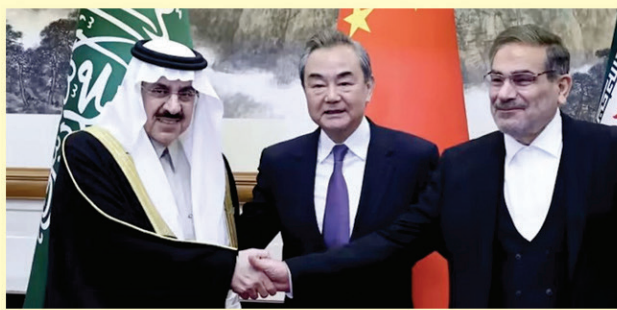
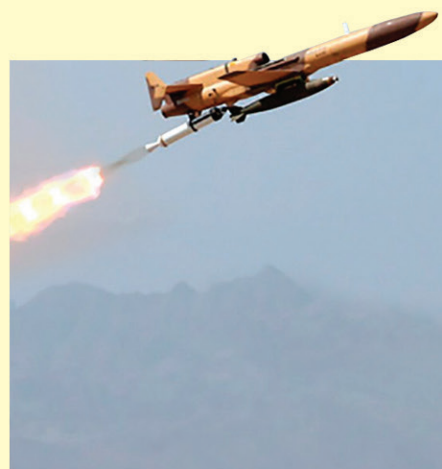
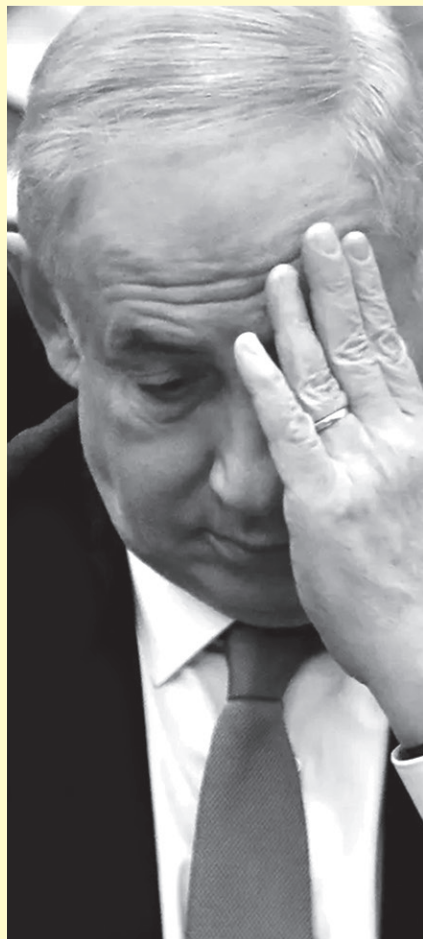
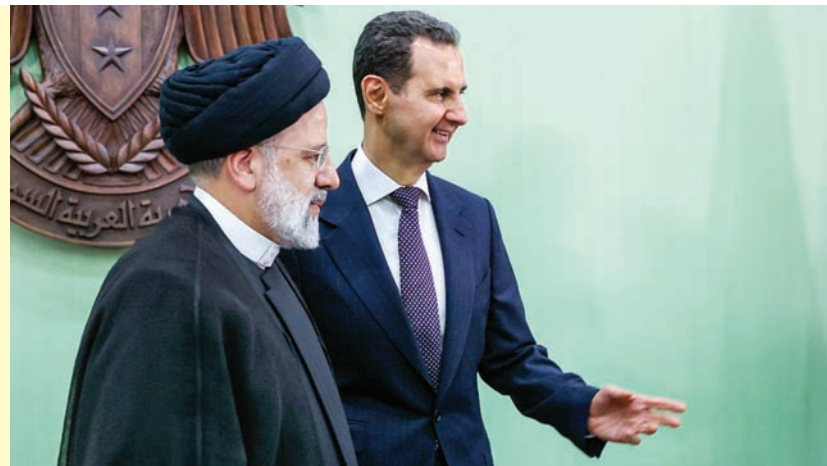


# How Iran has turned the hourglass upside down



► Page 3

## From Inside

- IRGC tests rocket having thermobaric warhead **P2**
- Pakistan appoints new ambassador to Iran **P3**
- Oman welcomes investment in Iran's industry sector **P4**
- Tehran, Moscow eager to diversify direct flights, envoy says **P6**
- Tehran hosting G5 experts meeting on health cooperation **P7**
- Bust of Persian lexicographer Mohammad Moin unveiled in Tehran **P8**

## Tehran Papers

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

### Syria's economic opportunities for Iran

In its editorial, Kayhan addressed the dimensions of the president's visit to Syria. It wrote: Some Iranian observers have the imagination that Syria is very poor and the damages ► Page 2

## Russian diplomat calls Biden aide's remarks on Iran 'confusing and puzzling'

TEHRAN- A top Russian diplomat on Saturday criticized President Joe Biden's National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan for making "confusing and puzzling" remarks on Iran.

Speaking to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on Thursday, Sullivan said the U.S. will take all necessary steps, including "recognizing Israel's freedom of action," to stop Iran from gaining what he claimed a nuclear weapon.

Sullivan, contradicting himself, said that Washington is seeking a "diplomatic solution" with Iran.

Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent envoy to the Vienna-based international bodies, said it wasn't obvious what message the U.S. official was attempting to convey.

"The U.S. National Security Adviser delivered a keynote speech on the Middle East [West Asia]. Its section on Iran is puzzling. Not clear what kind of message he wanted to send. However, the positive sign is that the diplomatic option, judging by his words, still remains on the table," Ulyanov said in a tweet. ► Page 2

## Report

### Jericho under siege as Israel seeks to hide crises

By Ali Karbalaeei

TEHRAN- The suffocating military siege is the latest Israeli attempt to divert attention from the biggest challenges the occupation has ever faced.

Since the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, the Israeli military has imposed strict restrictions on movement in the occupied West Bank city of Jericho and its surrounding areas.

For eleven consecutive days, the regime has set up makeshift military checkpoints at all main entrances leading into Jericho and inside the ancient city's side roads.

Footage shows long queues of cars within the city as troops thoroughly and slowly search vehicles and passengers one by one allegedly looking for wanted suspects. ► Page 5

## Blossoming beauty: rosewater festival is a place to be

By Afshin Majlesi

Once again, joyous celebrations of roses take center stage in Kashan and many other Iranian villages and towns where rosewater production is at its peak.

Golab-Giri or rosewater festival is observed annually during May and June, when the country's lush rose fields bloom and produce an exquisite scent. During the festival, people come together in the fields to witness the rose petals being picked and distilled to create the fragrant oil.

A Golab-Giri festival begins with a procession of the locals carrying baskets of roses to local distilleries. The flowers are then sorted and placed in large copper pots where they are boiled to produce the oil. The pots are made from bricks, stones, and mud.

The festival-goers may watch the process of a time-honored distillation, the steam rising from the pots as the fragrant oil is captured in jars.

Aside from the actual production of rosewater, the attendees may roam through vibrant bazaars where local vendors sell all sorts of rose-infused products, such as perfumes, soaps, and even tea. In fact, rosewater is an essential ingredient in Persian cuisine. Furthermore, there are various musical and cultural events, including folk dances and traditional performances. ► Page 6

## Iran runners-up at 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia

TEHRAN – Iran lost to defending champions Thailand 3-1 in the final match of the 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia and Oceania Championship on Sunday.

Team Melli had defeated India 17-1, Kuwait 20-0, Kyrgyzstan 26-0, the UAE 14-0 and Singapore 3-0 in the competition.

Earlier in the day, Singapore beat India 3-1 to win the bronze medal.

The event started on April 30 in Bangkok, Thailand finished on May 7.

The 2023 IIHF Women's Asia and Oceania Championship was an international women's ice hockey tournament run by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF).

It was the IIHF women's debut for Iran and Kyrgyzstan.

Eight teams participated in the tournament and were drawn into two seeded groups. The top two teams from Group A advanced directly to the semifinals, while the bottom two from Group A faced the top two teams of Group B in the quarterfinals.

Ice hockey is a team sport played on ice skates, usually on an ice skating rink with lines and markings specific to the sport. It belongs to a family of sports called hockey. In ice hockey, two opposing teams use ice hockey sticks to control, advance, and shoot a closed, vulcanized, rubber disc called a "puck" into the other team's goal. Each goal is worth one point. The team which scores the most goals is declared the winner. In a formal game, ► Page 3

## Assad remains, Arab League forced to return

Foreign ministers from Arab League member states have agreed to reinstate Syria's membership after its suspension more than 10 years ago, according to Iraqi state media.

The ministers voted for Syria's return into the fold at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo on Sunday.

The decision was made in advance of the Arab League Summit in Saudi Arabia on May 19 and amid a flurry of regional normalization of ties with Damascus in recent weeks.

Since March 2011, Syria has been gripped by a campaign of militancy and destruction sponsored by the US and its allies.

Syria was suspended from the Arab League in 2011 amidst the eruption of war in the country. ► Page 5



Iran Expo 2023 running in Tehran ► Page 4

## Senior Iranian general visits Oman

TEHRAN- The Sultanate of Oman hosted a visit by Iran's top military official for talks on bilateral and regional cooperation.

Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, headed a top military delegation to Muscat at the request of his Omani counterpart.

Upon his arrival, the top Iranian commander started talks with Oman's senior military officials. He was also expected to meet the host country's political officials.

Major General Baqeri also plans to tour Oman's military and academic institutions.

High-level military representatives from Iran and Oman signed a memorandum of understanding in April 2019 to expand military cooperation between the two friendly neighbors.

In recent years, the two neighbors have conducted a number of coordinated naval exercises.





## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Syria's economic opportunities for Iran

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

From page 1 ► caused by the war are too much that these economic agreements have nothing but costs for Iran. But this idea lacks expert opinion. Syria is not a poor country. It has abundant mines and resources, especially in the petrochemical field. Syria, with its long Mediterranean coast, can be the best connector of Iran with Europe and North Africa. Syria's suitable agricultural lands can fulfill a significant part of Iran's needs for grains, and the population of about 4.5 million people of Syria's Alavi and Jafari Shias can flourish Iran's religious tourism.

**Javan: Is Pahlavi an opposition or a traitor?**

Javan wrote Mohammad Sahimi, a professor at the University of Southern California, has done a detailed and documented research about Reza Pahlavi, the son of the deposed king of Iran, and he has revealed Reza Pahlavi's position to his support for America's military attack on Iran.

Sahimi says that a few hours after the attacks on the twin towers of America on September 11, 2001, actually in the same evening, Reza Pahlavi interviewed with an American radio network in which he said: "Terrorism is like an octopus and the weakest point of the octopus is its eye, (and) the eye of the octopus of terrorism is also in Tehran!"

Reza Pahlavi provoked Americans to attack Tehran in the most sensitive time when the American people backed military attack on any country.

The professor explained that at the time he wrote an article responding to Reza Pahlavi. He said: "Reza Pahlavi was always seeking to return to power and throne via the help of foreign governments, because he does not have any important social base in Iran." Afterward, Sahimi faced a wave of obscenities from Pahlavi supporters. This means, they also had no problem with a military attack on Iran, even though the incident had nothing to do with Iran.

**Arman-e-Emrooz: Possibility of limited and long-term agreement**

Arman-e-Emrooz addressed the nuclear case, saying: It seems that a long-term and limited (nuclear) agreement is likely to be on the agenda in a way that both Iran's economic interests are secured and the West have a feeling of safety about Iran's uranium enrichment. A long-term and limited agreement in which most of Iran's economic activities will be exempt from sanctions and

Iran's enrichment will be reduced to 20% instead.

However, in this complex field, no scenario should be considered final and something completely different may happen in the coming days. But the parties certainly intend to negotiate and are trying to take serious and final steps in this direction.

**Sobh-e-No: Trigger mechanism and media pressure**

In a commentary, Sobh-e-No discussed the West's threat to activate the trigger mechanism based on Resolution 2231, which endorses the JCPOA. It wrote: The West has warned Iran that higher enrichment equals the return of UN sanctions. This can be considered as a propaganda push to influence the views and opinions of the IAEA Board of Governors.

Westerners are looking for their political and media pressures to contain other fields as well. This type of pressure is primarily intended to pressure Iran to step back from its red lines in the Vienna talks. Although the remaining issues between the parties are too few, they are considered big in some ways that some of them are in the economic field. This issue means that Iran will not receive the rest of main and small privileges.

Some analysts consider that if one side can obtain these privileges, which are related to the key part of the sanctions, it will be victorious and the other will be the loser. We saw these confrontations last spring and summer as well, which is continuing until today.

**Mardom Salari: West will be responsible for consequences if UN bans returned**

Mardom Salari also discussed the trigger mechanism. It wrote: A Western diplomat, who had asked not to be named said 'the Westerners are busy with Ukraine and Russia and they don't want to open another front right now. So, they want to do all efforts to prevent uranium with 90% purity.'

A senior Iranian official has warned: If they want to activate UN sanctions against Iran under any excuse, they will be responsible for all consequences. Iran's response can be withdrawing from the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) to speeding up the nuclear process and increasing the level of uranium enrichment. The official told Reuters: "Tehran will not tolerate such an action and will take a strong reaction against the possible return of UN sanctions."

## MBS has ability to receive permission to refurbish Baqi Cemetery: Islamic scholar

TEHRAN- An Islamic scholar says there is a high possibility to get permission from the Saudi officials, including Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS) to restore the Baqi Cemetery.

Shahab Moradi also wished that Iran can one day embellish the cemetery and morph it into a heaven for all who follow the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and twelve Imams.

Speaking with Mehr News that part of it was published on Saturday, Moradi noted that the restoration of Islamic monuments including the Baqi Cemetery needs the attention of both people and government.

"On one hand, the government should put legal and diplomatic programs on the agenda, and on the other hand, people and NGOs need to come to solve the issue," the cleric suggested.

The Islamic scholar went on to highlight that it is the duty of politicians to pursue the case because they have the ability and power to convince the Saudi officials to refurbish the holy site.

"Since the ties between Tehran and Riyadh are improving, so, it can be the best opportunity to hold talks with the Saudis to accept the issuance of permission for the reconstruction," he added.

Moradi continued by saying that regarding the destruction of Baqi, it is regarded as an



injustice and annoying issue for Muslims, especially Shias, and the matter is unfortunately viewed as a petty topic by the Islamic society.

A famous figure on TV and social media, Shahab Moradi was born in Tehran in the early 1950s.

He is one of the well-known clerics in the domain of media, having lots of fans and is considered as one of the famous and prominent Islamic experts in many television programs.

# IRGC tests rocket having thermobaric warhead

TEHRAN- An indigenous rocket with a thermobaric warhead has been successfully tested by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Ground Force (IRGC), Tasnim reported on Sunday.

The "Fajr-5" rocket now has a thermobaric warhead according to experts from the Research and Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the IRGC Ground Force.

The guided variant of the 333 mm rocket Fajr-5, known as "Fajr-5C," has already been delivered to the IRGC Ground Force units.

The destructive capability of the Iranian rocket has grown thanks to the new thermobaric warhead, which creates a high-temperature explosion by using oxygen from the surrounding air.

According to reports, the new warhead's destructive capability is 1.5 times stronger than that of trinitrotoluene (TNT), increasing the explosion radius and heat effect of the rocket.

Because the thermobaric explosive is less sensitive than TNT, it is a safer alternative than conventional warheads.

After being given to the Palestinian resistance groups, the Fajr-5 rockets gained prominence.

They were utilized throughout the conflict, when the Zionist regime attacked the Gaza Strip in 2012.

At the time, it was reported that Hamas troops had triumphed over



the Israeli regime's Iron Dome air defense system with Fajr rockets.

The enhanced thermobaric warhead features would also make the Fajr-5 rocket a useful weapon for combating terrorist groups in hilly and inaccessible places where terrorists build shelters and trenches.

The Fajr-5 ground-to-ground rocket is the most sophisticated and longest-range version of the three classes of Fajr rockets, each with a unique use.

The single-stage and two-stage

solid fuel 333 mm rockets have a range of 75 km and 180 km, respectively.

According to the commander of the Iranian Army Air Defense Force, this year will see the introduction of new domestically produced weapons.

During a ceremony on Sunday honoring the teachers in the Iranian Army Air Defense, Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard said that "the greatest component of the Army is education, so with

training, we will gain significant achievements in the air defense force."

General Sabahi-Fard underlined the need for all army soldiers to get training so that everyone may benefit from the significant accomplishments of the Air Defense Force

"After the Islamic Revolution's victory, our training reached such a level that all the power equipment is indigenous and entirely made in Iran," he asserted.

## Russian diplomat calls Biden aide's remarks on Iran 'confusing and puzzling'

From page 1 ► Iran is charged of attempting to develop a nuclear weapon by the United States and Israel.

The Islamic Republic has always refuted the charge and emphasized that its nuclear program is only for peaceful purposes.

In his Thursday remarks, Sullivan said Washington allows Israel "freedom of action" against Iran.

"We have made clear to Iran that it can never be permitted to obtain a nuclear weapon," Sullivan said. "As President Biden has repeatedly reaffirmed, he will take the actions necessary to stand by this statement, including by recognizing Israel's freedom of action."

The national security adviser added the U.S. continues to use diplomatic channels regarding Iran's nuclear program.

Sullivan argued that without a deal, Iran's nuclear program is advancing, while an agreement would scale it back.

"We will continue to send a clear message about the costs and consequences of going too far, while at the same time continuing to seek the possibility of a diplomatically brokered outcome that puts Iran's nuclear program back in the box," he said.

Sullivan said the U.S. is cooperating with partners in the Middle East to deter Iran, such as holding the largest joint military exercise ever between the U.S. and Israel this year, and one of the largest naval military exercises in the history of the Middle East with over 50 countries.



"There can be no doubt that we are walking the walk and not just talking the talk when we say that our commitment to Israel's security is ironclad," he said.

The remarks by Sullivan drew anger among some Americans opposed to war, noting such statements imply a green light for military strikes.

Iran's top security official said on Friday that the remarks by the U.S. national security advisor suggests that Washington is an accomplice in Israel's sabotage attacks on the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities and assassination of Iran's nuclear experts.

"Jake Sullivan has said that if #Iran tries to produce nukes, US will recognize Israel's freedom of action to counter. This admission means that US has been and will be responsible for all terrorist acts of Zionists against Iran's facilities and people, accepting its consequences," tweeted Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

For decades the U.S. has closed its eyes on the

Zionist regime's nuclear weapons program and its breach of international law.

The Israeli regime has refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and opposed a Middle East nuclear free zone.

Last year the United Nations General Assembly voted 152-5 in favor of a resolution that demands Israel destroy all its nuclear weapons arsenal and allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit its nuclear facilities.

Four countries - Canada, Micronesia, Palau, and the United States - as well as the Israeli regime, opposed the resolution on the "risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East." Another 24 countries abstained, including some members of the European Union.

The resolution declared that Israel is the only entity in the region that has not signed the NPT.

The resolution reaffirmed "the importance of Israel's accession to the NPT and placement of all its nuclear facilities under comprehensive International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, in realizing the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty in the Middle East."

It further called on Israel "to accede to the Treaty without further delay, not to develop, produce, test, or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all its unsafe guarded nuclear facilities under the full scope of Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step toward enhancing peace and security."

## Cyberattack on Iran's active diplomacy

TEHRAN- A group of hackers on Sunday launched a cyber-attack against the official website of Iran's Foreign Ministry.

The group, affiliated to the terrorist Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), hacked the Foreign Ministry website out of desperation as the ministry has made gargantuan foreign policy achievements.

Iran's constructive participation in international discussions regarding conditions in Syria, Yemen, and Afghanistan, the 25-year strategic partnership with China, reestablishing ties with Saudi Arabia, launching a successful "neighbors first" and "look to the East" policy are just some examples of Iran's foreign policy achievements.

Likewise, together with its allies in Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, Iran is now able to exert considerable influence on key developments in the region.

This regional alliance, which is utilized as a tool to exert pressure on competitors and opponents, especially Israel and the United States, as well as the means to defend national security, is seen as the most significant accomplishment of Iran's regional policy.

Following the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran pursued an independent regional and international foreign policy. Motivated by Imam Khomeini's leadership and the revolutionary and Islamic teachings, Iran grew to become a significant force in the



world's political landscape.

By cutting off relations with the Zionist regime, stopping the supply of oil to Israel, and advo-

cating for the liberation of the Palestinian lands, Iran has been pushing for the isolation of the apartheid Zionist regime.



# How Iran turned regional hourglass upside down

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN – Only two and a half years ago, Israel was on a normalization spree in the West Asia region, touting anti-Iranian alliances with some of the region's countries.

That trend is bucked with Iran rapidly improving ties with a remarkable number of countries, including those that forged relations with Israel.

Since 2020, Israel has been on the move to break its historical isolation with top-down normalization deals with Arab states such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, etc. In recent months, it was on the cusp of another deal with Saudi Arabia, an Arab heavyweight with which normalization would impact the whole region.

And instead of finding common ground in Palestine, Israeli leaders effusively portrayed Iran as the shared threat to the region in order to coax Arab leaders into recognizing Israel. Their effort ended in an abysmal failure as Arab states were unable or maybe unwilling to replace Palestine with Iran as the common ground for peace.

This coincided with an Iranian reconsideration of its relations with neighboring countries under President Ebrahim Raisi. After years of tensions, Iran moved to patch up ties with Saudi Arabia and its Arab allies.

The new reconciliatory atmo-



sphere in the region was on full display during the recent visit by President Raisi to Syria, where he laid the groundwork for strong, longstanding relations with Syria at a time when the Arab country is moving back to the Arab fold.

Syria has been a major point of contention over the last ten years. But Thanks to efforts by General Ismail Qaani, the country is now stabilized and rising from the ashes of a devastating war.

In an important development that is expected to further deepen Israel's isolation, Syria was readmitted to the Arab League on Sunday.

With the region moving toward

peace and stability, Israel is increasingly feeling isolated. And Israelis are now acknowledging that this trend is led by Iran. "Whereas Israel was until recently the one that forged anti-Iran alliances and extensive cooperation in the Middle East and beyond, this situation has been reversed. Iran has turned the hourglass upside down," a senior Israeli political source told Al-Monitor.

Pointing to Raisi's trip to Syria that concluded on Thursday, the source saw more worrying signs for Israel. The Israeli source said that to see President Raisi watching Israeli outposts on the Golan Heights through binoculars or meeting with the heads

of the Palestinian organizations in Damascus is not really encouraging.

As things stand, Iran appears to have successfully bucked the trend of normalization and expanded its regional relations.

And the improvement of Iran's foreign relations has positively impacted its economy. On Sunday, President Raisi revealed Iran's exports under his administration broke a 40-year record of \$50 billion in value. And this happened under blanket U.S. sanctions against Iran, which have been reimposed in 2018 at Israel's urging.

All in all, Iran is rapidly reclaiming its place in the region while Israel is plunging into isolation.

## Uzbek parliament speaker visits Isfahan

TEHRAN – Uzbek Parliament Speaker Nurdinjon Ismoilov traveled to Isfahan on Sunday morning to visit historical attractions of the ancient city.

He is accompanied by an Uzbek parliamentary delegation. In Isfahan, the Uzbek official met with Seyed Reza Mortazavi, the provincial governor.

"Isfahan is not an unfamiliar city to us, because in the works of all the poets and writers we read, we know what kind of city Isfahan is, and the wish of every Uzbek is to see this beautiful city," Ismoilov said upon arriving in Isfahan. "I am proud and happy to be in Isfahan."

"Of course, not only us, but all the inhabitants of the East should be proud of this historical and ancient city," he added, according to Mehr News.

Ismoilov noted, "Our trip to Iran is in line with the development of relations between the two countries. At the beginning of our arrival in Iran, we had meetings with the Speaker of the Parliament and the President of Iran and we want to develop the relations between the two countries."

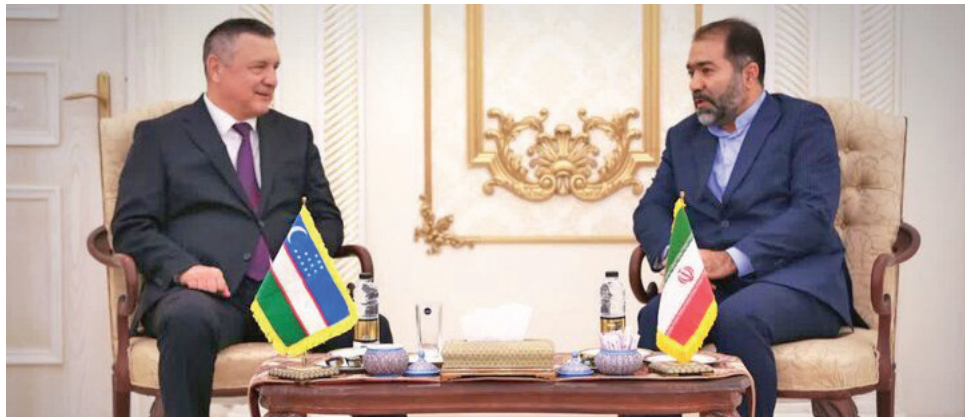
He added, "In the current situation, the development of tourism is one of our most important priorities in Uzbekistan, and that is why today we have traveled to Isfahan, which is one of the main tourism centers in Iran."

The governor of Isfahan province expressed hope that Ismoilov's visit would strengthen relations between Iran and Uzbekistan. "We hope that this trip will be a basis for promoting relations in economic, tourism and cultural fields," he said.

Moilov arrived in Tehran late on Friday and met Saturday with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and President Ebrahim Raisi.

Ismoilov visited Iran at the invitation of Qalibaf. He headed an Uzbek parliamentary delegation.

At a joint press briefing, Qalibaf said improv-



Uzbek Parliament Speaker Nurdinjon Ismoilov (L) talking to Isfahan governor Reza Mortazavi.

ing relations with Iran's neighbors is a priority of Iran's foreign policy.

He added, "We are very happy that today we are hosting the Speaker of the Parliament of Uzbekistan and that he has made his trip to Iran. According to the policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has prioritized the development of relations with neighboring countries and the region, especially Islamic countries, the development of relations with Uzbekistan is one of our priorities."

Iran's top MP went on to say, "One of the important axes of our interactions in the development of relations with Uzbekistan is the political, economic and cultural spheres, and as our dear nation knows, the friendly and brotherly country of Uzbekistan ranks first among Central Asian countries in terms of population."

The speaker of the parliament noted, "We have good and favorable opportunities in the development of economic, transportation and transit relations with Uzbekistan, especially in the use of the important North-South corridor and the

East-West corridor, the development of transit relations can play a role."

Raisi and Ismoilov also reviewed the implementation of agreements between the two countries.

"18 cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding have been signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan, and the acceleration of their implementation will greatly increase the level of relations," Raisi said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

He further added, "The exchange of experiences between the parliaments of Iran and Uzbekistan will be an effective and positive step towards development of relations between the two countries."

The Chairman of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan, for his part, praised the foreign policy of Ayatollah Raisi in prioritizing development of relations with neighbors and said, "In Uzbekistan, in line with this principled policy, during the amendment of the Constitution, the development of relations with neighbors in given priority."

## Pakistan appoints new ambassador to Iran



TEHRAN – Pakistan has appointed a new ambassador to Iran that has extensive experience of working in China, a Pakistani news outlet reported.

The new ambassador, Muhammad Mudassar Tipu, previously served as the Director General (China) and Consul General to Chengdu, Gwadar Pro reported.

This appointment is seen as a positive development that can foster closer ties between Paki-

stan, China, and Iran, particularly in the context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the outlet added.

Song Zhihui, the Director of the Pakistan Study Center at Sichuan University, underlined the importance of the appointment of Tipu. He highlighted that Iran's growing geopolitical importance, particularly in light of the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation facilitated by China, makes this assignment crucial, according to the Pakistani outlet.

According to Zhihui, Pakistan can play a dynamic role in this process, which could result in substantial political and economic advantages for Pakistan. The professor emphasized that Iran, Pakistan, China, and Saudi Arabia are natural partners in promoting regional economic growth, connectivity, and trade opportunities.

Zhihui emphasized the significant neighborly relationship between Pakistan and Iran, with Islamabad seeking to enhance diplomatic, economic, and security ties with Tehran. Notably, Iran holds a crucial position as an important participant in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) serving as a key point of convergence.

Iran and Pakistan have been working to boost their economic ties. The value of Iran's non-oil export to Pakistan rose 18 percent in the past Iranian calendar year

1401 (ended on March 20), the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of the Iranian House of Industry, Mining, and Trade announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that importing non-oil goods worth \$1.488 billion from Iran, Pakistan was the fifth top export destination of the Islamic Republic in the previous year.

Iran imported non-oil commodities valued at \$842 million from Pakistan in the past year, which was 170 percent higher than the figure of the preceding year, the official stated, adding that Pakistan was Iran's fourth top source of import in the previous year.

Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad-Ali Hosseini and Pakistani Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar discussed the ways for increasing trade between the two countries in a meeting in Islamabad in late April.

## Ghalenoei to attend AFC Asian Cup 2023 draw



TEHRAN – Iran national football team head coach Amir Ghalenoei will attend the draw ceremony of the AFC Asian Cup 2023.

He traveled to Doha on Sunday to take part in the ceremony.

The draw will be held at the Katara Opera House to ensure that the host nation commences the tournament with the opening match scheduled for January 12, 2024.

Iran is placed in Pot 1 along with Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Japan and Australia.

## Kabaddi player Mitra Shahparast falls in a coma

TEHRAN – Iran international kabaddi player Mitra Shahparast slipped into a coma following a car accident.

The accident happened in a road in Shira, Fars province.

Her mother died due to overturning the car.

Shahparast, 26, is a kabbadi player since 2015.

She missed the 2018 Asian Games due to the injury. Team Melli defeated powerhouses India in the final to win their first ever gold medal.

## Saket named AFC Marketing Committee member

TEHRAN – Sepahan football club General Manager Mohammad Reza Saket was named as a member of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Marketing Committee.

He will serve as the member until May 2027.

The Committee is headed by Dasho Ugen Tsechup from Bangladesh.

AFC Marketing Committee has 11 members as well as chairperson and deputy chair person.

## Iranian women 2nd at 2023 Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal

TEHRAN – Iran's women's futsal team defeated China 4-1 in the 2023 Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal Tournament Sunday and finished in second place.

Japan finished in the first place.

Iran had previously lost to Japan in the tournament.

The Asia-Pacific Deaf Futsal Tournament 2023 is being held in Tehran from May 1 to 9, 2023.

## Shahdab want title at 2023 Asian Club Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Shahdab head coach Mohammadreza Tondarvan said they want to win title of the at 2023 Asian Club Volleyball C'ship.

The 23rd Asian men's Club Volleyball Championship will be hosted by Bahrain from May 24 to 31, and Shahdab Yazd team will represent Iran in this competition.

"We started training on April 16 and the players participated in the camp. We went through good training, including bodybuilding and tactics. Last 10 days, we reached a conclusion about the list of 20 people and 16 people are in the camp, among them thirteen people will be sent to Bahrain," Tondarvan said.

"The teams have hired good foreign players and these games have become attractive in the recent years. Unlike in the past when there were two good teams, recently there are about six good teams. The Southern Gas of Iraq have recruited some good foreign players. We are drawn with South Gas, Taichung Bank (Chinese Taipei) and Kam Air (Afghanistan) in Pool B.

Pool A consists of Bahrain, South Korea, Australia, and Indonesian teams.

Japan, Thailand, Mongolia, and Yemen are in Group C and Kazakhstan, Qatar, Hong Kong, and Kuwait teams are drawn in Pool D.

"We tried to use more of the composition of last year and this year, which can strengthen the Iranian volleyball representative in this tournament. Shahdab officials helped us in the preparation process and provided us with what we needed. We will travel to Bahrain a few days earlier to train with Saeed Marouf, who will join us in Bahrain and if possible, we will have a few preparatory games. Finally, we are ready to go game by game and be able to get a good result.

He explained about Shahdab's goal as well.

"A team like Shahdab are looking for the best result and winning the championship, but the conditions of the competition will be determined at the same moment. We have thought out all the arrangements so that all the conditions are as intended and we get the best result. The goal is the championship and we hope to get the best results in the competition," he added.

## Iran victorious over Malta at 2023 Water Polo World Cup Division 2

TEHRAN – Iran beat Malta 15-9 in the 2023 Men's Water Polo World Cup, Division 2 classification on Sunday.

Iran suffered two defeats against Romania (15-4) and Kazakhstan (7-6) and beat New Zealand (17-14) and Malta (15-9) as well.

Team Melli took part in the event as part of preparation for the 2022 Asian Games.

The tournament was held in Berlin, Germany from May 5 to 7.

## Iran runners-up at 2023 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's Asia

From Page 1 ▶ each team has six skaters on the ice at a time, barring any penalties, one of whom is the goaltender. Ice hockey is a full contact sport, and is considered to be one of the more physically demanding team sports.

Ice hockey is one of the sports featured in the Winter Olympics while its premiere international competition, the IIHF World Championships, are governed by the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) for both men's and women's competitions.

In North America and parts of Europe the sport is known simply as hockey[citation needed]. However, in other countries, "hockey" usually refers to field hockey. In 1994 hockey was officially recognized as Canada's national winter sport.



## Annual fishery export stands at \$600m



TEHRAN – The value of Iran's fishery export stood at \$600 million in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the head of Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) Hossein Hosseini announced.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products sold easily in export markets

By announcing that last year the fishing industry brought \$600 million income for the country, with a positive balance of \$520 million, the official said that there is a capacity of up to \$2 billion export in the country's fishery industry.

Iran's aquaculture industry is on the wave of progress and has world ranks in the production of some fishery products.

It is worth mentioning that the growth and development of Iran's aquaculture industry has reached the point where the country has become a model for the countries of the region and the world.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) believes that Iran plays a responsible and central role in fishing and aquaculture in the region, and for this reason,

it can be considered a model for the countries of the region.

Now the world markets have become the target of the export of the country's fishery products, so that head of Iran Fisheries Organization has announced that the value of fishery exports was more than \$500 million in the Iranian calendar year 1400, with 67 percent growth year on year.

In addition to the executive role of the IFO, the role of research and knowledge-based activities in this field is very important, and the entry of young specialists and knowledge-based experts in various sectors of the fishery industry has made the sanctions ineffective.

"In the past, our [fish farming] cages were all imported. Now, with knowledge-based companies, 85 percent of cage equipment is produced inside the country and we are self-sufficient in preparing 98 percent of shrimp food", the IFO head has stated.

"Meanwhile, we have been able to achieve global rankings for the country in the production of some fishery products, and we rank second in total fishery output in West Asia", the official further highlighted.

Last November, Iran launched the country's first fishery industries park, in which every year 1,000 tons of shrimp is produced.

Over the past four years, the efforts of the Aquatics Production and Trade Union of Iran, and the non-governmental sector have led to the addition of markets in countries such as Oman and Malaysia to Iran's target export markets in the field of fishery.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past four years; as new markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products.

## Commodities worth over \$691m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 3,074,495 tons of commodities and 475 vehicles with a total trading value of more than \$691 million.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,608,233 tons of commodities worth more than \$454 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,197,197 tons of cement, 890,000 tons of iron ore, 379,188 tons of steel, 129,500 tons of sponge iron, 8,205 tons of copper, 6,325 tons of aluminum, 740 tons of zinc, 230 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 60 tons of precious metals concentrate and 475 vehicles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 452,585 tons of commodities valued at nearly \$226 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 158,164 tons of bitumen, 107,989 tons of polymeric products, 78,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 46,000 tons of lube cut, 38,358 tons of chemicals, 8,732 tons of petroleum products, 8,120 tons of sulfur, 6,219 tons of base oil, 1,000 tons of slops wax, 470 tons of insulation and 200 tons of gas feedstocks.

## Iran, Iraq sign MOU to complete Shalamcheh-Basra railway

TEHRAN – Heads of the railways of Iran and Iraq have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on taking executive measures for completing the Shalamcheh-Basra railway, the portal of Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry reported on Sunday.

The MOU was signed at the place of the Iranian embassy in Baghdad, on the sidelines of the visit of Seyed Miad Salehi, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) to the Arab country.

During the visit, which was carried out in line with the agreement between the transport ministers of the two countries last month;

after a joint meeting between the technical teams of the two parties at the border of Shalamcheh, the railway heads of the two countries along with the technical teams paid a visit to the railway project.

Iran and Iraq signed an MOU for the construction of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway in the Iranian calendar year 1390 (March 2011-March 2012) which was not implemented completely.

The construction of the railway which connects Iran's southwestern Shalamcheh town to Basra city in Iraq has faced several problems for many years.

# Iran Expo 2023 running in Tehran

TEHRAN – The fifth edition of the Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran EXPO 2023) kicked off on Sunday in Tehran in a ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Raisi, IRNA reported.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari, more than 750 Iranian companies are participating in this year's exhibition which is being held at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds until May 10.

Speaking on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak announced that representatives from 65 countries are going to visit this year's exhibition, noting that the event is expected to generate two billion dollars of revenue for the country.

According to Peyman-Pak, businessmen, heads of chambers



Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari (1st L), Acting Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mehdi Niazi (2nd L), TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (2nd R)

of commerce, ministers, deputy ministers and officials from Germany, Belgium and Serbia, Venezuela, Brazil, Mexico, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, China, and India are among the attendees to the exhibition.

The official noted that more

than 600 specialized B2B meetings are going to be held on the sidelines of this exhibition, and hundreds of factories and production complexes will be visited by the foreign delegations.

"It is estimated that after this 3-day event, we will sign up to two billion dollars of agreements and trade deals and conclude

contracts that will lead to the development of the country's trade and will boost our economic relations with various countries in the region and the world," Peyman-Pak said.

The Iran Expo 2023 is covering 12 specialized fields, including food industries, agriculture, livestock, poultry and fisheries, automobiles, electricity, carpets, household appliances, textiles, leather and clothing, chemical and petrochemicals, cellulose and sanitary products, handicrafts and tourism, medicine, medical and laboratory equipment, mining, construction industry, and technical and engineering services, as well as petrochemical and knowledge-based enterprises.

According to the TPO head, the business delegations will also visit the country's northern and southern ports to explore potential areas for mutual cooperation.

## Oman welcomes investment in Iran's industry sector

TEHRAN – Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, who has traveled to Iran on top of a senior business delegation, expressed his country's interest in investment in Iran's industry sector.

Yousef made the remarks on the sidelines of a visit to an industrial park near the capital Tehran on Saturday, accompanied by Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) Ali Rasoulia, IRNA reported.

During the tour, Rasoulia briefed the delegation about Iran's industrial capabilities and capacities and said: "Considering the fact that 858 industrial parks and zones are active in the country, this area can lay the ground for promoting industrial relations between the two countries."

According to the official more than 51,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are active in Iran's industrial parks and zones, which has provided employment for more than one million people.

He stressed the need for connecting the two countries' SMEs as another way of boosting economic relations between the two countries.

Further during the visit, the Omani minister and the accompanying delegation also welcomed the purchase of Iranian goods, including electrical and household appliances, electronic products, tiles and ceramics, medicine, etc.

Mohammad Al Youssef visited Tehran to attend the opening ceremony of the Export Potential Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran EXPO 2023) and also a business forum at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Back in November 2022, Oman's Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Saleh bin Said Masan announced



ISIPO Head Ali Rasoulia (1st L) accompanying Omani Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef (2nd R) in a visit to an industrial park near the capital Tehran on Saturday.

that Iran and Oman are finalizing a mechanism for facilitating financial exchanges between the two countries.

Saleh bin Said Masan made the announcement in a meeting with ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie.

The Omani deputy minister said the two countries, however, are still facing challenges in trade exchanges, adding that the central banks of both countries have offered different solutions to these challenges.

Referring to a memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries on trade cooperation and customs facilities, the Omani minister said technical teams from both Iran and Oman are working to take the agreements into effect.

Elsewhere in this meeting, Shafeie mentioned the huge capacities for the expansion of trade between Iran and Oman, saying: "We can export to other countries, especially the African countries, through Oman which would be in line with the interests of both sides".

He also noted that the two countries can also work on making joint investments and cooperation on health tourism.

Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce has taken good measures in cooperation with the

Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) to reopen bank accounts for Iranian traders who intend to make investments in Oman, Shafeie said, adding that it can highly improve trade cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

He said that the central banks of Iran and Oman have had negotiations for issuing credit cards for Iranian traders and businessmen.

The official expressed hope that the Omani government and the country's chamber of commerce would help finalize these talks.

Further in the meeting, Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) Ridha bin Juma Al Saleh, said that the private sector has to do its part to inspire investors to use Oman's open doors policy.

Noting that the two countries have found solutions to many of the obstacles on the way of bilateral trade, he referred to opening accounts for Iranian businesspersons in Oman for instance.

Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak, in a meeting with Saleh bin Said Masan, said that boosting trade with Oman is one of the business priorities of the Iranian government.

He considered Oman to be one of Iran's five main trading partners among the country's neighbors and added: "The continuation of the current trend will definitely increase exports to and imports from Oman."

The TPO head also mentioned the presence of Iranian companies in Oman exhibitions and requested the presence of Omani companies and businessmen in Iran's exhibitions.

Further in the meeting, Masan for his part called Iran a brotherly country and added: "In previous meetings we talked about how to solve trade problems between the two countries [and thanks to the recent developments] today we are discussing how to develop trade."

he added.

The official said he will soon travel to Syria to inaugurate two other new power plants that have been built by Iranian companies.

Mehrabian's remarks come days after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his ministers signed a series of major agreements with Syrian government officials in Damascus to expand trade and economic ties between the two countries.

## TEDPIX drops 95,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 95,043 points to 2.44 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 23.5 billion securities worth 174.413 trillion rials (about \$415.26 million) were traded at the TSE.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

A capital market expert stated that directing liquidity towards the capital market



will be one of the best solutions to materialize this year's slogan and control liquidity and

reduce inflation, and said strengthening the capital market to finance companies will greatly boost production.

The current Iranian calendar year 1402 (began on March 21) is named "Inflation Control, Production Growth".

While emphasizing the potential of the capital market to realize this year's slogan, Mohsen Abbaslou said: "The year 1402 has been named by the Leader as the year of Inflation Control, Production Growth and without a doubt, directing liquidity towards the capital market is one of the best ways to control liquidity and reduce inflation."



# Jericho under siege as Israel seeks to hide crises

From page 1 ► Analysts had said that the newly formed armed West Bank resistance in flashpoint areas like Jenin and Nablus may expand to Jericho, but there are no reports indicating any armed resistance has emerged from the city yet with the exception of a few retaliatory commando operations.

As Israel fails to crush the resistance in Jenin and Nablus, since early February, Jericho and the adjacent Aqabat Jabr refugee camp have seen regular military assaults, including a massacre on the refugee camp on February 6, when the regime killed five Palestinians.

In a sign of just how frightened and fragile the Israeli security apparatus has become, it has taken the drastic measure to blockade an entire city and its surrounding areas, which Palestinian officials have slammed as collective punishment.

Jericho is a rare route for the nearly three million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank to travel to the outside world especially for medical purposes as it sits on the border with Jordan and has a crossing into the country.

On Monday, the Palestinian Health Ministry announced that Israeli forces had shot and killed a Palestinian teenager in the Aqabat Jabr camp, south of Jericho, after Palestinian youth came out in protest at the ongoing siege. Reports say dozens have also sustained injuries with at least “three critically wounded”.

17-year-old Jibril Muhammad Al-Lada’a is the latest victim of the rising Palestinian death toll this year. Last week, Israeli forces also killed a Palestinian boy in Jericho.

So far this year, Israel has been raiding West Bank towns and cities, killing more than 100 Palestinians, many of them teenagers, and in some cases children.

This is while armed Israeli settlers have been given the green light to carry out deadly rampages throughout occupied West Bank towns and villages in vigilante-like crimes similar to that committed by the Ku Klux Klan against black Americans.

According to UN figures, Israeli settlers carried out 314 attacks against Palestinians and their properties in the West Bank since the start of this year.

But the UN doesn’t really have a presence in the occupied West Bank, so the figure and scale of the attacks are likely much higher. Most notably in February, hundreds of Israeli settlers went on a violent late-night rampage in Huwara and other Palestinian villages, leaving one civilian dead and 100 other Palestinians injured, four critically,



after setting the town ablaze.

Something that finally alarmed the international community.

The settlers have been encouraged to rampage through Palestinian towns by Netanyahu’s fascist ministers, whose support he relies on to avoid the collapse of the ruling coalition, a scenario that would lead to yet another Israeli election, the 6th since 2019.

But the regime is facing multiple dilemmas.

A newly formed West Bank armed resistance, compromising of Palestinian youth, has been carrying out retaliatory operations, leaving Israeli troops and settlers dead.

Small commando operations in the heart of the Israeli entity have confused all its calculations and devices, and the regime has lost the advantage of air supremacy with the development of the missile force of Lebanon’s Hezbollah and the axis of resistance in general.

The biggest dilemma facing Israel in its short history of occupying Palestine is that the entity could collapse from within, as it witnesses deep divisions never seen before.

The mass street protests have taken its toll on almost every sector of Israeli society.

But analysts say there are other grievances among the Israelis that go beyond Netanyahu’s plans and which have seen droves of Israelis immigrating back to where they came from. There is a lot of anxiety among the Israelis themselves who view their future in the occupied Palestinian territories with fear.

According to a recent interview with Smadar Lavi, an American Jewish author, there are strong indications that the degeneration within the Zionist entity goes beyond the Israeli street protests but to the cores of the entity’s structure itself.

She also highlights the polarization by noting that the ongoing Israeli protest movement within the entity reflects the interests of the Ashkenazi elite (settlers who immigrated to Palestine from France and Central and Eastern Europe, including Germany, Poland and Russia), who present themselves as secular and liberal, along with other groups, such as the Mizrahi Jews, who do not represent the wider Mizrahi settlers, along with a number of other smaller groups such as feminist movements.

“I am convinced that there is no greater existential threat to our people than the one that comes from within: Our own polarization and alienation from one another,” Israeli President Isaac Herzog told the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America in Tel Aviv this week.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets on a weekly basis since the start of the year to protest plans by Netanyahu’s cabinet to push through curbs on the Israeli “judiciary”.

Last month, Netanyahu agreed to pause the plans to allow for more consultation.

But that hasn’t stopped the mass protests and for many Israelis the standoff has opened up intense questions about the nature of their ruling system that go beyond the makeup of the “Supreme Court” and the power of the cabinet to override its decisions. There are many other grievances in addition to a lack of security as the axis of resistance grows stronger.

Ahmad Saadat, the Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), has warned that mounting tensions in the occupied West Bank over Israeli raids and settler violence will almost certainly lead to a full-blown intifada.

Netanyahu and his cabinet

would welcome this as they need to refocus the Israelis’ mindset that their war is against the Palestinians and not among themselves.

But this is no easy task either.

As Islamic Jihad Secretary General Ziad al-Nakhalah pointed out on Sunday, the latest Israeli crimes against Palestinians will only boost the resolve and morale to fight the occupation.

“The [Israeli] occupiers have ramped up their vicious attacks in the occupied West Bank against Palestinian activists and resistance fighters. The Zionist enemy seeks to muffle the voice of resistance and liberation,” Nakhala noted.

The unease in Israel has also spiked in recent months because of the rapprochement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The regime had sought to forge warmer ties with Riyadh against Tehran, but the opposite now appears more of a reality.

The increased resistance operations from outside the occupied West Bank and internal turmoil between so-called liberal Israelis and supporters of the far-right fascist cabinet have provided little breathing space for Netanyahu.

He can only do what he knows best: to kill more Palestinians with the current target being Jericho.

At this time of the year, Jericho usually welcomes dozens of thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank, who travel to the city, which is a tourist destination. So the revenue that comes with that tourism has been lost too.

But that’s just the nature of a racist colonial entity. The pain it inflicts on the Palestinians comes in many forms.

Only this time, the future of the occupation looks more than doomed.

According to Zohravand, “When Jack Sullivan said that the Americans recognized the Zionist Israeli regime reserves the right to confront Iran, that was also nonsense, because the Zionist regime is nothing and if it does a move against Iran, it will be wiped off the map.”

He further noted that the Israeli regime is too weak to pose a credible threat against Iran, adding that “Sullivan’s remarks in that regard were only expression of acts of mischief and ill wishes by the Americans against Iran.”

US national security adviser Jake Sullivan claimed on Thursday that Washington still sought a diplomatic solution in nuclear talks with Tehran.

Announcing the Biden administration’s plan to send American officials to the West Asia region, Sullivan repeated US baseless accusations against Iran’s peaceful nuclear program.

The US accusations against Iran’s peaceful nuclear program come despite the fact that Tehran’s program is monitored by the nuclear watchdog, IAEA and that the US unilaterally withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal known as the JCPOA in 2018, and the Israeli regime possess a large number of warheads.

(Source: Mehr News Agency)

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Assad remains, Arab League forced to return



From page 1 ► In recent years, however, Syrian government forces, backed by Russia and Iran, have managed to win back control of almost all regions from terrorist groups.

The Arab League suspended the membership of Syria – one of the organization’s founding members – in November 2011, citing an alleged crackdown by Damascus on opposition protests. Syria denounced the move as “illegal and a violation of the organization’s charter.”

In recent months, an increasing number of countries and political parties had called for the reversal of Syria’s suspension from the Arab League.

The rapprochements come as the United States is losing its influence in the region. Back in 2011, Washington had major sway on Arab states but as the dynamics in West Asia change and Syria emerged triumphant over foreign-backed terrorists, some Arab states are taking matters into their own hands, despite the anger of Washington.

### Irish TD urges government to divest from business operation in Israeli settlements

Irish Teachta Dála (TD) John Brady has urged the Irish government to divest from businesses currently operating within the illegal Israeli settlements.

“There must be consequences for all breaches of international law. Ireland must divest itself of holdings in companies currently listed as operating within the illegal Israeli settlement shareholders,” Brady said in a tweet on Sunday.

Brady urged the Irish government to support his proposed Illegal Israeli Settlement Divestment Bill, which mandates the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) “to divest itself of all current assets, and to prohibit future investments in any companies which operate in the illegal Israeli settlements.”

He continued, “The Irish government can’t on one hand condemn the illegal actions of Israel and on the other be shareholders in Israeli banks and other businesses that are on the UNHRC database of companies operating in breach of international law in the occupied Palestinian territories.”

The Irish lawmaker said taxpayers in Ireland are currently shareholders in nine companies operating within illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

“By taking the decision to invest Irish taxpayers’ money into companies which are on the UN database, the government, through ISIF have made the Irish people stakeholders in the war crime that is the ongoing illegal annexation of Palestinian territories.”

### EU condemns Israel’s demolition of donor-funded school

The European Union denounced on Sunday Israel’s demolition of the donor-funded Jibb Al-Deeb School in the small Palestinian village

of Bayt Ta’mar, to the east of Bethlehem, saying the demolition violates children’s right to education.

“Appalled by reports that the EU-funded school in Jibb Al Deeb is being demolished by Israeli authorities right now. 60 Palestinian children are affected,” said the EU in a statement.

The EU urged the Israeli occupation authorities to stop all demolitions and evictions, which it said “will only increase the suffering of the Palestinian population and further escalate an already tense environment.”

### China, Pakistan and Afghanistan FM’s hold talks in Islamabad

China, Afghanistan and Pakistan have pledged to strengthen trilateral cooperation on security and counterterrorism at a meeting of the three nations’ foreign ministers in Islamabad.

The ministers agreed on Sunday to uphold good relations, deepen political mutual trust, respect each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and properly address differences and disputes through equal consultation.

Since the withdrawal of United States forces in August 2021, Afghanistan has suffered an economic and humanitarian crisis as the Taliban took over and the nation was plunged into international isolation.

The Taliban government has since hoped to attract Chinese investment in its reserves of minerals such as copper and lithium.

### Serbia, China mark 24th anniversary of embassy bombing by NATO

The Serbians and the Chinese gathered at the site of the bombed former Chinese embassy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Belgrade on Sunday to mark the 24th anniversary of the killing of three Chinese journalists in the 1999 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aggression on Yugoslavia.

China’s Ambassador to Serbia Chen Bo, Serbian Minister of Sport Zoran Gajic, and dozens of officials and civilians laid wreaths and flowers at the memorial monument to honor the victims.

Gajic said that the Chinese embassy bombing was a cowardly act conducted by the NATO aggressors, “in order to plant the seed of evil.”

Chen said that the martyrs of the bombing were “brutally killed,” but that 24 years later, a growing trend of peaceful development brings hope to humanity.

### At least 9 dead in Shooting at Texas mall

A gunman opened fire at a crowded mall outside Dallas on Saturday, killing at least eight people and injuring at least seven before a police officer killed him, the authorities said, turning a busy afternoon of shopping into a chaotic and tragic scene.

At a news conference Saturday night, Brian E. Harvey, the chief of police in Allen, Texas, did not identify a gunman but said the person acted alone. Chief Harvey said a police officer, who was on an unrelated assignment at the mall at the time of the shooting, heard gunfire, rushed toward it and killed the gunman.

A spokesman for Medical City Healthcare, which was treating several victims at three trauma facilities, said the ages of the injured ranged from 5 to 61.



## Tehran, Moscow eager to diversify direct flights, envoy says



TEHRAN – There is a strong desire between Iran and Russia to develop direct flights between different cities of their respective countries, the Iranian ambassador to Russia has said.

Isfahan, Shiraz, and some southern islands are among the Iranian tourist destinations that Russians want to establish direct flights to, IRNA quoted Kazem Jalali as saying on Saturday.

Direct flights are currently only available between the capitals of the two countries, operated by Iran's Mahan Airlines, and Russia's Aeroflot and Nordwind Airlines, the envoy added.

Besides the capital cities of the two countries, it seems to be the right time to expand the flights to other tourist cities, he noted.

With the current international conditions, Iran should make good use of this opportunity to attract Russian tourists and accelerate this trend, he mentioned.

After the war in Ukraine, several million Russian tourists were unable to travel to different countries, so Iran could be a good option for them, he explained.

The country, however, needs to provide suitable facilities and tourism infrastructure, he stated.

Earlier this year, Mehr reported that Russian tourists were increasingly choosing Iran as a vacation destination these days. "There has been a surge of Russian tourists in Iran as a result of international sanctions against Russia." This has prompted Russian tourists to visit Asia and the Middle East instead, especially Iran. This is due to the visa waiver between Iran and Russia that has

increased for Russian tourists visiting Iran, Mehr reported.

In addition, the number of Iranian passengers visiting Russia has been on the rise, Russian tourism expert Yulia Syundyukova said in February.

After Turkey and India, Iran is [currently] the third tourism source for Russia as a greater number of its nationals choose the country as their travel destination, Syundyukova was quoted by ISNA as saying.

"We see a lot of potential in Iran. A statistical comparison between 2021 and 2022 shows that in 2021, the number of Iranian tourists in Russia was not high, but in 2022, it reached about 20,500. This number is significant," said Syundyukova, who presides over a Moscow department for interaction with the foreign tourism industry.

Talking about a previously inked visa-waiver agreement between Tehran and Moscow, Syundyukova said: "We are constantly trying to talk to our colleagues in this regard, and we will do our best to implement this agreement as soon as possible."

The agreement was initially signed by former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in 2017.

"We predict that with the cancellation of visas for group trips, the number of tourists will double to triple," she said.

The Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj believes the majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of the vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran. "The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination."

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## Private sector invests \$20m in Sanandaj's tourism project



TEHRAN –The private sector has invested \$20 million in a tourism project in Sanandaj, western Kordestan province, the province's governor has said.

It was invented by a private company in developing the tourism resort of Salavat Abad, Esmail Zarei Kusha explained on Sunday.

The provincial tourism department seeks

to inspire other private companies to invest in the budding sector, the official added.

However, the government and related organizations also need to allocate proper budgets for developing tourism in the region, he noted.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name was given to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Church of Santa Croce, the Palazzo Vecchio, the Uffizi gallery, and the Palazzo Pitti. The city's history is further evident in the artistic works of great masters such as Giotto, Brunelleschi, Botticelli and Michelangelo.

The Historic Centre of Florence can be perceived as a unique social and urban achievement, the result of persistent and long-lasting creativity, which includes museums, churches, buildings and artworks of immeasurable worth.

Florence had an overwhelming influence on the development of architecture and the fine arts, first in Italy, and then in Europe. It is within the context of Florence that the concept of the Renaissance came to be. This heritage bestows upon Florence unique historical and aesthetic qualities.

## Blossoming beauty: rosewater festival is a place to be



From Page 1 ► The concentration of flowers and herbs has a deep history in Iran. Many believe traditionally distilled rosewater is of higher quality than that produced in factories, probably due to the shorter

time interval between the harvest and distillation practices.

Rosewater is traditionally produced from a very sweet-smelling kind of flower, best

known as Mohammadi roses in the country. Flower harvesting is almost completed early in the morning. According to rumors, essential oil quantity and quality decline as a result of delays in harvesting or

transport to the distillery.

80 liters of water and almost 30 kilograms of rose petals are added to each pot, which is connected to metal pipes to allow steam to pass through to create the hydrosol. Distillation waste can either be fed to animals or composted.

Locals believe that rose oil and rosewater have therapeutic rewards. Some say rose oil calms the mind and relieves depression, grief, stress, and tension. Narratives say that rosewater products help improve skin health, colds, and digestive system issues.

A highlight of the Iranian cultural calendar, Golab-Giri is a reminder of the importance of preserving and appreciating these ancient customs and traditions that have been passed down through generations. However, it is not merely a celebration of the rose harvest, but also a celebration of Iranian hospitality and generosity.

## Cultural heritage contest values Isfahan's visual identity, official says



TEHRAN – Isfahan's cultural heritage contest could value the central city's visual identity, minister advisor for cultural heritage, Mohammad-Hassan Talebian has said.

He made the remarks during the award ceremony of the national competition in Isfahan on Thursday.

It is through such events that the city can receive ideas for urban furniture and a unified visual identity, he added.

By holding such events, Isfahan can be re-aware of its cultural and historical heritage and look again at its historical monuments, said Talebian during the award ceremony, he mentioned.

By organizing such competitions, other

provinces can learn how to value their history, culture, and art, he noted.

The winners of different categories were announced during the award ceremony, which was attended by Isfahan Mayor Ali Qasemzadeh and a number of cultural officials.

The competition aimed to bring practical designs for the environment around Isfahan's 12 national and world heritage sites based on patterns and decorative arrays in these buildings in the fields of environmental graphics, beautification, and urban furniture.

Winners have been selected from 80 artists who created practical ideas and designs inspired by these cultural heritages.

Soaked in a rich history and culture, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran. Now, it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The ancient city is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its mazing bazaars,

dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

The huge Imam Square, best known as Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (literary meaning "Image of the World"), is one of the largest in the world (500m by 160m), and a majestic example of town planning. Built in the early 17th century, the UNESCO-registered square is punctuated with the most interesting sights in Isfahan. Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem.

## Qale-Gardan, an isolated fort of the Iron Age

TEHRAN – There are ancient remnants almost everywhere on the Iranian Plateau, but Iron Age remains are mostly situated in the provinces of Khuzestan, Lorestan, Fars, and Kordesran and Kerman.

Qale-Gardan, which is now a crumbling ruined fortress, reportedly dates from a time between 2800 to 3200 years ago. The monument is named after a village of the same name in Rahimabad district of the northern Gilan province.

Nested on top of a hill, the fortress covers an area of 90 square meters

and it is made of stone, mortar, and timber beams.

According to Prof. Ezzatollah Negahban (1926 – 2009), who was an Iranian archaeologist known as the father of Iranian modern archaeology, caves and rock shelters were particularly attractive living places for the hunter gatherers of the early Paleolithic period.

Those hunter gatherers mainly lived in bordering mountain regions, including the Zagros range on the west and the Alborz range on the north has meant that there were



many cave sites which would have been suitable for early cave dwelling man.

Iron Age marks the final technological and cultural stage in the Stone –Bronze– Iron Age sequence. The date of the full Iron

Age, in which this metal, for the most part, replaced bronze in implements and weapons, varied geographically, beginning in the Middle East and southeastern Europe about 1200 BC but in China not until about 600 BC, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Although in West Asia iron had limited use as a scarce and precious metal as early as 3000 BC, there is no indication that people at that time recognized its superior qualities over those of bronze.

## Safavid-era caravanserai to host kite festival



TEHRAN – A kite festival is planned to be held in the Safavid-era (1501-1736) Nikpey Caravanserai in the northwestern province of Zanjan on May 19, a local tourism official has said.

Flying their own kites will be the main attraction at the festival for children and their parents, Mehdi Baqeri explained on Sunday.

A festival like this is an excellent opportunity to introduce children and adults to historical

monuments and the need to preserve them through fun and enjoyable activities, the official added.

Caravanserais or caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them, with doors in the corners of the yard.

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais, many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their actual usage.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables

behind them, with doors in the corners of the yard.

Staying at or even just visiting a centuries-old caravanserai can be a memorable experience for many visitors to Iran because it allows them to experience the past and travel back in time. Narratives say it is not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chew hay!

The earliest caravanserais in Iran were built during the Achaemenid era (550 – 330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country. Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Road may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

## Students visit Varamin attractions on fam tour

TEHRAN – On Saturday, Varamin's tourism directorate took tens of students on a familiarization tour of the ancient Iranian city, which is located southeast of Tehran province.

80 schoolgirls attended the sightseeing tour of Varamin, which was free of charge and aimed to familiarize them with the time-honored architecture and cultural heritage of the ancient city, Varamin's tourism chief said.

The students paid visits to Borj-e Ala ad-din,

the Jameh Mosque of Varamin, and Imamzadeh Yahya, among other destinations during the one-day tour, the official said.

The fertile land of Varamin served as Ray's main agricultural hub until the 1220s. However, the raiding of Ray by the invading Mongols led to a migration wave and economic growth.

Varamin became a major city as a result. The Jameh Mosque of Varamin was constructed by Yusuf Quhadhi, a vizier of Ilkhanid Abu Sa'id.

Imamzadeh Shah Husayn, Imamzadeh Yahya, and Sharif Mosque have been a few other noteworthy structures since this period.

Due to invasions by the armies of the Timurid Empire, Varamin began to decline at the beginning of the 14th century. Ruy González de Clavijo described the city as mostly deserted in 1405, though Imamzadeh Hosein Reza and the Jameh Mosque of Varamin underwent minor restorations during the early Timurid era. Tehran began to develop into the region's major city by the 16th century.



Historic Centre of Florence

Built on the site of an Etruscan settlement, Florence, the symbol of the Renaissance, rose to economic and cultural pre-eminence under the Medici in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Seven hundred years of cultural and artistic blooming are tangible today in the 14th-century Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, the



# 29 Iranian universities in THE World University Rankings 2023



TEHRAN – The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023 has placed 29 Iranian institutions among the world's top 1,000 universities, ranking the country fourth in Asia after China, India, and Japan.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia (18), South Korea (18), Taiwan (16), Russia (15), Switzerland (15), Pakistan (14), Netherlands (13), Egypt (13), Finland (12), Belgium (12), and Sweden (11) follow Iran in the ranking.

The United States (154), the United Kingdom (94), China (59), Italy (49), Germany (49), Australia (44), India (38), Spain (36), France (36), Japan (33), and Canada (32) ranked first to eleventh.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023 include 1,799 universities across 104 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook.

This year's ranking analyzed over 121 million citations across more than 15.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 40,000 scholars globally. Overall, we collected over 680,000 data points from more than 2,500 institutions that submitted data.

In the 2023 ranking of the Times Higher Education Institute, which was published in 2022, the names of 66 Iranian institutions were included in the list of the world's top institutions in 10 different scientific fields, and in total, the names of these institutions were repeated 167 times in scientific fields.

These 10 scientific fields include "arts and humanities", "business

and economics", "clinical medical sciences, basic medicine and health", "computer sciences", "educational sciences", "biological sciences", "physical sciences", "engineering and technology", "law and psychology" and "social sciences".

In the 2023 ranking of the Times Higher Education Institute, which was published in 2022, the names of 66 Iranian institutions were included in the list of the world's top institutions in 10 different scientific fields, and in total, the names of these institutions were repeated 167 times in scientific fields.

These 10 scientific fields include "arts and humanities", "business and economics", "clinical medical sciences, basic medicine and health", "computer sciences", "educational sciences", "biological sciences", "physical sciences", "engineering and technology", "law and psychology" and "social sciences".

Reviewing the status of universities worldwide shows that the number of Iranian universities has increased in nearly all subject rankings.

At the beginning of its formation, rating systems provided a comprehensive view of institutions and evaluated them from all aspects and as a whole. But in the past few years, many of these systems evaluate and rank institutions in various scientific fields.

This new ranking method has emerged to meet the needs of users who seek to know the position of an institution in a special field.

Some of these systems evaluate broad scientific fields such as humanities and social sciences, technical and engineering, and medicine, and others measure special fields such as chemistry, mathematics, artificial intelligence, anthropology, and nursing in institutions.

## The country ranks fourth in Asia after China, India, and Japan.

According to the latest statistics of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, 1,452 scientific journals are being published in the country.

Out of all the mentioned journals, 289 are indexed in the Scopus database and 67 journals are indexed in the Web of Science database.

## Precipitations still 15% below long-term average

TEHRAN – From the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2022) to May 5, precipitations in the country amounted to 188.1 millimeters, an increase of 6 percent year on year, while still 15 percent below the long-term average.

Among the provinces of the country, the western Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad has received 780.9 mm of rain compared to 560.8 mm of rain last year, with a growth of 39 percent, and was the rainiest province in the country.

The southeastern Sistan-Baluchistan province also received 59.6 mm of rain in the mentioned period compared to 63.9 mm of rain last year with a decrease of 7 percent.

Iran has a dry and semi-arid climate and has an annual rainfall of 250 mm, which is about one-third of the global average.

The average rainfall of the country has been decreasing over time so the average rainfall of the country for 53 years was about 250 mm, but the average of the last 13 years has decreased to 232 mm.

Over the previous water year which began on September 23, 2021, the rainfall decreased by about 24 percent compared to the long-term average, which marked another year of low rainfall for Iran.

As the newly extracted statistics show, a total of 180.4 mm of rain has poured in the country over the past water year, which shows a decline of 23.9 mm

compared to the long-term average of 237.1 mm.

The last water year marked the year of low rainfall for the country, causing the continuation of dry years.

The summer season shows an increase of 19.7 mm in rainfall, which is accompanied by a growth of 71.3 mm compared to the long-term period when the amount of rainfall was 11.5 mm.

Iran has an annual rainfall of 250 mm, which is about one-third of the global average.

The national center for drought and crisis management has forecasted the summer this year will be warmer than normal in the country.

In the northern and eastern provinces of the country, the rainfall is insufficient, and even the relatively normal rainfall of the remaining days of the current water year cannot compensate for the lack of rainfall, ISNA quoted Ahad Vazifeh, the head



of the center, as saying.

The month of Ordibehesht (April 21-May 21) is the most important period in the spring season to receive rainfall in the country and is very important, he stressed.

"For example, in the month of Farvardin (March 21-April 20), usually 35 millimeters of rain is recorded in the country, but in Ordibehesht, the rainfall amounts to about 20 mm. So, the rainfall in Ordibehesht is almost twice as much as in Farvardin."

"Since the beginning of Farvardin, we have had an average of 25 mm of rain, while during this time period, we should have normally received 38 mm of rain in the long term," he said.

Therefore, about 33 percent of rainfall has decreased compared to the long term, Vazifeh noted.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries worldwide

Some 105 medical equipment produced by 23 Iranian companies are exported to 55 countries across the world, Reza Masaeli, an advisor to the health minister said on Sunday.

"Currently, a total of 280,000 medical equipment is produced in the country," Fars quoted Masaeli as saying.

"In recent years, the production of medical equipment in Iran has increased by 9 percent," he added.

One of the main strategies of the Health Ministry is to boost exports, he said, adding that Iran exports medical equipment to 55 countries including Russia, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Croatia.

So far, a series of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been signed for export of medical equipment to various countries, including Brazil, Iraq and Oman, Masaeli stated.

## تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی به ۵۵ کشور دنیا صادر می شود

مشاور وزیر بهداشت گفت: در حال حاضر ۱۰۵ محصول تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی که توسط ۲۳ شرکت ایرانی تولید می شود، به ۵۵ کشور جهان از جمله کشورهای روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود.

به گزارش گروه اجتماعی خبرگزاری فارس، رضا مسائلی، اظهار داشت: در کشور بیش از ۲۸۰ هزار قلم تجهیزات پزشکی در کشور وجود دارد و در سال های اخیر، تولیدات تجهیزات پزشکی در جمهوری اسلامی ایران، ۹ درصد افزایش داشته است.

وی توجه به صادرات را یکی از مهمترین راهبردهای اساسی وزارت بهداشت در راستای حمایت از تولیدات داخلی دانست و افزود: در حال حاضر ۱۰۵ محصول تجهیزات پزشکی ایرانی که توسط ۲۳ شرکت ایرانی تولید می شود، به ۵۵ کشور جهان از جمله کشورهای روسیه، آلمان، ایتالیا، بلژیک، هلند و کرواسی صادر می شود.

# SOCIETY

MAY 8, 2023

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Tehran hosting G5 experts meeting on health cooperation

TEHRAN – The 26th G5 High-Level Experts Meeting on Health Cooperation and the 1st Healthcare Leadership and Governance Training Program opened on Saturday in Tehran and will wrap up on Wednesday.

G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) have taken part in the meeting with the theme of "Joint Work for Solving Joint Health Problems."

Addressing the opening ceremony, Health Minister Bahram Einiollahi referred to the unity and cooperation of the countries in the fields of health, treatment, and medical education as a historical necessity.

Achieving, maintaining, and promoting health is never possible in a regional way and does not happen in an isolated region, but requires the cooperation of countries, especially neighboring countries, he stressed.

"To develop health in the countries of the group of five, we must look at health collectively and think about creating and promoting health in all countries.

The health sector of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan is tied to each other. Today, with the relations and cooperation that exist in different sectors between the countries and neighbors, a disease is capable of penetrating all countries."

"Therefore, our unity and cooperation is a historical necessity so that the health indicators in the region can be improved and brought to the ideal point," the minister reiterated.

He went on to say that conditions should be provided so that professors, students, and scientists can easily communicate with each other and travel to each other's countries without hindrance and hold joint scientific conferences.

"Many incidents have happened in the region, such as this year's huge earthquake in Turkey and last year's flood in Pakistan, which unfortunately left many damages and deaths. These bitter incidents show the need for joint cooperation to help each other."

## Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation.

Health is the common link of the countries of the region and it can cause the unity and development of the cooperation of the G5 countries and also a prelude to the development of the health economy, he added.

"Iran has achieved many successes in the field of knowledge-based companies and is able to provide 99 percent of its pharmaceutical needs and 40 percent of its advanced medical equipment needs.

So, the country can provide the G5 with its experiences."

Einiollahi pointed out that the group of five has an ex-



ceptional position due to being located in a strategic area, and the formation of this group can be a model for other countries.

One of the major problems of the G5 countries today is management in the field of health, which requires the creation of an up-to-date mechanism because management is the most important element in promoting health in the countries of the group of five.

## Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization are the G5 members.

"Unfortunately, in a situation where the death rate of infectious diseases has reached zero in developed countries, we are witnessing the high prevalence and death rate of these diseases in some countries of the region, which imposes a great cost on the countries of the group of five."

"In order to prevent the spread and control of communicable diseases, we should have joint and strong cooperation, and Iran is sincerely ready to cooperate with the countries of the region in this field," he concluded.

Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation in health among the group of four countries – Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan – plus the World Health Organization as the fifth member of this group to provide technical support in improving this collaboration.

Several activities have already been taken under this initiative, with the Islamic Republic of Iran taking responsibility for serving as its secretariat.

The first subregional workshop for G5 countries on health system strengthening was hosted by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination of Pakistan on November 19–20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Exchanging experiences on issues related to moving towards universal health coverage; developing national roadmaps and strategies for improving service delivery, population coverage, and financial risk protection; assisting each other in health workforce capacity development activities, health system research, national health accounts, and policy development; developing measurable indicators related to three dimensions of universal health coverage were among the goals of this two-day meeting.



## Flowers and plants exhibition underway

The 19th international flowers and plants exhibition of Tehran opened on Saturday, May 6, at Goftogoo Park and will run till May 12.



TEHRAN TIMES



[www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com)

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**  
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran    P.o. Box: 14155-4843    Zip Code: 1599814713

MAY 8, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*When Allah chooses to favor someone, He makes him the source of satisfying other people's needs.*

**Prophet Muhammad (S)**

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01    Evening: 19:16    Dawn: 3:29 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 5:05 (tomorrow)

## Iranian studies in German: Pre-Islamic period

**Part 7**

The first comprehensive account of Avestan grammar was written by Martin Haug (1862).

Haug (1827-76), a pupil of Rudolph von Roth and Heinrich Ewald, did pioneering work in Iranian philology, since during his stay in Poona as professor of Sanskrit (1859-66) intimate contact with the learned Parsi priests made it possible for him to become acquainted with the tradition about their religion and to study it in detail.

Thus he was the first to combine direct knowledge of the original Avestan texts with a historical understanding of Zoroastrian writings, and he is without doubt one of the most important founding fathers of Iranian philology.

Like his teacher Roth, Haug was of the opinion that only little information could be obtained from the Parsi tradition and that the Avesta had to be explained from itself.

Because this is valid in particular for the Gathas, Haug began a detailed philological and linguistic study of these hymns (Leipzig, 1858-60).

This first attempt at an interpretation produced an unsatisfactory result, however, since for the Gathas all information given by the indigenous tradition must be thrown overboard, and one must follow without any reservation the principle first pronounced by Roth that for a thorough understanding of them the knowledge of the closely related dialect of the oldest Vedic texts is of fundamental value.

Thus acquaintance with the Veda and the first results of Vedic studies changed the situation for Avestan studies completely and added to them an indispensable comparative approach (in particular thanks to German scholars like Bopp, Benfey, and Roth), to which a sound grammatical foundation was given later by Heinrich Hübschmann and his pupil Christian Bartholomae.

The first German scholar whose life's work was devoted nearly exclusively to the study of ancient Iranian languages and culture was Friedrich Spiegel (1820-1904), who, relying mainly on the Parsi tradition (which more often than not is misleading), published (*Avesta, die heiligen Schriften der Parsen...*, 2 vols., Vienna, 1853-58) and translated (*Avesta, die heiligen Schriften der Parsen. Aus dem Grundtexte übersetzt*, 3 vols., Leipzig, 1852-63) both the Avesta and the exegetic literature in Middle Persian language belonging to it.

As to linguistics, Spiegel made his mark with a comparative grammar of the Old Iranian languages (*Vergleichende Grammatik der alteranischen Sprachen*, Leipzig, 1882).

Among his pupils was Wilhelm Geiger, who in the years of his youth edited a number of Avestan texts and even published a substantial introduction to the Avestan language.

He presented an overall view of historico-cultural orientation in his *Ostiranische Kultur im Altertum* (Erlangen, 1882), which aimed to support the thesis that the Avesta has its origin in Eastern Iran and in a period before the Median and the Persian empires.

To the same period belong the numerous shorter studies by the Austrian linguist Friedrich Müller (1834-98) of textual and linguistic problems of Avestan and Middle Persian or Armenian (which language he regarded as Iranian even long after Hübschmann's proof of the opposite) and the philological and linguistic works of Ferdinand Justi, who later turned more and more to the history of Iran.

His *Handbuch der Zendsprache* (Leipzig, 1864) is essentially a full Avestan-German dictionary including the vocabulary found in the texts as edited by Niels Ludvig Westergaard and only in addition contains an appendix on grammar.

All the achievements accomplished by these early Avestan scholars were superseded by the magnificent new edition of the Avesta by Geldner and the comprehensive grammatical studies and the *Altiranisches Wörterbuch* (Strassburg, 1904) by Bartholomae, which are based on it and in a sense bring 19th-century Avestan studies to an end.

Totally based on this dictionary and faithfully reproducing its content is the translation of Avesta, *die heiligen Bücher des Parsen* (Strassburg, 1910) by Bartholomae's pupil Fritz Wolff (1880-1943), who is best known, however, for his admirable *Glossar zu Firdosis Schahname* (Berlin, 1935).

Geldner, who also was a pupil of Roth, was the first to study metrics of the Younger Avestan hymns (1877); his basic attitude, that the Avestan text as it is recorded is corrupt throughout, has not proven to be true, however.

His edition of Avesta (1886-96), which after a hundred years is not yet replaced though some minor texts are missing, was based on a thorough collation of more than 150 manuscripts.

Of considerable importance is the fact that he examined in detail the history of the manuscript transmission, the mutual relationships of the codices, and the genealogy of the individual text-classes.

But he reached his conclusions from all that only after he had finished his work, so that the edition itself does not yet take them into account.

In addition to these major works by Geldner and Bartholomae mention must be made of Hans Reichelt, who has published a number of studies on the Avestan language, including the important manual *Awestisches Elementarbuch* (Heidelberg, 1909), which contains the first and till now only detailed account of the Avestan syntax and complements the phonological and morphological studies by Reichelt's teacher, Bartholomae.

Avestan studies in the first half of the 20th century was heavily influenced by Friedrich Carl Andreas and his stubborn theory concerning the origin of the Avestan script and the transmission of the Avesta corpus.

Based on this theory, which never has been presented explicitly, he aimed at a reconstruction of the Avestan text as it is supposed to have been written down in the Arsacid period.

The Andreas theory is applied in particular in the edition of several Gathas, in which Jacob Wackernagel (1853-1938) during his Göttingen time co-operated with Andreas.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica.

To be continued

# Bust of Persian lexicographer Mohammad Moin unveiled in Tehran

TEHRAN – A bust of the Persian lexicographer Mohammad Moin was unveiled on Friday at the Moin Home and Museum in Tehran.

The bronze bust was created by Hadi Arefi to be set up at the site to celebrate Moin's 105th birthday.

The celebration was held by Municipality District 14, where the Moin Home and Museum is located, the Iran House of Music, and the Iran Calligraphers Association.

Moin's daughter, Mahdokht, who is also a Persian literature professor at Allameh Tabatabai University, shared fond memories from the past.

“Cultural and literary luminaries have undeniable roles in the development of our society,” she said and added, “Their memories live on even without making a memorial.”

Moin was a prominent lexicographer and compiled one of the most outstanding lexicons in the Persian language.

He was a university professor and his lexicon was second to that of Ali Akbar Dehkhoda (1879–1959). Dehkhoda was a prominent Iranian linguist, and author of the most comprehensive Persian language dictionary ever published.

Born in Rasht in 1914, Moin was the first student to graduate from the University of Tehran with a doctoral degree in Persian

Beautification Organization Deputy Director Majid Qaderi (L), Mahdokht Moin (C) and Iran House of Music managing director Hamidreza Nurbakhsh unveil a bust of the Persian lexicographer Mohammad Moin in Tehran on May 5, 2023.

literature. He completed Dehkhoda's unfinished volumes in compliance with Dehkhoda's request.

Moin was also head of the Literature Commission at the International Congress of Iranology. He died in 1971 and was buried in Astaneh Ashrafieh, Gilan.

Persian poet and musician Mohammad-Ali Amirjahan (1897-1978), who was Moin's father-in-

law, was also remembered on the sidelines of the birthday celebration.

A bas-relief bearing images of Moin and Amirjahan was also unveiled.

Iran House of Music managing director Hamidreza Nurbakhsh gave a short speech about the key role Moin and Amirjahan played in Iran's cultural arena and thanked the Beautification Organization of

the Tehran Municipality for their contributions to converting Moin's house into a museum.

The celebration ended with a performance by the Amirjahan ensemble featuring Reza Tayyebi on vocal, Omid Amiri and Hossein Ruzbehani on tar, Saeid Mirzahosseini on ney, and Babak Banihosseini and Mostafa Moharrami on tombak.

## China Film Week opens in Tehran

Cinema Organization of Iran director Mohammad Khazaei (L), Chinese Ambassador Chang Hua (C) and FCF director Mehdi Javadi attend the China Film Week at the Farabi Cinema Foundation in Tehran on May 6, 2023. (FCF)

TEHRAN – The third edition of the China Film Week opened on Saturday at the Abbas Kiarostami Hall of the Farabi Cinema Foundation (FCF) in Tehran.

Five movies by the new generation of Chinese

filmmakers have been selected to be screened at the event running until May 10.

China Film Archive director Sun Xianghui sent a video message to the film festival.

She said that the China Film Archive has organized Chinese film festivals in 16 countries since 2022.

Among the film screened at the events, was “Laborer's Love”, a classic silent comedy short film produced during the Republican Era, which officially premiered on October 5, 1922 at the Olympic Theater in Shanghai.

The China Film Week will showcase a restored edition of the film for the Iranian audience to celebrate its 100th anniversary, Sun said.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Chinese Ambassador Chang Hua also thanked the Farabi Cinema Foundation for its contribution to the film week.

He praised the foundation for selecting the Abbas Kiarostami Hall to host the film festival and called Kiarostami a great filmmaker who visited China four times during the two final years of his life.

He said that Iranian filmmakers are frequent

visitors to the Shanghai and Beijing international film festivals and have won awards at these events.

Chang also added that Chinese directors have made progress over the past decade and their films have raised awareness of different issues.

The ambassador said that works by Iranian and Chinese filmmakers have entered homes and this development can help improve cooperation between Iran and China on the film industry.

There has been marked progress in the Chinese film industry over the past decade, Chang noted and added that the country grossed \$4.36 billion in box office receipts nationwide in 2022.

Cinema Organization of Iran director Mohammad Khazaei and a group of Iranian filmmakers attended the opening ceremony of the China Film Week.

The film festival opened with a screening of the disaster-adventure film “The Captain” by Andrew Lau.

The organizers will also showcase “Ala Changso” by Gyal Sonthar, “The Climber” by Daniel Lee, “The Wandering Earth” by Frant Gwo and “Ash Is the Purest White” by Jia Zhangke.

## Fastnet festival to screen “World Cup”, “Three Sisters”, “Split Ends”

TEHRAN – The Iranian short movies “World Cup”, “Three Sisters” and “Split Ends” will compete in the Fastnet Film Festival (FFF), which will take place from May 24 to 28 in Schull and Cork, Ireland.

“World Cup”, a drama by Maryam Khodabakhsh, is about a couple on the night of their migration when something happens, and then a secret is revealed.

The documentary “Three Sisters” is a meditative symphony on the city and death. Filmmaker Iman Behruzi returns to places where he, 18 years earlier, had made a film about suicide. Now, in the crowded streets of Tehran and in the city's rundown corners flanked with walls, he searches for the reasons that had led three sisters to end their lives together.

Avestan studies in the first half of the 20th century was heavily influenced by Friedrich Carl Andreas and his stubborn theory concerning the origin of the Avestan script and the transmission of the Avesta corpus.

Hamed Orib is the translator of the book originally published in 1998.

Photography was originally considered a way to objectively represent reality, completely untouched by the photographer's perspective.

However, photographers manipulate their pictures in various ways, from choosing what to shoot to altering the resulting image through computer digitalization.

The manipulation inherent to photography brings to light questions about the nature of

“World Cup” by Iranian director Maryam Khodabakhsh.

The drama “Split Ends” by Alireza Kazempour tells the story of a bald woman and a man with long hair who try to get out of paying fines

when traffic cameras catch them not wearing a hijab.

This year, the Fastnet Film Festival has 18 competition prize categories

## “Truth in Photography” comes out at Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “Truth in Photography: Perception, Myth and Reality in the Postmodern World” by Leslie Mullen has been published in Persian by Davat Moaser.

truth. All art forms manipulate reality in order to reveal truths not apparent to the uncritical eye.

Photography today is largely seen as a postmodern art form, and postmodernism states that truths do not necessarily last, but instead, truths alter and shift with changes in culture.

Modernism, however, states that some truths do last, and these truths reflect basic, universal conditions of humanity.

These lasting truths are often expressed in mythic themes and archetypes. Science, journalism and art make use of the connection between myth and truth, most notably, in the mythic archetype of form: beauty.

Scientific, news, artistic and documentary

photography all use the archetype of beauty as a connection to truth. Beauty, however, is based on the beliefs of a culture, and does not necessarily define truth.

In the end, both postmodernism and modernism have their place in photographic philosophy. Understanding of photographic truth, like all other truths, depends on an understanding of culture, belief, history and the universal aspects of human nature.

Mullen is an award-winning science photojournalist who has produced TV, radio, podcasts, live stage shows, and web features. Her work has been featured by NASA, PBS, National Geographic Channel and other media outlets.