killing of over 18,000 Iranian civilians and officials during the



1980s. A Swedish court sentenced him to life in prison under charges of "crime against humanity". Nouri returned to Iran after being released

earlier this year.

During his court appearance on Tuesday, he faced the cameras and reiterated multiple times, "I'm in

Tehran." During the session, Judge Ali Dehghani emphasized that the court proceedings in Tehran represent the Islamic Republic's commitment to a comprehensive fight against terrorism.

He asserted that, unlike the United States, the Islamic Republic does not infringe upon national borders under the guise of combating terrorism.

Furthermore, he stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the foremost victim of terrorism and urged countries harboring international terrorists to extradite MKO members to Iran.

The terror group's members are mainly based in Albania, Canada, and Germany.

Pezeshkian to address global leaders at UN General Assembly in New York



TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian is set to depart from Tehran on Sunday, September 22, for New York, where he will participate in the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The annual event, which gathers world leaders to discuss pressing global issues, will provide Pezeshkian with a platform to share Iran's perspectives on key international challenges.

President Pezeshkian is scheduled to deliver his address to the UNGA on Tuesday, September 24.

During his speech, he is expected to outline Iran's stance on a range of critical issues, including regional security, global peace efforts, and the future of multilateral diplomacy.

In addition to his address, President Pezeshkian has a full schedule of meetings lined up on the sidelines of the General Assembly.

He is expected to engage in discussions with numerous foreign dignitaries, aiming to strengthen diplomatic ties and explore opportunities for international collaboration.

These meetings will offer a chance for Iran to enhance its relationships with other nations, particularly as the world navigates complex geopolitical shifts.

Beyond diplomatic talks, the Iranian president

will meet with a diverse group of stakeholders while in New York. This includes gatherings with Iranian expatriates living in the United States.

Pezeshkian is also set to meet with leaders from various religious communities, as well as prominent media executives and members of influential American think tanks.

These interactions are expected to focus on promoting dialogue and improving mutual understanding between Iran and other nations.

Another key event on President Pezeshkian's agenda is the Summit of the Future, a high-profile meeting that seeks to build consensus on addressing the challenges of both present and future generations.

The summit aims to shape international strategies for sustainable development, global governance, and innovative solutions to emerging global problems.

Araqchi denies claims of hypersonic missile supply to Yemen

TEHRAN - The Iranian foreign minister has firmly dismissed unfounded claims regarding the transfer of hypersonic missiles from Iran to Yemen.

In a recent interview with Yemen's Almasirah TV, Abbas Araqchi emphasized that Yemen has emerged as a significant player in the Axis of Resistance and plays a crucial role in supporting Gaza.

"Accusing Iran of supplying weapons to Yemen is an insult to the Yemeni people, who possess the

technological capabilities to enhance their military strength," the top diplomat stated before highlighting that Yemen is autonomous in its decision-making and utilizes its weaponry as it sees fit.

Since the Gaza conflict began, Yemeni forces have conducted numerous operations in solidarity with the besieged Gazans, targeting locations across the occupied Palestinian territories and engaging Israeli vessels approaching those ports.

The conflict escalated on October 7 when the Palestinian resistance group Hamas launched the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation in retaliation for the Israeli regime's prolonged violence against Palestinians.

The ongoing Israeli assault on Gaza has resulted in the deaths of at least 42,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, with injuries reported for 95,000 others.

Additionally, many individuals remain unaccounted for, feared

dead beneath the rubble.

Yemen's latest attack against the Zionist regime which saw a hypersonic missile hit Tel Aviv after traveling 2000 km has shocked Israel and its Western patrons.

The missile spent at least 11 minutes in the air before hitting its target in the occupied territories, raising questions about why Israeli and American air defense systems - supposedly the most advanced in the world - failed to intercept the missile.

Tehran updates air services agreement with Baghdad

TEHRAN - The Iranian parliament has revised a bill outlining the specifics of a bilateral air services agreement with Iraq, as it faces fresh sanctions against its major airlines from Western states.

On Tuesday, members of the Iranian parliament reached a consensus to address the concerns raised by the Iranian Guardian Council regarding the initial proposal for air services collaboration with Iraq.

The revised bill is now set to be presented to the Guardian Council for final endorsement. The plan aims to reduce airport costs and increase flights between the two countries, as well as the activity of Iraqi airlines inside Iran. It also includes enhanced security cooperation to ensure the safety of air operations in both Iraqi and Iranian airspace.

Analysts assert that this measure could be a

viable response to the air embargo imposed on Iran Air by the European Troika and the United States.

Last week, Britain, Germany, France, and the United States imposed sanctions on Iran Air, citing a disputed allegation that Tehran has supplied medium-range ballistic missiles to Russia.

Iran, Russia push for stronger nuclear safety collaboration

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran and Russia have emphasized the importance of enhancing collaboration in the nuclear safety framework.

On Tuesday, Mohammad Reza Kardan, the deputy head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, engaged in discussions with Alexander Trembitsky, the head of the Russian Federal Environmental,

Industrial, and Nuclear Supervision Service, during the 68th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) general conference. The meeting reportedly aimed to strengthen cooperation between Tehran and Moscow in the fields of industrial and nuclear safety, as well as environmental monitoring.

During the discussions, Iran's

initiative to establish a network of nuclear regulatory agencies among BRICS member nations received a positive response from the Russian delegation. This initiative is set to be addressed at the forthcoming summit of foreign ministers from BRICS countries.

The 68th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) general conference

is scheduled from September 16 to 20, 2024, at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) in Vienna, Austria.

This annual gathering brings together senior officials and representatives from IAEA Member States to deliberate on significant matters concerning nuclear energy, safety, and security.

Iran FM reaffirms commitment to support Resistance against Israel

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has once again emphasized the Islamic Republic's steadfast policy of supporting Resistance forces in their ongoing struggle against the Israeli occupation.

During a meeting on Monday evening with Salah Fahs, the representative of Lebanon's Amal Movement in Tehran, Araghchi pledged unwavering backing for Resistance groups, reiterating Iran's commitment to confronting the Israeli regime.

Fahs conveyed the congratulations of Nabih Berri, Lebanon's parliamentary speaker and head of the Amal Movement, to Araghchi on his recent appointment as Iran's foreign minister. In return, Araghchi praised the efforts of Amal and

Hezbollah fighters, highlighting their sacrifices in defending Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories from Israeli aggression.

Araghchi made it clear that Iran's support for Resistance movements is not just a tactical stance but a deeply rooted policy, grounded in the Islamic Republic's principles.

He stressed that the struggle of these groups against Israeli occupation is legitimate and deserves full backing. The discussion also touched on the latest regional developments, focusing on the status of the Resistance Front in Lebanon, the situation in the Palestinian territories, and the escalating Israeli military operations in Gaza.

The foreign minister's statements align with

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's firm commitment to strengthening the Resistance Front. Since taking office in late July, Pezeshkian has vowed to intensify Iran's efforts to support the struggle against Israel, urging greater unity among Muslims in their collective fight against the Zionist regime.

In a separate meeting with Sheikh Naim Qassem, the deputy secretary-general of Hezbollah, in Tehran on July 30, President Pezeshkian commended Hezbollah fighters for their unwavering courage and resilience in confronting Israeli aggression.

The president reiterated that supporting the Axis of Resistance is not only a key policy of the Islamic Republic but also a religious obligation.

'Double standards in global sports'

Leader condemns unfair policies witnessed at the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has condemned the "double standards" practiced during the recently concluded 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Paris, highlighting the flaws in the current global sports governance.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian medalists and other members of the country's delegations that took part in the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. The meeting took place in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the remarkable abilities and the manifestation of the "national, political, and religious identity" of the Iranian nation as the foremost outcome of the Iranian athletes' participation in these competitions.

The Leader conveyed immense joy at the opportunity to meet some of the nation's most cherished and proud children, stating, "With your medals and behavior, you have brought joy to the hearts of the nation. I sincerely thank you, the coaches, and all those involved."

In the continuation of his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei described international competitions as stages where nations showcase not only their physical strength and athletic skills but also their mental fortitude and self-confidence.

"In addition to demonstrating



your professional and athletic abilities, through meaningful actions such as donating medals to children in Palestine and Gaza, maintaining your hijab and modesty, naming the delegation after the Infallible Imams (pbut) and taking selfies with the Palestinian flag, you have presented and honored your spiritual capabilities as well as your national-religious and Islamic identity," he said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also pointed to the continuous efforts of ill-wishers to distort the "identity, truth, and beliefs" of the Iranian nation. "They claim that religious sentiments have weakened in Iran, but when our champion kisses the Quran in front of perhaps hundreds of millions of viewers and offers a prostration of gratitude [to God], the reality and identity of the Iranian nation, their adherence to their beliefs, and their dedication to Iran's national greatness becomes prominent. Such remarkable signs were evident in your performance," he remarked.

He highlighted the optimism that sports champions bring to society through their medal-winning achievements, stating, "Some individuals become despondent over a minor physical incident, but when our young athlete demonstrates strength in the Paralympics while seated in a wheelchair, it fills everyone's hearts with hope."

Underscoring the tangibility of the double standards and biased policies of the countries governing international sports during the recent Olympic and Paralympic Games, Ayatollah Khamenei noted that while one country is banned from participating due to war, the Zionist regime continues to be included in the competitions, despite killing 41,000 people, including thousands of children over the course of nearly a year.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution added, "These double standards and biased policies, as we have repeatedly pointed out, demonstrate that despite the assertion that sports is free from politics, the most politically driven

actions are exercised in the realm of sports."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed Iranian officials, urging them to recognize and support athletes who, because of their national or religious beliefs, choose not to compete against representatives of the Zionist regime. He acknowledged that these athletes are making a significant sacrifice and advised sports officials to pay attention to these athletes as part of their duties.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ahmad Donyamali, Iran's sports and youth minister, reported on the achievements of the Iranian athletes who participated in the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic competitions. He proudly remarked, "In total, the flag of our beloved Iran was raised 37 times at the competition venues."

During the meeting, Sareh Javanmardi, a holder of several gold medals in shooting from various Paralympic Games, along with Aryan Salimi, a gold medalist in taekwondo at the Paris Olympics, and Rouhollah Rostami, Iran's golden champion in Paralympic weightlifting, conveyed their appreciation on behalf of the athletes for the prayers, congratulatory messages, and the support that they have received from the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. They also extended their gratitude to him for highlighting the spiritual significance of Iran's champions in these competitions.

Tehran, Moscow ties to flourish on 'permanent, stable, and enduring' path: Pezeshkian



From Page 1 ▶ Shoigu, for his part, reiterated Russia's steadfast commitment to its partnership with Iran. He conveyed President Vladimir Putin's eagerness to meet with Pezeshkian at the Kazan summit, emphasizing that Russia's position on regional cooperation remains unchanged. "Our nations share common interests and challenges, and we are committed to working together to address them," he said.

'Huge need for corridor expansion between Iran and Russia'

In another high-ranking meeting held in Moscow on Tuesday, the secretary of Iran's

National Security Council highlighted the importance of enhancing transportation projects and corridors between Iran and Russia while speaking to the Russian President's special representative.

During the discussions involving Ali Akbar Ahmadian and Igor Yevgenyevich Levitin, the special representative of the Russian President, the continuation of previously established agreements concerning military and commercial matters was also addressed.

Ahmadian stressed the need to expand the capacity of the existing corridors and optimize their utilization.

The Russian representative, in return, provided an update on the status of the corridor agreements to the Iranian security chief.

Ahmadian also expressed his approval of the advancements in transportation projects and corridors between the two nations, emphasizing the importance of increasing their capacity and maximizing their potential while reaffirming the Islamic Republic of Iran's full support for these initiatives.

In a subsequent meeting between Ahmadian and President Vladimir Putin, following the BRICS security discussions, the Russian President reiterated support for Iran's transportation routes.

The remarks come as the South Caucasus region has been locked in a tussle over the establishment of a transit route on Armenian soil to connect mainland Azerbaijan to the newly-annexed Nakhchivan enclave.

The proposed Zangezur corridor, envisioned by Azeri officials to connect Azerbaijan's two regions, has faced significant opposition from both Yerevan and Tehran. The corridor, which would traverse Armenian territory, is seen as a potential disruption of the historical borders between Iran and Armenia, sparking concerns from both nations. That's because Azerbaijan has expressed its desire for the corridor to be under either Baku's or Russia's control, further fueling tensions.

Iran has warned multiple times that it will not tolerate geopolitical changes in the region, a sentiment that has been backed by its Russian ally.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi to visit Iran for key nuclear talks

TEHRAN – Rafael Grossi, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has announced plans to visit Iran in the near future for crucial discussions on nuclear issues.

The announcement comes after his meeting with Mohammad Eslami, the Head of the Atomic

Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), on Monday.

In a post on the X social media platform, Grossi revealed that the two sides agreed on the importance of continuing their engagement, signaling ongoing dialogue between the IAEA and Iran.

"Agreed with Vice-President and President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Mohammad Eslami, on the importance of maintaining our engagement," Grossi wrote. "I will be visiting Tehran soon for important political and technical meetings," he added.

Grossi's upcoming visit is expected to be his first trip to Iran

since the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. It marks a significant moment in the ongoing international negotiations over Iran's nuclear program.

The visit is likely to cover a range of political and technical issues, with a focus on maintaining transparency and cooperation between the IAEA and Iran.

Retaliation for Haniyeh's assassination inevitable: Iranian commander

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian military commander has vowed that Iran will retaliate for the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

In an interview with China Media Group (CMG) during the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, Deputy Chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination, made it clear that Iran's response is inevitable, but the timing will be decided at the country's discretion.

He warned that Israel and its allies, despite their defenses, would be unable to prevent Iran's surprise action. Sayyari emphasized that Iran's response would be deliberate and well-timed.

He referred to a past retaliatory strike, True Promise Operation, which Iran launched on April 14 against Israeli military targets. This operation was a response to Israel's April

1 airstrike that killed seven Iranian military personnel in Syria. According to Sayyari, the April operation was intended to demonstrate Iran's military capability and send a clear message to Israel and its allies.

Sayyari noted that during the April strike, Israel was heavily supported by its allies, including the United States, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Jordan, with their air defense systems, including the Iron Dome, fully activated to fend off the attack. Despite this, Sayyari questioned whether Israel and its allies could maintain such high levels of preparedness indefinitely to counter future Iranian strikes. "They cannot," he warned.

He went on to say that while Western governments, including the U.S., have sent numerous messages urging Iran not to retaliate for the assassination of Haniyeh, Iran's decision

to respond is unwavering.

"The response to Haniyeh's martyrdom is certain, but we will choose the right moment. It will be a calculated and prudent action," Sayyari remarked.

The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, a prominent Hamas leader, took place in Tehran on July 31 while he was attending the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

The killing has provoked strong reactions from Iran's leadership, with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei issuing a stern warning to Israel. Ayatollah Khamenei declared that a "harsh response" for Haniyeh's assassination was inevitable, framing it as Iran's duty to avenge the death of a key figure in the Palestinian Resistance.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Persepolis edged by Al Ahli in AFC Champions League Elite

TEHRAN – Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli Saudi secured a winning start to their AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 campaign by defeating Persepolis of Iran 1-0 on Monday.

Frank Kessie's early goal settled the contest at Prince Abdullah Al Faisal Stadium in a game, which saw both teams creating plenty of chances only to be let down by poor finishing.

Al Ahli needed only two minutes to storm into the lead when Riyad Mahrez picked out the run of Kessie, who controlled the ball without breaking stride before slamming an unstoppable shot past Alexis Guendouz.

Late in the first half, Persepolis were awarded a penalty following Merih Demiral's foul on Oston Uronov but referee Adam Makhadneh changed his decision following a VAR review.

The home side threatened to double their lead after the break but Ivan Toney was denied by a smart Guendouz save while Roger Ibanez headed wide from a Demiral pass.

Al Ahli were handed a golden opportunity to get a second after Toney was brought down by Hossein Kanani in the box but Mahrez's spot-kick was well saved by Guendouz just before the hour mark.

Persepolis will meet Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor on Sept. 30 in Matchday 2.

Persepolis coach Garrido satisfied with his team against Al Ahli

TEHRAN – Persepolis head coach Juan Carlos Garrido is satisfied with his team's performance against Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia in the 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite.

The Iranian side lost to Al Ahli in its opening match but the Spaniard is satisfied with his team's performance.

"Overall, we played a good match. We have a good team and we have great fans. Al Ahli has good players, especially Kessie, and I am happy with our control despite the opponent having several illustrious players," said Carlos.

Also, Al Ahli coach Matthias Jaissle praised Persepolis at the end of the match.

"It was a difficult match as expected against a strong team in terms of fitness and power, and the most important thing in this tournament is to get the points at the beginning. Not everything was perfect, but the team's mentality was excellent," said Jaissle.

"There is no easy match in this tournament. It is important to be humble. We were keen to score at the beginning of the match, and the opponents were not easy. I hope to have a team that can pressure for 90 minutes. We are playing against teams who also want to attack and score, and this is the fun part of football," the German added.

Iran champion will need a result when it hosts Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor FC on Matchday Two while Al Ahli will travel to play UAE's Al Wasl Club.

Esteghlal ease past Al Gharafa in AFC Champions League Elite

TEHRAN – Iran's Esteghlal FC secured a comfortable 3-0 victory over Al Gharafa of Qatar in their AFC Champions League Elite 2024/25 opener at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium on Monday.

An Abdalla Yousif's own goal separated the sides going into the break before further efforts from Ramin Rezaeian and Arash Rezavand sealed the win for Esteghlal.

Esteghlal started brightly and their early pressure led to the opener in the fourth minute after Yousif turned Ramin Rezaeian's cross from the right flank into his own net.

Esteghlal doubled the lead after Rezaeian

nutmegged Matias Nani on the right flank before striking a grounded effort past Ababacar.

Rezavand put the game beyond Al Gharafa's reach when he struck the ball home off a counter-attacking move in the 88th minute to seal the three points.

Next up for Esteghlal is a trip to Qatar where they will face Al Sadd, while Al Gharafa meet United Arab Emirates' Al Ain.

Nekounam heaps praise on Esteghlal over beating Al Gharafa

TEHRAN – Head coach Javad Nekounam heaped praise on his Esteghlal players following their convincing 3-0 win against Qatar's Al Gharafa in their 2024-25 AFC Champions League Elite opener at the Shahr-e Qods Stadium on Monday.

Esteghlal took the lead thanks to an own goal in the first half before seeing off Al Gharafa with strikes from Ramin Rezaeian and Arash Rezavand.

"I congratulate the fans and all those who helped us. I told the players that we should play at the level of Esteghlal," said Nekounam. "This win is for those who worked hard. I was just by their side and they showed that they have a high position in Iranian football.

"The condition of the team is getting better day by day. The players overcame the difficult conditions we faced in the last few days and I am really happy for the fans who are going home happy."

Pedro Martinez admitted Esteghlal deserved full points given his side's performance.

"I congratulate the Esteghlal football team and the coaching staff for the victory. If there is sadness, it was because of our bad game," said Martinez. "We tried to have a good performance and planned our tactics in such a way that we could win but Esteghlal were better than us."

Al Gharafa will look to bounce back when they host Al Ain FC of the UAE on Matchday Two while Esteghlal will aim for maximum points again when they travel to Doha to play Al Sadd SC.

2024 English Open Snooker: Vafaei beats Matthew Stevens

TEHRAN – Hossein Vafaei survives a scare to beat Welsh Matthew Stevens 4-3 in their round three encounter of the English Open Snooker 2024.

He will meet Indian player Ishpreet Singh Chadha in the next round.

The prize fund for this year's English Open has risen by over £120,000 to £550,400.

The winner will receive £100,000, while runner-up earn £45,000.

The 2024 English Open is an ongoing professional snooker tournament that is taking place from 12 to 22 September 2024 at the Brentwood Centre in Brentwood, England.

Iran international footballer Khalatbari hangs up boots

TEHRAN – Mohammadreza Khalatbari has officially retired from football at the age of 41.

Khalatbari amassed 60 caps, scoring 5 goals, and played at the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualification, however was not called up to Team Melli for the World Cup by Carlos Queiroz.

Khalatbari started his playing career in Iranian side Shamoushak and also played for Iranian giants Persepolis and Sepahan.

Khalatbari also spent six months on loan at Emirati club Al Wasl under Diego Maradona in 2012.

The winger has most recently played for Iranian side Aluminum.

Rail transit via Iran increases 47%

From page 1 ▶ Transit of commodities through Iran reached 16.34 million tons during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), which is a new record high, according to an official with the country's Transport and Urban Development Ministry.

As stated by Deputy Transport Minister Kamal Hadianfar, of the mentioned figure 14.75 million tons was the share of road transit and the rest was for rail transit.

As stated by former Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the previous Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the official underlined.

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

Dehghan Dehnavi appointed new TPO head

TEHRAN – Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi has been appointed by the Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Atabak as the new head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), IRNA reported.

Dehghan Dehnavi holds a PhD in Industrial Economics from Tarbiat Modares University

and has previously served in positions such as Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of the Securities and Exchange Organization.

Dehghan Dehnavi replaced Mehdi Zeyghami who was the head of the mentioned organization since September 2023.

Energy Ministry urges power plants to accelerate overhaul operations

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi has urged the country's power plants to speed up overhaul operations and fuel storage to be prepared for the next peak consumption period, IRNA reported.

Speaking at a meeting of the ministry's electricity officials on Monday, Aliabadi emphasized the necessity of convergence and synergy among

all the companies under the Ministry of Energy to succeed in advancing the goals of the electricity industry, and said: "Planning to get through the current winter and next summer peak periods, conducting timely overhauls of power plants, and implementing electricity transmission and distribution projects are the priorities of the Ministry of Energy."

Export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari increases 70%

TEHRAN- The value of non-oil export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province rose 70 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Mazaher Rabiei, the acting head of the customs department of the province, said that commodities worth \$82 million were exported from the province in the five-month period.

He also stated that the five-month export from the province indicates 52 percent growth in terms of weight, year on year.

He named Turkey, Iraq, India, Afghanistan, Georgia, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Belarus and Armenia as the export destinations of the province in the mentioned time span.

Rabiei has also said that the value of non-oil export from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province increased by 94 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), as compared to its previous year.

He stated that the annual non-oil export from the province shows 123 percent rise in terms of weight.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administra-

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

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

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

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

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

TCCIMA board members hold meeting with new Industry Minister

TEHRAN – The 19th meeting of the board of representatives of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) was held on Tuesday with the new Industry, Mining and Trade Minister in attendance.

In this meeting, the representatives of the Tehran private sector shared the problems that producers and business owners are facing with Seyyed Mohammad Atabek and called on the minister to think of ways to solve such challenges.

The members of the TCCIMA board of representatives also put forward proposals and solutions

that can solve these problems and announced the readiness of the Tehran Chamber to cooperate with the Industry Ministry in this regard.

During the meeting, TCCIMA Head Mahmoud Najafi-Arab presented a report on the country's production and economic indicators and said: "Statistics indicate that the country's economy is not in a very good condition and this is in the context that the 14th government has just started its work and still has not been fully established and most of the deputies and general managers have not been selected."

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

'Iran, Russia determined to implement INSTC'

TEHRAN – Iran and Russia are determined to implement the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) as soon as possible, the Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Abdolnaser Hemmati said.

Referring to a meeting with Igor Levitin, an aide to the Russian president, in Tehran on Monday, Hemmati said, "In this meeting, we discussed the important issue of implementing the North-South Corridor project."

In this meeting, Russia emphasized that it is determined to complete this project because it is beneficial for both Iran and Russia, while other Asian countries, including India and the Persian Gulf nations, will also benefit from it, Hemmati said.

"We called on President Putin's aid to invite the countries on the way of the International North-South Transport Corridor project to Iran in order to achieve the desired result for implementing this corridor as soon as possible," the Iranian Economy Minister said.

Mentioning the agreements and memorandums reached between Iran and Russia in recent years, Hemmati said he has urged Russia to take the necessary measures to implement those agreements noting that only 20 percent of them have been implemented so far.

After the imposition of Western sanctions on Iran and Russia, the two countries have been working to strengthen their trade ties and improve joint transportation infrastructure. One of the key trade routes between Iran and Russia is the International North-South Transport Corridor, a multimodal transportation network connecting India and the Persian Gulf to Russia and Northern Europe. The transport corridor is crucial to Russian and Iranian



relations and trade.

The corridor includes sea-ports on the Persian Gulf and in the Caspian region, as well as road and rail routes. The rail route from Iran to Russia will bring both parties economic benefits, as cargo will be able to move quickly and easily between the two nations.

Railways are expected to play a key role in the development of the INSTC, with the completion of the Rasht-Astara railway which is a crucial component of the corridor. This railway will link the Iranian port of Bandar-e Anzali to Russia's railway network and beyond, providing a direct and efficient route for goods to travel.

In mid-July, a group of entrepreneurs from Russia visited Amirabad port, in Iran's northern Mazandaran province, to invest in the production of oil products.

The Director General of Amirabad Maritime and Ports Department Mohammad-Ali Musapour-Gorji said on the sidelines of the visit that considering the location of Amirabad port in various fields of investment, a Russian company announced its readiness to invest in this port in the field of oil products production.

Foreign investment in ports is considered one of the important goals of the government and organization in line

with the development of the sea-oriented economy, which, in addition to attracting investors and generating income, will also contribute greatly to the transfer of technology and job creation, he added.

Elaborating on the capacities and introducing the capabilities of Amirabad Port, which benefits from various transportation sectors, he urged the domestic and foreign investors to invest in Amirabad Port by presenting related plans for maritime and port activities.

Amirabad Port, located to the east of the Caspian Sea in Iran's province of Mazandaran, is currently working with only 30 percent of its operating capacity.

In mid-June, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Alexander Novak said that the volume of trade between Russia and Iran increased by 48 percent in the first three months of 2024 compared to the same period last year.

According to the results of the first quarter of 2024, Russia's exports to Iran have increased by 77 percent and the country's imports from Iran have increased by 13 percent, Novak said in his meeting with Iranian Petroleum Minister Javad Oji.

He also referred to the launch of direct flights between Grozny and Tehran on June 10, 2024,

which will be carried out by Iran's Mahan Air.

I am confident that it will increase the flow of tourists between Iran and the North Caucasus regions, he stressed.

The value of Iran's exports to Russia rose 26 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), as compared to the preceding year.

Some 2.185 million tons of products worth \$946 million were exported to Russia in the previous Iranian year, while a year earlier the Islamic Republic had exported only 1.436 million tons of goods valued at \$751 million to the country.

According to official data, Iran's exports to Russia also increased by 56 percent in terms of weight during the previous year.

Agricultural products, petrochemicals, and oil-based products were the top exported products to Russia in the mentioned year.

The imports also grew by nine percent in terms of value and 27 percent in terms of weight.

In line with the two countries' determination to increase the level of trade exchanges, during a video conference meeting between the deputy transport ministers of Iran and Russia on November 28, 2023, the two sides discussed ways of increasing annual transit through Iran to 10 million tons.

In this virtual meeting, the two sides discussed transportation cooperation between the two countries in all areas including rail, road, and sea.

The two sides have been taking serious steps to boost their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, late President Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

Iran-Pakistan trade up 10% in 5 months on year

TEHRAN – The value of non-oil trade between Iran and Pakistan rose 10 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported.

As reported, the two countries' bilateral trade stood at 1.906 million tons worth \$1.128 billion in the mentioned five-month times, indicating also two percent growth in weight, year on year.

Pakistan was the fourth top trade partner of Iran among the Islamic Republic's neighbors in the first five months of the present year.

In mid-July, the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee of Iran and Pakistan opened in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan, where the two sides pursue the increase of bilateral trade to \$10 billion per annum.

Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, who attends the meeting online, announced that Iranian and Pakistani delegations are scheduled to discuss the mechanism to increase mutual trade.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general in Quetta, Pakistan's consul general in Zahedan, and other senior officials of Sistan-Baluchestan province took part in the meeting.

Such joint meetings are held to pave the way for reviewing obstacles, removing barriers, and developing trade and economic relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries.

The two sides make the necessary coordination to help improve trade and economic ties, exchange economic delegations, organize joint exhibitions, attract bilateral investment, and establish joint industrial centers and retail markets.

The head of the Pakistani delegation to the 11th meeting of the Joint Border Trade Committee said that Islamabad strongly supports the development of joint markets and investment, which can increase the level of trust between the two nations.

Irfan Javed added that Pakistan also calls for cooperation in the field of transportation because it can affect the livelihood of the people who are living in border regions.

The deputy coordinator of economic affairs of Sistan-Baluchestan governor's office said that Iran is keen on expanding trade exchanges with Pakistan.

Davoud Shahraki added that the relationship between the two countries is historic and long-standing.

On June 30, Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu said that facilities at two border points between the two countries have been beefed up as part of efforts to facilitate trade and trips by passengers.

"Absolutely delighted to share that to facilitate Zaireen, business community and promote bilateral trade- immigration facilities at Taffan and Gabd border have been substantially beefed up. Now almost 4-6,000 passengers can cross both points everyday", the ambassador said on his X account.

He also said in his post on X, formerly Twitter, that relations between Iran and Pakistan "see promising future".

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to Pakistan in the first four months of 2024 has reached \$360 million, showing an 18 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

The Pakistani Ministry of Commerce's statistics show that Pakistan has imported \$360 million in products from Iran in the first four months of 2024, 18 percent higher than in January-April 2023.

Pakistan's import of products from Iran in April 2024 has hit \$73.2 million, registering a 30 percent growth compared to the same month last year.

The value of Iran's exports to Pakistan totaled \$944 million in 2023, indicating a 13 percent rise compared to a year earlier.

In a meeting between the Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and

Agriculture (ICCIMA) Samad Hassanzadeh and Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu in Tehran in late June, the officials stressed the need for Iran and Pakistan to exercise barter trade and free trade to materialize a \$10 billion trade target.

Noting that Tehran and Islamabad can cooperate in different areas including pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals, energy, auto parts, techno-engineering services, and electronics, he said that the ground is also prepared for cooperation on health tourism.

Hassanzadeh further stressed that an agreement for activating a joint trade council between the two neighboring countries is still in place.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce president said that the two countries have had many talks on the launch of a barter trade system while no practical step has been taken.

He called on the Pakistani government to ease visa requirements for Iranian businesspeople.

The Pakistani ambassador, for his part, referred to his country's agreement with the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi for increasing bilateral trade to \$10 billion, adding that Islamabad continues to pursue this agreement.

The Pakistani government has decided for the joint border customs to work round the clock, the ambassador said, adding that it would be very effective if Iran also decides to do so.

He noted that the trade balance is one of the main obstacles on the way of trade between the two neighbors, as he said Iran's exports to Pakistan stand at \$1.6 billion while Pakistan's exports to Iran are so insignificant.

He believed that the exercise of free trade rests upon win-win connections.

The ambassador added that if the Iran Chamber of Commerce recommends businesspersons to the embassy, there would be no problem with the issuance of visas for traders.

Pager explosions in Lebanon bring Israel's malevolence into focus

From page 1 ▶ Thousands of people were injured and some others lost their lives when their pagers exploded.

Israel has been blamed for the act of sabotage which also targeted Hezbollah.

Citing a spokesperson in the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli media said the regime was behind the explosions. But Israel has not claimed responsibility.

Hezbollah issued a statement following the incident saying the movement is fully prepared to defend the Lebanese nation.

"We affirm that the resistance, at all its levels and various units, is at the highest level of readiness to defend Lebanon and its steadfast people."

The movement added, "Hezbollah's competent agencies are currently conducting a wide-ranging security and scientific investigation to determine the causes that led to these simultaneous explosions. Likewise, medical and health agencies are treating the wounded and injured in a number of hospitals in various Lebanese regions."

This came after Israel's security cabinet announced the expansion of its war objectives.

The council said halting Hezbollah's attacks in northern Israel to allow Israelis to return to their homes is now an official war goal.

Tens of thousands of people have become displaced in northern Israel and southern Lebanon amid the exchanges of fire between the Tel Aviv regime and Hezbollah since October 8. That is a day after Israel launched war on Gaza.

The Lebanese resistance movement has said it would halt the attacks if there is a ceasefire in Gaza. But Israeli Prime Minister



Israel has been blamed for deadly pager explosions in Lebanon.

Benjamin Netanyahu has derailed talks aimed at ending the Gaza war by setting new conditions.

The Israeli security cabinet's announcement means that the Netanyahu regime is considering a wider military operation in Lebanon which has raised fears of an all-out war.

Over the past months, Netanyahu has repeatedly threatened to take heavier military action against Hezbollah.

His threats come as the Israeli army has not succeeded in realizing its war objectives in Gaza which mainly include the elimination of Hamas and "total victory" over the resistance group.

For now, Israel's intention to broaden its military objectives has raised concerns within the United States. This is because American officials fear that a full-blown conflict may endanger the existence of the bogus regime.

US Special Envoy Amos Hochstein warned Netanyahu on Monday that intensifying the conflict with Hezbollah would not help return Israelis evacuated from the border area to their homes, according to the Associated Press.

Hochstein, who met Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, added that Israel risked sparking a broad and protracted regional conflict if it moved forward

which ended without its clear military victory," the inquiry said.

Hezbollah military power

In June, Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said that the number of Hezbollah operatives who are ready to join the war has exceeded 100,000.

Citing the World Factbook of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Reuters also reported in June that Hezbollah's military strength is underpinned by upwards of 150,000 missiles and rockets of various types and ranges. The number of Hezbollah's missiles in 2006 was about 14,000.

Hezbollah has carried out successful attacks against sensitive Israeli military sites over the past months highlighting the regime's vulnerability despite receiving advanced military equipment from its Western allies including the United States.

Other regional resistance groups such as Yemen's Ansarullah have also exposed Israel's weakness through their strikes against the regime and its interests.

On Sunday, Ansarullah hit central Israel with a "new hypersonic ballistic missile that had managed to evade Israel's air defense systems", according to Yemeni army spokesman Yahya Saree.

Presently, should Israel choose to continue its military adventurism, it will encounter unexpected repercussions.

If a full-scale war occurs, all regional resistance factions will be prepared to deliver a devastating blow to Israel, which could result in the collapse of the apartheid and illegitimate regime.

ward with a full-scale war in Lebanon.

Netanyahu, however, doubled down on his warmongering in the meeting.

Meanwhile, war minister Yoav Gallant also told Hochstein that time is running out for an agreement with Hezbollah, calling for "military action" against the movement to ensure the return of displaced Israelis to the north.

Gallant has already described Netanyahu's "total victory" dream over Hamas as gibberish and nonsense. Hence, how can Israel succeed in a potential all-out conflict with Hezbollah which is by far more powerful than Hamas?

The Hezbollah resistance movement has said that while it does not want a wider war it is prepared for such a scenario.

Israel's failed strategy

Israel declared war on Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. In both conflicts, the Israeli army was met with strong resistance from Hezbollah and had to retreat.

In mid-August 2021, an Israeli inquiry acknowledged the regime's failure to achieve its goal in the 2006 war, describing the conflict as "unsuccessful" and a "missed opportunity".

"Israel initiated a long war,

Iraq set to announce date for US withdrawal

PM Sudani says Iraq has "moved on from the days of Daesh"

From page 1 ▶ but to avoid confusion and misunderstandings, it was decided to delay the announcement until an international coalition conference against Daesh."

The Iraqi Premier stated that "Iraq today is not what it was in 2014, as we triumphed over the terrorists through sacrifices and the support of the Iraqi people, as well as international and friendly support."

He emphasized that "Iraq has transitioned from the phase of wars to stability, as Daesh is now reduced to individuals hiding in caves and deserts, which does not pose a threat to stability and security."

Hussein Alawi, the Iraqi Prime Minister's advisor, also confirmed that a joint statement regarding the withdrawal of American troops from the country would be issued soon.

He added, "Iraq's need for the U.S.-led international coalition ended with the defeat of Daesh. Iraqi forces can manage the country's security challenges."

Al-Sudani explained that "the justifications for the international coalition's presence have ended, as there is no need for the presence of 86 countries".

Calls inside Iraq, among an increasing number of political parties and movements, for the exit of U.S. military forces have become louder amid America's unprecedented support for the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza, alongside



increasing public calls by the Iraqi government for the U.S. to withdraw its forces.

At the beginning of 2020, parliament voted to oblige the government to expel foreign forces, in particular the Americans, from Iraq as well as cancel the security agreement with the United States and terminate the request for assistance from the international coalition against Daesh.

This came after the assassination of Iran's IRGC Quds Force commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, and the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Units in Iraq, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, in an American drone attack near Baghdad International Airport.

Since then, many political and military leaders have deemed the U.S. presence as an occupation.

Critics accuse the U.S. military in Iraq of turning into a threat to Iraq's security and stability. Over the past year, the U.S. has been increasingly targeting the Popular Mobilization

Units on Iraqi soil and assassinating its senior commanders.

This is despite the fact that the Popular Mobilization Units is an integral part of the Iraqi Armed Forces and led the battle against Daesh terrorism.

The same force has been tasked with hunting down Daesh sleeper cells, which it is conducting today with major achievements, in another reflection that Iraq has successfully defeated the terrorist group.

Al-Sudani: "The justifications for the presence of the International Coalition have ended"

American warplanes have also violated Iraqi airspace on numerous occasions. Despite all this, the U.S. has continuously attempted to maintain its military role in Iraq, raising many questions about the nature of its presence.

Ex-top Israeli general acknowledges to NY Times:

'We're losing the Gaza war in a big way'

From page 1 ▶ In the interview, Meshal made clear that Hamas officials are not in a rush to conclude a ceasefire with Israel at any price, and will not give up on their main demands for an end to the war and an Israeli withdrawal.

Some current and former Israeli security officials also say they believe that Hamas is unlikely to be defeated in this war.

"Hamas is winning this war," Maj. Gen. Gadi Shamni, a former commander of the Israeli military's Gaza division, said. "Our soldiers are

winning every tactical encounter with Hamas, but we're losing the war, and in a big way."

In late June, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the Israeli military spokesman, dismissed Netanyahu's proposition that Hamas could be wiped out.

"Hamas is an idea," he told Israel's Channel 13. "Those who think we can make Hamas disappear are wrong," he said. "The thought that it is possible to destroy Hamas, to make Hamas vanish — that is throwing sand in the

eyes of the public."

Last month, war minister Yoav Gallant described Netanyahu's "total victory" slogan as "nonsense." And some Israeli security officials have said the battle with Hamas will be left for their children.

A military intelligence official also said the process of taking over and demolishing tunnels, the official said, was an extremely complex engineering project that could take years.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Zionist terrorism will not weaken the Lebanese and their resistance

From page 1 ▶ It is worth noting that the Zionist enemy previously used such a terrorist method with the Palestinian resistance, as happened with Shaheed Yahya Ayyash (RA), etc.

There was no official explanation to build on until the time of writing this report. Opinions are conflicting. According to some experts, the reason for the high temperature of the lithium battery that operates these devices, which lead to their explosion, is its response to the frequencies released by the Zionists. Other experts believe that these devices are prepared in advance for such type of terrorist operation, maintaining that perhaps an explosive device had been already planted inside them, i.e. during the manufacturing stage. Others claim that they are originally manufactured inside the Palestinian occupied territories.

Will the battle develop into a "Ninth Cyber ??Front" as the Hebrew media has wondered? In any case, the Islamic Resistance will not back down from performing its ethical and religious duty. The brutal Israeli enemy, in turn, must expect harsh and unexpected revenge from the resistance, perhaps a cyber one too. Indeed, the foolish enemy has not succeeded in pushing the resistance into the trap it seeks, as the resistance is shrewd, rational, and highly tactical and creative in its righteous struggle.

There is no rift between the resistance and its environment. Undeniably, this is a naive

and failed bet. The Zionist enemy, deliberately ignores that this resistance is the product of its sincere and sacrificial environment, ready for any emergency, and does not hesitate to redeem the Ummah, no matter what the cost of the just resistance against the enemies of humanity: the Zionists and Americans. Hezbollah has built an unshakable trust with its steadfast environment since the 1980s. It is fully prepared for any security threat, for sacrifice, for giving, and nothing will deter it from carrying out its legitimate struggle against the barbaric imperialist colonial entity.

All American and Western support has gone in vain. The resistance is continuing to defend the dignity of the nation.

Today's terrorist act has revealed the weakness, fragility, failure and hysteria that the enemy has been suffering for a year. All this military triviality is evidence that Hezbollah is contributing to deterring and humiliating the Zionist-American imperialist project in West Asia on more than one front.

Everything is expected, Netanyahu -the lunatic psychopath- has been a savage and the end of this monster will be dire and painful. Netanyahu and those who back him and his colonial entity will pay a very heavy price.

Definitely, Sayyed Nasrallah's vision that these Zionists will soon voluntarily leave the occupied Palestine to where they came from.

Why Israeli leaders admit if they were Palestinian they would fight for freedom

By Joseph Massad

In a recent interview in the Israeli newspaper Maariv, Ami Ayalon, the former head of the Israeli intelligence organisation Shabak, stated that if he were Palestinian, he would have fought those who stole his land "without limits".

"As far as the Palestinians are concerned, they lost their land, which is why when people ask me, what would you do if you were Palestinian? I say that if someone came and stole my land, the land of Israel, I would fight him without limits", he added.

The Palestinians, Ayalon affirmed, "see themselves as a people. One of our tragedies is that we see them as individuals, some of whom are good, while others are bad."

In the flurry of Israeli and pro-Israel denunciations of Palestinians as barbarians, antisemites, pogromists, terrorists, savages, and human animals, among other such racist epithets that a slew of Israeli leaders have called them for the benefit of propaganda, many of Israel's most prominent leaders, like Ayalon, have always identified with the Palestinian struggle and would admit publicly that if they were Palestinian and not Jewish colonists, they would have readily joined the struggle against Zionists and Israel.

Even the famed Israeli defence minister Moshe Dayan understood the struggle of Palestinians in Gaza and their resistance to Israeli colonialism. In April 1956, Palestinian resistance fighters killed a security officer in Nahal Oz, a colony that was established one mile from the Gaza border in 1953.

The officer had beaten up several Palestinians a few days earlier when he caught them attempting to return to their lands after Israelis expelled them. He forced them to return to Gaza. At his funeral, Dayan reminded the mourners:

Let us not today cast blame on the murderers. Who are we that we would argue against their hatred? For eight years now they sit in their refugee camps in Gaza, and before their very eyes, we turn into our homestead the land and the villages in which they and their forefathers had lived... We are a generation of settlers, and without the steel helmet and the cannon we cannot plant a tree and build a home.

Ayalon's recent words are not new. In a March interview with the American television network ABC, he declared that if he were Palestinian, he "would fight against Israel" and "would do everything" to achieve liberty.

Ayalon is not the first Israeli leader to understand perfectly well the struggle of the Palestinians to end Zionist settler-colonial-

ism and Israeli apartheid. Indeed, he is part of a long list of Zionist and Israeli leaders who, without hesitation, averred their understanding or even their identification with the Palestinian struggle.

In 1923, Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder of Revisionist Zionism, who was later succeeded by Menachem Begin, commented on Palestinian resistance:

Any native people - it's all the same whether they are civilised or savage - views their country as their national home, of which they will always be the complete masters. They will not voluntarily allow, not only a new master, but even a new partner. And so it is for the Arabs. Compromisers in our midst attempt to convince us that the Arabs are some kind of fools who can be tricked... [and] who will abandon their birthright to Palestine for cultural and economic gains. I flatly reject this assessment of the Palestinian Arabs. Culturally they are 500 years behind us, spiritually they do not have our endurance or our strength of will, but this exhausts all of the internal differences... They look upon Palestine with the same instinctive love and true fervour that any Aztec looked upon his Mexico or any Sioux looked upon the prairie... this childish fantasy of our "Arabo-philis" comes from some kind of contempt for the Arab people... [that] this race [is] a rabble ready to be bribed or sell out their homeland for a railroad network.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, understood the Palestinian struggle fully, even though he was committed to crushing it

Jabotinsky, however, did not identify with the Palestinians (although he attempted to equate them with European Jews, mutatis mutandis, on the level of attachment to their homeland and the use of violence to defend their country).

He understood well that the Palestinians "are not a rabble but a nation". As a fascist who admired Mussolini, Jabotinsky did not allow his racism against the Palestinians to blind him to the conditions on the ground, which is precisely why he sought to fight the Palestinians and subject them to Zionist rule and expulsion.

Other Zionists would identify even more with Palestinians.

David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, understood the Palestinian struggle fully, even though he was committed to crushing it. He stated:

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Iran, Turkmenistan to hold joint festival on tourism, handicrafts, and music



TEHRAN - A joint festival highlighting tourist attractions, handicrafts, and music of Iran and Turkmenistan is set to take place from October 22 to 24.

It will be held in Ashgabat in collaboration with Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture, Iran's cultural attaché to Turkmenistan Navid Rasouli said on Tuesday.

International diplomats, senior officials from Turkmenistan's Ministry of Culture, and Tehran's ambassador to Ashgabat will be among the invitees to the festival, Rasouli said.

The festival, now in its second edition, will comprise travel highlights, handicraft shows and workshops as well as live performances.

"The goal of this festival is to foster stronger connections between tourism agencies in both countries, promoting the development of tourism and showcasing the attractions of Iran," Rasouli stated.

Co-organized by Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization and the Turkmen Ministry of Culture, the event is part of ongoing efforts to boost cultural and tourism ties between the two nations.

Iran and Turkmenistan share a common border of more than 1000 km. Since Turkmenistan's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, the two countries have enjoyed good relations and have cooperated in the economic, transportation, infrastructure development, and energy sectors. The two nations have strong historic ties.

Historical bathhouse at late Ayatollah Taleqani's house undergoes restoration



TEHRAN - The traditional bathhouse at the paternal house of the late Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleqani, located in the scenic village of Geligard, has undergone restoration.

The restoration includes the re-pointing and repair of existing walls, clearing access routes to the bathhouse, debris removal, excavation of the surrounding area, wall cleaning, and stone paving, a tourism official from Alborz province said on Tuesday.

Moreover, Samin Rezaei mentioned the start

of another restoration work on a historical bathhouse located in Vardeh village of Alborz province. "The project, which is being funded through allocated government budgets, will involve floor and wall cleaning, re-pointing, and stone paving of the access paths."

Both restoration projects have already begun and are expected to be completed within 15 days under the supervision of a contracted construction team, the official added.

Geligard, one of the most picturesque and historically rich villages in the city of Taleqan, attracts numerous visitors, many of whom travel specifically to see the ancestral home of Ayatollah Taleqani, a prominent figure in Iran's contemporary history.

Born to a religious family in 1911, Taleqani was an Iranian theologian, Muslim reformer, democracy advocate, Islamic scholar, and thinker, who revolted against Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

Memphis and its necropolis

The capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt has some extraordinary funerary monuments, including rock tombs, ornate mastabas, temples and pyramids. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Memphis is located in the center of the floodplain of the western side of the Nile. Its fame comes from its being the first Capital of Ancient Egypt. The unrivaled geographic location of Memphis, both commanding the entrance to the Delta while being at the confluence of important trade routes, means that there was no possible alternative capital for any ruler with serious ambition to govern both Upper and Lower Egypt.

Traditionally believed to have been founded in 3000 BC as the capital of a politically unified Egypt, Memphis served as the effective administrative capital of the country during the Old Kingdom, then during at least part of the Middle and New Kingdoms (besides Itjtawy and Thebes), the Late Period and again in the Ptolemaic Period (along with the city of Alexandria), until it was eclipsed by the foundation of the Islamic garrison city of Fustat on the Nile and its later development, Al Qahira. As well as the home of kings, and the centre of state administration, Memphis was considered to be a site sacred to the gods.

The site contains many archaeological remains, reflecting what life was like in the ancient Egyptian city, which include temples, of which the most important is the Temple of Ptah in Mit Rahina. Ptah was the local god of Memphis, the god of creation and the patron of craftsmanship.

Other major religious buildings included

the sun temples in Abu Ghurab and Abusir, the temple of the god Apis in Memphis, the Serapeum and the Heb-Sed temple in Saqqara. Being the seat of royal power for over eight dynasties, the city also contained palaces and ruins survive of the palace of Apries overlooking the city. The palaces and temples were surrounded by craftsmen's workshops, dockyards and arsenals, as well as residential neighbourhoods, traces of which survive.

The Necropolis of Memphis, to the north and south of the capital, extends southwards from the Giza plateau, through Zawyet Elarian, Abu Ghurab, Abusir, Mit Rahina and Saqqara, and northwards as far as Dahshur. It contains the first complex monumental stone buildings in Egyptian history, as well as evidence of the development of the royal tombs from the early shape called "mastaba" until it reaches the pyramid shape. More than thirty-eight pyramids include the three pyramids of Giza, of which the Great Pyramid of Khufu is the only surviving wonder of the ancient world and one of the most important monuments in the history of humankind, the pyramids of Abusir, Saqqara and Dahshur and the Great Sphinx. Besides these monumental creations, there are more than nine thousand rock-cut tombs, from different historic periods, ranging from the First to the Thirtieth Dynasty, and extending to the Graeco-Roman Period.

The property also includes the remains of many smaller temples and settlements, which are invaluable for understanding ancient Egyptian life in this area.

(Source: UNESCO)

Iran to stage 'Glory of Ancient Persia' exhibit at UNESCO-listed Persepolis

TEHRAN - Deputy Tourism Minister Ali Darabi has revealed plans to stage a prestigious exhibit titled "Glory of Ancient Persia" at the UNESCO-registered site of Persepolis.

The exhibition, which has been showcased internationally, including in several Chinese cities, will soon return to its homeland for a special display at the ancient capital of the Achaemenid Empire.

The announcement was made during a coordination session for the upcoming third International Multimedia Festival of Cultural Heritage, set to take place in Shiraz, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

The festival, which emphasizes the use of multimedia to highlight cultural heritage, will be held concurrent with the "Glory of Ancient Persia" exhibition at Persepolis, further elevating the cultural significance of the event.



Darabi emphasized that the exhibition, which includes a collection of ancient Iranian relics, is part of a broader effort to decentralize cultural events, ensuring that various regions of Fars province benefit from the festival's activities.

He also highlighted the international dimension of the event, expressing hopes that it

will showcase Iran's rich cultural heritage to the world and boost foreign tourism.

Persepolis, located 60 kilometers northeast of Shiraz, served as the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire from approximately 550 to 330 BC. Its selection as the site for the exhibition underscores the cultural and historical importance of the

location, which has been recognized by UNESCO for its profound contribution to world heritage.

Iran, an ancient land steeped in history, boasts one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It is adorned with a wealth of cultural treasures, including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, and diverse natural landscapes, complemented by 28 UNESCO labels.

Viewed through a broader lens, Iranian history unfolds in two distinct eras: Pre-Islamic and Islamic. The rise of the Medes in 625 BC marked the unification of Iran into a nation and empire. However, it was the Islamic conquest of Persia (633-656) that signaled a pivotal moment, bringing an end to the powerful Sassanid Empire (224-651) and reshaping the course of the nation's history.

Iran tourism display celebrated at Zimbabwe expo

TEHRAN - Iran's stall has been selected as one of the top international exhibits at the Sanganai/Hlanganani Tourism Expo held from September 12 to 14.

The stall, which was managed by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, impressed both organizers and attendees with its comprehensive display of Iran's diverse tourism offerings, IRNA reported on Monday.

The event was inaugurated by Zimbabwe's Minister of Tourism Barbara Rwordzi, who emphasized the importance of such expos in fostering international tourism connections.

Iran's booth was recognized as the second-best international stall at the expo, earning a commendation from the Zimbabwean Minister of Tourism and Hospitality



Industry, the report said.

The Persian offerings highlighted an array of natural landscapes, cultural heritage, medical tourism, and historical sites, capturing the attention of many visitors. In addition, the stall provided connections between Iranian travel agencies and their international

counterparts, and aimed to promote future collaborations.

The Sanganai/Hlanganani Tourism Expo, hosted at the Zimbabwe International Exhibition Centre in Bulawayo, serves as a premier event for global tourism stakeholders to network, collaborate, and showcase their destinations. This year's expo saw participation from about 400 exhibitors, marking a significant increase from previous years.

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

Restoration work begins on Eslami Nodoushan's house



TEHRAN - Restoration work has commenced on the historical summer residence of Mohammad-Ali Eslami Nodoushan, who was a prominent Iranian literary figure, poet, and cultural critic.

The house, located in the Sadrabad region of Nodoushan, in

Meybod county of Yazd province, central Iran, dates back to the late Qajar period and is considered a significant cultural landmark.

The restoration, which began on August 10, is expected to be completed in late October, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

It includes re-tiling the rooftop with mud and straw, re-paving the courtyard floors with brickwork, plastering the interior spaces, and repairing the yard's exterior wall. A new wooden door is also being crafted as part of

the renovations.

The project is being carried out under the supervision of the Meybod's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Office and is contracted to a local restoration team.

The residence, which is national heritage as well, consists of two main sections: a southern building with a brick facade featuring an entrance porch and platforms on both sides, and a northern section with a garden of mature trees.

Eslami Nodoushan was one

of the country's influential contemporary literary figures, with around 70 books on culture, society, and literature to his name. His works covered a wide range of topics, from "Morality and Literature" to "Dialogue Among Civilizations." He also lectured at 40 universities worldwide, with his talks published in English and French.

The restoration is aimed to preserve the legacy of this celebrated writer and provide a cultural hub for literary and historical enthusiasts.

Third of people in Spain say local area has too many foreign tourists

A third of people in Spain say their local area now has too many international visitors, according to a continent-wide survey that has found most people across Europe are sympathetic to protests against overtourism and back steps to combat it.

The YouGov survey comes after a summer of demonstrations and urgent warnings against the impact of mass tourism from Santorini to the Canary Islands, and measures aimed at reducing it announced from the Cinque Terre to Amsterdam.

The polling in Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the UK found Spain was the country that felt most strongly about the phenomenon, with 32% of respondents saying there were now too many foreign travellers in their area.

That number rose to 48% in Catalonia, the region that includes Barcelona, whose 1.6 million residents receive about 32 million visitors annually, and of which one local columnist said last month: "My city has been stolen from me, and I'm not getting it back."

At 28%, Spain was also the country where respondents were most likely to have a negative view of international tourists. Both these figures were markedly higher than elsewhere, although significant minorities in some countries shared the same views.

In France, 18% of people surveyed said they felt there were too many internation-

al tourists where they lived, and 16% said they had a bad opinion of foreign visitors. The corresponding numbers in Italy were 16% and 11%, and in Germany 13% and 14%.

People in Spain also felt more strongly than others about the short-term holiday rentals sector, which is widely accused of removing accommodation from the local residential market and inflating rents to a point many residents cannot afford.

Spain's government in July announced a crackdown on short-term holiday lettings, pledging to check that listings on platforms such as Airbnb and Booking.com had licences, while Barcelona's city council aims to ban all holiday flats by 2029.

The survey showed more than a third of Spaniards (37%) felt the holiday lettings sector brought more harm than benefits, and 45% said they had a negative view of it, an opinion shared by smaller but significant minorities in other countries.

In the UK, 33% had an unfavourable opinion of the sector, followed by 30% in Italy, 28% in France, 24% in Denmark and 21% in Germany. Opinions of the hotel industry were very largely favorable in all countries surveyed, at between 69% and 73%.

France (47%) and Germany (45%) had the strongest negative opinion of another controversial sector, the cruise industry, while in Spain (20%) and Italy (19%), where Barcelona and Venice have taken steps to discourage cruise ships, views were less

unfavorable.

Europeans broadly backed anti-overtourism campaigners' concerns, with sizeable majorities in every country saying they had either a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of sympathy for residents of popular tourist destinations who were protesting.

The highest level of support was again in Spain, at 66%, followed by France, Germany and Sweden (all 65%), then Denmark (63%), the UK (57%) and Italy (53%). As far as authorities' responses are concerned, the survey also showed broad public support.

Controlling tourist numbers is a difficult balancing act for national, city and local authorities, with compromises needing to be struck between often vital revenues and jobs generated by international visitors and the quality of life of residents.

Cities including Amsterdam, Paris, Seville and Venice, top tourist draws including Istanbul's Hagia Sophia and the Acropolis in Athens, and sites of natural beauty such as Marseille's Calanques have all adopted recent measures to curb overtourism.

Strategies include regulating or reducing visitor numbers by boosting tourist taxes; introducing entrance fees, time slot systems or advance reservation schemes; or launching mass information campaigns aimed at reducing visitor numbers.

(Source: The Guardian)

Rainfall increases by 18% in current water year

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2023), till September 14, precipitations have increased by 18 percent compared to the same period last year, according to Metrological Organization.

The total amount of rainfall since the beginning of the current water year has been equal to 250.3 mm, showing an 18 percent increase compared to the previous water year (September 23, 2022) when it was 211.4 mm, IRNA reported.

Compared to 246.5 mm of rain recorded in the long-term period, the figure indicates a two percent growth.

Despite increased rainfall, some provinces are still suffering from water shortages.

According to the report, some 10 provinces have received less-than-normal rainfall compared to the long-term average.

Low rainfall forecast for fall

According to numerical weather prediction modeling, the fall weather is forecast to be warmer than normal with low precipitation, Metrological Organization has reported.



“During the past 13 months, the average temperature in each month has been the highest on record which is caused by extreme temperature anomalies,” ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, an official with Metrological Organization, as saying.

The warm and cold phases of the Pacific Ocean affect the weather, but this indicator cannot be relied on this year because the transition from El Niño (warm phase) to La Niña (cold phase) is going on slowly, he added.

Most models indicate weak La Niña conditions from November to February. In this condition, indicators that change in the short term such as the North Atlantic Oscil-

lation (Nao), and Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) become more effective and impact, he further noted.

Transition into La Niña or neutral conditions?

According to recent forecasts, there is the possibility of either neutral conditions or a transition into La Niña.

Concerning the fact that the cycle is currently moving from El Niño to La Niña, Sadeq Ziaieian, an official with national center for forecasting Iran meteorological organization, said: “There is over 60 percent chance for neutral conditions and 38 percent chance for experiencing La Niña in the coun-

try by August 20,” ISNA reported.

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a climate phenomenon that has three parts El Niño, La Niña, and neutral phases.

El Niño and La Niña are opposite extremes of the ENSO, which refers to cyclical environmental conditions that occur across the Equatorial Pacific Ocean.

La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific, compared to El Niño, which is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific.

These changes are due to natural interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere. Sea surface temperature, rainfall, air pressure, and atmospheric and ocean circulation all influence each other.

Ziaieian pointed out that in addition to the ENSO, other cyclonic events such as Acetic Oscillation (AO), NAO, MJO, and the Indian Ocean bipolar affect Iran's atmospheric condition.

Under optimal conditions, when La Niña dominates, there is a 60 percent likelihood that the fall season in Iran begins later, and the probability of facing a dry year increases.

Iran to host 50 countries at ICO 2024

TEHRAN – The Iranian Combinatorics Olympiad (ICO) will be held online with the participation of some 50 countries.

The event is scheduled to be held in the month of Aban, the eighth Iranian calendar month which falls on October 22-November 20, IRIB reported.

Combinatorics is an area of mathematics primarily concerned with counting, both as a means and an end in obtaining results, and certain properties of finite structures.

ICO is an annual competition focusing on high-quality problems related to combinatorics.

The main objective of the event is to help students get familiar with combinatorics as a creative, broad, and enjoyable topic, in a fun and adventurous way as well as allow them to compete with students from other countries.

ICO is the first competition in the field of combinatorics, which includes online scoring and ranking. Participation is open to anyone interested in mathematics or computer science, from high school or any other education.

Iran ranks world's third top country in intl. Olympiads

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

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

Iranian students grabbed a gold medal, two silver medals, and a bronze medal at the 36th Inter-

national Olympiad in Informatics (IOI), ranking 9th among 96 countries. Hosted in Alexandria, Egypt, the event was held from September 1 to 8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

A total of 200 elite students from 47 countries including Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Kuwait, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Mexico, Turkey, and some other countries participated in the nine-day event, IRNA reported.

Iran grabbed one gold medal and three silver medals at the 56th International Chemistry

Olympiad (IChO) which was held in Saudi Arabia from July 22 to 30.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IFRC lauds IRCS for outstanding capabilities

TEHRAN – The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) project manager, Faisal Mahboob, has lauded the capabilities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) as outstanding.

The official said he was really impressed by the capacity and the wide range of activities carried out by the IRCS.

“The International Federation will support the activities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society to commence a new phase of collaboration with the society,” Mahboob added, the IRCS website reported.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of a meeting held to follow up on finalizing a roadmap for cooperation.

During the visit, Vincent Cassard, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Iran, said the activities of the ICRC in Iran have been defined in three sectors including locating missing people in the Iran-Iraq war in the 80s, supporting foreign nationals in Iran through health, rehabilitation and family reunification projects; and promoting international humanitarian law.

Considering the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region, one of the main activities of the committee is to establish effective interactions with the country to be able to meet humanitarian needs and provide aid in the region,” he added.

Attending the meeting on finalizing a joint action plan as a roadmap for cooperation on Sunday, Mahboob said, “One of the objectives of the meeting is to discuss the details and review the implementation of the action plan which can effectively demonstrate the capabilities of the IRCS in various fields.

Once finalized in Geneva, the document will act as the roadmap of cooperation,” the IRCS website reported.

Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, for her part, stressed the need to train experts and support technical and operational sectors.

She went on to say, “There is a constructive interaction between the Iranian Red Crescent



Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross, we look forward to fostering the same relationship with the International Federation of Red Cross.”

Referring to the capabilities of the IRCS in manufacturing medical and pharmaceutical products and rescue devices, the official said the IRCS seeks to showcase its products to other national societies.

The official also highlighted the IRCS's readiness to share its experience in the successful management of mass gatherings, particularly in Haj and Arbaeen pilgrimages.

In May, the IFRC expressed willingness to expand collaboration with the IRCS.

During a meeting on the sidelines of the preliminary session of the 34th IFRC international conference, Alishvandi and Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, the IFRC undersecretary general for national society development and operations coordination, discussed ways to enhance cooperation.

During the meeting, Alishvandi elaborated on IRCS capabilities in various fields of sanitary, treatment, rehabilitation, rescue and relief, logistics, education, volunteers, youth, climate change, crescent houses, mass gathering management, textile production, medical organizations, and many other things.

Castellanos Mosquera, for his part, acknowledging that the IRCS is one of the strongest members of the IFRC, said the IRCS could be a role model for other societies.

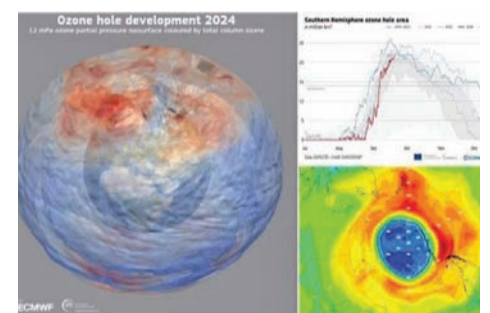
“Hygiene and medical services provided during Arbaeen and Haj pilgrimages and other mass gathering management are totally unique,” he said.

WMO: ozone layer on the road to recovery

TEHRAN – The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has highlighted the growing evidence that the ozone layer is indeed on track to long-term recovery.

Issuing its annual WMO Ozone and UV Bulletin on September 16, WMO says atmospheric abundances of tropospheric chlorine and bromine from long-lived ozone-depleting substances have continued to decline.

Given that some ozone-depleting substances also function as greenhouse gases, their phaseout is an added bonus for the climate, it says, whilst stressing the need for continued monitoring and to avoid complacency.



of damaging ozone-depleting substances.

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The phase-out of controlled uses of ozone-depleting substances and the related reductions have helped protect the ozone layer for this and future generations.

Consequently, the protection of the layer has contributed significantly to global efforts to address climate change and has protected human health and ecosystems by limiting harmful ultraviolet radiation from reaching the Earth.

The theme for the celebration this year is “Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions”.

This year, the event not only celebrates the achievements to date but also looks to the future for deeper and faster action under the Montreal Protocol.

Deeper and faster for the ozone layer but above all, for people, for climate, and for the planet.

The principal aim of the Montreal Protocol is to protect the ozone layer by taking measures to control total global production and consumption of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge and technological information.

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Iran working with Green Climate Fund

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

FAO and the Department of Environment as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day workshop, the last one in a series of iterative events held under the project “Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Program of Iran.”

“Throughout the implementation of this Project, FAO as the delivery partner has always stayed committed to providing its technical expertise, data, and tools to support the country in its efforts to strengthen the national capacities to effectively access and efficiently manage, track and guide climate financing with particular attention to the requirements of the GCF,” said Gerold Bödeker, FAO Representative to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

همکاری ایران با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان

ملل

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

فائو و سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور به عنوان مرجع صلاحیت دار ملل ایران و صندوق اقلیم سبز با همکاری یکدیگر، این پروژه را پیش بردند و در قالب چند برگزاری چند کارگاه اقدامات را بررسی کردند، بر این اساس در آخرین کارگاه، ذینفعان محلی، ملی و بین المللی را به عنوان آخرین حلقه از زنجیره رویدادهای پروژه «برنامه آماده سازی جمهوری اسلامی ایران برای همکاری با صندوق اقلیم سبز» گرد هم آوردند. گروید بودیکر نماینده فائو در جمهوری اسلامی ایران گفت: در طول اجرای این پروژه، فائو، به عنوان شریک اجرایی، همیشه متعهد به ارائه تخصص فنی، داده‌ها و ابزارهای سیاستی خود برای حمایت از کشور در تلاش‌های خود برای تقویت ظرفیت‌های ملی برای دسترسی موثر و مدیریت کارآمد، ردیابی و هدایت تأمین مالی اقدامات اقلیمی با در نظر گرفتن الزامات صندوق اقلیم سبز بوده است.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly. If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold; but he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:11:58 Evening: 18:25 Dawn: 4:26 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:49 (tomorrow)

Hollywood stars call for protection of pro-Palestinian voices from 'McCarthyist repression'

More than 700 members of a major Hollywood union have demanded their association take a stand to protect pro-Palestinian voices from being blacklisted in the industry, Middle East Eye reported.

In an open letter released last week, actors and entertainment professionals called on the leadership of the Screen Actors Guild - American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) to issue a public statement condemning Israel's ongoing bombardment of the Gaza Strip as well as the industry's "McCarthyist repression of members who acknowledge Palestinian suffering".

"We... demand [our leadership] ... to speak out against the targeting and killing of innocent Palestinian civilians, health workers, and our journalist colleagues... and to eliminate any doubt of our solidarity with workers, artists, and oppressed people worldwide," read the statement, whose signatories include Mark Ruffalo, Cynthia Nixon, Common, Susan Sarandon, Riz Ahmed and Rosie O'Donnell.

The letter adds that SAG-AFTRA shared a statement condemning the 7 October Hamas-led attacks on Israel, but has "remained silent" despite Israel's "clear violations of human rights and Israel's decades-long occupation of Palestinian land and lives".

Several Hollywood celebrities have come under pressure or been dropped by studios and agencies for criticizing Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip.

Last November, Mexican actor Melissa Barrera was fired from the "Scream" franchise for her social media posts criticizing Israel's bombardment of Gaza, which the production company, Spyglass Media Group, said were "antisemitic".

She had posted regularly about the war on her account, including resharing a post accusing Israel of "genocide and ethnic

cleansing".

The same day, Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon was dropped by her talent agency after she spoke at a pro-Palestine rally where she said people were "stepping away from brainwashing" about the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Members of the entertainment industry have said that they were being "penalized" for speaking in support of Palestinians.

Union members said they made several attempts to engage with the union leadership on crafting a statement together, but those efforts were ignored, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

Gabriel Kornbluh, a SAG-AFTRA board member and strike captain, criticized the union leadership, saying its inaction undermines the solidarity built during last year's months-long strike.

"I'm losing faith in President [Fran] Drescher's ability to lead our union down an equitable path," he said.

"As a Jewish member, I say 'not in my name' to Israel's war crimes and 'not in my union's name'."

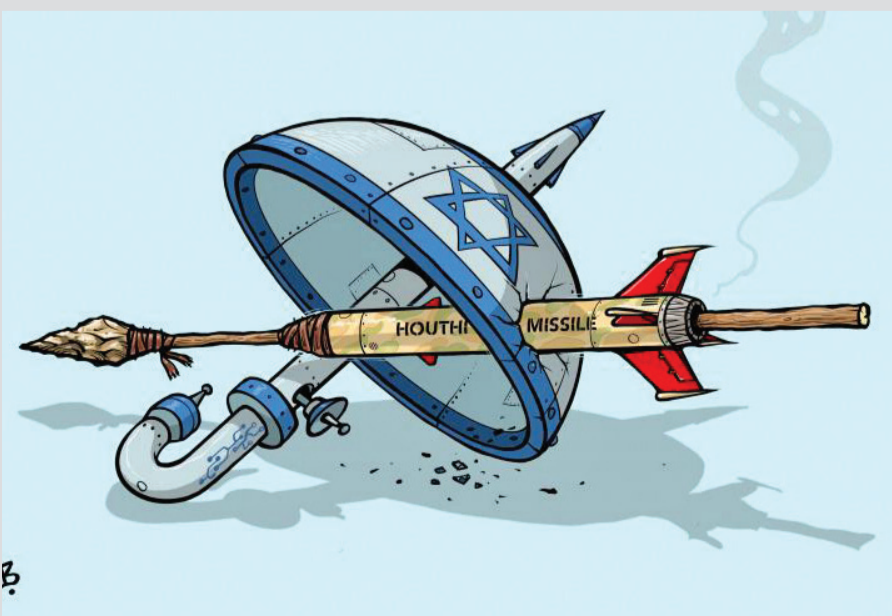
Last week, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip announced that 41,118 Palestinians have been martyred since the outbreak of war on October 7, 2023.

The number of Palestinians wounded in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip is 95,125.

Israel waged a genocidal war on the besieged Gaza on October 7, 2023, after the Palestinian Hamas Resistance Group carried out a historic operation against the occupying entity in retaliation for the regime's intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Israel has imposed a complete siege on the densely populated territory, cutting off fuel, electricity, food, and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there.

Cartoon of Day



Houthi Missile

Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

IAF pays tribute to late legendary filmmakers Mehrjui, Pourahmad

TEHRAN- A commemoration ceremony was held at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) on Monday to honor the renowned and late filmmakers Dariush Mehrjui and Kioumars Pourahmad.

The event gathered filmmakers and artists in the Naseri Hall of the forum, coinciding with the celebration of Iranian National Cinema Day.

Last year marked the tragic end of renowned Iranian director Kioumars Pourahmad's life at the age of 74 in his residence in Bandar Anzali.

According to a report by the Persian magazine Filma Emrooz, Pourahmad took his own life due to a combination of depression, disappointment, pessimism about the future, and feelings of vanity.

Pourahmad gained widespread acclaim for his work on "The Stories of Majid," a beloved TV series from the early 1990s based on the best-selling book of the same name by Hushang Moradi Kermani. The series revolves around the adventurous teenage boy Majid and his life with his grandmother Bibi in Isfahan.

Portraying the role of Bibi was Parvindokht Yazdani, Pourahmad's mother, who also appeared in several of his films such as "Yalda Night" and "Morning of the Next Day." In a tribute to his late mother in 2012, Pourahmad praised her acting skills, mentioning her ability to connect with audiences effortlessly.

One of Pourahmad's own life experiences inspired his film



Iranian filmmakers Kioumars Pourahmad (L) and Dariush Mehrjui in an undated photo

"Yalda Night," a poignant story about Hamed, who, following his family's migration to Europe in pursuit of a better life, finds himself reevaluating his existence while in self-imposed isolation.

Originally from Najafabad in Isfahan Province, Pourahmad relocated to Tehran, where he started his career as a writer and critic for Film, a prominent monthly magazine.

Additionally, he collaborated as an assistant director with filmmaker Nader Ebrahimi on the TV series "Fire without Smoke" in the early 1970s.

Throughout his career, Pourahmad wrote and directed

around 30 films, including notable works like "Bibi Chelcheleh," "Next Morning," "Bread and Poem," and "Night Bus." His most recent film, "The Case Is Open," was showcased at the prestigious Fajr Film Festival in 2023.

Pourahmad chronicled his life journey in his autobiography titled "The Unfinished Childhood," published by Elm in 2001, offering readers a glimpse into the experiences that shaped his artistic vision and storytelling prowess.

Born in 1939 in Tehran, Mehrjui was a renowned Iranian filmmaker who was known for introducing realism, symbolism, and the sensibilities of art cinema.

"Sara" (1993), "Pari" (1995), "Leila" (1996), "Mom's Guest" (2004), and "The Orange Suit" (2012) are among his credits. His most recent film, "La Minor," was released in 2020.

Throughout his career, Mehrjui has received numerous accolades and awards for his contributions to Iranian cinema.

His films have been showcased at prestigious film festivals globally, earning him a dedicated following of cinephiles and critical acclaim.

Mehrjui was stabbed to death in October 2023 alongside his wife Vahideh Mohammadifar at their home in Karaj, Alborz Province. His tragic murder was met with widespread reactions.

Tehran's Roudaki Hall to host classical singing recital

TEHRAN-Roudaki Hall in Tehran will host a classical singing recital by Sahand Ensemble on Friday, September 20.

The ensemble led by Rashid Vatandoust will perform well-known pieces by renowned musicians including Italian composers Giuseppe Verdi, Umberto Giordano, and Gaetano Donizetti, French composers Charles Gounod, Georges

Bizet, and Gabriel Fauré, and German composer Ludwig van Beethoven, ISNA reported.

Vatandoust, 78, will also be the lead tenor in the concert and will be accompanied by Mohamadreza Qaratapeh and Yashar Ahmadi (tenor), Ali Danesh (baritone), Hamid Khosrowshahi (bass), and Mehdi Mousavi playing the piano.

Iran's "Melody" participates in Silk Road film festival

TEHRAN- Iranian director Behrouz Sebt Rasoul's movie "Melody" is competing at the 11th edition of the Silk Road International Film Festival (SRIF), which is underway in Xi'an, China.

The film 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 Ostadi and Meghdad Esلمي from Iran as well as Safar Haqodov and Zulfiya Sadikova from Tajikistan.

The Silk Road International Film Festival (SRIF) was established in 2014 by China's State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film, and Television to support the Belt and Road Initiative and enhance cultural exchanges among participating countries.

Held annually in Xi'an and

Fuzhou, SRIF is co-sponsored by the Shaanxi and Fujian provincial governments.

The festival features various sections, including Competition, Film Panorama, Film Forum, Film Market, and Interactive Activities.

Previous editions showcased 987 films from over 60 countries, attracting 830,000 viewers and nearly 6,000 filmmakers, including prominent figures like Sophie Marceau and Asghar Farhadi, among 3,400 reporters from leading media outlets.

Iranian director highlights cultural exchange at Samara film festival

TEHRAN- The 17th edition of International Film Festival -Salt of the Earth, which is currently underway in the Russian city of Samara, is showcasing significant contributions from Iranian cinema among other BRICS+ countries.

Amir Valinejad, the Iranian director of the film "Point," whose film is on screen at the event, emphasized that this festival serves as a valuable platform for audiences to explore the often-overlooked cultural narratives of the BRICS nations.

The festival's comprehensive program features over 70 documentaries by notable Russian directors and their peers from Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Serbia, alongside retrospective screenings celebrating 20th-century cinema.

Additionally, the festival will unveil a distinctive lineup of non-fiction films hailing from BRICS+ countries, presenting works from Argentina, Brazil, the UAE, India, and Iran.

The films delve into the diverse narratives reflecting the lives and experiences of the peoples

within these nations, spanning themes from technological evolution to cultural heritage.

Since its inception in 2008, the International Film Festival-Salt of the Earth has been dedicated to preserving Russia's spiritual and historical legacy while fostering a deeper international cultural dialogue. The event is organized by the Samara Regional Public Fund "Volga Historical and Cultural Foundation," aiming to enrich the artistic landscape and promote understanding among diverse cultures.

Ali Atshani's "Loteria" wins best international film award at South Texas festival

TEHRAN-The movie "Loteria" directed by Iranian filmmaker Ali Atshani won an award at the 10th South Texas International Film Festival, held in the U.S. from September 11 to 14.

"Loteria" grabbed the international feature film award at the closing ceremony of the festival, Mehr reported.

The 2023 production is the story of a man's multiple attempts to

cross over the border illegally from Mexico to the United States in pursuit of a better life.

Based on a true story, the film is about the time when due to the travel ban imposed on Iran in 2017, immigrants were forced to cross the border illegally into the U.S. Made in Mexico, the cast of the 85-minute film comprises both Iranian and Mexican actors including Amir Hossein Mousavi, Hamed Tavasoli, Hooman Sepantamehr, Anto-

nio Monroi, Patricia Rojas, and Arely Benel among others.

"Loteria" has been screened in several international film festivals so far and won over 10 awards in the categories of best film and director.

This year, the South Texas International Film Festival had over 250 submissions from 21 countries. The official selections were narrowed down to 62 films.

The festival is an annual celebra-

tion of the art of cinema. It is a competitive film festival that showcases the work of visionary filmmakers from all over the world. Based in Edinburg, Texas, it showcases local, regional, national, and international films and prides itself as a welcoming hub for thriving and aspiring storytellers. The festival is geared towards new and experienced filmmakers and filmgoers alike by offering a variety of events including screenings, workshops, and panels.