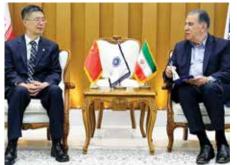
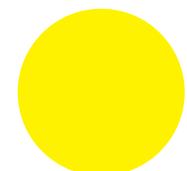
Iran set to show strong presence at China's **Import Expo 2024**





Iran Daily

Vol. 7634 • Thursday, August 22, 2024 • Shahrivar 1, 1403 • Safar 17, 1446 • 100,000 rials • 8 pages

irandaily.ir newspaper.irandaily.ir





New era of national cooperation



In a rare move since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Iranian Parliament unanimously approved all of President Masoud Pezeshkian's cabinet ministers. This show of support comes just three months after the tragic passing of former president Ebrahim Raisi and stands as a testament to the stability and resilience of Iran's political system.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution ensured that political stability was swiftly restored following Raisi's martyrdom, and a standard election was held within a short timeframe. Despite accusations of electoral bias, the election of Pezeshkian, a reformist figure, by popular vote, speaks to the fairness and inclusivity of the process.

President Pezeshkian from the outset called for national empathy and cooperation, and this sentiment was echoed in his proposed cabinet lineup. In a swift and efficient process, lawmakers conducted thorough examinations of the proposed ministers' qualifications within specialized committees and open sessions, ultimately granting a vote of confidence to the entire cabinet. This level of unity and consensus is remarkable and has not been seen in recent history, even among politically aligned governments and parliaments.

Despite political differences, the Parliament has heeded the president's call for forming an all-inclusive government and the need for cooperation and interaction between branches of power. The vote of

confidence is a strong signal of the MPs' willingness to work with and support the president and his administration.

From Byzantine to Saudi Arabia

Production odyssey of 'Salman the Persian'



Iranians collect double GR golds, bronzes in U17 Worlds



28 Pakistani pilgrims killed in bus crash in central Iran



Iran's export of honey hit \$5.6m last year



Economy Desk

Iran exported 1,469 tons of high-quality honey, valued at \$5.6 million, in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023 to March 19, 2024), an official at the Ministry of Agriculture said.

On the occasion of National Day of Honey on August 21, Mohammad Ebrahim Hassannejad from Agriculture Ministry pointed to the flourishing production of bee products, including beeswax, royal jelly, propolis, pollen, and even bee venom, all of which have higher added value than honey itself, adding that beekeepers' embrace of this economic perspective on production has increased revenues from beekeeping, IRNA reported.

The deputy for livestock affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture stated that in addition to producing 121,000 tons of honey last year, more than 10 and a half kilograms of bee venom, 9.149 kilograms of royal jelly, over 885 tons of pollen, and 183 tons of propolis were produced in bee-keeping units across the country.

According to statistics, honey exports last year amounted to 1,469 tons, he said.

The country stood at the 4th rank in terms of bee colonies and also third rank in the world in honey production terms, according to the latest statistics of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

FAO also said that 2.150 million tons of honey is annually produced in the worldwide.

Hassannejad emphasized the importance of supporting private sector traders and highlighted key areas for increasing exports of beekeeping-related products, including implementing honey standards or developing plans to enhance the quality of bee products, as well as facilitating the supply of these products in border markets for export purposes.

Iran's unique advantages for textile industry development

290 domestic, foreign companies attend IRANTEX

An international exhibition of textile industry wraps up today in Tehran with the participation of more than 290 domestic and foreign companies from Iran and 13 countries to showcase their capabilities, exchange their latest advancements in the industry and discuss investment, business and trade possibilities.

About 170 domestic companies and 120 foreign companies from Germany, Italy, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, South Korea, Turkey, Pakistan, Austria, Switzerland, India, Japan and China offered their products and services at the four-day IRANTEX, Press TV reported

Three of the five top textile and apparel exporting nations, China, India and Turkey attended the 30th international exhibition of textile machinery, raw materials, home textiles, embroidery machines and textile products with 100 companies, 18 companies and 12 companies respectively.

The development of the textile industry in Iran has several advantages, foremost the luxury of an easy access to raw materials. Fifty-percent of the industry's need for cotton is supplied from within, although this figure was 100% until two decades ago.

As for silk, more than 50% of the country's needs which translates to 330 tons of silk thread, is produced domestically, with self-sufficiency potentially being around the corner with some planning and support of the sector.

The existence of abundant oil and gas resources and the country's petrochemical capacity is another advantage for production of synthetic fibers.

Moreover, the domestic market of 85 million people with a turnover of \$30 billion is the



key driver of the textile industry in Iran, while there is another market of 400 million people in its neighborhood in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Iran has a long textile legacy. According to archaeological findings, the country has produced textiles for at least 10,000 years. Persia made textiles and carpets for both local and foreign markets, which were famous for their elaborate patterns and vibrant colors.

Over the past three decades, the textile and apparel industry has fallen off the cliff, with its 6.4% share in the country's GDP plunging under one percent, marked by an influx of legally or illegally imported

According to statistics, the

annual import of smuggled clothing is estimated at more than \$2 billion, where every one billion dollars of smuggling into the country causes the destruction and closure of more than 100,000 job oppor-

This is while textile is one of the important industries in growth and development. The industry is important in terms of creating added value and creating jobs, given that it includes a wide range of products such as cotton, wool, silk, synthetic fibers, carpets and all kinds of textiles.

Several parameters distinguish textile from other industries. Clothing is one of the three basic human needs encompassing economic, social and cultural aspects all

alike, where the design, color and role of products determine the end result. Turning cotton into clothing involves a chain which according to economists creates a 900% added value. The employment rate of the textile industry is also very high, and for every one job created in cotton cultivation, five jobs are created in the subcategory industries.

Finally, among different industries, textile requires the lowest initial investment to start a business. The average cost required to create employment for one person in the industry is about 25% of the average cost in other industries, where with an investment of \$20 million, job opportunities can be created for 200 people.

That being said, Iran appears to be on a damage control campaign after years of neglecting the textile industry. In the last three years, \$1.1 billion has been allocated to modernize machinery in the leather, footwear and related industrial sectors, according to deputy industry minister Mohammad Mehdi Baradaran.

Officials say \$5 billion of initial investment is needed over a period of five years to reconstruct and modernize the entire textile and clothing sector to bring the industry back online.

Given the advantages, the revival and expansion of the textile industry is a must which should be followed with utmost diligence and interest.

Iran set to show strong presence at China's Import Expo 2024



Economy Desk

Head of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Samad Hassanzadeh, assured Chinese Ambassador Cong Peiwu of Iran's enthusiastic participation in the upcoming 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE 2024) during their meeting in Tehran on Wednesday, describing the event a great opportunity for Iranian businessmen.

The CIIE 2024 will be held in Shanghai from November 5-10, 2024 at the National Exhibition

and Convention Center in Shanghai. According to Hassanzadeh, the expo presents a valuable opportunity for Iranian traders and businessmen to explore collaboration avenues and gain firsthand knowledge of China's capabilities. The head of the Chamber outlined various cooperation opportunities, underscoring the potential for collaboration in maritime transportation and strengthening economic and trade infrastructure.

He also referred to the recent inauguration of Iran's 14th adminis-



tration, led by President Masoud Pezeshkian, emphasizing the potential for the president to further strengthen Iran-China economic and trade relations.

Pezeshkian, in July, considered the agreement to be "a significant milestone towards establishing a mutually beneficial comprehensive strategic partnership," noting, "We look forward to collaborating more extensively with Beijing as we advance towards a new global order." Hassanzadeh highlighted Pezeshkian's proactive approach and specific focus on international relations, as well as his strong resolve to realize the full potential of the 25-year agreement between the two countries.

He urged the Chinese ambassador to put prioritization of the implementation of the 25-year agreement's provisions on the agenda of Chinese authorities, noting tl past agreements have yet to be operationalized, Hassanzadeh emphasized the importance of joint investment, highlighting the capabilities of both countries in such sectors as petrochemicals, gas, oil, automotive, and space industries, and suggested the need for joint ventures in these areas.

Iran and China signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in a bid to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance.

The deal, which had been announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran back in 2016, sets the outlines of Sino-Iranian cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and international domains for the period in question.

Furthermore, Hassanzadeh proposed that China could invest in Iran's copper industry, as well as in aluminum and power plant sectors, where similar investment opportunities exist.

New era of ...

government Page 1 > and Mr. Pezeshkian is a success for all of us. With this vote, the Parliament has paved the way for the new government to hit the ground running and tackle the issues that matter most to the people.

A new era of administration has dawned, marked by the near-simultaneous commencement of the government and Parliament, which hodes well for enhanced cooperation between the two branches of power. The Parliament's overwhelming approval is more than just a procedural step; it is a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to work together for the betterment of the nation. Now, all eyes are on the government to deliver on its promises with determination and diligence.

As the Leader has rightly This is a time for action and the Parliament has taken the first step toward interaction and support, it will continue to hold the government accountable through its oversight role. Constructive criticism and oversight are essential aspects of assisting the government in delivering on its campaign promises.

The political authority of the Establishment has been firmly established through the synergy between the Parliament and the government. President Pezeshkian, a seasoned parliamentarian and former minister, understands the concerns and perspectives of both sides. His experience will undoubtedly foster better interaction and collaboration, with the ultimate goal of resolving the challenges faced by the Iranian people.

Allure of Cheshmeh Gol, a stunning spring in Golestan Province

Iranica Desk

The Cheshmeh Gol (Flower Spring), also known as the Flower Lake, is a stunning natural attraction located in Golestan Province, just south of the city of Ramiyan. This spring serves as a popular recreational area for both locals and visitors.

Nestled at the foot of the Penhan Khaneh Mountain and surrounded by a dense forest of broadleaf trees and agricultural land, Cheshmeh Gol is a truly dreamlike destination. The spring has formed an oval-shaped basin due to subsidence in the limestone formations. Regarded as one of the deepest and coldest water springs in the world, Cheshmeh Gol once reached a depth of 44 meters and now extends to an impressive 80 meters.

Cheshmeh Gol is located at an elevation of 320 meters above sea level, measuring 90 meters inlength and 80 meters in width, covering an area of 720 square meters. Its striking dark green color makes it well-known among the springs in the region, a hue attributed to its significant depth. Water is sourced from the bottom of the spring, with no external water entering its basin.

The spring features an outlet channel, and its overflow feeds into the Qarah Chay River in Ramiyan, a tributary of the Gorganrud River, which irrigates the surrounding rice paddies and agricultural lands.

The spring is home to various fish species, with river whitefish being the most abundant. These fish primarily feed on aquatic insects and mollusks and are highly regarded for sport fishing in the area.

The vegetation in the Cheshmeh Gol area predominantly consists of broadleaf trees, particularly







oak. The heights surrounding the spring were once home to ancient and valuable forests, but these have unfortunately been replaced over the past decade by needle-leaved trees planted by the Forests and Pastures Organization.

The construction of a road leading to the spring has made the surrounding soil vulnerable, resulting in noticeable erosion. This has exposed the roots of some trees. In recognition of its natural significance, the spring was registered as a national heritage site in 2016.

While springs and lakes may seem inviting for swimming and bathing, it's important to note that these activities can be dangerous. Swimming is prohibited in Cheshmeh Gol due to the high risk of drowning, even for professional swimmers. Tragically, several individuals have drowned in this spring. If a drowning occurs, recovery becomes nearly impossible due to the spring's depth of 60 to 70 meters and its canal-like structure; the water pressure at depths of 45 to 50 meters is so intense that divers cannot descend. Additionally, the spring contains various wooden debris and logs, and the water is extremely cold.

Best time to visit

Spring and summer are the ideal seasons to visit Cheshmeh Gol and enjoy its stunning natural beauty. Fall, with its vibrant colors, also enhances the allure of the spring. If you plan to visit during winter, be cautious of the roads and pathways to avoid any difficulties.

Given its proximity to the city of Ramiyan, visitors can find accommodations in the city, ranging from traditional lodgings to eco-tourism sites for an enjoyable overnight stay.

An enduring exploration of Persian architectural beauty at Qajar Museum of Tabriz



Step into the Qajar Museum of Tabriz, located in the historic Sheshghelan district, and embark on a timeless journey through Persian architectural splendor. The Amir Nezam House, a stunning testament to the opulent style of the Qajar dynasty, dates back to the era of Abbas Mirza. This exquisite building showcases the remarkable craftsmanship and grandeur of

traditional Qajar architecture. Since its transformation into a museum in 2006, it has offered visitors a captivating glimpse into the rich history and culture of the Qajar period, making it one of the most enchanting museums in East Azarbaijan Province and its capital, Tabriz.

The architecture of the mansion features intricate details characteristic of

the Qajar style, including ornate decorations, remarkable tile work, and expansive courtyards that transport visitors back in time. The house serves not only as a cultural treasure but also as a prime example of historical preservation, encapsulating the charm of 19th-century Persian design. Its beauty and significance make it a must-visit for anyone interested in Iran's rich architectural heritage.

Amir Nezam Garoosi, a prominent political figure and writer during the Qajar era, constructed the Amir Nezam House to safeguard the valuable possessions of Naser al-Din Shah. Over the years, the house transitioned from a repository of royal artifacts to a government building under the Pahlavi regime following the fall of the Qajar dynasty, reflecting the evolving political landscape of Iran.

The structure of Amir Nezam House has undergone significant changes over time, with many important features lost due to age and neglect. To preserve its historical value, the house was designated as a Qajar Museum in 1991, allowing visitors to connect with the past. Additional restoration efforts were undertaken in 2006 to repair and maintain the remaining elements of the building, ensuring that it continues to



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be a site of cultural and historical importance.

The museum is a stunning example of Iranian architecture infused with Qajar-era artistry. The two-story building spans 1,500 square meters and features an ivan supported by 16 intricately crafted columns. Surrounded by inner and outer courtyards, the museum is enhanced by lush gardens

and tranquil pools.

Visitors are captivated by the museum's elaborate stucco work, shimmering mirror decorations, and vibrant stained glass windows, which evoke the splendor of the Qajar period. Each aspect of the museum reflects the grandeur and artistic style of the time, making it not only a place to explore history but also a vibrant portal to the past.

From Byzantine to Saudi Arabia

Production odyssey of 'Salman the Persian'



The life of Salman the Persian, with its ups and downs, had been drawing Davood Mirbagheri, a seasoned writer and director,

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in for years. This series sets out to promote a national and Islamic perspective during the second stage of the Islamic Revolution, both at home and abroad, and can bring to light the cultural level of the Islamic Republic.

With over four decades of artistic activity in the field of drama and the production of memorable series, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) is at the peak of its maturity and should take a bigger step, which has been taken with the production of the 'Salman the Persian' series.

Salman the Persian's character in history had such capacities. He was an Iranian companion of the Prophet of Islam, who held a high position among the great companions and was considered one of the close companions of Imam Ali (PBUH). His spirit of seeking truth led him to travel from city to city and from one religion to another, passing through Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Judaism, and Manichaeism, until he finally found peace in Islam.

After the completion of the 'Mokhtarnameh' series, directed by Mirbagheri, a suitable opportunity had not arisen for IRIB

and Mirbagheri to start the production of this series with a high spirit. Finally, the zero phase of the largest cinematic and television project in Iranian history, was launched with the precise planning of Sima Film and Zolal Film, written and directed by Mirbagheri and produced by Hossein Taheri.

A large group of skilled individuals in the field of drama gathered to produce the 'Salman the Persian' series under the supervision and support of the national media. The use of the high capacity of the skilled director, writer, and Mirbagheri, after years of inactivity in the field of Islamic history, as well as the liberation of production capacities and various potentials in different sections, were positive events that followed the production of this series.

The eagerly awaited series 'Salman the Persian' has been making headlines since its announcement, and with the start of its broadcast slated for 2026, excitement is building up. The series, which promises to be a game-changer in the world of television, is being produced in three distinct seasons, each exploring a different chapter in the life of Salman the Persian. The story of the series will be narrated over three seasons 'Ancient Iran', 'Byzantine Empire' and finally 'Early Islam'.

The series' creator, Mirbagheri, has taken a multifaceted approach to portraying Salman's life, weaving together historical facts, cultural nuances, and philosophical insights to

create a rich tapestry that showcases the grandeur of ancient Iranian civilization and the profound impact of Islam on the region.

At its core, the series aims to humanize Salman, a towering figure in Islamic history, and explore the complexities of his identity as an Iranian, a companion of the Prophet Muhammad, and a symbol of the confluence of Persian and Islamic cultures. By doing so, the show's creators hope to provide a fresh perspective on the early days of Islam, one that highlights the significant contributions of Iranians to the faith's development and spread.

Through Salman's story, the series will transport viewers to a bygone era, allowing them to relive the triumphs and tribulations of a pivotal moment in human history. As the narrative unfolds, audiences will gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, intellectual, and spiritual currents that shaped the ancient world and continue to influence our lives today.

Ultimately, 'Salman the Persian' is more than just a historical drama; it's an evidence of the power of faith, culture, and identity to shape human experience. As audiences immerse themselves in the world of the series, they will be inspired by Salman's courage, wisdom, and devotion, and gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring legacy of this remarkable individual.



Casting, character development

To get the best out of local talent, the directing team of the 'Salman the Persian' series set out to scout for actors from all over the country. They conducted reviews at dozens of domestic and international locations, taking stock of the various capacities available. This extensive search led them to test and record information from approximately 20,000 theatrical agents, with 6,000 of them making the cut for interviews. All of these actors will get a chance to shine in front of the

The casting process was a massive undertaking, with over 20,000 aspiring actors signing up for auditions. A team of experts, including members of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, was brought in to sift through the applications and conduct a series of interviews and auditions. This thorough selection process paid off, with over 1,500 actors being chosen to participate in the series. Many of these actors are newcomers, making their debut in the series and bringing fresh energy to the production.

Symbol of Iranian pride

The producer of the 'Salman the Persian' series Hossein Taheri stated that the axis of this series is the representation of 'Salman the Persian' as a symbol of wisdom, civilization, thought, and culture of Iran and Iranians, accompanying the Prophet of Islam.

The history, civilization, and culture of Iran are filled with names, figures, and personalities that each represent a golden page of the great cultural heritage of the world, Iran. Alongside the identity of culture and literature, which is an essential element of Iran's identity in the world, the alignment and solidarity with the guiding and Islamic religion, in

the form of accepting this religion in our land by the monotheistic people of Iran, and the solidarity of one of the thousands of Iranian men and women with the great men of this religion, from the early days of Islam to the era of Imamate and guardianship, each represents a symbol of pride for Iran and Iranians in the national and international dimensions.

'Salman the Persian' is one of these names, which the Prophet of Islam confirmed and stated: "Salman is one of us, the Ahl al-Bayt." This important and high position was achieved only through his companionship, solidarity, and

interaction with the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (PBUH), in the early years of his prophethood, from battles and wars to the propagation and promotion of Islam. The seventh day of the lunar month of Safar coincides with the anniversary of the digging of the 'Trench' around Medina to protect the city against attacks by the infidels of Quraysh, a move that was also among the suggestions and guidance offered by Salman the Persian in the entourage of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This day has been designated as 'Salman Farsi Day' on Iran's country's cultural calendar. Taheri added.

Collaboration across borders

Behind the camera, the production team emphasized the use of Iranian capacities. Dozens of production groups, with a combination of experienced individuals and talented youth, gathered to participate in the construction of this important work. The construction of decorations and equipment, and the combination of them with the latest visual and computer effects, were other special features of this large project.

Approximately 24 specialized workshops were set up in the Ghazali Cinema Town to bring in the most specialized individuals in various fields. In addition to

the performance of more than 700 first-class actors from our country, more than 40 actors from Greece, Morocco, Armenia, and Tunisia have appeared in front of the camera, including the late Hisham Rostom from Tunisia.

All foreign actors, after their presence in Iran and their performance in the 'Salman the Persian' series, become cultural ambassadors of our country in their homeland. The presence of foreign actors will also facilitate the distribution of the series in the international arena and increase its penetration into the target audience of international viewers.





Exploring Iran's diverse landscapes

In 2018, the production team embarked on a reconnaissance mission to scout locations for the series. They visited various sites, including film studios in Turkey, to find the perfect setting for the Byzantine era. With a clear vision in mind, they began pre-production, designing and building sets, costumes, and props that would transport audiences to a bygone era.

The emphasis of the producers of the 'Salman the Persian' series is on the presence in domestic locations, which have been various regions so far.

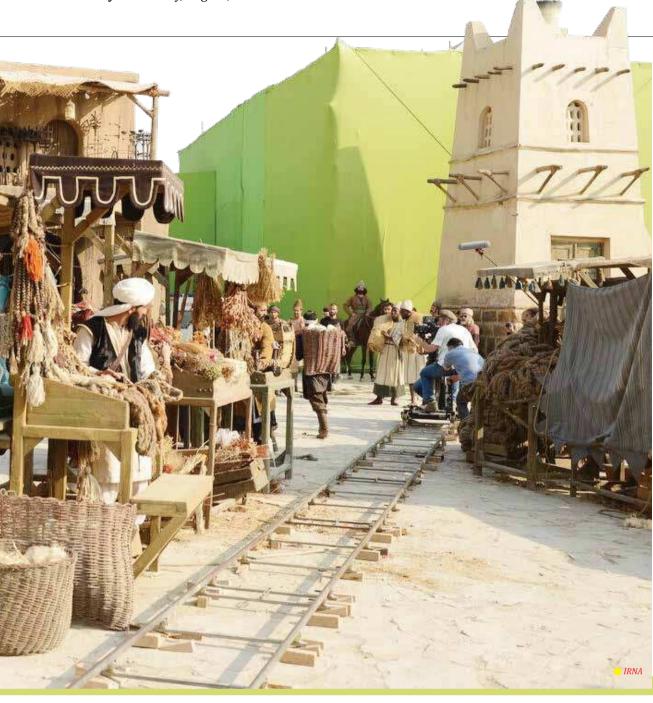
Mirbagheri started shooting 'Salman the Persian' in Shahdad deserts of Kerman Province in late 2019 as he said that it was expected to be completed in five years. Shahroud and Semnan are among the most important locations, and a significant part of the work has been done and will be done in this region, which is the birthplace of Mirbagheri.

In Jolfa, the capacity of the region's churches, such as the Saint Stepanos Church, and the Aras River beach, were used. The capacities of the three cinema town of Ghazali, Noor, and Sacred Defense were also used, which resulted in an interesting combination of decorations and computer effects.





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Weatheringthestorm

According to initial planning, the first season of the series (Byzantine) was set to be shot in Turkey. The initial planning was designed to be completed in a year and a half, allowing us to wrap up our work in Turkey in a condensed timeframe. Since most of the buildings and architectures sought after by the director, the story's setting, and the production team were already finalized in eastern Turkey, there was no need to construct or rebuild existing architecture in the region to depict the Byzantine era. However, just as filming was about to begin in winter 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, bringing production to a grinding halt. The team faced numerous challenges, including the repatriation of foreign actors and the suspension of filming. Though, they refused to let the pandemic derail their project, and after a brief hiatus, they regrouped and devised a new plan.

In August 2020, filming resumed in the mountainous region of Majan, Shahroud, where the team built elaborate sets, including a Byzantine-era port and caves. Simultaneously, they worked on constructing sets in the Tehran Film Studio, including a replica of a Byzantine city. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the team persevered, driven by their passion for the project.

The filming process continued, we shot a small portion of the series in Armenia, taking advantage of the existing structures in the country. Of course, there was no need to build sets or renovate them for that part, as we had already scouted the locations and all environmental conditions were in place. The team moved forward with the project simultaneously in the three regions mentioned – Shahroud, Noor Cinema Town, and Armenia – in a bid to stay on track, Taheriadded.

The production team has been working around the clock, with a daily schedule of 16 to 18 hours of filming. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the team

has made significant progress, with the architecture and set construction nearing completion. The speed of production has increased by two and a half times compared to the previous year, thanks to the tireless efforts of the team.

The next phase of production, focusing on Iran, kicked off in September 2023. The construction of buildings, structures, and architecture envisioned for the series is currently underway at the Ghazali Cinema Town. According to the same planning, the team aims to wrap up filming for the Iran section by next year (2025) and move forward with the Hejaz section, whose pre-production began in early July 2024, at full speed. The initial steps of research and studies for the Hejaz and Islamic era have been taken, and some of the necessarv architecture and equipment are being built to enable us to start casting for the Hejaz and Islamic era section from early 2025 and officially launch the filming process for this season.

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'Salman the Persian' is more than just a historical drama; it's an evidence of the power of faith, culture, and identity to shape human experience.

Unparalleled attention to details

The attention to detail in every aspect of the production is staggering. For the Byzantine era alone, the team created over 4,400 sets of costumes, each meticulously designed and crafted to reflect the era's unique style. They also built an impressive array of props, including armor, swords, and other artifacts, which will eventually be showcased in a museum

in a museum. The production involved a network of workshops and studios across Tehran, employing skilled artisans and craftsmen in various fields, from carpentry to jewelry-making. The team's commitment to authenticity and excellence is evident in every aspect of the production, from the intricate costumes to the elaborate sets. In Tehran alone, more than 24 workshops have been set up to handle the production of various components, including weaponry, clothing, and tools needed for the series. These workshops, which include carpen-

try, carriage-making, tailoring, jewelry-making, and others, have been working non-stop to meet the demands of the production.

In the tailoring department, the team has taken on the entire process from scratch to finish, given the importance of accurately reflecting historical authenticity. Our tailoring workshops, for instance, have been broken down into sub-sections such as patchwork, dyeing, embroidery, fabric printing, and many others.

Recreating historical architecture using cutting-edge visual effects

The series has also involved the recreation of historical buildings and architectural structures, which has provided an opportunity for Iranian architects and engineers to showcase their skills. The construction of a massive lake and two ships for the series' naval scenes is a notable example of this achievement.

They have built a massive lake in Shahroud, a semi-arid region, to facilitate the production of the series' port and sea scenes. Two enormous ships, partially constructed physically and partially using visual effects, have been brought to life by Iranian teams of experts and artists.

The series has also been a game-changer in terms of production values, with the construction of a massive film set, replicating the architecture of the Sassanid

The series' visual effects have been created by Iranian specialists, who have demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity in their work. The quality of these effects is on par with international standards, and in some cases, even surpasses them.



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Documenting production process

The entire production process, from filming to costume design, has been meticulously documented, providing a valuable resource for future generations of filmmakers, historians, and researchers. These documents will be made available to universities and film schools, serving as a testament to the series' educational value. As an example, a comprehensive documentary has been produced, focusing solely on the costume design process, from fabric selection to printing, and the research and construction of period-accurate clothing. This documentary can be considered a valuable educational

resource or a specialized university course. The key point is that professionals from the Iranian film industry have contributed to the production of 'Salman the Persian', which not only adds to the quantitative value but also lends credibility to the quality of the work.

To produce these documentaries, the filmmakers invited experts from the country to collaborate. This, in itself, can be seen as a distinguishing feature of the legacy that has been created for the first time in the production of a series on Iranian state television, and one that has practical and operational significance.

Legacy of 'Salman the Persian'

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As the 'Salman the Persian' series comes to a close, it's time to reflect on its profound impact and the lasting legacy it will leave behind. This comprehensive special issue delves into the various aspects of the series' influence, from its educational value to its cultural significance, both nationally and internationally.

The series has been a transformative learning experience for the young generation involved in its production. By providing a platform for them to learn and grow, the project has not only honed their skills in their respective fields but also instilled valuable lessons in teamwork, discipline, and creativity. This, in turn, will have a positive ripple effect on the Iranian film industry, making it more robust, powerful, and effective.

The series offers a unique civilizational perspective on the history of early Islam, which can profoundly impact our understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage. The production team's meticulous attention to detail and commitment to historical accuracy have resulted in a work that is both informative and engaging.

The series has left an indelible mark on the Iranian television industry and the world of art. By telling the story of Salman the Persian, one of the most influential figures in Islamic history, the series has not only showcased the rich cultural heritage of Iran but has also bridged the gap between Iran and the world.

Salman the Persian, a Persian companion of the Prophet Muhammad, played a pivotal role in the early days of Islam. His unique character, which embodied the spirit of Islam, has fascinated scholars and researchers for centuries. The series has brought this iconic figure to life, highlighting his contributions to the spread of Islam and his impact on the cultural and intellectual landscape of the time.

Ultimately, the impact of the series extends far beyond the realm of entertainment, as it has provided a platform for cultural exchange and understanding. The series has also been a catalyst for social change, promoting cultural justice and providing opportunities for talented individuals from across the country to showcase their skills.

Countdown to premiere

Despite various problems, such as the coronavirus and inflation, the 'Salman the Persian' series is being produced with precise planning. The team is currently present in Shahroud and is busy filming scenes from the season of 'Ancient Iran'. According to the plans, this series will be ready for broadcast in 2026. The plan is to air all three seasons of the series consecutively, without any breaks, to keep the audience engaged and invested in the story. This bold move is a testament to the confidence the production team has in their work. However,

it's worth noting that the final broadcast strategy may be subject to change, depending on the progress of the production

As the production team works towards the final stages of filming, the anticipation builds up. With the premiere date set for 2026, the audience can expect a thrilling ride, as the epic saga of Salman the Persian unfolds on their screens. Will the series live up to the hype? Only time will tell, but one thing is certain – this is a production that promises to leave a lasting impact on the world of television.



Iranians collect double GR golds, bronzes in U17 Worlds

Iranian wrestlers grabbed four medals at the U17 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, collecting double Greco-Roman golds and bronzes apiece across five weight classes on Tuesday.

Stepping into the 48kg final on the back of three technical-superiority wins, not conceding a single point, Armin Shamsipour capped his dominant run with a 10-1 victory over Uzbekistan's Khusniddin Abdukarimov to walk away with the ultimate prize.

Amir-Mahdi Saeidinava clinched a second gold for the country in the Jordanian capital, coming out victorious over Vladyslav Pokotylo of Ukraine in the 65kg final.

The Iranian launched Pokotylo for a massive four-point throw and never looked in trouble in securing a 6-2 win.

Elsewhere, Emad-Reza Mohsennejad bounced back from a 9-0 loss to Mikhail Shkarin, participating as an individual neutral athlete, in the semifinals to defeat Bulgarin Dinko Neykov 6-0 for the 80kg joint-bronze alongside Vladyslav Solodchuk of Ukraine.

Shkarin went on to beat Yerkebulan Anapiya of



Uzbekistan 3-0 in the final showpiece.

Iranian Aliasghar Dadbakhsh also finished his campaign with a consolation bronze.

Representing the country in the 110kg contests, Dadbakhsh overcame opponents from Kazakhstan and Armenia to reach the last four, before an 8-0

setback against Ukraine's Ivan Yankovski sent him into the third-place bout. A 3-1 win against Chinese Haorui Wang saw the Iranian share the third po-

dium with Ronak Ronak of India, with Yankovski coming out on top against Hungarian Zoltan Czako 13-4 for the gold. Amir-Ali Heydari, mean-

while, was unlucky to end his 55kg campaign empty-handed after a loss to Armenian Yurik Mkhitaryan in the bronze-medal



Iran's Armin Shamsipour (red) is seen in action against Yedige Toleutayev of Kazakhstan in the Greco-Roman 48ka semifinals at the Wrestling U17 World Championships in Amman, Jordan, on August 19, 2024



in pursuit of AWCL spot

Iran's Khatoon heads to Bhutan

Sports Desk

A place in the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League will be on the line when Iranian champion Khatoon Bam gets its campaign underway in the preliminary round of the Asian elite clubs' competition on Sun-

Khatoon, which had to recover from the tragic death of star player Melika Mohammadi in a car crash last December to win a record-extending 10th domestic league crown, left for Bhutan on Tuesday ahead of the opener against Group D host Royal Thimphu College in Thimphu's Changlimithang Stadium.

The bad news for Khatoon head coach Marziyeh Ja'fari is the untimely injury blow for prolific striker Negin Zandi, which could see the 20-year-old prodigy miss the two games in Thim-

Ĵa'fari's girls will finish their preliminary-round campaign against Hong Kong league champion Kitchee SC on August 31, with the top team of three joining Melbourne City, Filipino club Kaya, and Thailand's College of Asian Scholars in the main-round Group B - set to be staged in a centralized single round-robin format in Thailand in October.

Persian Gulf Pro League preview:

Reds reunion as Tractor welcomes Persepolis in eagerly-awaited clash

Sports Desk

Persian Gulf Pro League giants Tractor and Persepolis will be after a statement victory in the early stages of the new season when the two sides square off in an expected jam-packed Yadegar-e Imam Stadium in Tabriz to-

The highly-anticipated encounter will see three of Tractor's summer signings play against their former teammates.

Iran international goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand and wizard winger Mahdi Torabi were instrumental figures in Tehran Reds' domestic dom-

inance in recent years, while fullback Danial Esmaeilifar also played his part in helping Persepolis lift a seven topflight trophy in eight seasons in June.

Having a new head coach in Dragan Skocic, Tractor will hope the trio's winning mentality will inspire the club to end the devoted fans' wait for a first league title come the end of the season.

Torabi and Esmaeilifar contributed with a couple of assists, while Beiranvand kept a clean sheet as Tractor defeated Mes Rafsanjan 2-0 on the road last Friday - a first opening-day victory for the northwestern Iranian side in a decade.

Persepolis, meanwhile, got off to a slow start to its title defense as the Reds were held to a 1-1 draw against Zob Ahan in Arak's Imam Khomeini Stadium - serving as the champion's home venue - with new Spanish coach Juan Carlos Garrido left ruing his wasteful frontline.

Elsewhere today, Foolad Khuzestan and new manager Yahya Golmohammadi will look to build on the first-day win at Nassaji Mazandaran when hosting Mes Rafsanian in Ahvaz, while Iralco and Nassaji go head-to-head in

Golgohar will be eager to

bounce back from the away loss to Malavan in the first home game of the new campaign against Esteghlal Khuzestan.

On Friday, Sepahan will play away to newly-promoted Kheybar Khorramabad in a game that could see new midfielder Staeven Nzonzi - a 2018 World Cup winner with France - make his debut for Jose Morais's side.

Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal. which had a late VAR decision to thank for the 2-1 win at Shams Azar last week, will face Malavan.

Zob Ahan will host Havadar, and newcomer Chadormalou welcomes Shams Azar.





Parliament okays Pezeshkian's entire cabinet

Unanimous approval 'valuable' support for gov't: *President*



National Desk

Iran's Parliament on Wednesday approved all members of Reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian's cabinet, the first time in over two decades a president has been able to receive vote of confidence for all of his proposed ministers.

Former president Mohammad Khatami, also from the Reformist camp, was the only president who had managed to do so both in 1997 and 2001.

The approval marks an early win for Pezeshkian, a longtime lawmaker who succeeded the late president Ebrahim Raisi after he

died in a helicopter crash in May. Pezeshkian submitted the list of his proposed ministerial picks to the parliament for a vote of confidence on August 11, twelve days after his swearing-in ceremony.

The Iranian lawmakers commenced the process of reviewing the qualifications of the proposed ministers on Saturdav. which last until Wednesday.

Among those in Pezeshkian's 19-member cabinet is Abbas Araghchi, 61, a career diplomat who will be Iran's new foreign minister

Araghchi was a member of the Iranian negotiating team that reached a nuclear deal with world powers in 2015.

The candidate who received the most support from lawmakers was the country's new defense minister, Aziz Nasirzadeh, who received 281 votes out of 288 present lawmakers. The chamber has 290 seats.

Nasirzadeh was chief of the Iranian air force from 2018 to 2021. Health Minister Mohammad Reza Zafarghandi received the lowest number of votes with

Farzaneh Sadegh, the only female minister proposed for Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, a 47-year-old architect, received 231 votes. She is the first female minister in Iran in more than a decade.

The parliament also approved Pezeshkian's proposed Intelligence Minister Ismail Khatib, as well as Justice Minister Amin Hossein Rahimi, both of whom served under the late president Ebrahim Raisi. Pezeshkian also put Raisi's minister of industries, Abbas Aliabadi, in the post of energy minister.

Ahead of the voting on Wednesday, Pezeshkian addressed the parliament and urged them to approve his ministerial nominees while also calling for "unity and cohesion."

In a message after the voting, the president thanked the lawmakers for their unanimous approval of all his nominees, saying that such a cooperation by the parliament is a "valuable support" for the government to implement its

Pezeshkian's cabinet lineup had drawn criticism by a number of individuals in the Reformist camp but he has defended his proposed ministers and called on critics to "wait for the cabinet to start work and criticize it based on its performance."

Here's a breakdown of the total number of votes for each nominee:

- Minister of Communications: Sattar Hashemi, 264 votes
- Minister of Intelligence: Seyed Esmaeil Khatib, 261 votes Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance: Abdolnaser
- Hemmati, 192 votes
- Minister of Foreign Affairs: Abbas Araghchi, 247 votes
- Minister of Education: Alireza Kazemi, 268 votes • Minister of Health and Medical Education: Mohammadreza Zafarghandi, 163 votes
- Minister of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare: Ahmad Meidari, 191 votes
- Minister of Justice: Amin Hossein Rahimi, 268 votes
- Minister of Defense: Aziz Nasirzadeh, 281 votes
- Minister of Roads: Ms. Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd, 231 votes Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade: Mohammad Atabak, 231
- Minister of Science: Hossein Simayi Sarraf, 221 votes • Minister of Culture: Seyed Abbas Saleh Shariati, 272 votes
- Minister of Agriculture: Gholamreza Nouri Ghezeljeh, 253 votes
- Minister of Interior: Eskandar Momeni, 259 votes
- Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts: Mohammadreza Salehi Amiri, 168 votes
- Minister of Oil: Mohsen Paknejad, 222 votes
- Minister of Energy: Abbas Aliabadi, 255 votes
- Minister of Sports and Youth: Ahmad Donyamali, 253 votes

28 Pakistani pilgrims killed in bus crash in central Iran

International Desk

At least 28 Pakistani pilgrims travelling to the Iraqi city of Karbala were killed as their bus crashed in central Iran, state media reported early Wednesday. "A bus carrying 51 Pakistani pilgrims overturned and caught fire in front of Dehshir-Taft checkpoint in the central province of Yazd on Tuesday night," Iranian state television reported.

"Twenty-eight people have been killed and 23 injured so far with

the possibility of the death toll increasing," it added.

Provincial crisis management chief Ali Malekzadeh told the broadcaster that some of the injured were in critical condition. The dead consisted of 11 women

and 17 men," he added.

Head of Iran traffic police, Teymour Hosseini, cited "technical failure in the brake system," and the "high inclination of the road" as the reasons for the crash.

Iranian Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref extended his sincere condolences over the deaths of the Pakistani pilgrims.

In a telephone conversation with Yazd Provincial Governor Mehran Fatemi, Aref followed up on the medical treatment of those injured, inquired about the causes of the deadly accident, and emphasized on the provision of all necessary services to those affected in the tragic incident.

Pakistan's Foreign Office also said the consul of Pakistan in Zahedan has been asked to visit the accident site to ensure medical relief



to the injured and arrange the repatriation of the dead bodies to Pakistan.

Most of the victims are residents of Pakistan's southeastern Sindh began.

The Pakistani pilgrims were

headed through Iran to Iraq to attend the Arbaeen commemoration, one of the biggest events of the Shia calendar which marks the 40th day of martyrdom of the third Shia imam, Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).





Death 'the only certainty' for Gazans: UN official

In war-ravaged Gaza, death appears to be the "only certainty" for 2.4 million Palestinians with no way to escape Israel's relentless bombardment, a UN official said Tuesday, recounting the growing desperation across the

"It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, told AFP from Gaza. For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in the Gaza Strip, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, fear of death and spread of disease as the war rages on. "Nowhere in the Gaza Strip is safe, absolutely nowhere is safe. It's absolutely devastating," Wateridge said from the Nuseirat area of central Gaza - a regular target of Israel's aerial assaults.

Since fighting broke out in October, Israeli forces have pounded the besieged territory from the air, land and sea, reducing much of it to rubble.

Now in its eleventh month, the war has created an acute humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom have been displaced several times, running out of basic food and clean drinking water.

Tens of thousands of people have taken refuge in schools across the Gaza Strip, an increasingly regular target of Israeli

"Even a school is not anymore a safe place," said Wateridge.

Japan, India felicitate new FM after confidence vote



International Desk

Japanese and Indian foreign ministers congratulated Abbas Araghchi after Iran's Parliament on Wednesday voted in favor of him to become Iran's new foreign minister.

In a letter to Araghchi, Japan's Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko said she seeks to work together with the new Iran's foreign minister - a former ambassador to Japan and an expert on Japan – to further develop the bilateral relationship based on the historically friendly relations and to cooperate closely to ease tensions and stabilize the situation in West Asia.

The Japanese foreign minister also expressed her high hope for Iran to play a more constructive role towards peace and stability in the Middle East and to advance cooperation with the international community.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar also sent a congratulatory message, saying that he "looks forward to working" with his Iranian counterpart "to further relations."

On Wednesday, Araghchi won the vote of confidence with 247 votes in favor.

Response to Haniyeh killing will be 'calculated': Former IRGC chief

A former chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warns of an extremely tough response to Israel, asserting that the Islamic Republic will "definitely" serve a "calculated" response to the Israeli regime's assassination of Hamas's leader in Tehran last

"We have investigated the possible repercussions. And we will not let [Israeli prime minister Benjamin] Netanyahu, who is sinking in a swamp, save him himself," Mohsen Rezaei said in an interview with CNN on Tuesday.

"Iran will take action at the right time and in the right place. Based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, we have the right to defend ourselves," he added.

"If there is no response, the Zionist regime's acts of mischief will continue. Therefore, this (the retaliation) will take place," added Rezaei, who currently serves as secretary of the Supreme Council for Economic Coordination of the Heads of Government Branches.

Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in a targeted killing operation in Tehran on July 31. He was in the Iranian capital to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

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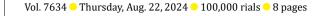
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- +98 21 88548892-5
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Iranian short film wins at Panama festival

Iranian short film 'Pari and the Witch' was awarded at the 9th Panama Canal International Film Festival, organizers announced Wednesday. The film, written and directed by Mohammadreza Yarikia, took home the award for best short film at the festival, which brings together filmmakers from East and West to showcase their productions to audiences in the Americas, IRNA wrote.

The film's success marks its 11th international appearance, following a string of screenings at festivals around the world. It is also set to be screened at the Wigan & Leigh Short Film Festival in Manchester, the UK, on September 20-21. 'Pari and the Witch' tells the story of a fairy who ventures into the forest to find her father, only to discover that a wizard is waiting

The film features a cast of Iranian actors, including Ali Houshmand, Atefeh Makvandi, Jana Karimi, and Mohammadreza Yarikia. The Panama Canal International Film Festival is a cinematic event that unites filmmakers from around the world to showcase their work to audiences in the Americas



Iranian student receives medal at invention competition



Ehsan Aqajani, a Ph.D. student in tourism at the University of Tehran, has come away with the bronze medal at the 2024 International Invention and Innovation Com-

The fourth edition of the competition, which took place in Switzerland from August 16 to 18, drew participants from 50 countries and



showcased 1,500 inventions. Agaiani, who signed up for the competition with his idea "Ehsan: Smart Creative Tourist," has been taken in as a member of the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA). His invention, titled "Smart Tourist, Sustainable Tourism," earned him the bronze medal.

This is not Aqajani's first

time to win a global award. He previously picked up the silver medal at the 2023 International Invention and Innovation Competition.

Aqajani's idea, "Ehsan: Smart Creative Tourist," was registered with the IFIA in Geneva, Switzerland, and had been registered earlier with the Iranian Intellectual Property Office on April 15, 2023.

MP: Arbaeen march paves way for liberation of Al-Quds

Iran's response to Israel 'certain'



By Sadeq Dehgan Staff writer

A top Iranian lawmaker says the Arbaeen march is a global movement that unites not only Shia Muslims but also advocates for freedom and justice worldwide in their opposition to Israeli control.

Javad Nikbin, secretary of the Iranian Parliament's Majority Faction and a member of its Cultural Commission, made the comments in an interview with Iran Daily.

Nikbin described the Arbaeen march as a "massive, popular movement" that brings together devotees of the Ahl al-Bayt, a term referring to the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as well as others seeking freedom and justice. He said the march aims to "liberate occupied territories from Zionist control globally."

The Arbaeen march is a religious ritual and gathering that takes place every year, where Shia Muslims walk to Karbala to pay their respects and commemorate the 40th day of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (РВИН), the third Shia Imam, who was killed in the Battle of Karbala.

Nikbin emphasized that the Arbaeen ceremony is a unifying event for Muslims and freethe "Hayhat Minna al-Dhilla" (We reject all forms of humiliation) slogan chanted by Imam Hussein (PBUH) on Ashura Day. This march, he added, will pave the way for the reappearance of the Imam Mahdi and the establishment of justice worldwide.



This ceremony has been dubbed one of the largest peaceful gatherings in the world and has become the biggest annual march and gathering globally since 2014. The Arbaeen march takes place not only in cities and towns in Iraq but also in several countries,

including Iran and Pakistan, where pilgrims set off towards Karbala.

As for the number of participants in this march, estimates range from 12 million to over 20 million people. The number of pilgrims in 2023 was reported to be over 22 million.

Regarding the upcoming Arbaeen march and ceremony, Nikbin noted that the Iranian government has postponed its response to the Zionist regime's terrorist attack, which martyred Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas's political bureau, until after the Arbaeen events.

He stressed that Iran's response to the Zionist regime's crime is certain and will be carried out at the right time, taking into account the country's security and defense consider-

Nikbin dismissed the impact of the so-called Gaza peace talks on Iran's response to the Zionist regime's crimes, saying, "The Zionist regime's terrorist attack in Tehran, which killed our guest, Ismail Haniyeh, is an unforgivable affront that will not go unpunished."

He added, "In Islam, the pun-

ishment for such crimes, the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh and General Qassem Soleimani, is clear: Retribution. We will not engage in any negotiations to execute this punishment, and the perpetrator will face justice."

Nikbin concluded that Iran's response to the Zionist regime's crimes will be more severe than the previous Operation True Promise and will inflict greater damage on the Zionist regime, but the nature of the response will not be disclosed. Regarding the Zionist regime's atrocities in Gaza, Nikbin said, "The occupying regime has reached new heights of brutality in the occupied territories, committing crimes that will never be forgotten. However, with God's will, these crimes will not last, and the end of this child-killing regime is near."

Maternal mortality rate drops in Khuzestan

Social Desk

The number of maternal deaths in Khuzestan Province dropped significantly, according to the head of the provincial health center. Pejman Bakhtiari Nia said at a press conference on Wednesday that the maternal mortality rate had decreased from 71 to 17 per 100,000 live births. "We have brought down the number of maternal deaths from 46 in 2021 to 11 in 2023,"

Bakhtiari Nia also reported that the

infant mortality rate had fallen from 9 to 8.3 per 1,000 live births, with the number of deaths decreasing from 580 to 541 in 2023, IRNA wrote.

He noted that child mortality had also decreased, from 7.2 to 6.9 per 1,000 live births. "We have increased child care coverage by one and a half times and post-natal care coverage by two times," he explained.

Regarding reports of monkeypox cases among Arbaeen pilgrims, Bakhtiari Nia said that no cases had been detected among pilgrims, according to the Health Ministry. "Iran is considered a low-risk area for monkeypox, and no cases have been reported this year," he said. However, he emphasized that the province's health sector was well-prepared to deal with infectious diseases and had taken measures to prevent the spread of diseases during the Arbaeen

Bakhtiari Nia also reported that the province was free of dengue fever, with no cases of the disease detected despite the presence of the Aedes mosquito, which transmits the disease.

Iranian actor Khanibeik died at 83

Iranian actor Hossein Khanibeik died on at the age of 83, after struggling with Alzheimer's disease for several

Khanibeik had been battling the illness since contracting COVID-19 a few years ago, and his condition had gradually worsened, causing him to lose his ability to speak and recognize others.

Born on August 9, 1941, in Tehran, Khanibeik kicked off



his acting career by landing a role in a play directed by renowned Iranian actor Hadi Eslami. He went on to appear in numerous films and series, including 'Mokhtarnameh'. 'The Tenth Night', 'Youthful Days', 'Crystal Garden,' 'The Ambassador,' 'Willow Branches,' 'Passing Through the Dust,' 'Deadly Escape,' 'The Agony,' and 'The Ecstasy.' Throughout his career, Khanibeik teamed up with many artists, actors, and actresses, such as Khosrow Shakibai, Sirus Gorjestani, and Mehri Mehrnia.