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In the Name of the Most High Viewpoint

Another Triumph for People's Power in Iran

By: Kayhan Int'l Staff Writer

Friday's nationwide elections for the 12th four-year term of the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran in freezing temperatures when the mercury in some parts of the country was several digits below zero, was yet another success for the people and their representatives aspiring to serve the country.

It was yet another slap in the face of the enemies, led by the US indulging in a feverish propaganda campaign to discourage voters, who nonetheless, according to initial reports, exceeded the forty percent mark and when the final counting is over are expected to total many more.

Yesterday there were street celebrations throughout the country for the triumph of people's power.

The voters also cast ballots for the 6th eight-year term of the Assembly of Experts which is made up of revered religious scholars, whose duties include supervision of the system of government and confirmation of the Leader.

Compared to countries which harp on democracy that is devoid of ethical and spiritual values and where people have no choice but to waste their votes on candidates with even criminal records, including apostates, the Iranian electorate is presented a list of representatives approved by the Guardian Council on the basis of their faith in God, in the country, and in the ideals of the revolution.

Iran's 290-seat parliament, popular as the "Majlis", is well represented by the religious minorities of the country, such as Christians, Zoroastrians, and Jews, while in areas populated by Sunni Muslims the candidates belong to the same sect.

This is indeed unique and firm proof the respect that the Islamic Revolution attaches to all strata of citizens and the freedom for them to practice to freely and openly practice their respective rites and rituals.

These liberties for people of other faith are sorely absent in the so-called liberal democracies that their own citizens their basic birthrights.

For instance, the US has almost 15 million Muslim citizens but the Congress and the presidency which are controlled by the minority Jews (less than six million), do not allow this sizeable and rapidly growing number of American Muslims to have their own elected candidates in either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

This same injustice prevails in several other countries, whether autocracies or democracies, and whether Muslim or non-Muslim, where minorities are not properly represented in the legislatures in accordance with the percentage of their population, either on the basis of sect or creed.

In short, the Iranian people, including those who for some reasons could not make it to the ballot boxes but are part of the committed majority, are fully confident that the parliamentarians and the religious experts will definitely strive to promote the interests of the Islamic Republic at the national and international levels, with support for the world's oppressed and confrontation of global arrogance, especially the cherished goal of liberation of Palestine.

IRGC, Red Crescent Mobilize to Aid Flood-Hit Sistan and Baluchestan



Floods have extensively impacted the region's infrastructure, particularly roads and communication networks.

TEHRAN -- In a swift response to catastrophic floods in Sistan and Baluchestan province, the Red Crescent and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have deployed rescue teams and initiated relief operations.

This collaborative effort underscores the severity of the natural disaster that has struck the region, affecting lives and infrastructure.

Muhammad Ali Kavosi, the head of the Red Crescent Society of South Khorasan, confirmed the deployment of 10 operational teams to the flood-affected areas.

Each team, equipped with a rescue vehicle, is comprised of five members from the counties and headquarters of the Red Crescent Society in South Khorasan. The mission is to provide urgent aid to those impacted by the floods in Sistan and Bal-

uchestan.

IRGC Ground Force commander Brigadier General Muhammad Pakpour visited the disaster zones and highlighted the significant damage to rural roads and communication routes, emphasizing the immediate launch of relief operations by the IRGC and the Basij forces to assist the affected communities.

An initial assessment of the damage reveals that the floods have extensively impacted the region's infrastructure, particularly roads and communication networks.

Efforts are underway to reopen these critical routes swiftly. The presence of the governor in the region to assess the damages further indicates the government's commitment to understanding the full extent of the impact on the people and ensuring adequate support is provided.

This collaborative approach between various organizations and the government aims to facilitate a comprehensive and effective response to the disaster.

The floods in Sistan and Baluchestan pose a significant challenge to the affected communities, necessitating a coordinated and sustained relief effort.

As rescue and relief operations continue, the focus will also shift towards rehabilitation and rebuilding efforts to restore normalcy in the region. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining the success of these efforts and the resilience of the affected communities in overcoming the aftermath of this natural disaster.

The head of the national crisis management organization of Iran said 16 counties and 1,947 villages in the province have been stricken by floods.

UN Approves Iran's Proposal for Fighting Dust Storms

NAIROBI (Dispatches) -- The sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) has endorsed the draft resolution "Combating Sand and Dust Storms," which was proposed by Iran and endorsed by the international conference in Tehran in September 2023.

The sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) was held from 26 February to 1 March 2024 at the UN Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The UNEA-6, which was attended by over 180 states, put on the agenda various topics such as the multilateral approach to

climate change, biodiversity loss, pollutants, and waste. The UN Environment Assembly received some 19 resolutions and two proposals.

Iran's proposed draft resolution dubbed "Combating Sand and Dust Storms" was submitted to the UNEA-6 to pursue the implementation of the decisions made in the Tehran international conference in September 2023.

Ali Salajegheh, the deputy president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the head of the Department of Environment, presiding over a high-ranking delegation of experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his own organization, took part

in the UNEA-6. The Iranian official held meetings with representatives and ministers from China, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Qatar, Turkey, Azerbaijan Republic, Iraq, and Uzbekistan.

Salajegheh also met with the Executive director of the United Nations Environment Program Inger Andersen during the international assembly. Over the course of the mentioned meetings, the Iranian delegation and other parties held talks on issues such as relationships with neighboring states concerning environmental affairs, common environment-related concerns, as well as regional and international environmental issues.

New Ambassador to Cape Verde Begins Mission

TEHRAN — Hassan Asgari, Iran's newly accredited ambassador to Cape Verde, has begun his duties in the African country.

Asgari, who also serves as Iran's ambassador in Senegal, met with Cape Verde's President José Maria Neves on Saturday to present his credentials.

During the meeting, both sides explored the avenues to fur-

ther expand mutual ties in the areas of mutual interest.

Asgari extended an invitation to the President of Cape Verde to pay a state visit to the Islamic Republic.

President Neves expressed deep concern over the tragic loss of 30,000 innocent lives in Gaza, especially children and women.

He called for the peaceful solu-

tion of the Gaza crisis and the use of all mechanisms to halt the war and establish peace and stability.

Asgari has previously served as political attaché in Iran's embassies in Austria and Sri Lanka, deputy ambassador in Croatia and Georgia, and assistant director general of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Strategic Planning and Monitoring Office.

The Holy Qur'an

And if they break their oaths after their agreement and (openly) revile your religion, then fight the leaders of unbelief-- surely their oaths are nothing-- so that they may desist.

The Holy Qur'an (9.12)

PRAYER TIMINGS

Noon (Zohr)	12:16
Evening (Maghreb)	18:20
Dawn (Fajr) "Tomorrow"	06:31
Sunrise "Tomorrow"	05:08

Envoy Refutes Claims of Iran Involvement in Ukraine War

UNITED NATIONS -- The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations has categorically refuted the accusation of Iran's involvement in the military conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

In a letter to President of the UN Security Council Yamazaki Kazuyuki, Saeed Iravani rejected the "unfounded allegations leveled against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the joint statements delivered by the Permanent Representative and the Foreign Minister of Ukraine."

The Iranian envoy said Ukraine has "erroneously claimed Iran was providing military support to the Russian Federation in the Ukraine crisis, in contravention of UNSC Resolution 2231."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly taken a stance of impartiality since the outset of the Ukraine conflict and this principled position remains unchanged. Furthermore, Iran has consistently advocated for peace and the immediate cessation of hostilities in Ukraine and continues to do so," Iravani underlined.

"Therefore, any claim regarding Iran's involvement in the sale, export, or transfer of arms in contravention of its international obligations and UNSC Resolution 2231 is completely unfounded and categorically rejected. Iran once more reaffirms its unwavering commitment to adhering to international humanitarian law," he stated.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to reject the identical allegation and inappropriate reference made against my country in a joint statement delivered by Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in connection with the Security Council briefing on 10 January 2024 under the agenda item entitled 'Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine,'" the ambassador added.

He also called on the UN Security Council president to circulate the letter as a document of the Security Council.