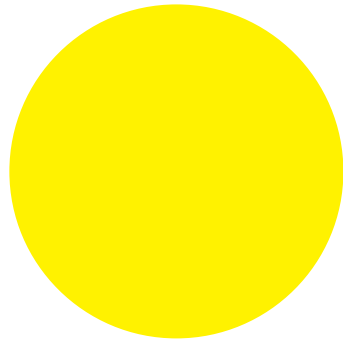


Dispute over Arash shared gas field could be resolved via talks: **Businessman**



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EXCLUSIVE



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The photo shows dead bodies in the aftermath of an Israeli bombardment of a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in the east of Gaza City on August 10, 2024. ● AP

World Outraged over Israel's Genocide in Gaza School

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Netanyahu's anger at Pezeshkian's interactive policy



By **Abolghassem Delfi**
Iran's ex-embassy in European countries

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

During Iran's recent presidential election, two distinct foreign policy visions were on offer: Masoud Pezeshkian championed engagement with the world, emphasizing the necessity of dialogue and diplomacy. This view resonated with the majority of voters, who simultaneously expressed their dissatisfaction with the status quo in Iran's foreign relations. As is often the case, the path toward successful engagement faces significant challenges, both domestically and internationally. On the domestic front, hardliners who have historically opposed this approach remain a strong political force. Despite their electoral loss, hardliners retain their media outlets and influence, ensuring that they will continue to present obstacles to any engagement efforts. Externally, the situation is equally complex.

Opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Israeli regime, hardliners in the US, and possibly some regional rivals, are disconcerted by the prominence of the voice of dialogue and engagement within Iran. Their strategy relies on maintaining tense relations between Tehran and its neighbors, as well as the broader international community, enabling them to forge coalitions against Iran and isolate the country. The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's political bureau, in Tehran, just as the new Iranian government was set to take office, fits into this narrative. Undeniably, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is particularly dismayed by Pezeshkian's victory as a reformist president espousing constructive engagement. Netanyahu's efforts to thwart the Islamic Republic of Iran from achieving stability, both domestically and in its foreign relations, are evident. His trip to the US shortly after Pezeshkian's win, aimed at rallying support for coalitions against Iran, and the subsequent attempt on Haniyeh's life shortly after the new Iranian president was inaugurated, are illustrative of these disruptive tactics.

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Pezeshkian to present cabinet lineup to Parliament today

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Yazdani hit by recurring injury as milestone gold proves elusive

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Armenian-Iranian cultural culinary festival kicks off

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'Welcome to hell' Israeli prison system as network of torture camps

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Dispute over Arash shared gas field could be resolved via talks: *Businessman*

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou
Staff writers

A member of Energy and Environment Commission of Tehran Chamber of Commerce who is also the vice president of Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce believes that dispute over Arash joint gas field could be resolved within the framework of regional diplomatic talks and negotiations.

In the field of border disputes, due to the effects of political issues as well as the difficulty of solving such problems through negotiation, accusations have been an unfavorable routine among Middle Eastern countries, Arash Nikpey told Iran Daily.

Should basic diplomatic dialogue not be formed between the parties, we will witness small and serious disputes, he warned.

Arash gas field is located in the shallow waters of Iran, part of which is shared with the Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti neutral zone, Nikpey explained.

Referring to the discovery of the gas field in 1967, he stated Arash field is very important due to its location and reserves as estimates show that the field could produce one billion cubic feet of gas per day, which is equivalent to 84,000 barrels of natural gas condensate per day.

In recent years, with reference to results of seismic surveys conducted by Shell company, Kuwait

has drawn a new boundary line, based on such demarcation, it claims that the entire reserves of Arash gas field are located in the Arabian part of the gas field, Nikpey noted adding that the latter border line is not accepted by Iran. Also, in 2022, an agreement was signed between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to share the resources of the Arash gas field, following which, the Kuwaiti oil minister claimed that his country and Saudi Arabia have exclusive rights to the Arash oil and gas field, but this issue was denied by the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran which affected the political and economic relations of the parties.

Talking on bilateral trade, Nikpey said the Iran-Kuwait trade has been estimated at \$200 million in recent four years, which is not a considerable figure.

He explained about the capacity of economic relations between the two countries, saying achieving the target of one-billion-dollar in economic exchanges is not far, but attaining this goal needs requirements, in which political relations and issuing visas should be considered.

According to Nikpey, holding economic exhibitions in both countries with the attendance of traders of both sides as well as holding business-to-business meetings will have a great impact on improving the level of



economic relations. Currently, due to some obstacles in the trade between the two countries, part of exchanges is carried out through luggage trade, which is a risky type of trade, he added. Sanctions have affected the Iran-Kuwait trade, which has caused problems in the field of transferring currency along

with the instability of foreign exchange rate and uncertainty in keeping the international market for traders, Nikpey noted. He went on to say that due to some restrictions caused by sanctions, Iranian businessmen cannot export their goods to some markets uninterrupted, which causes them to lose their markets.

Referring to the inauguration of the new government in Iran, he said, "The presidency of Masoud Pezeshkian has an interactive approach in relations which will definitely leave positive effects on trade ties between Iran and other countries."

Iran's considerations to join FATF is also one of the trade barriers for Iranian business per-

sons, the senior trader added. Describing the issue of FATF as very important and vital, Nikpey stated that if the West lifts all sanctions today, we will face problems due to the lack of relationship between Iranian banks and global lenders, so we cannot take advantage of the positive effects of lifting sanctions in the economic field.

Indian operator office of Chabahar Port opened in Tehran



The office of India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), which implements the development and equipping of Chabahar port, was opened in Tehran with the presence of the ambassador of India to Iran and the CEO of India Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL).

IPGCFZ is subsidiary of IPGL of Mumbai, under the administrative control of India's Ministry of Shipping.

In the ceremony on Saturday, the IPGCFZ office was inaugurated in the presence of India's Ambassador to Iran Rudra Gaurav Shresth along with IPGL Managing Director Sunil Mukundan.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Indian envoy stated that the opening of the office in Tehran three months after the signing of the long-term con-

tract for the development of Chabahar Port shows India's seriousness as well as its commitment to the implementation of the contract.

"The implementation of the contract is a win-win game for India and Iran, as it provides India with access to Central Asia and Eurasia through the territory of a friendly country Iran, and it also enables Iran to achieve a rich transit income with strengthening its connection with the Indian economy, which is the fastest-growing economy in the world," he noted.

The ambassador expressed his hope that the strong cooperation between his country and Iran in Chabahar Port within the framework of the long-term agreement will turn the southern port into a shining symbol of bilateral cooperation.

Also addressing the ceremony, IPGL CEO said that IPGCFZ will increase the number its staff from 40 people to more than 160 ones as the current trend shows that the number of loaded and unloaded cargos is expected to increase to 100,000 TEU per annum, which currently stands at 64,000 TEU per annum.

Iran and India on May 13 signed a long-term deal to operate the Shahid-Beheshti Port Terminal in Chabahar in the presence of their ministers, a major step to make the southeastern city a regional trade transit and connectivity hub.

The Indian delegation to Iran was led by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, while Minister for Roads and Urban Development Mehrdad

Bazrpash was present from the Iranian side.

During his visit to Tehran, Bazrpash and Sonowal oversaw the signing of a new 10-year contract between the Ports & Maritime Organization of Iran (PMO) and IPGL.

Speaking on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Bazrpash said Iran is a land of transit opportunities as the development of Chabahar Port with access to rail and road routes can help India to access the market of Afghanistan, Central Asia, Turkey, Azerbaijan and even Russia. Under the contract, IPGL will commit to further equipping and operating the port for the duration of the contract. At the end of the 10-year period, both sides would further extend their cooperation in Chabahar. IPGL will invest approximately \$120 million in equipping the port. India has also offered an IN credit window equivalent to \$250 million, for mutually identified projects aimed at improving Chabahar-related infrastructure.

Chabahar Port is an Iran-India flagship project that serves as an important transit port for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, which are landlocked countries. India has been a key player in the development and operation of Chabahar Port.

The Indian government has invested in the port's infrastructure and has been involved in upgrading its facilities to make it a viable transit route for Indian goods bound for Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Netanyahu's anger at ...

The formation of a new government in Iran has been a protracted process, resulting in a delay in conveying a strong interactive message to the world. The current policies are still being executed within the framework set by the outgoing government. Expediting cabinet formation and empowering the new diplomatic team to vigorously pursue its plans and initiatives are crucial steps toward achieving the desired engagement.

However, based on Pezeshkian's stance during and after the election, the engagement policy seeks to strike a balance in foreign relations and advance Iran's national goals and interests. This engagement does not mean a shift toward a Western-oriented approach, abandoning the previous "Look East" policy.

Nonetheless, it is undeniable that sanctions have inflicted considerable harm on Iran's economy, requiring swift remedial actions from the new government's diplomatic apparatus.

Both Europe and the US have expressed their welcome for Iran's adoption of a dialogue-based approach. Their somewhat muted response to Pezeshkian's victory can be attributed to their anticipation of the new government's actions, coupled with the US pre-election phase. They acknowledge that safeguarding their interests in West Asia demands support for a dialogue policy with Iran.

Despite the challenges faced by Pezeshkian's government, there are grounds for optimism regarding the world's positive response to Iran's interactive discourse. Pezeshkian's determination to forge ahead on this path cannot be deterred by Netanyahu's opposition.

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Ab Sefid Waterfall, a natural marvel in Lorestan Province



● mehrnews.com

Iran, with its rich history and diverse landscapes, boasts many natural wonders, among which the Ab Sefid Waterfall stands out. Known also as the "White Waterfall," Ab Sefid is a stunning cascade located in Lorestan Province, captivating visitors with its breathtaking beauty, cultural significance, and lush surroundings. This enchanting destination is a must-visit for nature lovers and adventurers alike.

Captivating scenery

Ab Sefid Waterfall mesmerizes with its powerful flow and the white mist that rises as water crashes onto the rocks below. The surrounding landscape, characterized by verdant forests and rocky cliffs, enhances the waterfall's allure, creating a picturesque spot for photographers and nature enthusiasts.

Location and accessibility

Situated approximately 50 kilometers southeast of Aligudarz in Lorestan Province, Ab Sefid Waterfall is nestled in the rugged Zagros Mountains. Accessing the waterfall involves navigating winding mountain roads and

embarking on a moderate hike, but the effort is rewarded with stunning views and the soothing sounds of cascading water.

Geological formation

The waterfall's formation is a result of the unique geological features of the Zagros Mountains. The region's limestone cliffs and karst topography contribute to its dramatic drop. Over millennia, melting snow and rain have carved a path, creating this natural spectacle. The pristine, mineral-rich water flows with striking clarity, enhancing the visual appeal of Ab Sefid.

Natural beauty and biodiversity

The area surrounding Ab Sefid Waterfall is a biodiversity hotspot. Lush forests are home to various plant species — from towering oaks and junipers to delicate wildflowers that carpet the forest floor in spring. This diverse vegetation supports numerous wildlife species, including birds, mammals, and insects.

Seasonal variations

With each season comes a dif-

ferent experience at Ab Sefid Waterfall. In spring, the waterfall is at its fullest, fueled by melting snow, while the surrounding area bursts into colorful bloom. Summer offers a refreshing escape from the heat with the cool mist from the falls. Autumn paints the landscape in golden hues, and winter transforms the waterfall into a frozen wonderland adorned with icicles.

Cultural and historical significance

Local communities have woven numerous legends around Ab Sefid Waterfall. One popular tale speaks of a hidden treasure beneath the waterfall, guarded by ancient spirits, while another recounts the story of lovers who met at the falls, believed to bless visitors with good fortune. These stories enrich the cultural tapestry of the region, adding an element of mystique to the waterfall.

Historical insights

Lorestan Province is steeped in history, with evidence of human settlement spanning thousands

of years. The area surrounding Ab Sefid has witnessed the rise and fall of various civilizations, leaving their marks on the landscape. Archaeological findings such as ancient pottery and tools provide glimpses into the lives of past inhabitants. The waterfall itself might have served as a sacred site for countless generations.

Activities and attractions

For adventurers, the journey to Ab Sefid is as rewarding as the destination. Numerous hiking trails, with varying difficulty levels, weave through the area. The most popular route begins at Cheshmeh Ail village, which leads hikers through scenic landscapes and dense forests before revealing the majestic waterfall. Along the way, hikers can savor panoramic views of the Zagros Mountains and the valley below.

Picnicking and relaxation

The serene environment around Ab Sefid makes it an ideal spot for picnicking and relaxation. Visitors can find picturesque spots to spread a blanket and

enjoy a meal surrounded by nature. The soothing sound of the waterfall and the fresh mountain air create a perfect setting to unwind and reconnect with the outdoors.

Wildlife watching

Nature enthusiasts will discover abundant opportunities for wildlife observation around Ab Sefid. Birdwatchers may spot eagles, falcons, and a variety of colorful songbirds. The forests also host mammals such as deer, foxes, and occasionally bears. Guided tours with local experts can enrich the experience, providing insights into the region's rich biodiversity.

Photography paradise

The stunning scenery at Ab Sefid Waterfall offers a photographer's dream. The interplay of light and shadow, vibrant flora, and the dramatic waterfall provide endless opportunities for capturing breathtaking images. Whether you're a professional photographer or an amateur with a smartphone, Ab Sefid is sure to inspire.

Environmental challenges

Like many natural sites, Ab Sefid Waterfall faces environmental challenges. Climate change, deforestation, and human activity threaten the delicate ecosystem. Protecting the waterfall and its surroundings is crucial for preserving its natural beauty and biodiversity. Local authorities and environmental organizations are collaborating on conservation initiatives, including reforestation projects and sustainable tourism practices.

Visitors are encouraged to follow "Leave No Trace" principles to minimize their environmental impact.

Community involvement

Local community involvement is vital for the success of these conservation efforts. By promoting eco-tourism and sustainable practices, locals can benefit economically while preserving their natural heritage. Community-led initiatives such as guided tours and cultural workshops offer visitors authentic experiences while supporting local livelihoods.

Chehel tekeh-duzi, mastering the craft of traditional quilt making

Chehel tekeh-duzi, also known as scrap quilting, is a traditional embroidery technique from Iran. It is referred to by various names, including *khatami-duzi*, *landreh-duzi*, and simply *tekeh-duzi*.

This craft involves sewing together pieces of fabric in various patterns, such as floral, striped, or polka dot designs. The term *chehel tekeh*, which means "made of forty pieces," highlights the use of numerous fabric pieces in this handicraft. Fabrics are cut into shapes such as squares, triangles, rectangles, and diamonds, which are then attached to each other on the back using simple stitches. The artistry in these quilts lies in the composition of colors and the arrangement of fabric sizes, resulting in visually striking patterns. When the pieces are uniform in size — especially squares, rectangles, and triangles — the



final product resembles *khatam*, an ancient form of Iranian inlaying, which is why these quilts are sometimes referred to as *katam-duzi*. To enhance their beau-

ty, silk stitch work is occasionally applied, particularly on seams, although this practice is more commonly found in older samples. The methods of *chehel tekeh-duzi*



● imna.ir

can be categorized into five general groups:

Simple method: Characterized by geometric shapes and commonly uses floral fabrics.

Mo'araq (marquetry) method: Here, the creator first draws a design on the background fabric. Specific pieces are then cut out and replaced with similar-

ly-sized pieces from other fabrics, emphasizing color harmony and decorative stitching along the seams.

Zakhim-duzi and boresh method: This method involves five to six layers of fabric, reflecting its name — which means "thick" in Persian. The design is drawn on the background fabric, and pieces are cut away from the upper layers to reveal the colors of the lower layers.

Namadi method: Utilizes felt fabrics that do not fray or tear easily, eliminating the need to fold the edges.

Morasa'e (inlay) method: In this technique, the artist embellishes the quilts with gemstones, pearls, glass beads, and *sormeh* and sequins.

Tekeh-duzi is especially popular in various cities across Iran, particularly in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province.

'Welcome to hell'

Israeli prison system as network of torture camps

INVESTIGATION

Warning: This article contains details that some readers may find upsetting

This report concerns the treatment of Palestinian prisoners and the inhuman conditions they have been subjected to in Israeli prisons since October 7. B'Tselem collected testimonies from 55 Palestinians incarcerated in Israeli prisons and detention facilities during this time. Thirty of the witnesses are residents of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem; 21 are residents of the Gaza Strip; and four are Israeli citizens. They spoke with B'Tselem after they were released from detention, the overwhelming majority of them without being tried.

Their testimonies uncover a systemic, institutional policy focused on the continual abuse and torture of all Palestinian prisoners. This includes frequent acts of severe, arbitrary violence; sexual assault; humiliation and degradation; deliberate starvation; forced unhygienic conditions; sleep deprivation; prohibition on, and punitive measures for, religious worship; confiscation of all communal and personal belongings; and denial of adequate medical treatment. These descriptions appear time and again in the testimonies, in horrifying detail and with chilling similarities.

Over the years, Israel has incarcerated hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in prisons, which have always served, above all, as a tool for oppressing and dominating the Palestinian population. The stories presented in this report are the story of thousands of Palestinians, residents of the Occupied Territories and citizens of Israel, who have been arrested since the beginning of the war, as well as Palestinians already in prison on October 7, who experienced the massive increase in hostility from prison authorities since that day. The prisoners' testimonies lay bare the outcomes of a rushed process in which more than a dozen Israeli prison facilities, both military and civilian, were converted into a network of camps dedicated to the abuse of inmates. Such spaces, in which every inmate is intentionally condemned to severe, relentless pain and suffering, operate in fact as torture camps.

The abuse consistently described in the testimonies of dozens of people held in different detention facilities is so systemic, that there is no room to doubt an organized, declared policy of the Israeli prison authorities. This policy is implemented under the direction of Minister of National Security Itamar Ben Gvir, whose office oversees the Israel Prison Service (IPS), with the full support of the Israeli government and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Violent roll calls, increased frequency

According to the testimonies, roll calls and/or cell searches occur three to five times a day. In most cases, inmates were forced to crowd together, facing the wall, with their heads bowed down to the floor and their hands interlocked on the back of their necks, in some cases kneeling in prostration as during prayer. These practices no longer serve their original purpose and have become an opportunity for prison guards to unleash severe violence and another tool for humiliating and degrading prisoners.

"We were counted three times a day. It was done in a humiliating way, with

the guards shouting. The unit would come in heavily armed with gas and batons. [...] There was also a policy of collective punishment and random searches of the cells about once a week. They would force us to undress and then search us, take us out of the cells into the corridor, and do a thorough search of the room. It could take an hour or even several hours, and included shouting, assaults, and beatings with batons."

From the testimony of Muhammad Srur, 34, a father of two and resident of Ni'lin in Ramallah District, who was held in the Etzion detention facility and in the Ofer and Nafha prisons.



Palestinian detainees released by Israeli occupation forces through the Karam Abu Salem crossing wait to receive treatment after they were subjected to torture by Israelis, in Rafah, the Gaza Strip, on December 23, 2023.

AP



The photo shows the following tortured Palestinian detainees interviewed by the Al-Quds-based non-profit organization B'Tselem: Nabilah Miqdad (upper left), Abd al-Qader Tafesh (upper right), Sufian Abu Saleh (lower left), and 18-year old Muhammad Nazzal (lower right).

B'Tselem

The testimonies given to B'Tselem reveal the following prevalent, consistent, and widespread conditions.

Overpopulation, crowding in cells

The testimonies indicate that cell occupancy more than doubled. Cells intended for six prisoners held 12 to 14 prisoners at a time,

with "excess" inmates forced to sleep on the floor, sometimes with no mattress or blanket.

"After October 7, 2023, [...] the prison administration collectively punished us on a regular basis. The first thing was increasing the number of prisoners in each cell from six to 14. This

meant reduced privacy and a much longer wait to use the toilet in the cell. In addition, the new detainees who came to the cell had to sleep on the floor because there were only three bunk beds."

From the testimony of S.B., a resident of East Jerusalem.

No sunlight, no air to breathe

Some prisoners found themselves locked in their cells throughout the entire day; others were allowed out for

an hour once every few days in order to shower. Some never saw daylight during their time in prison.

"We were also forbidden to

go outside to the yard, unlike before.

For 191 days, I didn't see the sun."

From the testimony of Thaer

Halahleh, 45, a father of four and resident of Kharas in Hebron District, who was held in the Ofer and Nafha prisons.

Withholding access to courts, aid agencies, and legal counsel

As the Emergency Regulations permit, the vast majority of the witnesses went days, weeks, and in some cases, months before being brought before a judge for the first time, and even then, the hearings took place remotely via Zoom. The menacing presence of the prison guards inhibited prisoners from complaining to the judges or reporting the torture they underwent.

"They took us one by one to a room where we attended our hearings via Zoom. On the way there, IRF members punched me very hard in the chest. An Arabic-speaking guard was in the room, and he listened to the entire conversation between me, the judge, and the lawyer. He threatened that if I complained to the judge, I would pay. The lawyer told me before the hearing that the judges already knew about everything that was going on in the prison, so there was no point talking about it. Still, in the hearing, he asked me, "Have you been exposed to violence in prison?" I didn't dare answer because I was afraid the guards would retaliate and beat me even more brutally. [...] Every time they took me to the room where we attended our court hearings on Zoom, I endured the same path of torture, beating, and humiliation. All the in-



Firas Hassan, Palestinian resident of Hindaza in Bethlehem District, says "life totally changed" for him as a prisoner in an Israeli jail after the October 7 attacks.

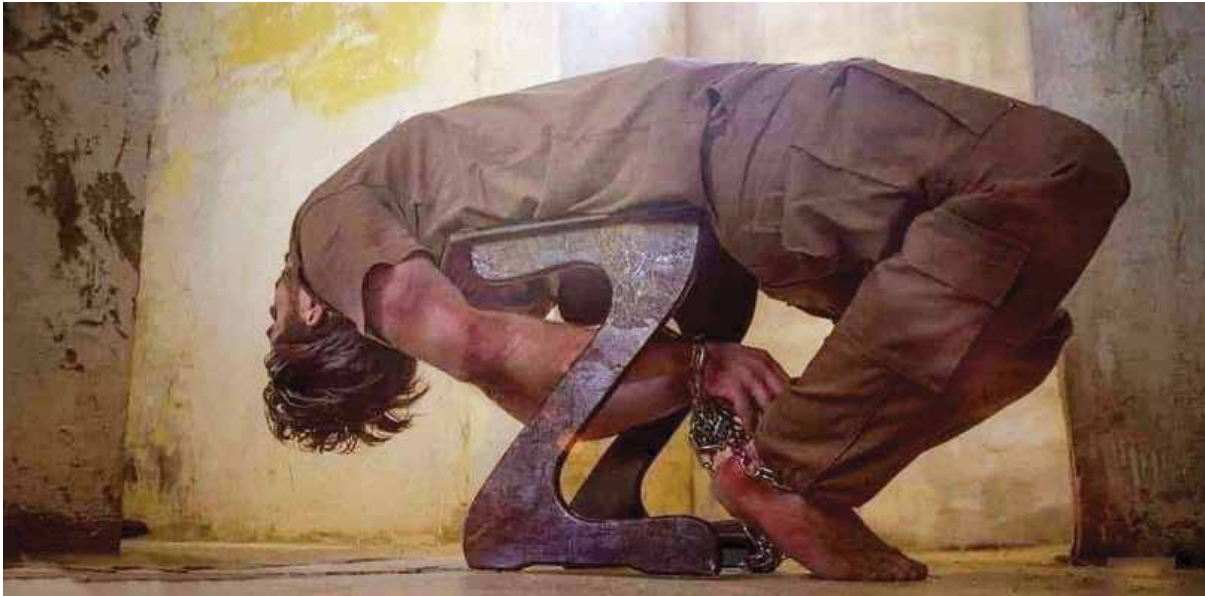
BBC

mates in the prison went through that."

From the testimony of Firas Hassan, 50, a father of four and resident of Hindaza in Bethlehem District, who was held in the Negev Prison (Ketzio).

Meetings with legal counsel were denied for increasingly long durations, reaching as much as 180 days, on the pretext

of "dynamic needs on the ground". Most of the witnesses interviewed for this report did not see their lawyers once during their entire incarceration. They were also prevented from meeting with representatives of the ICRC, aid and human rights organizations, the Public Defender's Office, or other official oversight bodies.



The photo depicts the infamous "Banana Stress Position" used by Israeli interrogators. It is sometimes combined with the interrogator sitting on the detainee's legs and harshly beating him in the thighs/chest. The position was one among many Israeli torture methods described in a booklet by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights. **FACEBOOK**

Confiscation of personal possessions

One of the very first steps taken by prison authorities as soon as the war began was to confiscate all shared and personal property that Palestinian prisoners kept in their cells. "We had no clothes other than what we had on, so we couldn't change or really wash them. We wore the same clothes all the time. They held a search every day, and if they found

another piece of clothing, they confiscated it. They also carried out random searches at night and took anything they found. One prisoner stayed in the same clothes for 51 days."

From the testimony of Sami Khalili, 41, a resident of Nablus who was serving a prison sentence from 2003 and was held in the Negev Prison (Ketziot).

Unrelenting physical and psychological abuse

Institutional violence against Palestinian prisoners by prison authorities has become more frequent and more virulent since October 7. Testimonies attest to physical, sexual, psychological, and verbal violence, directed at all

Palestinian prisoners and perpetrated in an arbitrary, menacing fashion, usually under a shroud of anonymity. The scope of violence emerging from the testimonies clarifies that these are not isolated, random incidents, but rather an institutional policy integral to the treatment of prisoners.

Physical violence, intimidation

Pepper spray, stun grenades, sticks, wooden clubs and metal batons, gun butts and barrels, brass knuckles and tasers, attack dogs, beatings, punches, and kicks — these are just some of the methods used to torture and abuse prisoners according to the testimonies.

These assaults were described as a fixture of everyday life in prison and often led to severe injuries, loss of consciousness, broken bones, and, in extreme cases, even death.

"I leaned against a wall. I had broken ribs and was injured in my right shoulder, my right thumb, and a finger on my

left hand. I couldn't move or breathe for half an hour. Everyone around me was screaming in pain, and some inmates were crying. Most were bleeding. It was a nightmare beyond words."

From the testimony of Ashraf al-Muhtaseb, 53, a father of five and resident of Hebron District, who was held

in the Etzion detention facility and the Ofer and Negev (Ketziot) prisons.

"We lived in fear and panic. The only expressions we saw on the faces of the guards and the special forces were anger and vengefulness. Even during roll call, they would taunt the prisoners, aiming laser beams

at them. They just wanted the prisoner to open his mouth so they could pounce on him, beat him, and crush him."

From the testimony of Khaled Abu 'Ara, 24, a resident of 'Akabiah in Tubas District, who was held in the Negev Prison (Ketziot).

Extreme violence during transfers and travel

The testimonies attest to severe violence used against prisoners during transfers: whether between prison facilities, in prison waiting areas used as way stations prior to admission into prison or travel out of it (also known as "transitions"), and sometimes during transitions between wings and other areas inside the prison itself.

Sleep deprivation

Sleep deprivation was an integral part of the daily abuses meted out to inmates. In some cases, the lighting in the cells is on throughout the night; in others, guards played loud music or unpleasant sounds to keep prisoners from sleeping. These are acts that sometimes amount to actual torture.

"The next day, two guards came and took me to a cell the size of 1.5 square meters with no toilet. I was in that cell alone for more than three months. [...] The light was on 24/7 and I lost track of time. I didn't know what time it was or what day it was. I had no one to talk to. I almost went crazy in there."

From the testimony of M.A., Hebron District.



Amer Abu Hlel, who was recently released from prison, walks with a cane at his home in Dura, in the West Bank, on June 4, 2024. "The day I was released, they hit me in the street, in front of people," said Amer, who has a broken vertebra now. **TANYA HABJOUQA/LE MONDE**

Food deprivation, starvation

The reduced amounts of food provided to Palestinian prisoners and limited calorie intake are part of the new policy declared by the Minister of National Security when he first took office. The witnesses spoke about the extreme hunger they were forced to endure and the poor quality of the food, which was often undercooked or past its expiry date. The policy of starvation affected prisoners' health and physical shape. The profound lack of food resulted in significant weight loss, sometimes amounting to tens of kilograms.

"The food was terrible, both in quantity and quality. We were given portions that wouldn't satisfy anybody. Most of the time the food was rotten — for instance, the eggs and yogurt. Once, when a detainee in the cell next to ours asked to swap his yogurt because the expiration date had passed, they punished all the inmates in the cell: they set dogs on them, beat them with clubs, dragged them to the bathroom, and beat them up. The next day, I could still see their blood on the floor."

From the testimony of Hisham Saleh, 38, a resident of a-Sawiyah in Nablus District, who was held in Ofer Prison.

Absence, denial of medical treatment

Many witnesses said that prison guards and medical staff at the detention facilities and prisons refrained from providing essential medical care or refused to do so, even in life-threatening situations. In some cases, medics and other medical staff admitted to prisoners they had received instructions not to provide treatment and medication to inmates, even when the treatment in question was life-saving.

The denial of medical care and improper treatment of patients often led to horrific outcomes, causing long-term injuries. One example can be found in the testimony of Sufian Abu Saleh, a 43-year-old from Gaza who was held in the Sde Teiman military detention facility. Abu Saleh's leg had to be amputated as a result of injuries caused by soldier violence, harsh incarceration conditions, inadequate treatment, and indifference on the part of the facility's personnel.



Fifteen-year-old Tariq Abukhdeir (L) after Israeli police beat him. **ADDAMEER**

Hygiene, cutting off the water supply

Witnesses spoke of being forced to live in filth during their incarceration, as a result of the blanket confiscation of bathing, cleaning and washing supplies, the water supply cut off in cells, and the limited access to shower facilities that were not meant for such a large number of prisoners in the first place. In many cases, toilet tanks had running water for only one hour a day as well. Prison cells were turned into a sanitary hazard and made unfit for human habitation. These

conditions led to the development and spread of diseases and various health problems.

"We felt our bodies were rotting with dirt. Some of us had rashes. There was no hygiene. There was no soap, shampoo, hair brushes, or nail clippers. After a month and a half, we got shampoo for the first time. There were no cleaning supplies either, and it was impossible to clean the cell or the toilet, or to wash clothes."

From the testimony of Muhammad Srur, 34, a father of two and resident of Ni'lin in Ramallah District, who

was held in the Etzion detention facility and in the Ofer and Nafha prisons.

"The cold water taps in the rooms ran only one hour a day, from 2:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. You could only use the toilet — which is inside the cell — during that hour because otherwise, it was impossible to flush. But sometimes people couldn't hold it in and it was disgusting, causing a stench and bad hygiene conditions."

From the testimony of Z.A., East Jerusalem.



The photo shows Israeli forces preparing to go through a door inside a prison. **CHANNEL 13**

The testimonies presented in this report provide an account of how Israeli prison facilities have been turned into a network of torture camps. Given the severity of the acts, the extent to

which the provisions of international law are being violated, and the fact that these violations are directed at the entire population of Palestinian prisoners daily and over time — the only possible conclusion

is that in carrying out these acts, Israel is committing torture that amounts to a war crime and even a crime against humanity. We appeal to all nations and to all international institutions and bodies, includ-

ing the International Criminal Court, to do everything in their power to put an immediate end to the cruelties meted out on Palestinians by Israel's prison system, and to recognize the Israeli re-

gime operating this system as an apartheid regime that must come to an end.

The full executive summary first appeared on B'Tselem.



Yazdani hit by recurring injury as milestone gold proves elusive

Sports Desk

Wrestling sensation Hassan Yazdani will have to wait another four years to write his name into history books of the Iranian sport after a final heartbreak in the Olympic freestyle competitions in Paris.

A victory over Bulgaria's Russian-born Magomed Ramazanov in the 86kg showdown would have seen Yazdani overtake taekwondo great Hadi Saei as the most-decorated Iranian over the 30 editions of the Games with double golds and a silver, but an old shoulder injury flared up again at the worst time imaginable to keep him at bay throughout the six minutes of action. Pushed forward by the Iranian supporters at the Grand Palais Éphémère, Yazdani had to call for treatment on several occasions but still showed great resilience to see out the contest, though the 7-1 defeat meant Ramazanov is only the third opponent – after Russian Magomedrasul Gazimagomedov and familiar foe David Taylor, who has a 4-1 record against the Iranian in world and Olympic finals – to have claimed victory over Yazdani at major international tournaments since his senior breakthrough at the 2015 World Championships.

"He clearly had problems during the bout, which is why I'm not much delighted by the victory,"

said Ramazanov, adding: "He was injured and couldn't deliver his maximum performance. It was really tough for him, although he was still a great fighter with one arm."

"He is a true legend. That's what I told him at the end. I always wanted to wrestle him," added the former European silver medalist, who only began competing under the Bulgarian flag in January. A gold medalist in Rio 2016 and silver winner four years later in Tokyo, Yazdani was in obvious discomfort from the get-go, signaling for a timeout almost immediately after the start, clutching his upper right arm.

However, he managed to keep the score close, and even tentatively led 1-1 on criteria in the second period.

Ramazanov put the pressure on and tripped Yazdani for a take-down while trapping the Iranian's foot underneath him at an odd angle, keeping him in a sitting position. That allowed the Bulgarian to use a crossface to tilt Yazdani backward for two exposures and a 7-1 lead.

With 30 seconds left, Yazdani conceded the defeat, putting his hands on his knees as the seconds ticked down to the inevitable, before he gave Ramazanov a hug of plaudit.

Having been sidelined for eight months after a surgery on his shoulder last October, Yazdani



looked to be back in his dominant form en route to the final showpiece, defeating Australian Jayden Lawrence by superiority before comfortable victories over Dauren Kurugliev of Greece and San Mari-

no's Myles Amine. "He had minor pain before the final which is normal after the surgery, but his shoulder was dislocated four to five times against the Bulgarian," said Yazdani's sur-

geon Dr. Sohrab Kayhani, who was in the venue to watch the bout. "The first incident was enough to send any athlete to the hospital and he showed true determination to keep going for six minutes."

Iranian wrestler Hassan Yazdani (blue) struggles with a shoulder injury during the freestyle 86kg final against Bulgaria's Magomed Ramazanov at the Paris Olympics on August 9, 2024.

● IAWF



Impressive Barkhordari settles for taekwondo silver

Sports Desk

Iranian Mehran Barkhordari grabbed a prestigious Olympic medal in Paris after a straight-round defeat against Tunisian Firas Katoussi in the men's taekwondo -80kg final.

A 2022 world bronze medalist, Barkhordari started on the front foot in the French capital's Grand Palais and drew the first

blood with a two-pointer early on, but the towering Tunisian bounced back in the final seconds to equalize and then added another two points to win the first round.

Stepping into the showdown without conceding a single round, Katoussi took the lead after the restart, landing a lightning, close-range crescent kick to the head for three points, and never looked behind to take the round 5-1 and add the Olympic gold to the world bronze he won two years ago.

This was a third taekwondo medal for Iran, which left the Tokyo Games empty-handed

three years ago, in Paris following a silver and a bronze in the women's competitions.

Nahid Kiani made history by becoming the first Iranian girl to ever reach an Olympic final showpiece in any sport, before a setback against South Korean Kim Yu-jin in the -57kg final, while teenage prodigy Mobina Ne'matzadeh rounded off an impressive run in the -49kg class with a win against Saudi Dunya Abutaleb in the third-place bout.

Despite the final defeat, Barkhordari will have every reason to be proud of his Olympic campaign, as he came out on top

against some formidable opponents.

The 24-year-old Iranian began the day with a comeback victory over reigning Asian gold medalist Jasurbek Jaysunov and then came from behind to beat high-profile Italy's two-time world champion Simone Alessio.

Barkhordari again had to rally from behind to defeat South Korean Seo Geon-woo in a thrilling last-four clash to secure a first men's Olympic final spot for the country in the taekwondo event since Mohammad Baqeri-Mo'tamed won a silver in London 2012.

Iran's Mehran Barkhordari poses with his silver in the men's taekwondo -80kg contests at the Paris Olympics on August 9, 2024.

● SARA ABDOLLAHI/
BORNA NEWS

Ethiopia's Tola wins men's marathon, Kipchoge drops out

AFP- Ethiopian Tamirat Tola delivered a masterclass in solo front running to win the Olympic men's marathon in Paris on Saturday as Eliud Kipchoge's bid for a third gold went up in smoke.

Tola clocked an Olympic record of 2hr 06min 26sec for victory, finishing 21 seconds ahead of Belgium's Bashir Abdi, whose silver marked an upgrade from his bronze garnered at the Covid-hit Tokyo Games three years ago.

Kenya's Benson Kipruto, winner of Tokyo, Boston and Chicago marathons in recent years,

rounded out the podium, a further 13sec adrift.

"Thank you, Paris!" said Tola, the 2016 Olympic 10,000m bronze medalist.

"I'm happy today, I was 2022 world champion and now I'm Olympic champion.

"It's the greatest day in my life. This was my goal."

Tola, a late call-up to replace injury-hit Sisay Lemma, won gold at the 2022 world championships in Eugene.

More recently he finished third at last year's London Marathon and won the New York City Marathon in a course record of

2:04.58.

"I was the reserve in the Ethiopian team, but when Sisay had injuries, then I had a chance to represent him," Tola said.

"I was fully prepared and knew I could fulfil my dream. This is the Olympics and it is not easy to win the Olympic Games, not at all. I am very proud, very happy." Former world record holder Kipchoge won golds in the 2016 Rio Games and in Tokyo in 2021, but the 39-year-old Kenyan pulled up late in the race with back pain.

He dropped out just after the 30km mark, at which point he

was 71st, more than eight minutes off the pace.

It put an end to his ambitious attempt at a third consecutive win.

"Today was a tough day at the office," said Kipchoge. "It's like boxing. You can go to a training camp for five months and be knocked out in two seconds. But life will continue.

"This is my worst marathon. I have never done a DNF (did not finish). Like a boxer, I have been knocked down, I have won, I have come second, eighth, 10th, fifth – now I did not finish. That's life."



Tamirat Tola crosses the finish line to win the men's marathon at the Paris Olympics on August 10, 2024.

● ISABEL INFANTES/REUTERS

World outraged over Israel's genocide in Gaza school

EU: No justification for such massacres



Gaza hit by an Israeli strike, with reportedly dozens of Palestinian victims. At least 10 schools were targeted in the last weeks. There's no justification for these massacres."

UK 'appalled'

Foreign Minister David Lammy said that Britain was "appalled" at Israel's deadly air strike on a school in Gaza and called for "an immediate ceasefire." "Appalled by the Israeli Military strike on al-Tabeen school and the tragic loss of life," Lammy wrote on X, adding, "We need an immediate ceasefire to protect civilians, free all hostages, and end restrictions on aid."

'Heinous' bombing

Iran condemned Israel's "brutal massacre of women, children and the elderly." Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said Israel's "heinous attack on the Palestinian refugees ..., once again proved that the apartheid regime does not respect any of the rules and regulations of international law as well as moral and human principles."

Qatar, a mediator in the Israeli war in Gaza, demanded an urgent probe after the strike.

Resistance groups in the region strongly condemned the Israeli bombing, with Hamas calling it "a horrific crime that marks a danger-

ous escalation in the unprecedented series of crimes and massacres in the history of wars, perpetrated in the Gaza Strip by the new Nazis." In an interview with Al Jazeera Arabic, the deputy chief of the Palestinian resistance movement, Khalil al-Hayya, called on the UN Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to stop the regime's massacres of defenseless Palestinians. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad resistance movement said the bombing is "a full-fledged war crime."

Turkey denounced the "new crime against humanity," according to a foreign ministry statement.

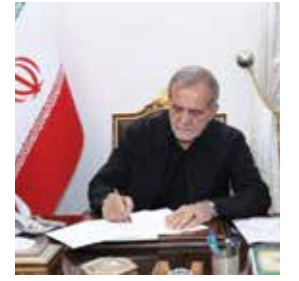
"Israel has committed a new crime against humanity by massacring more than a hundred civilians who had taken refuge in a school," the ministry said.

"This attack shows once again that Netanyahu's cabinet wants to sabotage permanent ceasefire negotiations."

"The international actors who do not take measures to stop Israel are making themselves complicit in these crimes."

In a message issued on Saturday, Iraq's prominent Shia cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani demanded global denunciation of the Zionist regime's "barbaric behavior" and asked for prevention of further harm to Palestinians.

Pezeshkian to present cabinet lineup to Parliament today



president.ir

National Desk

The list of proposed ministers for the new government will be presented by the President Masoud Pezeshkian to the Parliament today, according to the spokesman for the Iranian Parliament's Presiding Board. Alireza Salimi said on Saturday that as per the latest discussions between the Presiding Board of the Parliament and the government, a complete list of the proposed ministers will be submitted to the legislature on Sunday, IRNA reported.

The parliament member also said that all specialized committees will begin reviewing the programs, goals, and perspectives of the proposed ministers as of Monday afternoon, and this process will continue in the following days in two shifts within the committees.

The MPs' confidence vote is set for August 17, he said.

Meanwhile, Pezeshkian issued a number of decrees on Saturday, keeping Mohammad Eslami in charge of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, the post he held in the cabinet of late President Ebrahim Raisi.

Pezeshkian appointed Hossein Afshin as the vice president for Science, Technology and Knowledge-Based Economy. Afshin, 44, has a PhD in mechanical engineering and is a faculty member of Sharif University of Technology in Tehran.

In another decree, the president appointed Saeed Ohadi as the director of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs.

Ohadi used to serve as the head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization.

International Desk

World reacted to the Israeli onslaught on a school shelter in Gaza that claimed more than 100 Palestinian lives early on Saturday, with a UN-appointed rights expert saying Israel is committing "genocide" in its Gaza war.

"Israel is geocoding the Palestinians one neighborhood at the time, one hospital at the time, one school at the time, one refugee camp at the time, one safe zone at the time," Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur on the rights situation in the Palestinian territories, said on social media platform X. Israel was carrying out such

strikes against Palestinians using "US and European weapons," Albanese said. "May the Palestinians forgive us for our collective inability to protect them."

The Israeli airstrike on al-Tabi'in school in the al-Daraj neighborhood east of Gaza City, which housed the displaced families, killed over 100 people, the Hamas-run Gaza government said on Saturday.

'Systematic attacks'

This was the latest in what the UN human rights office called "systematic attacks on schools" by Israel, with at least 21 since July 4, leaving hundreds dead, including women and children.

"For many, schools are the

last resort to find some shelter and possible access to food and water," it said shortly after Saturday's attack.

Video from the site showed body parts scattered on the ground and more bodies being carried away and covered in blankets on the floor. Empty food tins lay in a puddle of blood and burnt mattresses and a child's doll among the debris.

Fadel Naeem, director of the al-Ahli hospital in Gaza City, told The Associated Press that the facility received 70 bodies along with the body parts of at least 10 others.

The government media office in Gaza said in a statement that the complex was attacked when people shel-

tering there were performing dawn prayers.

Around 350 families had been sheltering at the compound, Palestinian Civil Defense spokesperson Mahmoud Bassal said - some of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced from their homes by Israel's onslaught on Gaza. The Israeli occupation army confirmed the attack in a statement and claimed that the school "served as a hideout for Hamas commanders."

'Horrorified' by strike

EU's Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell on Saturday expressed horror at the deadly strike by Israel, saying, "Horrorified by images from a sheltering school in

Iran hopes 'legitimate' right to defense not to impact Gaza truce

International Desk

Iran's permanent mission to the UN has expressed hope that the country's "legitimate" right to defend its sovereignty will not harm the possible ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. The mission said that the Islamic Republic's right to retaliate against Israel's terrorism inside Iran has nothing to do with the ongoing ceasefire talks. The mission on Friday was

asked whether Iran will postpone the response to Israel until next week's talks regarding the ceasefire in Gaza, which has been under Israeli aggression since October last year.

"Our national security and sovereignty have been violated during the recent terrorist act of the Israeli regime. We have the right to legitimate defense and this has nothing to do with the Gaza ceasefire," the mission said.

"But we hope that our response will be completed on time and in a way that does not harm the possible ceasefire," the mission added.

"Establishing a lasting ceasefire in Gaza is our priority. Any agreement that Hamas accepts will be accepted by us," it added.

Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of Hamas political bureau, and one of his bodyguards were assassinated in Tehran last week. Irani-

an political and military leadership, including the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian, have vowed to avenge Haniyeh's blood.

A deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said on Saturday that the order issued by the Leader to make Israel pay for the assassination of the Hamas political bureau chief will be definitely carried out.

Speaking to Al Mayadeen TV, Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said the orders given by Ayatollah Khamenei are explicit and crystal clear.

"The Leader of Revolution's orders will be carried out in the best possible way, and this is Iran's current duty," the commander stated. Meanwhile, US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller was asked on Thursday whether a ceasefire deal would help in lowering tensions in the West Asia region, and about Iran's possible retaliation against Israel.

"I will say that there are two sides of this coin. On one side of the coin, yes, we believe that a ceasefire would go a long way towards alleviating tensions in the region," he said. "On the other side of that

coin, certainly any further escalation just makes all of the region's problems more difficult. And one of the problems that we're addressing is the conflict in Gaza and trying to reach a ceasefire," he added.

On Friday, Iran's permanent mission to the UN also talked about the existing channels of communication between Iran and the US, saying "There have always been direct and intermediary official channels for the transmission of messages" between the two sides, adding that "The preference of the parties is for the details to remain undisclosed."

Iran better positioned to launch nukes program but not seeking it: WSJ

International Desk

Iran is now in a better position to produce a nuclear device "if it chooses to do so," according to a new assessment by US intelligence agencies that Wall Street Journal reported on Friday. The US intelligence community, however, believes that Iran isn't working to make a nuclear bomb, a US official said.

Iran has said time and again that its nuclear pro-

gram is purely for civilian purposes.

"Iran doesn't have an active military nuclear program," said a spokeswoman for the office of the director of US National Intelligence. The US intelligence report claimed Tehran was seeking to exploit "international worry" over its nuclear program "for negotiation leverage."

After the US withdrew from the Iranian nuclear deal in 2018, which lifted most international sanctions on

Tehran in exchange for tight but temporary restrictions on its nuclear work, Iran expanded its uranium enrichment in retaliation.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in July that the policy of the US is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, and that the administration would prefer to stop that from happening through diplomacy.

AMENDMENT		Analysis %	
Fe	65.00	Min	
FeO	1.0	Ave	
P	0.05	Max	
S	0.01	Max	
SiO2	3.5	Max	
Al2O3	0.7	Max	
CaO	0.9	Max	
MgO	2.5	Max	
CCS (kg/p)		Ave	250
8-16 mm%		Min	90
-6 mm%		Ave	5
A.1%		Max	3.8
T.1%		Min	95
Prosity%			19-24
Reducibility%		Min	90

Notice of tender for export sale No Z/1403/13
GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Hereby GolGohar Mining & Industrial Co. announces selling and export 70,000 metric tons of Pellet (CoFe:65.00) on basis of F.O.B at Barco Jetty Bandar Abbas - Iran. Interested bidders should find tender modified documents at GolGohar website: www.geg.ir. All bids on conformity to tender instructions must be submitted no later than 09:00 A.M. on 20. Aug.2024 to GolGohar complex in sirjan (50 km in shiraz road). Bidders are invited to the transactions commission department of the seller with an introduction letter of interested buyer and personal identification of the representative. Tender results shall be announced at 09:00 A.M. on 20.Aug.2024 at the office of the Seller.

GolGohar Mining and Industrial Company

Armenian-Iranian cultural culinary festival kicks off

The third edition of the NAV-ASARD Festival, a celebration of the longstanding friendship between Iran and Armenia, kicked off in the Armenian

town of Sisian on August 10. The festival, themed "Culture, Tourism, Culinary, and Handicrafts," brings together cultural and artistic figures from both

countries, Mehr News Agency reported.

"This festival plays a significant role in strengthening the cultural and tourism bonds between our two nations," said Mekhak Apresyan, Head of the Armenian Tourism Federation. "We are grateful for the unwavering support of the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan and the Iran Consulate General in Kapan."

The festival features a wide range of events, including a culinary competition between Iranian and Armenian chefs, showcasing the rich and diverse cuisines of both countries. Over 20 chefs from each country will participate in the contest. The festival also includes cultural performances, with artistic groups from Tehran, Is-

fahan, Hamedan, Tabriz, and Khuzestan showcasing the diverse cultural and artistic traditions of Iran. There will also be exhibitions of Iranian handicrafts and traditional music performances.

"This festival is a valuable opportunity for mutual understanding and appreciation of our cultures and traditions," said Iran's Cultural Attaché Mohammad Asadi-Movahed. "We are pleased to partner with the Armenian Tourism Federation and grateful for the support of the Iran Consulate General in Kapan and the Iranian Embassy in Yerevan in making this event a success." The annual festival is expected to attract widespread interest from the Armenian public and media.




Iran makes significant progress in reducing medicine shortages

Social Desk

According to the head of the Food and Drug Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there has been a significant reduction in medicine shortages compared to previous years. Heider Mohammadi attributed the improvement to easier access to foreign currency and smoother supply chain operations this year, ILNA reported. He emphasized that ensuring a steady supply of medicines, and medical equipment on sufficient and stable access to foreign currency and liquidity. When asked about the

availability of psychiatric medications, Mohammadi assured that there are no shortages in this area, as most of these drugs are produced domestically. He acknowledged that some patients with psychiatric conditions, prefer imported brands, and accommodations are made for such cases. He expressed hope that the instructions from the Central Bank will be implemented by the banks, as the lack of credit and liquidity remains the most significant challenge facing pharmaceutical companies. On the topic of the quality of domestically

produced medicines, Mohammadi refuted the notion that they fall short of the required standards. He highlighted that 99% of the Iranian pharmaceutical market comprises locally produced drugs, which are used by the population. Mohammadi emphasized that these medicines are manufactured according to global standards and are compared to branded drugs for efficacy. He added that special considerations are made for patients with specific conditions who may require imported medications due to compatibility issues.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
Cartoonist



Joint art exhibition 'Patterns of Friendship' to open in Moscow



An exhibition featuring the works of Russian and Iranian artists, titled 'Patterns of Friendship,' is set to open in Moscow on August 16, marking the first festival of its kind dedicated to cultural exchange between the two countries.

Organized by the Iranian Embassy and the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka, with support from the Russian Ministry of Culture, the event will showcase the artistic talents of young and established masters from both nations, IRNA reported.

According to Masoud Ahmadvand, Head of the Cultural Representative Office at the Iranian Embassy, the festival is a tribute to the late Russian artist Sergey Andriyaka, with over 600 artists registering and submitting their works for the competition. Artists from Iran dedicated their pieces to Russia, while their Russian counterparts pre-

sented their interpretations of Iran.

The exhibition will display 200 works by emerging talents and 40 pieces by renowned masters. It aims to provide a platform for young artists to enter the art market, with subsequent events planned to focus on other cultural and artistic domains.

The opening ceremony will feature an award presentation for the best artwork from each country. The winners will receive cash prizes, while finalists will be awarded trips to Russia and Iran, along with other professional gifts.

The 'Patterns of Friendship' exhibition will be hosted by the Academy of Watercolor and Fine Arts of Sergey Andriyaka in Moscow for one month before traveling to other cities in Russia and Iran, including St. Petersburg, Kazan, Tehran, Isfahan, and Shiraz.

Iranian calligraphy film 'Noqte' to premiere on Russian TV

The first documentary film showcasing the art of Iranian calligraphy, titled 'Noqte,' is set to make its global debut on TV BRICS, an international media network reaching audiences in BRICS+ countries. The film, directed by Emir Valinejad, will premiere in Russia on August 12, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Moscow time, with repeat broadcasts scheduled for August 17, IRNA reported.

'Noqte,' which translates to "dot" in English, explores the history and beauty of Iranian calligraphy, a sacred art form rooted in the tradition of transcribing Qur'anic texts. The film highlights how this art form has transcended its religious origins to find expression in various artistic fields, including architecture, painting, and miniature art.

"Iranian calligraphy is a special world," said Valinejad, emphasizing the unique nature of this artistic tradition. "We are honored to have the opportunity to showcase 'Noqte' on TV BRICS and introduce viewers to this beautiful art form. We hope that the film will spark an interest in audiences to learn more about Iranian culture and its rich artistic heritage."

'Noqte' has already received critical acclaim, winning awards at prestigious film forums such as the XXXII International Film Forum "Golden Knight" and the International Competition VIVA 2020. It was also nominated for the XXI National Award "Laurel Branch".

The film, produced in 2020 with support from the Ibn Sina Islamic Culture Research Foundation, will be available in multiple languages, including English, Chinese, Spanish, and Portuguese, on the TV BRICS portal following its television premiere.

