

Nakba: 75 Years On



By Sadra Torabi

TEHRAN- Every year on May 15 Palestinians around the world mark the Nakba, or catastrophe, referring to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948.

Palestinians refer to it as “Al Nakba”, which literally translates as “The Catastrophe”. It refers to the mass exodus of at least 750,000 Arabs from Palestine. Although most believe this event began in 1948, in fact, Al Nakba began decades earlier and it is still going on, and the Nakba will continue as long as the Zionist regime is occupying the land of the Palestinians.

Expelling people from their homes and preventing them from returning is a war crime.

Israel didn't just commit a war crime in 1948, rather it continues to commit war crimes to this day, says Salman Abu Sitta, author of Atlas of Palestine.

Head of the Beyond the Sea Community in Italy, Patrizia Ceccone, also says: “Nakba Day means the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians by the Israeli regime, a reality that continues every day in occupied Palestine.”

The renowned anti-Apartheid leader in South Africa, Allan Boesak, delivered a keynote address on Saturday in which he underscored the double standards of Western governments and media in reporting about Palestine. He questioned why Holocausts, massacres, ► Page 4

We shall return

By Dr. Sabir Abu Maryam*

The Palestinian issue is one of the most important issues on the world political scene since its inception. The issue of Palestine is a fundamental and first problem in the Islamic world. Similarly, in the modern world, the issue of Palestine has become the center of attention of people around the world, tearing the borders of Islam and Palestine. Today, this issue is called the issue of humanity.

European and other western countries whose governments in the past helped the Zionists for the usurpation of Zionist domination over Palestine, today the people living in the same areas under the same governments are not happy with the actions of their governments.

Rather, people are with Palestine after seeing the conditions and events of Palestine. Therefore, it can be said that the issue of Palestine is a universal and humanity cause.

Nakba Day, this is the day on which the usurper Zionists in the year 1948, after establishing their illegal rule over Palestine, inflicted immense humanitarian atrocities against the local people of Palestine. ► Page 5

A land without a people for a people without a land?

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- The phrase “a land without a people for a people without a land” has historical context but has become a common slogan for Zionists to try and justify their illegal settler presence on Palestinian land.

It's also one of the biggest injustices the Zionists have portrayed against the Palestinian people as it wipes out their cultural heritage and identity. In this way Israel has tried to do in an effort to depict a tale that Palestine had no existence and the settlers have some kind of God given right to squat on another people's indigenous land.

As freedom seeking people across the world mark the 75th Nakba Day, when at least 800,000 Palestinians were forced out of their homeland by Zionists in 1948, experts point out the slogan was used as far back as 1831 and not something coined by the Zionists themselves.

Today, the Palestinians number 14 million, the majority of them living in refugee camps outside their occupied land. ► Page 5

Over 200 foreign companies from 13 countries to participate in Iran Oil Show 2023

TEHRAN- More than 200 Foreign companies from 13 countries are going to participate in the 27th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2023), which is slated to be held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds during May 17-20.

According to the Director General of the Iranian Oil Ministry's Office of Public Relations Ali Forouzandeh, the foreign companies participating in the exhibition are from Russia, ► Page 6

Erdogan leading in elections

Early returns from Turkey's national election Sunday had President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with a solid lead after some 47% of ballot boxes were counted, the Turkish state-run news agency said, while the longtime leader's main challenger disputed the numbers that showed him trailing, AP reported.

Erdogan, who has governed Turkey as either prime minister or president for two decades, had 52.2 of the vote from the partial count, compared to 41.9% garnered by opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the Anadolu Agency reported. ► Page 2

Islam brought dignity, respect to women

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN - Islam signifies respect and dignity for women in a very unique way by instructing society on their rights and duties in different social statuses and roles she enjoys in their life.

Women have gone through an eventful and painful history, and at some points in history, they have been reduced to the level of a tradable commodity or an animal, or a slave.

During the period of Age of Ignorance (Jahiliyyah) [It is an Islamic concept referring to the period of time and state of affairs in Arabia before the advent of Islam in 610 CE], women were caught in the most disgraceful misfortunes and suffered the most difficult calamities. ► Page 7



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visits the 34th Tehran International Book Fair at Imam Khomeini Mosalla on May 14, 2023.

Leader warns of foreign children's stories dominance at Tehran book fair

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei warned of the dominance of foreign children's stories in Iran during his visit to the 34th Tehran International Book Fair on Sunday.

“As much as you are able, produce quality books by local writers in order to attract children and young adults,” the Leader told the publishers.

“Foreign children's stories are still dominant; that's a major shortcoming,” he warned.

Ayatollah Khamenei also met Morteza Sarhangi, an author of books on the 1980s Iran-Iraq war ► Page 8

Iranian warship docks in Oman

TEHRAN - The 86th flotilla of warships from the Iranian Navy berthed at Salalah, the port city of Oman, at the end of a journey that started in the fall of 2022.

On Sunday, the 86th flotilla, which had already traveled further than any other Iranian flotilla in international seas, berthed at Salalah.

The Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship, which are part of the Iranian flotilla, achieved the record by traveling more than 51,000 kilometers in a single mission.

After traveling to Saint Petersburg in Russia last year, the 75th flotilla, which included the Sahand and Makran destroyers, achieved a record for navigation of 45,000 kilometers.

The 86th flotilla set sail from south of Iran in early autumn with the purpose of circumnavigating the world. ► Page 2

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Tehran Papers

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

Israel even failed to face a single group of resistance front

In its editorial, Kayhan addressed Israel's attack on Gaza. It wrote: The interesting thing that happened is that the “Israeli consensus” ► Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Israel even failed to face a single group of resistance front

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

In its editorial, Kayhan addressed Israel's attack on Gaza. It wrote: The interesting thing that happened is that the "Israeli consensus" could not help resolve this complicated issue. The Palestinian side can say that even if the Israelis unite, they cannot change the military process in their favor! When the Palestinian side opposes to stop the war with the determination of precondition, it means that Israel's military action has failed to make the Palestinian side to capitulate, and Israel's deterrence has not been restored despite the heavy cost it paid for it. An important pillar of the three pillars of deterrence, which is to transfer the conflict to the enemy's land, has not happened, and the firing on Gaza not only failed to engage the Palestinian groups in conflict with each other, it also faced a strong and united response from them, and also turned the ceasefire in favor of their power and will. The ironic point of the conflicts of the last few days is that the deterrence considered by Netanyahu has not worked even in the face of a single side of the resistance front, let alone that it will be revived once again in the face of all governments and resistance movements of the region.

Shargh: The idea of Foreign Affairs is not positive

In an analysis, Shargh discussed the status of the nuclear case and the recent article of Foreign Affairs, written by Ali Vaez and Vali Nasr. It quoted a former diplomat who says: "I have always said and I repeat that the best way for Iran is to directly negotiate with European countries and the United States. In order to revive the JCPOA, exchanging dual-national prisoners or any other issue, we can use our own diplomatic bargaining power and capacity in direct negotiations with Europe and America without mediators. It is not at all in the dignity of the Islamic Republic of Iran that some Arab countries on the rim of the Persian Gulf act as mediators in our indirect negotiations. In addition, this type of diplomacy has not worked so far and will not work from now on. By the way, my serious criticism from Ali Vaez and Vali Nasr's writings is that these two persons believe that the Persian Gulf countries

can be our mediators in areas of economy and trade with Europe and America. So, is it in the dignity of the Islamic Republic of Iran that any of our imports from Europe and America should first be imported to Arab countries and then to Iran, or vice versa? Or should our exports to Europe go through Arab countries?!

Iran: Islamic Republic has disturbed America's equations in the region

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the regional issues and said: The agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia has upset many equations of the Americans in the region. The instability of alliance between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, as one of America's closest regional allies, has destroyed America's capacity to further maximum pressure against the Islamic Republic. The tendency of the Americans to form coalitions again or their effort to create new crises, or give the Zionist regime a green light for any military threat, are a result of the failures that America has faced in the region in recent years and months. To take advantage of the warfare is another alternative of the U.S. to deal with Iran in recent months during the riots. This is the war that requires Iran's intelligent response, and its soldiers are the media outlets, public opinion, and people's living standards.

Javan: Take off the political glasses

In its editorial Javan wrote: People should not be looked at through political glasses. The thing that will bring people to the polls is not the name of candidates, rather it is hope for the future and hope to solve people's problems, which are chiefly economic. Those people who are constantly attacking people's hope in their media claim that they can return hope to people. Those who have filled their showcase with politics and have not yet learned from the past experience, cannot respond to this type of people's demands. Those whose background of the past decade is still in front of people's eyes, should not count on people's amnesia. If there is also Alzheimer's, first it has come to those whose ageing cabinet was flagrant of circles for years.

Iranian warship docks in Oman

From page 1 ► The two vessels of the flotilla berthed at Brazil's southeastern port city of Rio de Janeiro in February.

Dena is a Mowj-class warship that joined the Iranian Navy in June 2021.

The military vessel is outfitted with anti-ship cruise missiles, torpedoes and naval cannons.

Makran, a forward base ship weighing 121,000 tons, is the other vessel in the flotilla.

The oil tanker that was converted into a warship is used to support the combat vessels logistically and can carry five helicopters.

The Iranian Navy has established three ocean commands to oversee naval missions to the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans.

"U.S. unable to thwart Iranian warship from passing Panama Canal"

The U.S. failed to stop the Iranian Navy's 86th flotilla of warships from passing through the Panama Canal, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani recalled as the fleet docked in Salalah.

Irani asserted that "global arrogance" attempted to thwart the goal of the flotilla by threats and penalties, but was unsuccessful.

Speaking with Fars News Agency on Saturday, he noted that "the United States sanction was no more than a rant based on international law. They could not even prevent the flotilla

Islamic Jihad lauds Iran for its help in facing Zionists

From page 1 ► "We will finish our battle with our weapons drawn. Our fighters are highly alert on the battlefield and ready to confront any act of aggression," Nakhlah highlighted.

In a statement on Saturday, the Joint Operations Room of the Palestinian Resistance Factions underlined that "the new round of fight-

ing with the occupying Israeli regime further strengthened the resistance front."

"The Zionist enemy mistakenly believed that the time was ripe for assassination of Palestinian resistance leaders, but it was a grave miscalculation," it noted.

IAEA-Iran technical co-op will advance significantly: FM

TEHRAN- The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) collaboration with Iran will soon see a significant development, according to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

In an interview with IRNA published on Sunday, Amir Abdollahian emphasized that throughout discussions on the restoration of the 2015 nuclear agreement and the lifting of sanctions, Tehran is communicating with Washington through a variety of channels.

Asserting that "a good development has taken place in the course of cooperation" between Iran and the UN nuclear agency, the top Iranian diplomat noted that Tehran had consistently criticized IAEA chief Rafael Grossi's political approach to Iran and that he had even brought up the issue in a face-to-face meeting with him.

Amir Abdollahian continued by emphasizing that President Ebra-



him Raisi has made it clear that Iran is serious about cooperating with the IAEA and expects that the UN nuclear agency would carry out its obligations within legal frameworks and refrain from engaging in politics.

"The more the IAEA distances itself from a political approach and moves towards technical cooperation, the more the path for our

agreements opens up," the chief Iranian diplomat pointed out.

Abdollahian went on to highlight that Iran is committed to resolving disagreements with the IAEA through constructive and reciprocal interaction and technical cooperation, while also upholding the Strategic Action Plan to Counter Sanctions law passed by the parliament in

Iran summons Iraqi envoy over presence of separatists in meeting in KRG

TEHRAN- In protest over the anti-Iran actions in the Iraqi Kurdistan region, the Foreign Ministry on Saturday summoned the Iraqi ambassador to Iran.

The ministry summoned the ambassador in retaliation for inviting separatist group members to attend a formal conference in Iraq's Kurdistan region and for the terrorist groups' ongoing activities there.

The Iraqi envoy was informed of Iran's strong protest against the recent developments in the meeting.

The director of the Foreign Ministry's first Persian Gulf department warned the Iraqi ambassador that the anti-Iran conference in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and terrorist actions in the region violate a recent security agreement between Tehran and Baghdad.

In March, Iran and Iraq inked a bilateral pact on security cooperation.

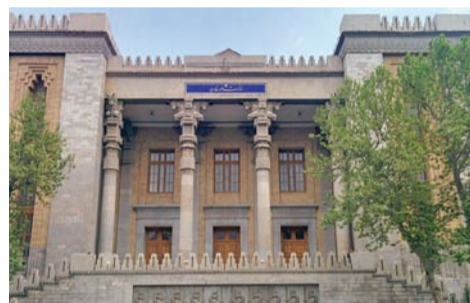
By signing the pact, Iran and Iraq pledged to uphold the values of friendly relations and defend their shared border.

The agreement also aims to put a stop to the unlawful presence of anti-Iranian armed groups and Zionist regime's supporters in the districts of Iraq that are close to Iran's north-western border.

Several Kurdish factions run camps and rear bases in the Kurdish region of Iraq which Tehran has accused them of acting in the interests of the West or Israel and performing operations with their endorsement.

The Kurdish groups came back into the spotlight last year as protests broke out across Iran in response to the death of an Iranian Kurdish woman while kept in police custody for breaking the dress codes for women.

These militant separatist groups carry out "terrorist" activities and smuggle weapons



into the country through the Kurdish region of Iraq.

Additionally, the Foreign Ministry urged Baghdad to disarm the militias and stop the use of Iraqi soil against Iran.

A few months ago, after Iraq repeatedly failed to prevent militant attacks by these groups in western Iran, the IRGC launched a series of missile and drone operations on their headquarters in Kurdistan region.

Biden's Iran policy not sustainable: Responsible Statecraft

TEHRAN - In a commentary on May 12, Responsible Statecraft criticizes the Joe Biden administration's policy of "no Iran deal, no crisis", suggesting that such an approach is not sustainable.

It also says "temporary agreement" that Biden is seeking with Iran will not be acceptable to Iran.

"Iran would like to see sanctions lifted on both its financial institutions and oil exports," the think tank states.

It proposes a more realistic option that would be a "more-for-more alternative".

The following are some parts of the analysis:

In May 2018, Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA) and President Joe Biden has yet failed to revive it. The Biden administration has not reached a clear political decision to complete the negotiations. On the one hand it insists "diplomacy is the best option," while, on the other, it says that the JCPOA is "not on the agenda." This is a mistake.

Since September 2022, negotiations over JCPOA have been stalled. In August 2022, the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, said that a final agreement to revive the Iran nuclear deal was ready to be signed. Although Iran's government did not agree at the

time, during recent months it has indicated that it is ready to do both that and a prisoner deal.

Iran and the United States have agreed on the details of a prisoners exchange but Washington is likely nervous about the domestic political reaction because that deal would involve the release of approximately \$7 billion of Iran's funds that have been locked up abroad. Moreover, the Key "sunsets" for JCPOA limits on Iran's nuclear and missile program and arms trade range from 2023 to 2041. Based on the JCPOA, in October 2023, the UN Security Council is supposed to lift restrictions on Iran's missiles and drones with a range of greater than 300 kilometers. The Biden administration is required to seek congressional legislation that ends some of the U.S. sanctions in this area.

Such sanction lifting could be grist for Republican political attacks on the Biden administration during an election season. But further delay brings its own dangers.

In the face of this complex situation, the Biden administration is dithering. It may be considering a "temporary agreement" as a middle way for the U.S. to contain this situation. This would be consistent with the Biden administration's recent policy of "No Deal, No Crisis" with Iran in which the administration is also trying to avoid a major military conflict.

Partial results in Turkey's election show President Erdogan leading

From page 1 ► In the run-up to the election, opinion surveys had indicated the increasingly authoritarian Erdogan narrowly trailed his challenger. The race had appeared to be shaping up as the toughest re-election bid of the Turkish leader's 20-year rule of his NATO member nation.

With the partial results showing otherwise, members of Kilicdaroglu's center-left, pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, disputed Anadolu's numbers, contending the state-run agency was biased in Erdogan's favor.

"We are ahead," tweeted Kilicdaroglu, 74, who ran as the candidate of a six-party opposition alliance.



The election could grant Erdogan, 69, another five-year term or see him unseated by Kilicdaroglu, who campaigned on a promise to return Turkey to a more democratic path and to restore

December 2020.

"We are close to the next IAEA meeting, and we have notified Mr. Grossi very clearly that Iran and the agency can establish a good and reassuring cooperation if certain foreign parties do not get in the way," Abdollahian remarked.

Amir Abdollahian further noted that the exchange of delegations is taking place apart from any media hype and that significant progress will be made in the process of technical collaboration between Iran and the IAEA as both parties have shown a great desire to take such a step.

In other parts of his interview, the Iranian foreign minister emphasized that communications are being exchanged with the U.S. through various routes.

He maintained that the Iranian Foreign Ministry is always attempting to neutralize Western sanctions while also attempting to assure their removal during the JCPOA renewal talks.

"trigger mechanism" in the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 backing up the JCPOA. This would restore all of the sanctions suspended by the JCPOA. France, UK, and Germany have recently held a meeting with 10 non-permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss the "trigger or snap back mechanism."

This scenario could have major risks as Iran may respond by withdrawing from the Nonproliferation Treaty which allows the IAEA to monitor its nuclear materials. Moreover, while current relations between the EU and Iran already are experiencing unprecedented tensions, any EU initiative to activate the snapback mechanism would be a nail to coffin of bilateral historical relations with Europe and the West.

The third and best option would be for Iran and the United States to resume direct negotiations, compromise on some confidence-building measures to contain tensions, revive the JCPOA based on the August 2022 draft agreement and carry out the prisoner exchange. Recently, in a modest step in this direction, on May 1, the IAEA began reinstalling cameras at certain nuclear facilities in Iran under an agreement the agency reached with Tehran in March 2023. Such confidence building measures are helpful if proportionality reciprocated by the U.S. and other world powers.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

an economy battered by high inflation and currency devaluation.

If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the winner will be determined in a May 28 run-off.

Voters also elected lawmakers to fill Turkey's 600-seat parliament, which lost much of its legislative power under Erdogan's executive presidency. If his political alliance wins, Erdogan could continue governing without much restriction. The opposition has promised to return Turkey's governance system to a parliamentary democracy if it wins both the presidential and parliamentary ballots.

speaker says Iran needs new governance system

TEHRAN – Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf said on Sunday that Iran needs to overhaul its governance system in accordance with a strategic declaration by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

Speaking at a gathering in Tehran, Qalibaf said, “Today, all thinkers and experts, world powers and all the countries of the world and national governments on the planet believe that they are on the verge of changing the world order. We must know where we stand in this change of world order and where we should be, and without a doubt, we should be in a better position than in the past, both in the regional and international fields.”

He added, “We must know where



we are and we must know our road map and we need a transformation in our governance system in various economic, political and defense and security fields. And we need a new

governance based on the second step of the Revolution.”

Qalibaf was referring to the declaration of the second step of the Revolution, which was issued by

Ayatollah Khamenei.

“We must strengthen our strengths and overcome our weaknesses,” he said, according to Tasnim. “We must define common and limited priorities. We have lost so much time that we don’t have time to advance this plan according to arbitrary method. Even in the method of reaching the goals, we have to find a consensus in order to be successful in the 7th Plan,” he added, referring to the Seventh Development Plan that is expected to be tabled at the Parliament for review. The plan is a long-term program that aims to achieve development.

In recent month, Qalibaf has been calling for an overhaul of Iran’s governance system. He introduced the “new governance” concept in this regard.

Iran, Egypt to open embassies soon: MP

‘A meeting will be arranged for Raisi and El-Sisi meeting after embassy opening’



TEHRAN – An Iranian lawmaker confirmed press reports that Iran and Egypt are holding talks in Baghdad, saying the two countries will soon resume diplomatic relations.

“It is very important to restore relations between Iran and Egypt, because Egypt is one of the oldest and most civilized countries in the region and the world,” he said in an interview with Tasnim. “Therefore, the position of Egypt is very high and important compared to other countries. Even in the past, the Egyptian nation looked at the Iranian nation with respect, and the Iranian nation has also looked at the Egyptian nation in the same way.”

He added, “In this regard, negotiations between Iran and Egypt are ongoing in Iraq, and relations between Iran and Egypt will be restored in the near future. And we will witness the opening of embassies in both countries, and after this action, a meeting will be arranged between Mr. Raisi, the President of Iran, and Mr. El-Sisi, the President of Egypt.”

“We hope to see new opening with Egypt”

In a report posted on the IRNA website on Sunday, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian said Iran hopes to see an “opening and adoption of new and reciprocal steps” in relations with Egypt.

“I hope that in line with the views of Ayatollah Raisi’s government in expanding ties with regional counties to see an opening and new and reciprocal steps with the friendly and brotherly country of Egypt that Iran attaches special importance to it in its foreign policy,” Amir Abdollahian told IRNA.

Noting that the Islamic Republic has always welcomed ties with Egypt, the minister said now the heads of the interest sections of the two countries in Tehran and Cairo hold fruitful meetings and now there is “good access” to the officials of the two countries.

Earlier, press reports indicated that Iraq has been mediating between Iran and Egypt in recent weeks. Officials from Iran and Egypt held last month a meeting in Baghdad to improve Tehran-Cairo relations à la the thaw that took place in Iran-Saudi relations, a Qatari newspaper reported.

The newspaper, Al Araby Al Jadeed, quoted Iraqi officials as saying that the meeting took place under the auspices of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammad al-Sudani and aims to repeat the mediation that Iraq undertook between Tehran and Riyadh.

The sources explained that the two sides were keen not to announce it officially, while Egyptian diplomatic sources had told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that contacts took place during the last week of March

between security officials from Egypt and Iran, which dealt with the possibility of gradual development of bilateral relations between the two countries in the coming period.

According to the two Iraqi officials, the meeting took place at a low level of representation from both sides in the middle of last month, with the arrangement and presence of the Iraqi side. They also said that Baghdad is working to host another meeting between the two sides.

One of the officials, who is at the Foreign Ministry of Iraq, said there was “a [positive] response from both sides, the Iranian and the Egyptian, to the Iraqi mediation, which aims to move the stalemate in relations, but it is too early to talk about progress in the mediation.” The second Iraqi official who is at the Iraqi National Security Advisory said, “The goal is to restore normal relations between the two sides, especially with the developments of the Saudi-Iranian reconciliation, and the atmosphere is positive.”

Regarding the position of the representatives of the Egyptian and Iranian side, he said that they are “security and diplomatic,” stressing that the first meeting did not discuss many details, and the second meeting is expected to be more important and in-depth.

This information was confirmed by the rapporteur of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Iraqi parliament, Amer Al-Fayez. He said, “Iraq has already begun mediation to bridge points of view, and break the reluctance of Egypt and Iran to reach a good relationship.”

efforts to enhance ties between the two nations within the context of the Iranian government’s initiative to strengthen connections with neighbors.

Bagheri Kani also called for hastening the implementation of bilateral agreements and highlighted the positive relationship that exists between the two countries.

Ayyad Alotaibi, however, complimented the Iranian government’s neighborhood policy and alluded to the shared and historical links between the two states.

appointed its new ambassador to Tehran in August of last year after about six years.

In March, Ali Bagheri Kani, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, called for expanding political dialogue with Kuwait.

Bagheri Kani made the comments at a meeting with Mansour Ayyad Alotaibi, the deputy foreign minister of Kuwait.

Emphasizing the need to continue dialogue in all political, economic, consular, and cultural spheres, he referred to the comprehensive



ered relations in January 2016 due to the attack on the Saudi embassy and consulate general in Iran, the Kuwaiti government recalled its ambassador from Tehran in accordance with Saudi Arabia and reduced the level of its diplomatic relations with Iran.

The government of this country

‘Parliament to put forth special package for development of relations with Pakistan’

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has said that the Iranian parliament will table a special package for the development of relations between Iran and Pakistan.

The lawmaker, Vahid Jalalzadeh, who is the head of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, made the remarks at a gathering hosted by Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations in Karachi.

Jalalzadeh has paid a visit to Pakistan at the head of an Iranian parliamentary delegation.

He lauded the cultural commonalities between Iran and Pakistan, saying, “Persian language is a strong factor of the proximity of two neighboring countries and both countries are proud to recognize each other as the first country.”

Jalalzadeh added, “As Ayatollah Raisi, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has emphasized, we do not consider any limits to expand bilateral cooperation with Pakistan in all fields. The heads of the two countries have had two official meetings in the last one year and we will see another meeting soon.”

He noted, “We will certainly put a special case

for the development of relations with Pakistan on the table of the Islamic Majlis. The main focus is on expanding commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries and encouraging governments to use mutual capabilities, especially persuading the private sector in order to identify the capacities of Iran and Pakistan.

According to Jalalzadeh, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes China’s investment in Pakistan, and everyone in Iran wants a prosperous, developed and stable Pakistan.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will never involve any third country in the discussion of bilateral relations, either with Pakistan or other countries, and what is important to us is maintaining and achieving bilateral interests,” he said, according to IRIB News.

Hossein Nourian, Iran’s consul-general in Karachi, also addressed the gathering, underlining the need for the expansion of trade between Tehran and Islamabad.

“The two neighboring countries intend to use the common borders not as a threat but as a special opportunity to strengthen people-to-people

relations and develop bilateral trade,” he said. “The level of trade between Iran and Pakistan crossed two billion dollars for the first time last year, and the two countries are trying to increase these relations to five billion dollars in the first step.”

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

The new ambassador, Muhammad Mudassir 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 Pakistan, 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.

Mehrzaad doubt for 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone

TEHRAN – Morteza Mehrzaad will likely miss the 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone Championships.

He has recently undergone surgery and has not participated in the team’s training.

Mehrzaad needs rest and his recovery will take months.

The 2.47m volleyballer has helped Team Melli win two Paralympic Games (Rio and Tokyo) and two World Para Volleyball Championship (2018 and 2022).

Mehrzaad will most likely be fit for the 2022 Asian Para Games, scheduled for October in Hangzhou, China.

The 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone Championships will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from July 3 to 8.

Saman Ghoddos to leave Brentford: official

TEHRAN – Saman Ghoddos will leave English Premier League side Brentford this summer, the club announced.

He signed for the Bees from French side Amiens in September 2020. He initially joined on loan, with the deal made permanent in January 2021. The 29-year-old has played 86 games for Brentford and scored five goals.

“Saman has been a pleasure to work with,” said head coach Thomas Frank, “he was part of the group that gained promotion to the Premier League and has been a valuable member of the squad during the following two seasons.

“Whenever he has been called upon, and wherever he has been asked to play, Saman has never let us down. He is a top professional and a top person.

“At this stage of his career, it’s so important that Saman has regular game time. We cannot offer Saman the minutes that he desires, so it is with sadness that we have all decided that he should have the chance to pursue new opportunities as a free agent.

“I wish Saman the best of luck for the future and thank him for his efforts during his time with us.”

Phil Giles, director of football, added: “Saman has contributed some key moments in his time with us, such as winning a last-minute penalty to win us the game last season against Watford.

“But what isn’t seen from outside our training ground is the massive impact he has made during training and around the team, even when he wasn’t starting. He’ll be a big miss and everyone at Brentford wishes him well in the next phase of his career.”

Ghoddos made 47 appearances in all competitions during the 2020/21 campaign – including all three of Brentford’s Play-Off games – as the club gained its first promotion to the Premier League.

He has played 30 games in the top flight and scored a stunning goal during a defeat to Burnley in October 2021.

12 of Ghoddos’s 34 appearances for Iran have come during his time at Brentford. He was part of his nation’s squad for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar and featured in a 1-0 group-stage defeat to the U.S in Doha.

Iran, S. Arabia U17 football teams share spoils

TEHRAN – Iran U-17 football team was held to a 1-1 draw by Saudi Arabia U-17 Saturday night in a friendly match in Dubai, the UAE.

The two teams had shared the spoils in a goalless draw in their first match held on Wednesday.

Hossein Abdi’s side previously participated in the Belarus “Development Cup” in February.

Iran prepare for the 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup, where the team has been drawn in Group B along with South Korea, Afghanistan and Qatar.

Iran sabre team win bronze at 2023 World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s sabre national team won a bronze medal in the 2023 World Cup underway in Madrid, Spain.

Team Melli defeated Italy 45/37 in the bronze medal match.

Iran started the prestigious campaign with a 45-34 win over Chile and then edged past Canada 45/44 and Georgia 45/44.

Iran lost to the U.S. 45/24 in the semifinals.

Ali Pakdaman, Mohammad Fotouhi, Farzad Baher and Mohammad Rahbari represented Iran in the competition.

Shahdab start 2023 Asian Club Volleyball Championship on high

TEHRAN – Shahdab Yazd of Iran swept past South Gas of Iraq in straight sets (25-22, 25-14, 25-18) in the 2023 Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

Shahdab are scheduled to face Afghanistan’s Kam Air and Taiwanese Taichung Bank in Group B on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

“Iran as an Asian powerhouse team and one of the best Asian teams in the world has many fans, all of them have high expectations from any Iranian team in international events. All teams here are coming to this event with power and we cannot underestimate any opponents”, Shahdab coach Mohammadreza Tondravan said ahead of the match.

Teams from Bahrain, South Korea, Australia, and Indonesian are in Pool B.

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

The 23rd Asian Men’s Club Volleyball Championship started on May 14 in Manama, Bahrain and will run until May 21.

The champions will qualify for the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men’s Club World Championship.

Demir moves step closer to becoming Iran basketball coach

TEHRAN – Turkish basketball coach Hakan Demir is on the verge of being appointed as Iran basketball coach.

Iran has parted ways with Saeid Armaghani following Team Melli’s poor results in the 2023 FIBA World Cup qualification.

The 55-year-old Turkish coach has most recently worked as head coach in Manisa basketball team.

Iran’s basketball team have been drawn in Group G along with Spain, Ivory Coast and Brazil in the 2023 FIBA World Cup.

Taftian ranks 2nd in Jamaica Indoor Athletics C’ship

TEHRAN – Iranian sprinter Hassan Taftian came in second place in the Jamaican Indoor Athletics Championships.

Hitting the record of 10.16 seconds in men’s 100m, Hasan Taftian, Iranian sprinter gained the silver medal at the Jamaica Indoor Athletics Championships and stood in second place.

Kadrian Goldson ranked in the first place, while Rodney Brendon gained the bronze medal after Taftian.

Taftian has been training to prepare for the 2023 Asian Championships.

From Page 1► and colonial crimes in Africa are never given the attention that the killing of Jews in Nazi Germany enjoys.

He further held to account the hypocrisy in reporting the conflict in Ukraine, while the Palestinian plight is silenced.

In 1799, during the French invasion of the Arab world, Napoleon issued a proclamation offering Palestine as a homeland to Jews under France's protection. This was also a way to establish a French presence in the region. Napoleon's vision of a Jewish state in the Middle East did not materialize at the time – but nor did it die. In the late 19th century, the plan was revived by the British.

Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War I and the establishment of the Palestine Mandate, the British colonial power began implementing its plan of creating a Jewish state on Palestinian land. At the same time, the Zionist movement was lobbying Western powers to support the mass migration of Jews to Palestine and recognize a Jewish claim to the land.

In 1917, the Balfour Declaration declared British support for a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine, and that's how the Day of Nakba officially began.

The declaration was made in a letter written by Britain's then-Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, to Baron Rothschild, a leader of the British Zionist movement. The letter was endorsed by Britain's then-Prime Minister David Lloyd George, who became a Zionist in 1915.

The letter stated the British would “use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object”. For Zionists, this was a clear victory.

The influx of Zionists to Palestine, supported by the British, was met with fierce Palestinian resistance. The purchases of land by Jews for Zionist settlement displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians from their homes. The entire process was facilitated by the British.

While the Palestinian leadership in Al-Quds insisted on continuing negotiations with the British to resolve the simmering tensions, Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam, a Syrian leader living in Haifa since 1922, began calling for resistance against the British and the Zionists.

In 1935, Al-Qassam was surrounded by British forces and killed along with some of his men. His resistance inspired many Palestinians. By 1936, an Arab resistance erupted against British imperialism and Zionist settler colonialism.

By 1939, the British had smashed

Nakba: 75 years on

the resistance. The Palestinians found themselves fighting two enemies: British colonial forces and Zionist militia groups.

Although the British had backed mass Jewish immigration to Palestine, the colonial power began to limit the number of Jews arriving in the country in an attempt to quell Arab unrest.

*In the history of
Palestine, every day
can be named
Al-Nakba Day.*

The new limit on immigration upset the Zionists. They launched a series of terrorist attacks on British authorities to drive them out. Therefore, the Nakba that Britain planned for the Palestinians by using armed Jews stood against that country.

The Zionists continued to further advance their dream of creating a Jewish state on Palestinian land. Meanwhile, it became obvious that the Palestinian resistance forces were outnumbered and outgunned.

The Zionist strategy of expelling Palestinians from their land was a slow and deliberate process. According to Israeli historian Ilan Pappé, Zionist leaders and military commanders met regularly from March 1947 to March 1948, when they finalized

plans to ethnically cleanse Palestine.

As Zionist attacks on the British and Arabs escalated, the British decided to hand over their responsibility for Palestine to the newly founded United Nations.

In November 1947, the UN General Assembly proposed a plan to partition Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab one. Jews in Palestine only constituted one-third of the population – most of whom had arrived from Europe a few years earlier – and only retained control of less than 5.5 percent of historic Palestine. Yet under the UN proposal, they were allocated 55 percent of the land. The Palestinians and their Arab allies rejected the proposal.

Zionist message is simple: Leave the land or be killed

The Zionist movement accepted it, however, on the grounds that it legitimized the idea of a Jewish state on Arab land. But they did not agree to the proposed borders and campaigned to conquer even more of historic Palestine. By early 1948, Zionist forces had captured dozens of villages and cities, displacing thousands of Palestinians, even while the British Mandate was still in effect. In many cases, they carried out organized massacres. The Zionist movement's message was simple: Palestinians must leave their land or be killed.

As the date (May 14, 1948) selected by the British for their Palestine Mandate to expire approached, Zi-

onist forces hastened their efforts to seize Palestinian land. In April 1948, the Zionists captured Haifa, one of the biggest Palestinian cities, and subsequently set their eyes on Jaffa. On the same day, British forces formally withdrew, and David Ben-Gurion, then-head of the Zionist Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the state of Israel.

Overnight, the Palestinians became stateless. The world's two great powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, immediately recognized Israel.

As the Zionists continued their ethnic cleansing campaign against the Palestinians, war broke out between neighboring Arab countries and the new Zionist state. The UN appointed Swedish diplomat, Folke Bernadotte, as its mediator in Palestine. He recognized the plight of the Palestinians and attempted to address their suffering. His efforts to bring about a peaceful solution and halt to the ongoing ethnic cleansing campaign ended when he was assassinated by the Zionists in September 1948.

By 1949, over 700,000 Palestinians had been made refugees and more than 13,000 had been killed by the Israeli military. The UN continued to push for an armistice deal between Israel and those Arab countries.

Bernadotte was replaced by his American deputy, Ralph Bunche. Negotiations led by Bunche between

Israel and the Arab states resulted in the latter conceding even more Palestinian land to the newly founded Zionist state. In May 1949, Israel was admitted to the UN, and its grip over 78 percent of historic Palestine was consolidated. The remaining 22 percent became known as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees remained in refugee camps, waiting to return home.

While the Zionist movement sought first and foremost to remove Palestinians from their land, it also tried to erase Palestinian heritage and culture. The overall objective was nothing short of an attempt to wipe Palestine off the world map.

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world map.*

Where are Palestinian refugees today?

There are some six million registered Palestinian refugees living in at least 58 camps located throughout Palestine and neighboring countries.

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provides as-

sistance and operates hundreds of schools and health facilities for at least 2.3 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, 1.5 million refugees in Gaza, 870,000 refugees in the occupied West Bank, 570,000 refugees in Syria and 480,000 refugees in Lebanon.

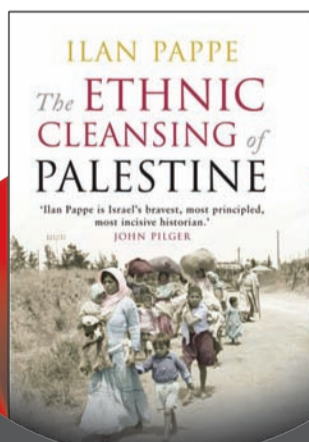
The largest camps in each are Baqa'a in Jordan, Jabalia in Gaza, Jenin in the occupied West Bank, Yarmouk in Syria, and Ain al-Hilweh in Lebanon.

More than 70 percent of Gaza's residents are refugees. About 1.5 million refugees live in eight refugee camps around the Gaza Strip.

According to international law, refugees have the right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced. Many Palestinians still have hope of returning to Palestine.

The plight of Palestinian refugees is the longest unresolved refugee problem in the world.

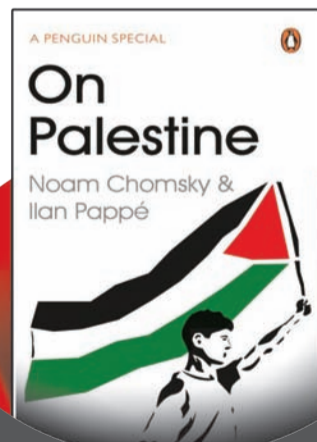
The Palestinian Nakba did not end in 1948. In the history of Palestine, every day can be named Al-Nakba Day. The ethnic cleansing of historic Palestine is still happening. The emotional impact of Al-Nakba is still felt today, as Palestinians continue to fight for their right to return home and reclaim what was taken from them.



Exposing a myth

A renowned Israeli historian, Ilan Pappé's groundbreaking book is essential in dismantling the long-held myth that Palestinians left their land of their own accord – Pappé offers incredible evidence that it was, in fact, the opposite, looking at least 400 Palestinian villages that were deliberately destroyed.

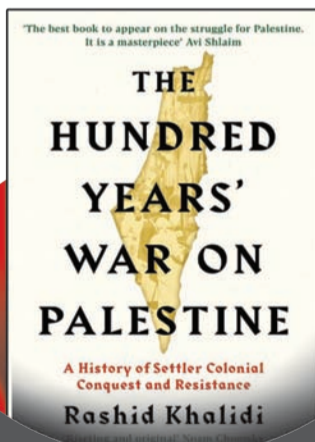
Decisively debunking the myth that the Palestinian population left of their own accord in the course of this war, Ilan Pappé offers impressive archival evidence to demonstrate that, from its very inception, a central plank in Israel's founding ideology was the forcible removal of the indigenous population. Indispensable for anyone interested in the current crisis in the Middle East.



Narrative of an ongoing disaster

Co-authored by two of the leading writers on Palestine, Noam Chomsky and Ilan Pappé, this is another essential read to get a full picture of Palestine today – looking at some of the most pressing issues such as the BDS Movement and two-state versus one-state solutions.

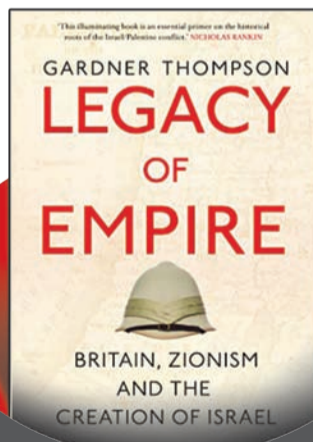
An important way to understand the effects of the Nakba today, this book will help put into context just how catastrophic the ethnic cleansing of Palestine was, and how destructive Zionist forces remain today in denying human rights and illegally expanding into Palestinian territory.



Palestine was not an empty land

An incredible and personal look into the history of Palestine, Khalidi draws on his own family archives to help draw a picture of the ancient nation of Palestine – long before it was invaded and colonized by Zionist forces. Leading up to the Nakba, Khalidi helps shine a light on how real the Nakba really was – Palestine was not an empty land but a nation-state with an ancient history.

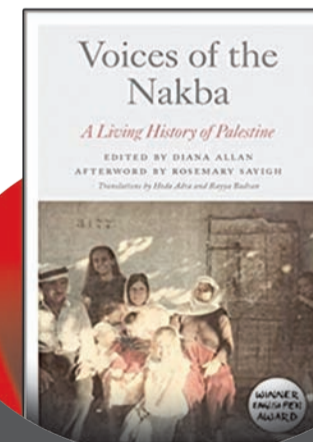
Exploring Palestinian nationalism, from the Ottoman Empire to the Six Day War to the 1982 siege, Khalidi effortlessly combines the voices of his own family, journalists, historians, poets, and resistance leaders to present an essential picture of what Palestine was when the Nakba happened.



Britain everywhere

Offering an essential look into Britain's role in creating the Zionist state of Israel, Thompson explores the colonization of Palestine by not only Zionist forces but by British forces as well. Exploring how the Nakba continued for decades after 1947 with the help of the British Empire, this book is important for anyone wanting to understand the larger forces at play in the destruction of Palestine.

As the effects of the Nakba continue to this day, the attitudes of Britain and many other nations around the world influenced by the UK remain heavily pro-Israel – and this book helps to understand why and how this came to be.



Voices of first-generation

Part of understanding the Nakba is listening to the voices of Palestinians themselves – and this book does just that. Collecting stories and testimonials from first-generation Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, along with commentary from leading scholars on Palestine and the Middle East, this book is an important read for anyone wanting to better understand the Nakba.

Bringing to life the land of Palestine – from the memories of culture, history, every-day life, and politics – this book is another great example of just how alive Palestine was before the catastrophe of the Nakba.



From Page 1 ► On this day, all the past stories of brutality and barbarism are destroyed by the Zionist terrorist organizations. The Zionist agency and Hagana stomped on the narratives of its atrocities.

Millions of local Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homeland of Palestine and pushed to the borders of neighboring countries – Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.

Even today, despite being cautious about software like Google, Google is forced to write the number of 800,000 Palestinians who were driven out of Palestine by the usurping Zionist terrorists through cruelty and brutality. Hundreds and thousands, of innocent children were killed in a gruesome manner, including mixing materials in the drinking water, and rape of women.

The Palestinian people remember the day of May 15, 1948 as the Nakba.

Nakba means a great and terrible destruction. A day of catastrophe.

Of course, what could be a more terrible and worst disaster for the Palestinians than that a nation was expelled from its own home. An illegitimate state was formed inside their homeland. The Zionists seized their illegal occupation of gardens and everything related to life, including threshing floors. Day by day, the owners of the homeland were turned into immigrants. This pain can only be understood and felt by those who have been robbed of their homeland and home. All this happened to the oppressed nation of Palestine.

Even today, after 75 years, the Palestinians have not given up the hope of returning to their homes and homeland. Although they are forced to live as refugees in different countries of the world including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, even today Lebanon and Syria If you go to the Palestinian refugee camps, the Palestinian mothers have the keys to their homes. They are keeping these keys safe with the hope that the day will soon come when all these Palestinians with their third generation will return to their homeland Palestine.

Even today, in the slogan that our Palestinian

brothers are raising in front of the world to return to their homeland, it is being said that “We Shall Return”.

It is the fundamental right of the Palestinians to return to their homeland. This right cannot be ignored by any organization in the world, including the United Nations. It will be a clean hit for other nations of the world to invade wherever they want and throw out the local population after establishing their desired state. Therefore, the first step is to usurper Israel, on the basis of which the illegal Zionist state is established. This is not acceptable and the main reason for this is that the Palestinian people are not giving up their right to return to Palestine.

The Palestinian people are active in the movement of the right of return. It is necessary that the voice of the Palestinians that “we shall return” should include the voice of the nations around the world.

Due to the rapid changes in the world political scenario, there is an enormous effort to somehow make the Palestine issue look like a cold house or to keep silent on this issue in the world. The governments of America, Britain and Europe are at the top of the guardian governments of the usurper Israel and they want the Palestinian issue to be forgotten.

Western Governments wish that there is no question of the right of return of the Palestinians. But the Palestinians have decided on the principle that we shall return. Today, the Palestinian people in all parts of Palestine are trying to get the right to return home and return to their homeland with a strong movement of “We shall return”. This is actually a fair solution to the problem of Palestine. In fact, the usurper Israel is the key to the death and destruction of the Zionist state. If the natives of Palestine come to Palestine, then the illegal status of the imported Zionists will be further removed, and certainly the Zionists will return to their homelands. That they have to

go back from where they migrated and came to occupy Palestine.

Pakistan has always been with the Palestinian cause. Pakistan has a historical relationship with the Palestinian cause as well as an Islamic and humanitarian relationship. Pakistan has always supported the rights of the Palestinians. The people of Pakistan are also in favor of the Palestinians.

The conclusion is that another day of Nakba has come. The Palestinians are not disappointed. The struggle of the Palestinians is moving towards development on a daily basis. This development includes the pure blood and sacrifices of the martyrs. Including the feelings and sincerity of people around the world. Their love for the Palestinian cause is included. Although the world governments have some other priorities, the people of the world consider the Palestinian cause as their first priority and stand in support of the Palestinians.

The illegitimate Zionist state of Israel is celebrating Nakba Day on May 15 as Independence Day. What is the meaning of this? Totally illogical? Now the question is, from whom has Israel been freed? This question is providing a strong ground that the existence of Israel is illegitimate and usurping.

Hopefully, the movement for the right of return of the Palestinians will continue to move forward in the same way and soon the forced exiles around the world will return to their homeland. The

changing conditions of Palestine and the region are also pointing in the same direction that the dream and slogan of the Palestinians that “we shall return” will soon come true. Of course, this is a divine promise that Palestine will remain free and Israel will be destroyed.

**Secretary General Palestine Foundation Pakistan*

Western Governments wish that there is no question of the right of return of the Palestinians.

Thousands of people across the globe staged popular demonstrations to mark the 75th anniversary of Nakba Day.

The supporters of Palestine in Britain on Saturday evening, on the occasion of “Al-Nakba Day,” held Palestinian flags and pictures of the martyrs of the Israeli regime’s five-day attack on Gaza, staging a protest from in front of the BBC building in London.

A number of Palestinians living in Italy along with Italians rallied on Saturday evening and condemned the crimes of the Zionist regime against the oppressed Palestinians.

Activists, politicians, and religious leaders have marked the Palestinian Nakba with a rally in Cape Town, South Africa.

Different regions across Lebanon witnessed movements in solidarity with Gaza in its fight against the Israeli aggression. The gatherings also commemorated the Nakba anniversary,

On May 15, 2023, the United Nations will stage a high-level special meeting to observe the 75th anniversary of the Nakba – the mass displacement of around 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland in 1948.

Political activists, anti-war and anti-Zionist Jews asked people to join them for the Nakba Day demonstration in New York’s Times Square.

Some activists announced on social media that Remembrance Day in Berlin forbidden by the police.

Nakba Day Rally and March against Israeli Apartheid was held in Philadelphia. Also, anti-war activists gathered in many American cities and states such as California, Arizona, Texas, Virginia, New Jersey, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, etc.

Demonstration in Paris and Ottawa to commemorate the day of Nakba.

Pro-Palestine Londoners march to Downing Street, demanding that the British government pressure ‘Israel’ to stop bombing Gaza and impose sanctions on ‘Israel’ for its 75-year Nakba of Palestine.

People in Galway came together on May 14 to celebrate the music and culture of Palestine and also to mark Nakba Day

The anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba is an occasion to confirm the continuation of the Palestinian people’s struggle for their sacred right of return, which will not be lost as long as Palestinian generations adhere to this right, said the head of the EuroPal Forum in the UK, Zaher Birawi.

EuroPal is a London-based NGO that advocates for Palestine and the Palestinian people.

A land without a people for a people without a land?

From Page 1 ► They still hold on to the keys of their homes and ancestral homes, which are currently occupied by Israeli settlers. They also strongly maintain the hope that they will return to their native land in the not-so-distant future.

They are the most oppressed people on the planet, and this catastrophe, which is what the word Nakba means, will not end until they return to their homeland.

Zionists had tried to argue as early as the beginning of the 20th century that Palestine was a farmland with no inhabitants but even prominent Zionist leaders such as Israel Zangwill backtracked and acknowledged several years later during speeches in New York and London “the density of the Arab population in Palestine”.

Zangwill himself then changed his own position after studying the facts. He advocated for a Jewish population to settle in Uganda instead of Palestine and parted ways with the Zionist movement.

In 1917 he wrote “‘Give the country without a people,’ magnanimously pleaded Lord Shaftesbury (a British politician), ‘to the people without a country.’ Alas, it was a misleading mistake. The country holds 600,000 Arabs.”

Historians and researchers say the land was inhabited by at least 800,000 Palestinian Arabs before the Zionist movement began its deadly ethnic cleansing campaign. Throughout the decades, Palestinian officials have repeatedly slammed the fake narrative that Palestine was a land without a people until foreign settlers arrived, and it miraculously blossomed.

The real author of this whole tragedy is none other than Great Britain who also in 1917, during its colonialist era, promised the Zionist movement which ironically staged terrorist attacks on the British themselves, and only represented a sliver of the global Jewish population, the land which belonged to the Palestinians under the Balfour Declaration.

The British knew perfectly well that the land was inhabited by people, their identity and race.

Despite this, in an illegal public pledge by Britain’s then foreign secretary Arthur James Balfour, Palestine was offered to the Zionist organization as a home, in a country whose indigenous people would later be mercilessly and brutally ethnically cleansed.

This followed sustained efforts by the Zionist organization and came despite the Zionist terror attacks against British interests.

Just a few yards away from Balfour’s former office at the British parliament in London, where he signed the declaration, is a map with a country named Palestine written on it in the West Asia region. There is nothing that says Israel.

How can you name a country Palestine if it was a land without a people? Surely, the name of a desert would be on the map in the British parliament today next to Balfour’s former office and not the name of a country.

This alone totally destroys the Zionist myth about “a land without a people for a people without a land”. It also destroys the Zionist myth that “Israel” and the Holocaust are somehow connected as the Balfour Declaration was made in 1917, way before the Second World War.

There will be no peace in West Asia until there is justice for the Palestinians.

That means the return of all Palestinians back to their land including “the right of return” as enshrined under international law, meaning the descendants of the Palestinians that were kicked out of their country in 1948 as well.

Justice means a one state solution with a referendum granted to the 14 million Palestinians to decide for themselves on who governs the occupied land.

This explains why former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley declared in August 2018 that the right of return for Palestinian refugees should be removed from any eventual peace settlement with the Zionist entity.

If there was a referendum today, the Palestinians would overwhelmingly win it, as they largely outnumber the Israeli settlers squatting in the occupied Palestinian territories.

This further explains why, for decades now, Washington has been floating the idea of a two-state solution.

This is at the heart of the matter, and if there is no peace in West Asia, there can be no peace in the world.

While the one state solution may be happening than at any time in the

There is an incredibly rising tide of recognition and awareness among people across the world that this conflict will not end without the land of Palestinians returning to its rightful owners.

The number of pro-Palestine movements and organizations that have sprung up over the past decade, which are non-Palestinian, yet are actively pursuing the rights of the Palestinians speaks volumes.

The record number of pro-Palestine activists among the younger generation in university campuses and colleges is a strong indication that they realize the security of their future and global stability hinges on justice for the Palestinians. This rising tide even extends to more and more non-Zionist Jews who don’t accept nor recognize the Israeli occupation over Palestinian land. The number of Jews who are joining anti-Israel street protests is rising by the year.

Not all Jews are Zionists and not all Zionists are Jews. There are many Christian Zionists. Something that was highlighted when former U.S. President Donald Trump relocated the American embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) in May 2018.

“We moved the capital of Israel to Jerusalem,” Trump said. “That’s for the evangelicals (Christians).”

“You know, it’s amazing with that – the evangelicals are more excited by that than Jewish people,” Trump added. “That’s right, it’s incredible.” Trump moved the embassy to win evangelical votes back home. For evangelical Christians, the illegality of even having a foreign embassy on occupied land is further evidence of their Zionist affiliation.

(See Full text at tehrantimes.com)

sound like a pipedream to some, it is closer to history of so-called Israel’s 75-year existence.



Flowers, ornamental plants producers call for removing barriers to their business



TEHRAN- The producers of flowers and ornamental plants call for removing the barriers in the way of their business and activities.

Also, Alireza Zakani, the mayor of Tehran, has stated: "Our country has excellent capabilities in various fields. One of these areas is flower and plant production. Climatic diversity of Iran has also created good conditions for the growth of these products, although we should think of a solution to improve the situation in this field."

Meanwhile, the chairman of Flowers and Ornamental Plants Producers and Sellers of Tehran province says that the flower producers need the help of the government.

"We need the help of the government in the field of agricultural necessities, such as fertilizers, poisons, plastic, seedlings, etc.," Akbar Shahrokhi said, adding, "The flowers produced in Iran are equal to the products of different countries in the world and are even much better than that, but we are facing problems in the field of packaging and transportation of flowers and ornamental plants."

"Greenhouses in the cities of Tehran province do not have refrigerated vehicles and we need such vehicles and the government should help us in this regard", he further complained.

Iran has 17th place in the world in the production of flowers and ornamental plants, but it is ranked 107th in terms of export.

Khorami-Shad appointed as new IMIDRO head

TEHRAN – Amir Khorami-Shad is appointed as the new head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), IRNA reported.

Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Niazi appointed Khorami-Shad to the post replacing Vajihollah Jafari who headed the organization since December 2020.

Khorami-Shad previously served as the IMIDRO deputy head for planning and rehabilitation.

IMIDRO is a major state-owned holding



company active in the mining sector in Iran. It has eight major companies and 55 operational subsidiaries active in steel, aluminum, copper, cement, and mineral exploitation fields.

Iran's NDF assets amount to \$150b

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's National Development Fund (NDF) has said the fund's total assets currently amount to \$150 billion, and the fund's current balance stands at \$10 billion, IRIB reported.

Speaking in a conference on Sunday, Mehdi Ghazanfari said NDF has loaned more than \$100

billion to the governments which should be repaid to the fund.

"Governments have so far received more than 100 billion dollars of low-interest facilities from the fund. Claims are being received in a good process and we are providing facilities," Ghazanfari said.

TEDPIX gains 71,000 points on Sunday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 71,880 points to 2.285 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 21.108 billion securities worth 150.094 trillion rials (about \$300 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).

The head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has mentioned the measures taken by this organization in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (which ended on March 20) and explained the priorities and key plans of the SEO in 1402.

In a message on the occasion of the New Year, Majid Eshqi wrote:

The SEO has always tried to lay the ground for the continuation of sustainable growth and increase the efficiency of the capital market by carrying out structural reforms, and in this regard, five key programs are prioritized:

1- Indirect investment development: In the past year, a good amount of diversity was created in indirect investment instruments, especially investment funds, and we continue to focus on deepening these new and efficient instruments and promoting them for investors.

2- Creating a platform for transparent and diverse financing: By defining technical and legal

infrastructures to facilitate micro and macro financing by the private and non-governmental sectors, a new chapter of financing projects and businesses was established, and the government was able to implement its plan to transfer the shares of companies along with the transfer of operational management without harming the capital market. The initial offering of shares of businesses based on new technologies was also a big step towards the financing of knowledge-based companies, which will be followed seriously in the current year in a higher volume and of course according to the market capacities.

3- Smart regulation and monitoring: The organization's new approach to smart and preventive monitoring, along with the launch of systems for speeding up the handling of complaints, promises a new move that will greatly help to reduce violations in this market by formulating the necessary regulations in the amendment of the stock market law.

4- Revision of the regulatory infrastructure: Due to the necessity of implementing professional and uncomplicated principles and rules in the direction of the sustainable development of the capital market, in addition to the measures taken in order to amend the corporate governance guidelines for publishers and the guidelines for identifying and reporting the confidential information holders in the organization, some reforms, which need the changes in the stock market law, have also been considered in cooperation with the legislator, which will definitely ensure the long-term interests of the capital market.

5- Derivative market development: Some basic measures in the field of capital market infrastructure and also in the field of designing derivative instruments with the aim of making the market two-way and providing risk management instruments for market participants were implemented in the past year, and therefore there is full readiness and determination to make these efforts come to fruition with the introduction of new derivative instruments, especially in the stock market, from the beginning of this year.

Iran becomes world's top oil pipeline developer: report

TEHRAN – Global Energy Monitor, in a recent report, has said Iran is the world's top country in terms of oil pipelines under construction.

Based on the report, the Iranian Oil Ministry is also among the world's top oil pipeline developers.

According to new data from Global Energy Monitor, Africa and West Asia are home to 49 percent of all oil transmission pipelines under construction globally at a cost of \$25.3 billion.

The 2023 annual survey of data in the Global Oil Infrastructure Tracker shows that these regions together are building 4,400 kilometers (km) of crude oil transmission pipelines at an estimated capital expenditure of \$14.4 billion. An additional 10,800 km are proposed in these regions at an estimated cost of



\$59.8 billion.

Globally, there are 9,100 km of oil transmission pipelines under construction and an additional 21,900 km of proposed pipelines. These pipelines in development are estimated to cost \$131.9

billion in capital expenditure.

The total 31,000 km of oil pipelines in development globally represents an increase of nearly 30 percent from this time last year.

The leading five countries

in terms of in-development pipelines (proposed and under construction) are Iran, the United States, India, Iraq, and Tanzania.

The top five parent companies developing oil pipelines are state-owned enterprises and private companies, including Iran's Oil Ministry, the China National Petroleum Corporation, Iraq's Ministry of Oil, India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited, and France's TotalEnergies.

The longest pipeline projects under construction are the 1,950-km Niger-Benin Oil Pipeline and the Paradip Numaligarh Crude Pipeline (PNCPL) in India, both slated to start operating in 2024. Canada is home to the third-largest pipeline project under construction, the 980-km Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX), expected to start in 2023 as an expansion to the existing Trans Mountain Oil Pipeline.

Over 200 foreign companies from 13 countries to participate in Iran Oil Show 2023

from page 1 ► China, Belarus, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, India, UAE, Oman, and Turkey.

Forouzandeh said the number of foreign participants in this year's event has doubled in comparison to the previous year, while the number of Iranian companies that are going to take part in the event has also increased by 35 percent.

100 events have been scheduled to be held

during the exhibition, including the signing of memorandums of understanding and contracts between different departments of the Oil Ministry and private companies, 33 side events, 10 specialized knowledge-based meetings, five presentations by the Vice Presidency of Research and Technology, three business forums with Russian companies, three meetings focusing on optimization, as well as the unveiling of a large number of oil industry



equipment built by domestic companies.

Capacity of Iran's renewable power plants rises 2% in a month

TEHRAN – The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants has increased by two percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), from its previous month.

As reported, the total capacity of the country's renewable power plants reached 1,042.68 megawatts (MW) by April 20.

The total capacity of the country's wind power plants stood at 354.89 MW, while the solar farms' capacity reached 449.55 MW.

Hydroelectric power plants also reached the capacity of 100.78 MW, while the capacity of biomass power plants stood at 12.5 MW.

Iranian Energy Ministry has put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government's administration (August 2025).

Back in January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the



country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

In early April, the head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) announced the construction of 110,000 solar power plants with a capacity of five kilowatts (KW) for low-income groups in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

Mahmoud Kamani also announced that the tender for the construction of solar power plants with a capacity of 2,200

megawatts, left over from the plan for the construction of solar power plants with 4,000 megawatts capacity in the past year, will be also held this year.

Regarding the follow-up of the construction of renewable power plants in the new year, the official said that a plan for the construction of renewable power plants was announced by the minister of energy at the beginning of the 13th government, and in 1401 (past Iranian year), the necessary preparations for the implementation of this plan have been followed up and some measures have been taken in this due.

In early February, the official announced that the capacity of Iran's renewable power plants reached 1,020 megawatts (MW) with the 10-MW Pasargad Solar Farm of Damghan coming into operation.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of inaugurating the mentioned solar farms in

Damghan County, in central Semnan province, Kamani said: "This power plant has a special feature as it can generate electricity from the reflection of sunlight. This feature makes its generation efficiency higher, which means it will have a 40-percent increase in efficiency".

Renewables
account for nearly
7% of Iran's
total electricity
generation

"It is hoped that by setting up other renewable power plants, we will soon be able to implement the 10,000-MW renewable power plant program", the head of SATBA stated.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Commodities worth over \$620m traded at IME in a week



TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trade of 2,958,011 tons of commodities and 100 vehicles with a total trading value of more than \$628 million on its physical market.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,520,596 tons of commodities valued at nearly \$427 million.

On this floor the IME sold 1,249,659 tons of cement, 754,000 tons of iron ore, 372,507 tons of steel, 131,000 tons of sponge iron, 7,415 tons of aluminum, 7,025 tons of copper, 2,000 tons of coke, 780 tons of zinc, 200 tons of

molybdenum concentrate and 100 vehicles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 428,994 tons of commodities worth more than \$196 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 133,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 127,752 tons of bitumen, 97,858 tons of polymeric products, 39,388 tons of chemicals, 19,000 tons of lube cut, 9,000 tons of sulfur, 3,466 tons of base oil, 900 tons of insulation, 500 tons of petroleum products and 110 tons of gas feedstocks.

The IME also traded within the same week 8,420 tons of commodities on its side market.

As previously reported, IME witnessed trade of 11,429,496 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$2.5 billion on its physical market during the past Iranian calendar month (ended on April 20).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor, trade of 9,646,113 tons of commodities valued at more than \$1.5 billion.

On this floor the IME sold 5,109,245 tons of cement, 2,398,000 tons of iron ore, 1,546,964 tons of steel, 550,600 tons of sponge iron, 88,450 tons of zinc, 28,675 tons of aluminum, 25,560 tons of copper, 600 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 500 tons of cast iron and 60 tons of precious metals concentrate.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 1,661,569 tons of commodities worth more than \$872 million on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

Items traded on this floor included 437,457 tons of bitumen, 434,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 393,840 tons of polymeric products, 186,000 tons of lube cut, 148,735 tons of chemicals, 40,080 tons of sulfur, 15,868 tons of oil, 5,268 tons of petroleum products, 790 tons of gas feedstocks and 550 tons of insulation.

Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 121,814 tons of commodities.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Water and its importance for migratory birds

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN – Sunday, May 14, was the World Migratory Bird Day. This year, the theme for the day was “Water and its Importance for Migratory Bird.”

The slogan shows that water resources are very important in protecting wetlands as the main habitat of migratory birds.

World Migratory Bird Day celebrates 12 bird species in particular of which 8 find safe havens in natural UNESCO World Heritage sites.

Water is fundamental to life on our planet. The vast majority of migratory birds rely on aquatic ecosystems during their life cycles.

Inland and coastal wetlands, rivers, lakes, streams, marshes, and ponds are all vital for feeding, drinking, or nesting, and also as places to rest and refuel during their long journeys.

Unfortunately, aquatic ecosystems are becoming increasingly threatened around the world and so are the migratory birds that depend on them.

The increasing human demand for water, as well as pollution and climate change, are having a direct impact on the availability of clean water and the conservation status of many migratory birds.

Climate change is amplifying the impact of habitat destruction by depleting natural water systems and depriving migratory birds of vital breeding and stopover site. These sobering examples go hand-in-hand with recent reports that reveal that the populations of 48 percent of bird species worldwide are in decline.



World Migratory Bird Day is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

Birds have found their place in culture, religion, poetry, and music for a long time. So far, about 10,000 species of birds have been identified in the world.

Of course, experts believe that the same number of species has not yet been identified, but the problem is that even the existing birds have not been spared from the danger of humans so the development of urban and industrial life has caused 120 to 130 bird species to disappear in the last three to four centuries.

Even today, despite the awareness of the importance of protecting biological species, 1,200 species of birds are under threat of extinction.

Issues such as the drying up of

wetlands, the increase of sediments and sewage and their entry into rivers and wetlands, climate change, and overhunting are some of the main factors that threaten the life of birds.

In the meantime, there are a large number of migratory birds that fly long distances to spend the winter.

International studies show that the conditions of migratory birds are not suitable and they are threatened by many dangers, especially the reduction of water and the loss of wetlands.

In general, the state of the census and the state of the birds shows the deterioration of the situation of these species.

Accordingly, the world thought of saving the birds, and in line with the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement since 2006, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated in order to increase global attention to the category of migratory birds and its importance.

Almost all migratory birds depend on water to travel a long migration distance and to refresh their breath

on the way and finally at the destination.

During the flight, the presence of rivers, wetlands, and even small streams plays a vital role in feeding and rejuvenating them. Therefore, if these water bodies are destroyed, the life of these birds will face a serious threat.

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our fresh water. More than 40 percent of freshwater fish are said to live in wetlands.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Iran is rich in terms of having a variety of wetlands due to its climatic diversity. In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves.

Of Iran's 25 Ramsar sites about one-third are under pressure or in critical condition.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth.

Nanoscale certificates granted to 1,432 products, equipment

TEHRAN – The headquarters for the development of nanotechnology has granted certificates to 1,432 products and equipment from 346 companies by the end of the first calendar month (April 20).

With a share of 22 percent, the transport sector held the highest share of certificates, followed by the raw materials sector with a share of 20 percent, IRNA reported.

Equipment, development, industrial services, health, and energy sectors ranked third to seventh with shares of 17 percent, nine percent, eight percent, seven percent, and five percent respectively.

A total of 346 companies were active in the field of nanotechnology, supplying 1,191 products and 241 pieces of equipment to the domestic market.

Currently, nanotech products are produced and marketed in more than 15 industrial fields based on indigenized technologies and are being exported to 45 countries of the world.

On November 28, 2022, President Ebrahim Raisi declared the “National Document for the Development of Nano Science and Technology”.

The document, consisting of 7 articles, was approved by the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution on November 15.

Policy making and planning for progress in

nanotechnology started in 2003 with the formation of a special headquarters for the development of nanotechnology, and accelerated with the approval of the first 10-year document for the development of nanotechnology entitled “Future Strategy Document”.

In this document, Iran was targeted to be among the top 15 nanotechnology countries in the world and aimed to generate wealth and improve people's lives. The general approach of the first ten-year document was the training of human resources and the provision of infrastructure for the development and commercialization of technology.

In order to continue the nanotechnology progress, the upcoming national document has been compiled with new goals and approaches such as being a reference in science and technology, industrialization, maximum impact of nanotechnology in priority industrial areas, and entry of nano products into the global markets and the promotion of people's lives.

By 2033, the advancements of nanotechnology in Iran will improve the quality of life and the production of wealth. The country moves towards global authority in science and nanotechnology by producing innovative products while having a stable place in the market of other countries.

General goals are improving the scientific position and promoting the authority of the coun-



try in science and nanotechnology, promotion of innovation based on novel technologies with high economic and social impact, upgrading existing industries by nanotechnology, stable export and promotion of Iranian nano products in regional and global markets, enhancing the effectiveness of nanotechnology in improving the quality of life and social impact.

Priority industrial areas in the national document are consisting of water and environment, energy, agriculture, health, and construction

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years, proving the country's scientific development, is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the world's fourth place.

Over the Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 2021-March 2022), the total sale of Iranian nano-products has been equal to 115 trillion rials (nearly \$230 million).

ENGLISH IN USE

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Afghanistan thanks Iran for free services to refugees during COVID-19

Afghanistan has appreciated Iran for offering health and treatment services to Afghan refugees infected with coronavirus free of charge.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry in a statement on Saturday announced its gratitude and appreciation to Iran for its humanitarian efforts to address the issue of Afghan refugees in the country.

All measures, especially the recent decree by the Iranian president to provide free medical treatment to Afghan refugees in Iranian public hospitals, have assured the Afghan government, IRNA reported on Sunday.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing transportation services to transit trucks and providing the necessary health assistance to vulnerable Afghan nationals are among the measures that are highly appreciated.

افغانستان از همکاری ایران برای مداوای مهاجران مبتلا به کرونا قدردانی کرد

وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان از کمک و همکاری جمهوری اسلامی ایران به مهاجران افغانی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا و مداوای رایگان آنها قدردانی کرد. وزارت امور خارجه افغانستان روز شنبه در اطلاعیه‌ای اعلام کرد: مراتب امتنان و سپاسگزاری خود را از جمهوری اسلامی ایران در رابطه به اقدامات بشردوستانه آن کشور درباره رسیدگی به مهاجرین افغان در آن کشور ابراز می‌دارد.

در این اطلاعیه آمده است: تمام اقدامات به ویژه صدور حکم اخیر رئیس جمهوری ایران برای درمان رایگان مهاجران افغان در بیمارستان های دولتی ایران موجب خاطر جمعی رهبری دولت افغانستان شد.

براساس اطلاعیه وزارت خارجه افغانستان، ایجاد تسهیلات در رفت و آمد کامیون های ترانزیتی و فراهم آوری مساعدت های لازم بهداشتی برای مهاجران در مناطق آسیب پذیر آن کشور اقداماتی هستند که از جانب دولت افغانستان به چشم قدردانی نگریسته می‌شوند.

SOCIETY

MAY 15, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

7

Women from the Leader's point of view-2

Islam brought dignity, respect to women

From page 1 ► Considering the fact that before the advent of Islam the pagan Arabs used to bury their female children alive, make women dance naked in the vicinity of the Ka'ba during their annual fairs, and treat women as mere chattels and objects of sexual pleasure possessing no rights or position whatsoever, these teachings of the Noble Qur'an were revolutionary.

“And when one of them is informed of [the birth of] a female, his face becomes dark, and he suppresses grief. He hides himself from the people because of the evil of which he has been informed. Should he keep it in humiliation or bury it in the ground? Unquestionably evil is what they decide.” [Qur'an 16: 59]

With the advent of Islam, a woman's life entered a new stage. Islam entered the world and condemned the practices prevalent in the dark ages. To bestow women the right to live, to serve as a shield and hide women in the protective shells of Quranic teachings, and to eradicate the oppressed practices inflicted upon females is what Islam did.

Unlike other religions, which regarded women as being possessed of inherent sin and wickedness and men as being possessed of inherent virtue and nobility, Islam regards men and women as being of the same essence created from a single soul.

“O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him [Adam] He created his wife [Eve], and from them both He created many men and women and fear Allah through Whom you demand your mutual [rights], and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allah is Ever and All-Watcher over you.” [Qur'an 4:1]

The Qur'an, in addressing the believers, often uses the expression, 'believing men and women' to emphasize the equality of men and women in regard to their respective duties, rights, virtues, and merits.

Islam does not allow the domination of men over women rather it upholds the rights, dignity, honour, and status of women by ensuring gender equality and also equality of rights for both males and females in every area of human life.

In Islam, a woman is a completely independent personality. She can make any contract or bequest in her own name. She is entitled to inherit her position as mother, wife, sister, and daughter. She has the perfect liberty to choose her husband.

The Shari'ah regards women as the spiritual and intellectual equals of men. The main distinction it makes between them is in the physical realm based on the equitable principle of fair division of labor. It allots the more strenuous work to the man and makes him responsible for the maintenance of the family. It allots the work of managing the home and the upbringing and training of children to the woman, work which has the greatest importance in the task of building a healthy and

prosperous society.

Not only is there no difference between men and women in the acquisition of human sciences and divine knowledge, but in many spiritual fields, women are pioneers. Islam values the inherent dignity of women.

Considering the importance and the high position of women in human life, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini [Founder of the Islamic Republic] and the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei also attached great importance to women according to the teachings of the Qur'an and the Ahl al-Bayt.

They have introduced holy and noble women such as Hazrat Fatima Zahra [daughter of the Prophet of Islam Muhammad (PBUH)], Hazrat Khadija [wife of Prophet Muhammad], Hazrat Zaynab [daughter of the first Shia Imam, Imam Ali and Fatima, the daughter Prophet Muhammad] and Hazrat Maryam [mother of Prophet Jesus] as perfect and noble human models who can serve as models for all human beings.

They also termed a woman as a being with true dignity and value in Islam and considered her as the source of the happiness of human societies and family peace. They consider women equal to men in their rights.

According to the founder and Leader of the Islamic Republic, a woman can engage in political, social, and economic activities in accordance with her personality and have a fruitful presence in the field of education and learning while being a mother and a wife.

Ayatollah Khamenei during a meeting with hundreds of prominent Iranian women in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on January 4, 2023, said that men and women as human beings are completely equal in Islam.

“One of the points that I would like to talk about today is Islam's viewpoint with regard to gender and the issue of women. [That is], what Islam's view on the issue of men and women is... Men and women have no priority over one another. They are not different in this. The equality of men and women in terms of human and Islamic values is one of the clear principles of Islam. There is no doubt about this.”

Highlighting the fundamental difference between the viewpoints of Islam and the West on women, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in one of his speeches said, “The basis of western culture is that women should be presented in society as a product, an object that men can benefit from. Promoting the immodest clothing is a step in this direction... The Western view of women is a degenerate, flawed, misleading, and wrong view... The Islamic view of women brings about dignity, honor, growth, and an independent identity for women.” (July 11, 2012)



Quri Gol, a habitat of migratory birds

Quri Gol wetland with an area of 200 hectares is located in the northwestern East Azarbaijan province. The wetland is an important habitat for migratory birds.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:22 Dawn: 3:21 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:59 (tomorrow)

Iranian studies in German: Pre-Islamic period

Part 13

He maintained that the environment described in the Vedic hymns has to be looked for in Eastern Iran and neighboring Middle Asia, on the Oxus and Jaxartes.

Numismatics: The first decipherment of legends of Sassanid coins is due to Justus Olshausen, whose Die Pehlewilegenden auf den Münzen der letzten Sasaniden (Copenhagen, 1843) kept its significance for a while in terms of its relevance for paleography.

In the course of time there followed a great number of articles, mainly by Bernhard Dorn and Andreas David Mordtmann, to which must be added the studies on Sasdanid seals and sealings by Paul Horn and Georg Steindorff (Sassanidische Siegelsteine, Berlin, 1891).

By means of new methods of description and classification, Robert Göbl (1919-97), professor of numismatics and the history of Central Asia at the University of Vienna from 1961, was the first to reconstruct the typological system of Sassanid coinage.

In numerous articles and a number of monographs he presented systematic studies on the coinage of the Sassanids, the Iranian Huns, and the Kushans as well as on Sassanid sphragistics, the most fundamental of which are the following: Dokumente zur Geschichte der Iranischen Hunnen in Baktrien und Indien; Sassanid Numismatics (Braunschweig, 1971); Die Tonbulln vom Tacht-e Suleiman (Berlin, 1976); System und Chronologie der Münzprägung des Kusanreiches (Vienna, 1984), and Donum Burns; Die Kusanmünzen im Münzkabinett Bern und die Chronologie (Vienna, 1993).

Moreover, Göbl deserves credit for establishing the Numismatic Central Card File (Numismatische Zentralkartei) of the Institute of Numismatics at Vienna University, where the most comprehensive documentation of pre-Islamic Iranian coins can be found.

One of Göbl's pupils is Michael Alram (1956-), who studied the Iranian personal names attested on ancient coins in his book Nomina propria Iranica in nummis (=Iranisches Personennamenbuch IV, Vienna, 1986).

Art and archeology: The first German who conducted successful research in accordance with scholarly methodology in Persia, mainly at Persepolis, was Carsten Niebuhr, who is also known for having made the first careful copies of the inscriptions at Persepolis.

Although the archeological exploration of Iran has been undertaken systematically from the middle of the 19th century, very little German archeological and epigraphical research took place in Persia before World War I.

Among the predecessors of archeologists proper, only the exploratory trip in 1874 of Andreas and the photographer Franz Stolze (as part of an expedition for astronomical observation) to Persepolis, Pasargadae, and Fars in general, which primarily served to promote the study of Sassanid inscriptions, is of some importance.

The volumes they produced (Franz Stolze [with contributions by Andreas and Th. Nöldeke], Persepolis, 2 vols., Berlin, 1882) are in fact the first books on Persepolis copiously illustrated with photographs.

Nonetheless the actual founder of Iranian archeology was Ernst Herzfeld (1879-

1948), who set as his aim the exploration of the Achaemenid capitals Pasargadae and Persepolis, started excavations at both these places, and demonstrated that the ruins in the Morghab plain are the remnants of ancient Pasargadae.

Thus the credit for initiating archeological research in Persia in the 20th century belongs to Herzfeld, who held a chair of Oriental regional studies and archaeology at the University of Berlin from 1917 and, after immigrating to the United States in 1935, was professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.

Herzfeld, both an architect and archeologist, is without a doubt the most prominent figure in the history of archeological research on ancient Iran; he is also the author of important epigraphical publications and of wide-ranging special studies on linguistic problems and on the history of religion.

From 1897, he did a lot of traveling in Persia in order to record a large number of ancient archeological monuments (not only in Fars), partly together with Friedrich Sarre (1865-1945), the author of Die Kunst des Alten Persien, who attended more to Parthian, Sassanid, and especially to Islamic art, however. The result of their co-operation is the large volume of Iranische Felsreliefs (Berlin, 1910).

Influential contributions by Herzfeld, in addition to those already mentioned, are Am Tor von Asien, Archaeological History of Iran, Iran in the Ancient East, and last but not least the nine volumes of the Archaeologische Mitteilungen aus Iran.

But above all Herzfeld's name is connected with the excavations and investigations at Persepolis (under the auspices of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago), which were headed first (in 1931-34) by him, yielding sensational new discoveries and opening new horizons.

They were carried on from 1935 by Erich F. Schmidt (1897-1964), who performed excavations also at Tepe Hesar (Hissar), Estakhr, and Naqsh-e Rostam.

His three monumental folio-volumes of Persepolis have ensured that his name will live on. Schmidt also undertook reconnaissance flights over large parts of Persia in order to locate archeological monuments and sites with aerial photographs, the results of which are published in his Flights over Ancient Cities of Iran.

Furthermore, mention must be made, among others, of the works of Kurt Erdmann (mainly on Sassanid art, e.g., Die Kunst Irans zur Zeit der Sasaniden, Berlin, 1943), Klaus Schippmann (Die iranischen Feuerheiligtümer, Berlin, 1971), Leo Trümpelmann (on Achaemenid and Sassanid art: e.g., Zwischen Persepolis und Firuzabad. Gräber, Paläste und Felsreliefs im alten Persien, Zurich, 1991), Peter Calmeyer, and Gerd Gropp (1935-), who at last published in 1974 the finds of the German expedition to Khotan in 1927-28 (the so-called Trinker collection in Bremen).

Out of the excavations conducted by German archeologists may be named those at Takht-e Solayman under Rudolf Naumann (from 1959) and later under Dietrich Huff; Naumann did work also at Firuzabad in Fars.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica.

To be continued.

Leader warns of foreign children’s stories dominance at Tehran book fair

From Page 1 ▶ who is also the director of the Resistance Literature and Art Office at the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

The Leader praised Sarhangi for his contributions to the publication of war memories.

The Leader's visit to the book fair marked the first occasion following a three-year absence as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm really pleased that I was able to visit this year's fair, which is a public meeting centering on culture and this is a pleasant topic," the Leader confided to an IRIB correspondent at the end of his visit.

He also praised people's warm welcome to the book fair and said, "Despite deficiencies such as lack of paper and low-quality paper, there has been significant progress in publication in the country."

"Once again, I ask publishers to produce books for our children and

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visits the 34th Tehran International Book Fair at Imam Khomeini Mosalla on May 14, 2023. (Leader.ir)

young adults in quantity, making us independent of that which is alien and helping to provide our teenagers with domestically produced books that promote our own culture,

orientations and aims," he noted.

He asked readers to pay more attention to those books written by indigenous authors recounting memories of the Iran-Iraq war and

the war against ISIS.

The leader categorized himself as a regular reader of scientific books and novels and other genres.

Winners of 1st Qand-e Parsi Awards honored

Honorees and the organizers pose during the first edition of the Qand-e Parsi Awards at Tehran's Rudaki Hall on May 13, 2023. (IRNA/Marziah Soleimani)

TEHRAN – Winners of the first edition of the Qand-e Parsi Awards were honored at Tehran's Rudaki Hall on Saturday.

The awards event has been launched by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to honor foreign personalities and Iranian expatriates promoting the Persian language.

The awards ceremony is scheduled to be organized annually as a prelude to Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day on the Iranian calendar.

Among the honorees were Turkish Ambassador

Hicabi Kirlangic, Rahmonali Miralizoda from the Culture Ministry of Tajikistan, Armenian Ambassador Arsen Avagyan and Indian cultural attaché Balram Shukla.

In addition, Russian counselor Mikhail Fedorov, ECO Cultural Institute president Murodjon Buriboev, Palestinian cultural activist Nasser Abu Sharif and the director of Bahar-e Afarinesh Institute in Guinea, Davud Hosseini, were also honored.

Speaking at the ceremony, Balram Shukla called the Persian language and Persian culture parts of life in India.

"We must protect the Persian language in order to achieve an awareness of ourselves and maintain our identity," he noted.

Balram also read an excerpt from his preface to his Sanskrit translation of the Shahnameh, the magnum opus of the Persian poet Ferdowsi.

The ceremony went on with a screening of a video depicting the status of Persian language courses in Russia and Poland.

A performance of an anthem about the Persian language by an Afghan group was the next part of the ceremony.

Academy of Persian Language and Literature director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel

also delivered a speech.

"Ferdowsi takes the center stage when we are talking about Iranian identity; wherever the Persian language is discussed, Ferdowsi is the guardian of the Persian language," Haddad-Adel said.

"Iranians feel proud when they see that his book, the Shahnameh, with more than a millennium of history and over 60,000 verses, is still read and understood by everybody," he added.

"Perhaps no literary work from any other culture is able to enjoy such popularity in its homeland," he noted.

He said, "Iranian history and the Persian language are deeply indebted to the Shahnameh, which is a great source of inspiration for literati and poets. This book is full of wisdom, and with its appealing and steady language finds its way into everybody's heart. Accordingly, the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution decided the same day to celebrate Ferdowsi and the Persian language."

The 25th of Ordibehesht is Ferdowsi and Persian Language Commemoration Day on the Iranian calendar. This year's celebration for the day falls on May 15.

“World War III” wins awards at Vietnam Da Nang Asian Film Festival

Mohsen Tanabandeh acts in a scene from “World War III” by Hooman Seyyedi.

TEHRAN – Iranian dark comedy “World War III” won the jury award and the best actor award for Mohsen Tanabandeh at the first edition of the Da Nang Asian Film Festival (DANAFF), the organizers announced on Saturday in the Vietnamese city of Da Nang.

Directed by Hooman Seyyedi, the film was Iran's submission to the 2023 Oscars.

Tanabandeh won the award for his portrayal of Shakib, a homeless day laborer who never got over the loss of his wife and son in an earthquake years ago.

Over the last couple of years, he has developed a relationship with a deaf and mute woman, Ladan. The construction site on which he works today turns out to be the set for a film about the atrocities committed by Hitler during WWII. Against all odds, he is given a movie role, a house and a chance at being somebody. When Ladan

learns about this, she comes to his workplace begging for help. Shakib's scheme to hide her goes tragically wrong and threatens to ruin his newfound status and what seemed to be the opportunity of a lifetime.

Tanabandeh was honored with the Orizzonti Award for best actor

at the 79th Venice International Film Festival for “World War III”, which also won the Orizzonti Award for best film.

“Children of the Mist” by Vietnamese director Ha Le Diem was picked as best film at the Da Nang Asian Film Festival.

“The Wolf-Leader” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Alexandre Dumas' book “The Wolf-Leader” has recently been published by Peydayesh.

Nazanin Arab is the translator of the 1857 fantasy novel.

Alexandre Dumas, whose works have been translated into nearly 100 languages, is one of the most widely-read French authors. Many of his historical novels of high adventure were originally published as serials, including The Count of Monte Cristo, The Three Musketeers, Twenty Years After, and The Vicomte de Bragelonne: Ten Years Later.

His novels have been adapted since the early twentieth century for nearly 200 films. Dumas' last novel, The Knight of Sainte-

Hermine, unfinished at his death, was completed by a scholar and published in 2005, becoming a bestseller.

The story of “The Wolf-Leader” is set around 1780 in Dumas' native town of Villers-Cotterets, and is supposedly based on a local folk-tale Dumas heard as a child.

The story concerns Thibault, a shoemaker, who is beaten by the gamekeeper of the Lord of Vez for interfering with the lord's hunting.

Afterwards, he encounters a huge wolf, walking on its hind legs like a man, who offers him vengeance; Thibault may wish harm on any person in return for one of his own hairs for each wish.

To seal the agreement, the two exchange

A combination photo shows Alexandre Dumas and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novel “The Wolf-Leader”.

rings. As a result of this bargain, he also finds himself able to command the local wolves, and hence gradually gains the reputation of being a werewolf.