

Leader condolences with quake-hit people

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has expressed condolences to the bereaved families of the victims of two powerful earthquakes that rocked northwestern Iran.

Ayatollah Khamenei urged the country's officials and the Iranian nation to make efforts to ease the pain of the quake-stricken people of Azerbaijan.

On Saturday, a 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck the city of Ahar, near the provincial capital Tabriz, 60 kilometers (37 miles) northeast of Tabriz at a depth of 9.9 kilometers (6.2 miles).

Another quake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale jolted Varzaqan and Haris, which are located near Ahar, 11 minutes later at a similar depth. The epicenter of the quake was 49 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Tabriz.

Leader of Islamic Revolution:

World en route to new power balance



TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei says the world is in transition toward a "new political, economic and social structure and geometry," which involves a balance in power.

"The direction of the future world developments is ... toward the transfer of the general powers and capabilities

of some parts of world nations to other parts," Ayatollah Khamenei noted in a meeting with academics and researchers on Sunday, Press TV reported.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the sweeping wave of Islamic Awakening across the region and the failure of the West, led by the US, to dominate West Asia are two signs of the com-

ing new world order.

"America's unsuccessful leap for dominating this important and sensitive region, which became evident in the cases of Iraq and Afghanistan, is one of the other signs of the deep changes that the world is facing."

"Europe's status quo, which will finally bring it down, stems not from tactical

or strategic errors but from a fundamental flaw in world-view," the Leader added. Ayatollah Khamenei said the decline of the US is the fourth sign, indicating that the world is witnessing a transition into a new state.

"As a leading power in wealth, science as well as military and non-military technology, the US had a

very good public image among the nations; however, today, this country not only does not have that credit, but has turned into the symbol for bullying, oppression, interference in other nation's affairs and warmongering."

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the Iranian nation plays a very important and sensitive role in this transitional phase.

"Contrary to the infertile West, the Islamic Republic has new and wave-inducing suggestions for the human community in various political, administrative, ethical, cultural, social and economic spheres," the Leader said.

"Iran, its elites and officials resist the Western threats, warmongering, assassinations, mass killing, and divisive [policies] and this reality has conferred a special prominent on this country."

Pakistan eyes \$10bn trade ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Pakistan's Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf says Islamabad will go ahead with its multi-billion dollar projects with Iran, calling for immediate steps to lift the ceiling of the bilateral trade to \$10 billion, Press TV reported.

In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Islamabad Alireza Haqiqian, the Pakistani premier said both countries should ensure the expeditious implementation of bilateral projects including the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline and other electricity projects. Tehran and Islamabad have repeatedly stressed the importance of constructing the Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline despite the pressures from the United States.

The multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline is aimed at exporting a daily amount of 21.5 million cubic meters (or 8.7 billion cubic meters per year) of the Iranian natural gas to Pakistan.

The maximum daily gas transfer capacity of the 56-inch pipeline which runs over 900 km of Iran's soil from Asalouyeh in Bushehr Province to the city of Iranshahr in Sistan and Baluchestan Province is 110 million cubic meters.

Iran has already constructed more than 900 kilometers of the pipeline on its soil.

The Pakistani premier further said that his country's relations with Iran were deeply rooted in historical, cultural and religious commonalities.

Canada to hold Six Weeks of Iranian Art

TEHRAN - Canada is planning to hold Six Weeks of Iranian Art festival, hosting visual artists, photographers, musicians and filmmakers in the city of Toronto.

The festival program includes four visual arts exhibitions, four musical performances and screening of a selection of the best Iranian short films and documentaries. The program also includes interactive workshops, screen-play readings, story-telling and networking events as well as a dusk-to-dawn continuous projection of short films and selected art works for the public.

The Mystic Train exhibition of the festival will exhibit paintings, photographs, sculptures and graphic designs created by eight Iranian women.

Ronak Kordestani (painter), Mansoureh Feyzi (sculptor), Leila Miri (graphic artist), Adeleh Farzandar (sculptor), Kimia Rahgozar (photographer) and Maryam Enayati (graphic artist) are the artists whose works will

be showcased in the Mystic Train section of the festival.

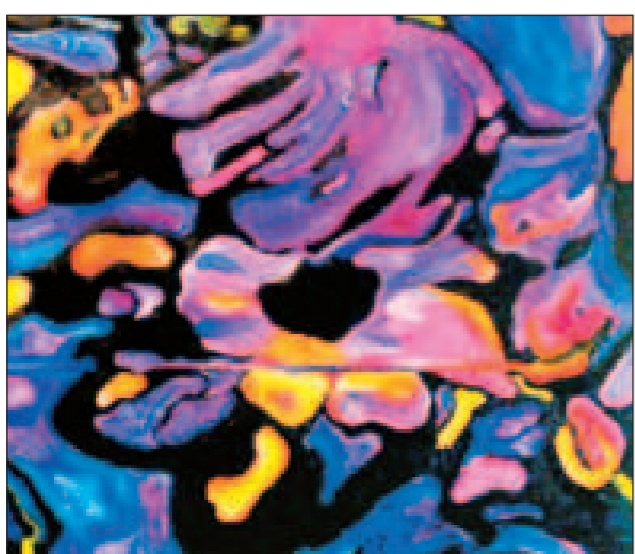
Visitors will also get the chance to see works by a number of veteran Iranian artists at an exhibition called The Backdrop to the Future.

The show will display works by Mohsen Vaziri-Moqaddam (painter and sculptor), Qobad Shiva (graphic artist), Hamid Jebelli (photographer) and Edman Ayvazian (painter), as visual art masters who have influenced contemporary Iranian and international art and inspired and nurtured generations of younger artists.

The 2012 Six Weeks of Iranian Art festival will also pay tribute to Qobad Shiva for his lifetime achievements in introducing Iranian art to the world.

The renowned Iranian graphic designer, Shiva, graduated in 1966 from the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Tehran and practiced graphic art for several years before getting his MA from Pratt University, New York, in 1980.

China biennale to exhibit Behbahani work



TEHRAN - The 2012 edition of Beijing International Art Biennale is slated to exhibit a work by young Iranian painter Tara Behbahani in the Chinese capital.

Behbahani's Mass Production will be displayed at the event which will kick off on September 28, showcasing works of more than 600 artists on the theme of 'Future and Reality.'

Daughter of veteran Iranian artist Taha Behbahani, Tara was born in 1983 in Tehran and got her degrees in Mathematics and Art Research, Press TV reported.

She is a member of the Society of Iranian Painters and has displayed her works in numerous solo and group exhibitions so far.

Founded in 2003, the Beijing International Art Biennale is jointly sponsored by the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, the

Government of Beijing Municipality and the China Artists Association.

The event will be held at the National Art Museum of China and is organized in an effort to build a harmonious world. The exhibitions mainly consist of paintings and sculptures.

An international symposium will be held on the day after the opening ceremony, hosting the curatorial committee members, exhibition participants, influential art critics, curators, scholars and editors.

Participants will discuss subjects related to the exhibition theme, such as 'Catastrophe and Reconstruction,' and 'Harmonious coexistence.'

An international jury consisting of artists, curators and critics will choose Best Work, Excellent Work, and Outstanding Chinese Young Artist's Work winners.

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10 new planes to join Iran's civil fleet

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization Hamidreza Pahlevani says his country will add 10 new passenger planes to the national fleet by the next few months.

Pahlevani said on Sunday that two passenger planes have already joined the Iranian civil air fleet, and the rest will be in service in the coming months. Iran has several private and public airline companies in operation. The oldest is state-run Iran Air.

The expansion of Iran's civil aircraft fleet comes despite the US-led sanctions against the country's civil aviation industry ever since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Based on the sanctions, international companies are banned from selling aircraft or the spare parts to Iran.

President Ahmadinejad:

Mecca Summit, historic test for safeguarding Muslims' dignity, divine values

TEHRAN - President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Monday morning referred to the upcoming summit of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as a historic test for both its inviters and participants to safeguard Muslims' dignity and support their long-term goals as well as divine values and principles.

The President made the remarks while speaking to reporters at the airport prior to his departure to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, where he is to attend the extraordinary summit of the 57-member OIC which is to be held on August 14-15, IRNA reported.

President Ahmadinejad attends the event at the official invitation of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

He is accompanied by Supreme Leader's Advisor for International Affairs Ali-Akbar Velayati, President's senior advisor Mojtaba Samareh-Hashemi, Head of Presidential Office Efsandiar Rahim Mashae and a number of ministers.

"The visit is taking place at the official invitation of the host country in order to

both perform a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca and take part in the OIC summit," President Ahmadinejad told reporters.

Noting that the OIC was established primarily to support Palestinian nation and liberation of the occupied lands, he said, "The present situation is critical and complicated. Massive developments are made while influenced by various currents and factors."

He added that enemies are striving to waste Muslim governments and nations' energy and wealth by pushing them to fight one another.

President Ahmadinejad hoped that the OIC Summit would bring "further convergence and solidarity" to Muslim states and remove any possible malice.

"World's Muslims are waiting for the outcome of this summit," said the President.

He said, on the sidelines of the summit, he would hold separate meetings with a number of participants to discuss major bilateral, regional and international developments.

Iran not selling cheap oil to China

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Beijing Mahdi Safari has rejected rumors about Tehran selling under priced oil to China.

"Iran's oil is sold to China according to standard prices and any report claiming that we sell our oil cheaper is a rumor," Safari said on Sunday.

The Iranian ambassador added that Iran and China have five and seven-year oil contracts.

According to data from the Beijing-based General Administration of Customs, China's oil imports from Iran increased by 17 percent to 2.6 million tons in June with the Asian country importing about 635,000 barrels of oil reported per day, Press TV reported.

In 2009, the volume of trade between Iran and China was USD 20 billion, in 2010 it reached USD 30 billion and in 2011, USD 45 billion.



"We plan to increase trade volume to more than USD 70 billion," Safari added.

On June 6, Iranian Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and China's Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC) signed a memorandum of understanding to expand industrial cooperation with the economic giant.

The signing of the recent MoU adds 12 more projects

to the ones already being implemented by the MCC, one of the world's biggest engineering contractors, in Iran.

The MCC and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinocure) have jointly invested \$20 billion in previous projects in Iran. With the addition of 12 more projects, the investment is estimated to increase to \$30 billion.

Tehran to host international auto show

TEHRAN - An international automobile exhibition is set to be held in the Iranian capital Tehran in February 2013 in order to boost the production of Iranian cars.

The Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC) will organize the fair, IRNA reported.

The IIEC said that the exhibition aims to help develop Iran's automobile industry

and support national production, adding that it will serve as a step for improving the quality of domestically-made cars and accessories.

Iran's automotive industry is the country's second most active business after oil and gas industry, accounting for about 10 percent of Iran's GDP. The country is also one of the largest automakers in Asia.

The Iranian manufacturers currently produce different types of vehicles, including sedans, SUVs, trucks, buses, minibuses, and pickup trucks.

Iranian car manufacturers have exported over 21,000 sedans to international markets in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2012).

Iran sedan exports increase 355%

TEHRAN - Iranian automobile manufacturers have exported a total of 21,985 sedans to international markets in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2012).

According to data released by the Iranian Customs Administration on Wednesday, the exported vehicles were

worth USD 123 million, up by 355-percent compared to the same period of the last Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2012).

The data also shows that Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine were major customers of Iran-made sedans respectively buying 21,827, 70 and 58 vehicles from Iran.

Iran's automotive industry

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Italy to screen Iranian documentary

TEHRAN - Iranian filmmaker Mehdi Zamanpour-Kiasari's film will be screened during the 2012 edition of Religion Today Film Festival in Italy.

Kiasari's Mashti Esmail will compete in the 15th edition of the festival due to be held from October 12 to 24 on the theme of 'Conflicts, Religions and (non)violence.'

The Iranian documentary recounts the story of an old blind man named Mashti Esmail who does not lose hope despite all difficulties he faces throughout his life, Press TV reported.

This year's Religion Today Film Festival will screen feature-length and short fiction films, animations, documentaries and television reportages produced during the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 will be admitted.

The event is conceived

and organized by the cultural nonprofit Association 'Bianconero,' located in Trento, Italy, as an international and itinerant festival dedicated to religious cinema for a culture of dialogue and peace.

Many Iranian productions have so far participated and been awarded at the Religion Today Film Festival, including Rahbar Qanbari's 2004 He that won the Best Feature Film Award of the 9th edition of the annual event.

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