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سومین نشست گفت و گوهای ایرانی - عربی
برای همکاری و تعامل
٢٣-٢٥ اردیبهشت ماه ١٤٠٣ - تهران



Iran Embraces Arabs

3rd Iranian-Arab Dialogue Conference convenes in Tehran with big expectations for future

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No change in Iran nuclear doctrine: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN- The spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry stated that Tehran has both the fatwa of the Leader of Islamic Revolution as stating the prohibition of inhumane weapons based on the Islamic religion and does believe that these weapons pose a threat to the global community.

During his weekly presser on Monday which was held at the Tehran International Book Fair venue, Nasser Kanaani said that Iran has not made changes to its nuclear doctrine.

He also said that in the West Asia region, only the Zionist regime is not a party to the NPT.

He continued that Iran's official positions on weapons of mass destruction have been repeatedly stated through Iran's high-ranking officials, and no changes have been made in Iran's nuclear doctrine.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken various actions in various political, legal, and international areas, the dimensions of which are evident to the global community.

Palestine virtual embassy

Kanaani added that the diplomatic apparatus has taken action in the legal, consular, and executive areas to implement the law passed by the parliament regarding the establishment of a virtual Palestinian embassy. Page 2

India signs port deal with Iran to operate in Chabahar Port

TEHRAN - Iran and India signed a long-term agreement on Monday based on which India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) will operate a terminal at the strategic Chabahar port as it seeks to expand trade in Central Asia.

The agreement was signed in a ceremony attended by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and India's Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in Tehran, IRNA reported.

The signing of this agreement is considered a turning point in bilateral and regional commercial and economic cooperation, as well as facilitating strategic cooperation between Iran and India.

According to Sonowal, the agreement, which had been under discussion for some time, is going to "clear the pathway for bigger investments to be made in the port," he said. Without a long-term agreement, "it's very difficult to invest in a port."

India expects the project will improve its connection with an international north-south transport corridor being developed with Iran and Russia and also improve trade links with Central Asia, Jaishankar said.

"We will see more connectivity linkages coming out of that port," the Indian minister told local media earlier this week. Page 4

David Cameron is either idiot or delusional

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN - British Foreign Secretary David Cameron said on Sunday that it would be "not wise" for Britain to suspend arms sales to Israel now that it is preparing to launch a major offensive in the southernmost city of Rafah in Gaza.

Speaking to the BBC, Cameron said he did not agree with comments made by U.S. President Joe Biden that suggested imposing some restrictions on weapon exports if Israel attacked Rafaha, the city in southern Gaza.

Contrary to what Cameron claims, insisting on delivering arms to Israel is an "unwise" step as it leads to the loss of more and more civilian lives without "destroying" Hamas as Benjamin Netanyahu has been lecturing for more than seven months.

Cameron is not stupid that much not to understand that Israel has failed to uproot Hamas despite more than seven months of relentless attacks on the small territory of the Gaza Strip.

Israeli polls show captive deal a priority over war

By Wesam Bahrani

Surveys conducted by Israeli research groups reveal that the majority of the Israeli population are in favor of a deal to release captives over the ongoing military action in Gaza.

The polls also show a decreased level of confidence in achieving victory in the enclave where the Israeli military is pounding the southern city of Rafah and fighting again in the north.

In the northern district of Zeitoun, Israeli forces are attacking the region for the third time since October 7.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead with the genocidal Israeli war on Gaza until "total victory" despite Tel Aviv's Western allies saying the continuation of the war that has killed over 35,000 people, mostly women and children, will fail to achieve any victory against Hamas but rather will strengthen the resistance movement.

The parents of nearly 1,000 Israeli troops deployed in Gaza have penned a letter urging their military to call off a "reckless" ground offensive in Rafah, calling it a "deadly trap" for their children.

Cold-blooded savagery

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israeli strikes against the Gaza Strip continue unabated as the death toll from the regime's genocidal war that began in early October surpasses 35,000.

Since a week ago, Israel has focused its offensive on Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah, ordering a large number of civilians to evacuate.

The city had been sheltering more than half of Gaza's 2.3 million population. Most of them had fled Israeli strikes in other parts of the Gaza Strip.

Israel had threatened to carry out a ground invasion into Rafah for months. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said the regime's "total victory" over Hamas won't be achieved without a ground offensive in Rafah.

On May 7, Israeli troops seized the main border crossing at Rafah, closing a vital route for aid into the besieged territory.

Israeli tanks and troops entered the Rafah crossing a day after Hamas said it had accepted an Egyptian-Qatari mediated ceasefire proposal. But Israel insisted the proposal did not meet its demands.

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Tribal charm fills the air in Ardabil's picturesque plains

TEHRAN - A tribal festival of vibrant culture and rich heritage is currently underway amidst the picturesque plains in Ardabil province.

Here, colorful tents dot the landscape, each serving as a hub of activity and hospitality. From traditional music and dance performances to artisanal crafts and culinary delights, there is something to enchant every visitor.

Taking place during the enchanting spring season, typically in the month of Ordibehesht (April-May), the event offers a captivating glimpse into the nomadic way of life of the Shahsavans tribe, which serves as a cornerstone of Ardabil's cultural identity.

With approximately 15,000 households and a population of around 80,000 people in Ardabil province, this annual migration remains a touching reminder of the timeless traditions that have shaped the region for centuries. Page 6



Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is looking at a Lebanese novel titled "Tel Aviv Collapsed" translated from Arabic into Persian.

Ayatollah Khamenei visits 35th Tehran Intl. Book Fair

TEHRAN - Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, visited the 35th edition of the Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF) on Monday morning.

Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili and several other cultural officials accompanied him during the visit, IRNA reported.

The Leader had short conversations with representatives of publishers, who shared their concerns about the industry, the report added. Page 8

Transit of Iranian gas to Eastern Europe through Turkey possible: official

TEHRAN - Turkey is interested in buying more gas from Iran, said the director general of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe department of the Foreign Ministry, adding that transit of Iranian gas to Eastern Europe through Turkey is possible.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024), Mahmoud Heydari noted that in addition to providing important services for the country to ensure energy security, the oil and gas industry also plays a special role in Iran's foreign relations in economic terms.

"The Iran Oil Show 2024 showcases Iran's capabilities in the oil and gas industry along with creating a connection between those who are active in this field," he stated. Page 4

TEHRAN PAPERS

Changing balance in region with the effective strategy of Raisi administration

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

In an analysis, Kayhan dealt with the strategy of Raisi's administration and wrote: The policy of the 13th government was to overcome unfair sanctions and not rely on the negotiation option. This important issue became the basis for the rule of "disturbing the balance" in the strategic files of Raisi's foreign policy and could be a factor in pushing the West back and getting concessions at the negotiating table. One of the important factors that happened recently was that Israel's interventionist policy in the region did not go unanswered. Iranian missiles hitting the occupied Palestinian territory was only a part of the field operations to show Iran's military power. The 13th government was aware of the fact that it was not possible to realize the maximum interests of the country in foreign policy without using technology in the military industry and using it to repel the direct threats of the enemy. More power belongs to an actor who has more powerful tools, and Iran has so far been able to change the balance of the conflict in the region and raise the indirect costs of the United States' support to Tel Aviv in confronting Iran through this smart strategy.

Iran: A rare prospect of Iranian-Arab interaction

In an article, the Iran newspaper pointed out the two-day meeting of Iranian-Arab dialogue entitled "For cooperation and interaction" and said: This meeting is hosted by Tehran and a large number of thinkers and experts from 15 Arab countries have attended it. Under the current developments in the region, the attendees are looking for perception and understanding of common issues between Iran and the Arab world. Iranian-Arab consultations have found a different meaning under the shadow of recent developments in the confrontation process between Tehran and Tel Aviv. For the first time in recent years, the "True Promise" operation decisively responded to the security threats of the Zionist leaders, and turned Iran into one of the players in diplomatic processes. From the Gaza negotiations to the resumption of intra-regional dialogues Iran is now playing a role as one of the

influential countries.

Farhikhtegan: Changing the standard of deterrence

Farhikhtegan investigated Iran's statements regarding the change in its level of deterrence. The paper said: The nuclear issue is a symbol of the change in Iran's level of deterrence, but it is not at its peak. Governments that threaten Iran with attacks with large damages should know that the cost they will bear afterward is higher. The operation of "True Promise" showed the Zionists that Iran inflicts more reciprocal damages against each enemy's action. Accordingly, if the belligerent parties want to attack Iran's nuclear facilities with their criminal nature, they will face an attack on a much wider level. Iran's warning to the belligerent parties should not be summarized only in the physical dimensions of making weapons or nuclear type. This means that if an enemy takes unconventional actions against the people and the "existence" of the country, Iran will reciprocally endanger the existence of that enemy, no matter how big or small it is.

Hamshahri: The Zionist regime's attempt to show a human rights gesture

In a commentary, Hamshahri discussed the painting of Iranian security convict Toomaj Salehi on one of the main streets of Jerusalem and wrote: The painting of a security convict in a street in the occupied territories took place while this regime killed about 14,000 innocent children in the Gaza war. This painting was done at the suggestion of Monarchists who support Israel and with the approval of the city and government authorities of this regime. At the same time, painting this picture shows the attempt of the Zionist regime to assume a human rights position towards security convicts in Iran. But this stance is assumed while today even the most racist Western circles do not dare to publicly defend this regime. These gestures and support are similar to the anti-revolution movements and the Zionist regime, which were directly guided economically and informationally by the security circles of this regime during the riots of 2022.

Afghanistan commends Iran's aid to earthquake, flood victims

TEHRAN- In a tweet on Monday, Rahmatullah Faizan, the deputy representative of the Taliban Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Herat, lauded Iran's swift response following natural disasters in Afghanistan.

Faizan highlighted Iran's immediate assistance and deployment of rescue teams to Herat following the earthquake. He also noted Tehran's support in the aftermath of flooding in northern Afghanistan.

Expressing optimism, Faizan voiced hope for the continued strengthening of friendly relations between Tehran and Kabul.

On May 12, Iran extended its heartfelt condolences to Afghanistan following the devastating flash floods that have swept through the country's northern areas. In a statement issued by Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani, Iran expressed profound sadness over the natural disaster, which has claimed the lives of at least 300 Afghans and displaced thousands more in recent days. On Friday, devastating floods and torrents of water swept through multiple cities and villages in northern Afghanistan.

Northern Baghlan was the worst impacted. Heavy damage caused by rain was also reported in northern Takhar province, northeastern Badakhshan province, central Ghor province, and western Herat.

Based on reports, more than 300 people have been killed, while dozens were missing and many houses were destroyed. According to Afghanistan's defense ministry, emergency personnel had been deployed to the affected areas and were rushed to rescue injured and stranded people.

Iran's Special Envoy for Afghanistan also announced that Iran is prepared to send relief forces, medical teams, and essential aid supplies requested by Afghan authorities.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi shared on his personal social media account: "The recent floods in

northern Afghanistan, which resulted in the loss of many lives, have deeply saddened me. While expressing solidarity with the Afghan people, Iran stands ready to send relief forces, medical teams, and necessary aid supplies, which are sincere gifts from the Iranian people to the people of Afghanistan. These will be delivered through organizations like the Red Crescent and the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee to the affected regions as swiftly as possible."

He added that it's important that transparent procedures are in place for accepting humanitarian assistance to ensure fairness. The challenging decision-making process, highlighted by the life-saving efforts during the Herat earthquake, underscores the need for coordinated and transparent approaches in crisis response."

The World Food Program has reported that over 1,000 houses have been destroyed, leaving countless families homeless and vulnerable. The toll on human life and infrastructure continues to rise as emergency responders struggle to reach remote and inaccessible areas.

More than half of the 600,000 people affected by the floods are children. Save the Children reported in a statement, adding that it is sending a "a 'clinic on wheels' with mobile health and child protection teams to support children and their families."

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has also expressed sorrow over the catastrophic floods, acknowledging the significant loss of life and widespread devastation. The Taliban has mobilized resources to assist in rescue and relief efforts, but the scale of the disaster presents significant challenges.

The international community has rallied to support Afghanistan in its time of need, with humanitarian organizations and neighboring countries offering assistance. However, the road to recovery will be long and arduous for a nation already grappling with the aftermath of decades of conflict and instability.

No change in Iran nuclear doctrine: Foreign Ministry

From page 1 ▶ Consultative opinions have also been obtained from the Palestinian embassy in Tehran and resistance groups. This virtual embassy has been established experimentally in the Foreign Ministry system to better examine its technical problems and other dimensions.

The spokesperson also stated that developing bilateral relations with neighboring and Arab countries in the region and creating a positive and constructive atmosphere in two and multilateral talks with neighboring and Persian Gulf countries require taking complementary steps to enhance the level of multilateral cooperation, which has various commercial, economic dimensions and a security-oriented approach within the framework of ensuring common security for regional countries.

Barzani expresses commitment to security pact between Iran, Iraq

Regarding the visit of Barzani, the head of the northern region of Iraq, to Iran, Kanaani added that given that the visit took place last week, it is necessary to mention that one of the fundamental policies of the thirteenth government is the development of comprehensive and constructive relations with neighboring countries in the framework of Iran's neighboring policy, and Iraq, due to the extent of its shared interests with Iran, is of special importance to Iran.

The spokesperson noted that the relations between Iran and the northern region of Iraq have always been friendly, and there have been and continue to be deep connections between the two sides.

He continued by saying that standing against the Daesh in Iraq was another area of common cooperation



between the two sides. Explicit negotiations were raised during the visit, and constructive and positive discussions took place.

Kanaani added that regarding the security of the common borders of Iran and Iraq, Iran will not allow any insecurity while saying that Mr. Barzani also expressed commitment to the security of Iraq and Iran.

India takes steps in developing ties with Iran

The spokesperson said that the experience has shown that countries are willing to establish foundations for common interests with independent countries, including Iran, disregarding unilateral U.S. sanctions. The agreement between Iran and India on the development of the Chabahar port, with India's understanding of the nature of unilateral U.S. sanctions, has been implemented and is not limited to India alone.

"Extensive relations and cooperation with Iran show that U.S. sanctions are not deterrent to countries interested in maintaining their polit-

ical independence and cooperating with Iran."

He continued that the Indian government is also taking steps in developing its relations with Iran without considering illegal U.S. sanctions. America should distance itself from sanctions considering the existing realities.

Iran, IAEA continue discussions to resolve remaining issues

The spokesperson highlighted that Tehran hopes to continue constructive interaction with the IAEA while considering the principle of impartiality on the part of the Agency.

Our discussions to resolve remaining issues continue, and during Grossi's visit, both sides agreed to continue their negotiations, he said.

He continued that whenever the Director-General of the IAEA acts technically, issues between the two sides progress well, but when a political approach is taken, technical issues deviate from their main path.

New countries emerged to support anti-Israeli actions of South African gov.

Regarding Libya's intention to file a

complaint against the Zionist regime and Iran's decision to join as a third party, Tehran has expressed political support for the South African government's initiative to bring a case to the International Court of Justice and encouraged other countries to support South Africa's honorable action.

Kanaani also said that "fortunately, we are seeing an increase in new countries declaring political support for the actions of the South African government, with these new countries stating that they will join in this initiative."

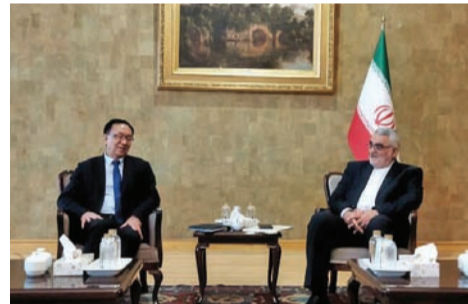
The spokesperson underscored that "Iran politically supports such complaints, but in terms of Iran's entry as a recognized country, we naturally have our own specific legal approach and considerations in the matter of not recognizing the Zionist regime. Iran supports all honorable actions taken by governments."

He said that naturally, Iran considers any interventionist remarks by the authorities of these countries in Iran's internal affairs, including Iran's legal cases, as unacceptable.

Kanaani concluded by stating that "our diplomatic negotiations with the American side are being conducted through intermediaries and within the framework of lifting sanctions, which has been ongoing so far."

"Iran has repeatedly stated that it is committed to a political and negotiation-based approach to achieve the lifting of unjust sanctions, and as long as this approach secures Iran's interests, we will continue to move forward within the framework."

Iran asserts no restrictions on cementing cooperation with China



TEHRAN- The head of the Iran-China Friendship Association Alaeddin Boroujerdi emphasized that Tehran does not have any restrictions on the development of relations between the two countries, and that there is ample room for increasing cooperation in various fields.

He made the remarks during a Monday meeting with the deputy secretary of the Jiangxi Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, who is leading a delegation from Jiangxi Province on a visit to Iran.

Referring to the historical friendly relations and abundant cultural commonalities between the two countries, he expressed hope that Iran and China would take higher steps in the path of developing relations.

He stated that the Iran-China Friendship Association is very interested in taking practical steps

to implement the 25-year agreement between the two countries in various fields, emphasizing: Iran has no restrictions on bilateral relations and there is ample room for increasing cooperation.

Boroujerdi said that the people of Iran will not forget the cooperation with China, especially during the difficult eight-year imposed war and the outbreak of the coronavirus.

He also considered Iran and China as friends for all seasons and said that when the Tiananmen Square incident occurred and many countries' ambassadors left their missions, he, as Iran's ambassador in Beijing at the time, stayed in his mission and did not leave China in difficult circumstances.

The head of the Iran-China Friendship Association referred to the Tehran metro network as one of the good symbols of cooperation between the two countries, the benefit of which the people of Iran are witnessing today.

He also mentioned China's top ranking in high-speed train technology and said that if Chinese companies implement high-speed train lines in Iran, people will have a more positive view of China and cooperation between the two countries, while there is also potential for cooperation in the aviation industry.

Boroujerdi also suggested establishing a sisterhood relationship between Jiangxi Province in China and one of the provinces in Iran, which was met

with enthusiasm from the Chinese side.

The head of the Iran-China Friendship Association also congratulated the new Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Tehran, Cong Peiwu.

Yin Jianye, the deputy head of the Jiangxi Provincial Consultative Committee, also considered cooperation with the Iran-China Friendship Association to be very important and appreciated the Association's efforts in coordinating trips and meetings with the Jiangxi Provincial delegation to Iran.

He requested the Iran-China Friendship Association to arrange a visit to Jiangxi Province.

This Chinese provincial official, referring to his recent visit to Isfahan and meeting with Mahmoud Haqiqat Sarshar, the Deputy for Economic Affairs of Isfahan Province, said that in that meeting, good topics were discussed and the potentials of Isfahan and Jiangxi provinces for increasing cooperation were discussed and exchanged.

He stated that it was decided that Isfahan and Jiangxi provinces would each form a working group to advance the topics discussed in the meetings of provincial officials.

Yin Jianye highlighted the high tourism and economic potentials of Jiangxi Province in various fields such as aircraft manufacturing, electronics, and metal industries.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Russian diplomat affirms strong partnership with Iran amidst global challenges

TEHRAN - Andrei Zhiltsov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Isfahan, has emphasized the mutual benefits of expanding Russia-Iran relations, highlighting the considerable potential for bilateral cooperation.

Despite facing illegal sanctions from the West, Zhiltsov praised Iran's technological independence, stating that the country possesses significant capabilities to defend its national interests autonomously.

Zhiltsov underscored the importance of mutual support between Russia and Iran amidst the turbulent global landscape. He stressed the necessity of collaboration in addressing security challenges and combating terrorism, expressing gratitude for Iran's solidarity following a recent terrorist attack in Russia.

Questioning the legality of Western sanctions, Zhiltsov raised concerns about their motives, sug-

gesting they aimed to assert global dominance. He reiterated the advantages of bolstering Russia-Iran ties across economic, trade, cultural, and tourism sectors, noting the positive impact on job creation and citizens' well-being.

In addressing security concerns, Zhiltsov acknowledged the joint struggle against terrorism, referencing recent tragic attacks in both countries. He expressed confidence in their collective ability to counter

such threats and emphasized the commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

Zhiltsov concluded by reaffirming his dedication to enhancing cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, marking his appointment as Consul General of Russia in Isfahan in February 2024 under the auspices of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Raisi appoints new vice-president for parliamentary affairs

TEHRAN- Mahmood Hosseini Pour has been chosen as the new Vice-President for parliamentary affairs.

Hosseini Pour previously served for a tenure spanning three years, commencing from October 2021 to April 2024, as the governor of Mazandaran province.

This appointment marks a transition from the preceding Vice-President for parliamentary affairs, Mohammad Hosseini.

Notably, Mohammad Hosseini has been re-assigned to serve as a cultural-social adviser to President Raisi.

President Raisi took the opportunity during a cabinet meeting held on Sunday to express his appreciation for the dedicated service and contributions of Hosseini.

Hosseini was elevated to this esteemed position through the authoritative decree of President Raisi in 2021.

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – The third Iranian-Arab Dialogue Conference, themed “For Cooperation and Interaction,” convened in Tehran on Sunday, signaling a pivotal moment in regional diplomacy.

During this conference, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian underscored Iran's commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and bolstering ties with neighboring and regional partners. He emphasized the effectiveness of this approach, noting its role in fostering trust, solidifying comprehensive strategies, and achieving tangible results in collaboration with Islamic and Arab nations, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

In recent months, the diplomatic landscape of West Asia has witnessed a notable shift, particularly in the relations between Iran and Arab nations. This transformation is characterized by a gradual thawing of tensions and a burgeoning of diplomatic engagement, signifying a new era of cooperation and dialogue in the region.

One significant factor contributing to this shift is the aftermath of the True Promise Operation, where Iran emerged as a key regional actor following its retaliatory attack against Israeli targets. This event underscored Iran's military capabilities and determination to assert itself as a formidable player in West Asia.

The True Promise Operation marked a turning point in the regional power dynamics, diminishing Israeli influence and highlighting Iran's growing assertiveness. The limited response from Israel following Iran's retaliatory strike served as a testament to the changing balance of power in the region, where Iran's military capabilities and strategic depth are increasingly being recognized and respected by its neighbors.

Against this backdrop, Iran's relations with Arab nations have seen a noticeable improvement, with a renewed emphasis on dialogue and cooperation. This shift is evident in the restoration of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, a development that signifies a willingness on both sides to prioritize dialogue and mutual



understanding.

Egypt on Iran's agenda

During the third Iranian-Arab Dialogue Conference, the Iranian foreign minister also pointed out the extensive engagement between Iranian and Egyptian officials, exemplified by high-level meetings, telephone conversations, and diplomatic correspondence. These interactions occur within various contexts, such as presidential summits during joint gatherings of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab League, parliamentary exchanges at BRICS meetings, and agreements between economic and financial ministers.

Additionally, he highlighted his ongoing discussions with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, including meetings in Riyadh, New York, and most recently in Gambia, as indicative of the shared political understanding between Cairo and Tehran regarding the efficacy of dialogue and mutual engagement in advancing bilateral relations and fostering positive regional developments.

Furthermore, Amir Abdollahian highlighted the transition from Iranian-Arab dialogue to broader regional cooperation, signaling a strategic shift in regional dynamics.

On the sidelines of the Iranian-Arab dialogue conference, the Yemeni Ambassador to Iran highlighted the significance of these gatherings in Tehran, emphasizing their role in strengthening Palestinian resilience and building consensus between Arab nations and Iran.

Ibrahim al-Dulaimi reiterated this sentiment during an interview

with a Tasnim reporter and underscored the importance of such forums in Iran for bolstering Palestinian resilience and fostering consensus among Arab nations and Iran.

Ambassador al-Dulaimi, representing Sana'a in Tehran, emphasized Yemen's commitment to safeguarding its national, Arab, and Islamic security. He noted Yemeni armed forces and navy's active engagement in military operations to support Palestinians against the aggression and incursions of the Zionist regime.

Furthermore, al-Dulaimi expressed optimism about the outcomes of the ongoing dialogues in Tehran, anticipating that they would further strengthen Palestinian resilience and cultivate consensus between Arab nations and Iran. He hoped that these discussions would ultimately deter the normalization of relations with the Zionist regime, a trend unfortunately pursued by some Arab countries.

Security in West Asia hinges on Israel's disarmament: Iran FM

As part of his speech at the third Iranian-Arab Dialogue Conference, the Iranian foreign minister underscored that genuine peace, stability, and security in West Asia hinge on Israel's disarmament and the end of its occupation of Palestine. This sentiment resonated as the Israeli regime's actions in Gaza over the past seven months underscored the ongoing plight of the Palestinian people.

The foundation of the Israeli regime, built on the violation of Palestinian rights, occupation, and extremism, remains incompatible with peaceful coexistence with

neighboring nations, according to Amir Abdollahian.

He criticized the unwavering support provided by the United States, condemning it for enabling Israel's crimes against the Palestinian population, highlighting the hypocrisy of U.S. claims to advocate for peace and human rights.

Amir Abdollahian further emphasized that sustainable peace and stability in Palestine and the Arab-Islamic region hinge on realizing the rights of the Palestinian people, necessitating continued resistance. As a proponent of international peace and security, Iran advocates for a political solution through a referendum for the Palestinian issue and envisions a nuclear-free West Asia.

Iran stands ready to collaborate with regional and neighboring countries, as well as Muslim and Arab nations, to advance the Palestinian cause and foster regional stability. The recent war initiated by Israel in response to a retaliatory operation by Palestinian resistance movements underscores the urgent need for concerted international action to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

More than 35,000 Palestinians, mostly children and women, have been killed in the war that Israel began on October 7, 2023 following a retaliatory operation by the Palestinian territory's resistance movements.

As the geopolitical landscape in west Asia continues to change, a reevaluation of traditional alliances and alignments is on the rise.

The aftermath of the True Promise Operation has reshaped the regional power dynamics, with Iran emerging as a key player and Israeli influence waning. Against this backdrop, Arab states have shown a willingness to engage with Iran diplomatically, recognizing the importance of cooperation and dialogue in addressing common challenges and promoting regional stability.

Iran continues to recognize the potential for cooperation with Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states, aiming to strengthen ties with neighboring countries to promote peace and stability in the region.

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

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SPORTS

Taremi bids farewell to Porto with tears and brilliance

TEHRAN – Mehdi Taremi, Iranian striker of Porto, bade an emotional farewell to the fans in his last game at the team's home stadium. Taremi, who will join Inter on a free transfer this summer, scored the winning goal for his team in the dying moments of the game against Boavista and brought tears of joy to his own eyes and those of the Porto fans.

Goal at last moment and an emotional farewell

Taremi, who came on as a substitute in the 59th minute, scored a spectacular header in the 98th minute to find the back of the net and secure three valuable points for Porto. This goal and victory were so valuable to him that he burst into tears after scoring it. He covered his face with his shirt and cried, then sat on the ground to have a memorable moment in his last appearance at Porto's home stadium.

Taremi: I will always be a Porto fan

After the game, Taremi expressed his feelings for Porto and its fans, saying: “I am very emotional right now because this was my last game at this stadium and I must say that I will always be a Porto fan, both on and off the pitch. I always played for Porto with all my heart and had a great time at this club and I am happy that I was able to score and win this game. It was an incredible moment for me.”

“I have always had a lot of respect for the fans. I decided to sign with another team, but I have always respected and will always respect the Porto fans. I will be a Porto fan for the rest of my life and from now on I am one of the main fans of this team,” Taremi added.

Taremi's brilliant stats at Porto

During his three seasons at Porto, Taremi scored 90 goals in 180 games and also provided 46 assists. During this time, he won the Portuguese League title twice with Porto, the Portuguese Super Cup twice and the Portuguese Cup once.

Taremi is undoubtedly one of the most popular foreign players in Porto's history and with his performance and professionalism he has earned a special place in the hearts of the club's fans.

Kyrgyzstan sweep Iran at CAVA Nation's Volleyball League

TEHRAN – Kyrgyzstan swept past Iran in straight sets (25-25, 25-23, 25-19) at the Central Asian Volleyball Association (CAVA) Nation's Volleyball League on Monday.

The Persians had defeated Turkmenistan and Afghanistan in their first two matches.

Iran will play Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

The competition is being held from May 11 to 17 at the Liaquat Gymnasium of Pakistan Sports Complex in Islamabad.

The event has brought six teams from Central Asian countries, including Iran, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and host nation Pakistan together in Islamabad.

The CAVA Nations League holds significant importance as it will be integrated into the world ranking system starting from next year, 2025. This elevation underscores the growing prominence and competitiveness of volleyball within the Central Zone, attracting attention and anticipation from across the globe.

The Central Asian Volleyball Association is the governing body for the sports of indoor, beach and grass volleyball in Central Asia and South Asia.

In the spirit of the FIVB 2001 plan, AVC was the first to create five zonal associations at the 10th general assembly in December 1993.

Incheg Dargahi re-elected as head of Gymnastic Federation

TEHRAN – Zahra Incheg Dargahi was re-elected unopposed as president of Iran Gymnastic Federation on Monday for a four-year term till 2028.

In the elections held at Iran's Academy Olympic in Tehran, she was secured 60 Of 66 votes cast.

Two presidency candidates Habib Nozohouri and Abed Haghdadi withdrew from the election.

Iran will have one representative in the 2024 Olympic Games. Artistic gymnast Mehdi Olfati will compete in the Games.

Omid Alishah reaches milestone in Persepolis

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team captain Omid Alishah has reached milestone in the Iranian football team.

He played against Havadar, where his team won the match 2-0 in Tehran's Datgerdi Stadium in Iran Professional League.

He has now reached a career milestone of 200 games for the club in the league.

Alishah has played for Persepolis 262 times in all competitions.

Persepolis and Esteghlal are vying for win the title in the 2023-24 season.

Iran down Oman at Women's Indoor Asia Cup 2024

TEHRAN – Iran hammered Oman 8-0 in the 2024 Women's Indoor Hockey Asia Cup on Monday.

Iran's Ziba Yahyavi was chosen as the best player of the match.

Team Melli are pitted in Pool A along with Kazakhstan, Nepal, Oman and Malaysia.

Iran will play Vietnam and Malaysia on Tuesday.

Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia are in Pool B.

The 2024 Women's Indoor Hockey Asia Cup is the ninth edition of the Women's Indoor Hockey Asia Cup, the biennial international women's indoor hockey championship of Asia organized by the Asian Hockey Federation.

The completion is being held at the Thailand National Sport University in Chonburi, Thailand from May 13 to 16.

The Women's Indoor Asia Cup 2024 holds significant importance as it serves as a qualifying tournament for the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup 2025. With only the winners of the Asia Cup securing a spot in the World Cup, the level of competition and intensity in the tournament is expected to be exceptionally high. This format places immense pressure on all participating teams, as only the champions will earn the opportunity to compete on one of the grandest stages in indoor hockey, the FIH Indoor Hockey World Cup 2025.

Jahanbakhsh assists as Feyenoord see off 10-man NEC

TEHRAN - NEC were still hoping to overtake Ajax into fifth spot but they knew a win over Feyenoord was required for that.

Just before half time, it was Feyenoord who took the lead with Calvin Stengs given too much space to place a shot into the far corner.

Two minutes into the second half, Kodai Sano equalized for the hosts, but Bram Nuytink was then shown a red card for a last man foul to put NEC down to ten men.

Yankuba Minteh restored Feyenoord's lead with his 10th goal of the season but NEC once again hit back. Sontje Hansen broke through the Feyenoord defense before slotting past Justin Bijlow.

Ayase Ueda had a frustrating game for Feyenoord up top but it was the Japanese international who scored the winner in the 87th minute. Alireza Jahanbakhsh gave Ueda an unmissable chance and Feyenoord took the three points.

Feyenoord will end the season in second while NEC are heading for the European playoffs in sixth.

Iran urges global action for peace in Afghanistan



TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Ali Bagheri Kani, has called upon the United Nations and international organizations to prioritize efforts aimed at promoting peace, security, and prosperity in

Afghanistan.

Speaking during a meeting with Roza Isakova Otunbayeva, the UN's special representative for Afghanistan, Bagheri Kani emphasized the negative repercussions of the U.S. presence in the region, citing increased instability, insecurity, and the proliferation of terrorism and drug trafficking as significant concerns.

In his remarks, Bagheri Kani stressed the imperative for international bodies to place the welfare of Afghan citizens at the forefront of their agenda, advocating for measures to enhance living standards and guarantee national security within the war-torn nation.

Additionally, he urged Western nations, par-

ticularly the United States, to take responsibility for the repercussions of their prolonged involvement in Afghanistan, spanning more than two decades.

Furthermore, Bagheri Kani underscored the United Nations' pivotal role in facilitating peace and stability in Afghanistan, while also highlighting the importance of repatriating skilled Afghan nationals to contribute to the country's reconstruction efforts.

This call comes amidst ongoing challenges faced by Afghanistan, including the resurgence of the Taliban and the aftermath of the chaotic withdrawal of U.S.-led foreign forces.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Islamic Iran has achieved success wherever it has faced sanctions: IRGC chief

TEHRAN – Major General Hossein Salami, the chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), has underscored the resilience of Iran in the face of imposed sanctions on the nation.

Speaking on Monday, General Salami highlighted how Iran has transformed sanctions into opportunities, emphasizing the nation's “significant achievements” on the global stage.

General Salami stated that Iran has consistently overcome sanctions and challenges, attributing the strength of the Islamic Republic to its resistance and progress in various spheres.

He pointed to the notion that sanctions were intended to paralyze

Iran, emphasizing instead the nation's determination and advancement in the face of adversity.

Furthermore, the general pointed out that the confidence in Iran's armed forces stems from the trust placed in the system by the people.

He emphasized the importance of unity with the people in navigating difficulties and sanctions successfully.

In his address, General Salami warned of potential threats from adversaries using their resources against Iran. However, he expressed confidence that under the leadership of Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and with the support of the nation, Iran will continue to make progress and get strengthened.

Salami concluded by affirming the commitment of all officials to serve the people, vowing to utilize the nation's strength and capabilities for their benefit.

Earlier on February 26, Major General Hossein Salami said, “Today, we're witnessing the enemies' crimes in Palestine.”

He went on to add, “They are seeking to attain victory for themselves by killing children, women, and defenseless people.”

The Israeli regime has so far failed to achieve any of its goals in the Gaza Strip.

“We believe in these dear people's victory, and know that divine victory is with the devoted people, who do

India signs port deal with Iran to operate in Chabahar Port



From page 1 ▶ The Chabahar port serves as a gateway for Indian goods to reach markets in Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing India's rival and neighbor Pakistan. India sent 20,000 tons of wheat aid to Afghanistan through the Chabahar port last year.

The cooperation between Iran and India on the strategic port dates back to 2003, when New Delhi agreed to develop the port as well as accompanying infrastructure links during the visit by then-President Muhammad Khatami to India. The project has suffered several delays since then and was weighed down by sanctions on Iran.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar Port holds great significance for the country both politically and economically. The country has taken serious measures to develop this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

The port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

Iran to produce gasoline with Euro-5 standard

TEHRAN - Iran is ready to produce gasoline observing requirements of Euro-5 standard rules and regulations, according to the head of Imam Khomeini Oil Refining Company.

Majid Rajabi has said the company is at the stage of producing gasoline with Euro-5 standards and it will hit the market in a limited volume, Mehr News Agency reported.

The quality of gasoline has always been a bone of contention between the environmental and oil industry experts.

Despite sanctions imposed against the country, Iran is prepared to produce gasoline with Euro-5 standards.

The Euro-5 gasoline is produced and supplied in coordination with the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution and Refining Company, the official said.

The company has expressed its readiness to supply all of its produced gasoline and diesel according to Euro-5 standards, he said.

The official put the current volume of the Euro-4 gasoline and diesel produced at the Imam Khomeini Oil Refining Company in Shazand at about 16 and 12.4 million liters respectively.

According to him, the amount of production and supply of Euro 5 gasoline should be coordinated with the refining and distribution company of petroleum products and we act based on the policies determined by them. Of course, Shazand Oil Refining Company is ready to supply its entire production of gasoline and diesel at Euro 5.

He pointed out that with the production of Euro 5 gasoline, the amount of gasoline produced may decrease slightly, and explained: Currently, with the production of Euro 5 gasoline, the amount of gasoline produced may decrease slightly, but with the implementation of a new program, the decrease in production volume can be prevented.

TEDPIX falls over 32,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN - Following the downward trend of the previous week, TEDPIX the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) lost 32,391 points on Monday to stand at 2,160,780, IRNA reported.

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

In late April, Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshghi said the organization is determined to support shareholders in the stock market.

Speaking in a meeting attended by economic operators from financial institutions, analysts, and capital market media, Eshghi said "Political, social, and economic debates have created some high expectations from the stock market."

The official referred to the complexity of the prevailing conditions in the market, announcing the serious determination of this organization to support the rights of shareholders.

"The mistrust among the shareholders under the influence of various factors caused the creation of difficult conditions in the market, and now we need empathy given such a problem and to overcome these conditions," he said.

Eshqi further said when the condition of the capital market is not very suitable, naturally, private sector companies are not very willing to offer their shares in the stock market and they believe that there is not much value for the companies in this market.

Previous experiences, however, indicate that the current conditions governing the market cannot be continued in the long term, the official added.

Iran unveils homegrown locomotive diesel engine

TEHRAN - Iran has unveiled its first domestically-made locomotive diesel engine, joining the countries that manufacture such engines.

The engine, carrying the brand name "MP610", has a capacity of 4,000 horsepower.

It was unveiled in the town of Fardis, Alborz province, on Monday during a ceremony attended by Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Abbas Aliabadi.

MP610 has been designed and manufactured by the MAPNA Group, a leading Iranian holding company with more than 70 subsidiaries active in different fields from the energy sector to rail transportation.

Mapna Group is a group of Iranian companies

involved in the development and execution of thermal and renewable power plants, oil and gas, railway transportation, and other industrial projects as well as manufacturing main equipment including gas and steam turbines, electrical generators, turbine blade and vane, HRSG and conventional boilers, electric and control systems, gas compressor, locomotive, and other pertinent equipment.

The company was founded in 1993 with the initial aim of becoming a general contractor for thermal power plants but evolved and diversified its business lines and capacities to other industries two decades after its establishment. The group is the first and leading West Asian-based general contractor of thermal power plants in the MENA region.

€800m allocated to IOOC's infrastructure renovation

TEHRAN - With the assistance of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s board of directors and the allocation of 800 million euros during the past 2.5 years of the 13th administration in office, the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) has been able to take appropriate steps to renovate its installations.

Managing director of IOOC, Alireza Mahdizadeh, made the remarks in an interview with Shana on the sidelines of the 28th Iran Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition's final day of activity on Saturday, adding, that the main priority of the company during the



incumbent government has been renovation and repairing its installation that had not been carried out over the past years due to various reasons.

He also said that the company has managed to provide financial needs for the renovation of some installations and pipelines including the renovation of a

pipeline from Abuzar field to Khark and Abuzar and Ilam infield pipelines, renovation of the Salman gas transmission pipeline to Siri, renovation of Resalat platform and securing its wells, the overhaul of the Alvand rig, the overhaul of turbines, gas generators, heat exchangers, painting and the sandblasting of Salman platforms, as well as the Hengam platform and the Persian Gulf terminal.

"Some of these projects have been transferred for implementation to contractors while the others are in the process of transferring," Alireza Mahdizadeh said.

Transit of Iranian gas to Eastern Europe through Turkey possible: official

From page 1 ▶ Heydari pointed out that sanctions have created restrictions and noted that oil and gas can potentially play an important role in Iran's relations with Turkey.

Stating that the countries of Eastern Europe are gas consumers, the official added: "Iran is one of the main countries

with oil and gas reserves which can supply the gas needed by these countries.

First, the issues related to sanctions should be resolved with the political will of these countries."

The exhibition has the potential to bring the will of

cooperation between countries closer along with showing Iran's advantages in this field, it is possible to become one of the gas exporters to Eastern Europe, he stated.

The most important advantage of Iran in the economy is its huge oil and gas capacities, which also play a special role in the

country's foreign relations, Heydari concluded.

In addition to 1,500 Iranian firms, a sum of 250 companies from 12 countries took part in the 4-day Iran Oil Show 2024, which wrapped up on Saturday, May 11.

1st phase of Persian Gulf Mehr refinery to go operational by Mar. 2025



TEHRAN - The commander of the IRGC's Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters said that the first phase of the Persian Gulf Mehr Refinery will become operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year

(March 20, 2025).

The refinery is under construction with good physical progress, Brigadier General Abdolreza Abed said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the closing day of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition dubbed "Iran Oil Show 2024," he said that after the successful development of phases 15 and 16 of the South Pars Gas Field by the Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters, the development of phases 13, 2, 23 and 24 of the field was delegated to the headquarters as well.

Today, 179 million cubic meters of gas/day produced in these phases are injected into the nationwide gas network, the official added.

Some 45 percent of the daily gasoline in the country is supplied by the Persian Gulf Star Refinery, he said, adding that the Persian Gulf Mehr Refinery is under construction with the investment of the headquarters and is under construction with the proper physical progress.

Once both the government and the Oil Ministry assist the headquarters, the first phase of the Persian Gulf Mehr Refinery will be put into operation by the year-end, the commander stated.

The launch of the Persian Gulf Mehr Refinery can help the sustainable supply of gasoline in the country, Brigadier General Abed added.

Iran's renewable capacity at 1.186 GW in April

TEHRAN - The latest official figures show that Iran's renewable electricity production reached 1.186 gigawatts in April.

According to the figures released by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization - an affiliate of the Energy Ministry -- solar power plants had the lion -share in the total renewable capacity during the aforementioned period.

Solar power plants accounted for 58% of renewable electricity production and were followed by wind farms that represented 31% of the total capacity.

Small hydropower plants and biomass plants stood next, as

they accounted for 9% and 1% of the total renewable capacity respectively in April.

The current Iranian government is working on plans to increase the country's renewable capacity and aims to reach a target of 10,000 MW.

Currently, over 100 large-scale renewable power plants are operating across Iran.

Iranian Energy Ministry plans to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government's administration (within the next 1.5 years).

Last year, the ministry and some of the country's

private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of the mentioned renewable power plants across Iran.

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

While Iran enjoys some proper conditions for the development of renewable energies, unfortunately, the country is lagging behind its plan in this due.

Based on Iran's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), the country was

aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

But in the final year of the plan, only less than one-fifth of the figure has been achieved.

Iran was supposed to become a regional hub in the field of energy in the past Iranian calendar decade (March 2011-March 2021), but evidence shows that the country is facing a shortage even in the supply of electricity inside the country, an issue that many believe that could be achieved by developing renewable energy and increasing the efficiency of the thermal power plants.



TEHRAN - The head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has said over \$1.8 billion worth of mining projects went operational during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Mohammadreza Movasaghi-Nia, the mentioned projects have created jobs for more than 3,500 people across the country, IRNA reported.

The projects were in various areas including the chains of steel, copper, zinc, aluminum and

the infrastructure sector, the official said.

Based on the IMIDRO data, the value of Iran's export of minerals in the previous Persian calendar year stood at \$13.7 billion.

According to the organization, the value of Iran's export of minerals and mineral industries in the last year registered a nine percent increase compared to a year earlier.

The report added that \$7.3 billion worth of mining and mineral products were imported into Iran from March 2023 to March 2024, showing a 35 percent rise compared to a year earlier.

Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries in the world. Having 15,000 mining areas, Iran has the sixth largest zinc, seventh largest copper, ninth largest iron ore reserves, and fifth largest gypsum and barite reserves globally. It also has three of the world's total lead and zinc reserves and huge coal reserves. Other mineral products such as chromate and

manganese are also found in different regions of Iran.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources to help the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.

Israeli polls show captive deal a priority over war

Settlers increasingly pessimistic over the future of "Israel"

From page 1 ▶ "Our sons are physically and mentally exhausted," the letter said.

The "Israeli Democracy Institute" affirmed that "the majority of Israelis consider the prisoner swap as their priority over military action in Rafah."

The Israeli army is expanding operations in the southernmost city crammed with one million displaced Palestinians despite the international alarm.

The Institute shows that 56 percent of Israelis believe a captive exchange deal should be the top priority for the Israeli government, while 37 percent said that military action in Rafah should be the top priority.

When it comes to political leanings, "a significant majority of the left (92.5 percent) and the center (78 percent) see the release of captives as the top priority. However, 55 percent of the Israeli right believe that military action in Rafah is the top priority. Yet, even among right-wing voters, there are significant divides."

The Institute noted that Likud voters are split, with 48.5 percent prioritizing military action while 44 percent prioritize reaching an agreement for Israeli captives.



A separate poll conducted by Israeli Channel 13 revealed that 52 percent of respondents believe that "a large-scale operation in Rafah will not achieve complete victory," and 44 percent believe Netanyahu is not interested in a deal to release captives.

Furthermore, 56 percent of Israelis say Netanyahu's political survival is more important to him than any agreement.

56 percent of Israelis say political survival is more important for Netanyahu than any agreement.

Another survey by the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation found that nearly half of Israelis support a captive exchange deal involving the release of all Israeli captives in exchange for a complete end to the war and the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

A survey by the Jewish People Policy Institute highlighted that Israelis are "less optimistic and less confident in victory."

According to the research, there has been a significant decline in public optimism about "the future of Israel", with a decrease in confidence also in the Israeli military's ability to achieve victory in the war on Gaza.

The study found an unusual decrease in the percentage of Israelis confident in achieving victory, dropping from 74 percent in October to only 38 percent in early May.

Since January, there has been an erosion in Israeli optimism about the future of "Israel", with only 63 percent expressing some degree of optimism, compared to 75 percent in January of this year.

The polls show a pattern of declining appetite among Israelis for war with every passing month. Support for military action in Gaza has been perpetually dropping since October when the overwhelming majority supported a war.

The decline can also be seen in the growing anti-war and anti-government protests on the streets of Tel Aviv.

Cold-blooded savagery

Israel moves deeper into Rafah as Gaza death toll surpasses 35,000

From page 1 ▶ The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said on Monday that nearly 360,000 people have fled Rafah over the past week.

Most of them are heading to the heavily damaged nearby city of Khan Younis or Muwasi as the Israeli army moves deeper into Rafah.

It is a coastal tent camp where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are already living in squalid conditions.

UN agencies and aid organizations have warned that an Israeli full-scale assault on Rafah would further cripple humanitarian operations and cause a surge in civilian deaths.

During the past seven months, Israel has not only targeted residential buildings but it has also bombed and raided hospitals and perpetrated massacres there.

Fears are now growing over a potential genocide if Israel expands its offensive in Rafah.

But the Netanyahu regime has turned a blind eye to such warnings as the US and its Western allies refuse to take practical actions to halt Israel's killing machine.

According to the Palestinian health officials in Gaza, 70 percent of more than 35,000 Palestinians who have been killed in Gaza are women and children.

Israeli genocide

Israel stands accused of genocide against Palestinians in a case brought by South Africa at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In January, the ICJ, also known as the World Court, issued an interim ruling that found there was a plausible risk of genocide in the

Arab countries should wake up to the fact that they cannot change the fascist and savage nature of the Israeli regime through talks.

Gaza Strip in the wake of Israel's onslaught. It ordered the regime to refrain from any acts that could fall under the Genocide Convention and to ensure its forces commit no genocidal acts against Palestinians.

Protection of Palestinians

Last month, Colombia asked The Hague-based ICJ, to allow the South American country to join South Africa's case.

In an application to the court in April, it said, "Colombia's ultimate goal in this endeavor is to ensure the urgent and fullest possible pro-

tection for Palestinians in Gaza, in particular such vulnerable populations as women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly."

Turkey followed suit earlier this month. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said his country has decided to join South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the ICJ in support of the Palestinian people.

On Sunday, Cairo also announced it will formally join the case filed by Pretoria at the UN's top court.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry said the country's decision "comes in light of the worsening severity and scope of Israeli attacks against Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, and the continued perpetration of systematic practices against the Palestinian people, including direct targeting of civilians and the destruction of infrastructure in the Strip, and pushing Palestinians to flee."

Earlier, reports suggested that Egypt has threatened to scrap the Camp David Accords if Israel presses ahead with the Rafah offensive.

Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David Accords in 1978, which led to a peace treaty between the two sides a year later.

In fact, it was the first such treaty between Israel and any of its Arab neighbors.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

David Cameron is either idiot or delusional

British foreign secretary falsifies the facts before the eyes of the world

From page 1 ▶ Israel has failed to achieve its illusionary goal despite receiving sophisticated weapons from its Western allies. Also, this goal has remained elusive even though Israel has received intelligence support from the West in locating the Gaza resistance fighters and leaders.

(According to information obtained by De-classified UK, the Royal Air Force (RAF)--Britain's air and space force--has flown 200 surveillance flights over Gaza in support of Israel since December 3rd.)

The Israeli army, which had also been touted as the strongest army in the region, suffered from the illusion that it would purge Hamas fighters step by step, starting from northern Gaza to the south. But now, after carpet-bombing the entire Gaza except for Rafah, resistance fighters have emerged in other parts of the coastal enclave, including in northern Gaza.

Britain, which has a long history of colonialism failed to break the strong will of the people of the Republic of Ireland for independence, now expects Palestinians, whose land has been stolen and millions of their fellow citizens have been driven out of their motherland, to stand idly by and witness more suppression and annexation of the remaining Palestinian lands at

the hands of Israel.

"Just to simply announce today that we will change our approach on arms exports, it would make Hamas stronger and it would make a hostage deal less likely," Cameron told the BBC.

Cameron may have forgotten that Israel secured the release of 100 of its hostages just through a deal with Hamas. It is just wishful thinking that Israel would be able to free its remaining captives through prolonging the war, including a full invasion into Rafah. Through its indiscriminate bombardments of Gaza, Israel has killed some of its citizens, and continuing to do so may finally end in no captive alive.

The senior British diplomat is either stupid or pretends to be stupid not to understand this simple fact. Like Netanyahu and other blood-thirsty Israeli rulers, he may also be delusional.

Over the past seven months of the Israeli war on Gaza, nothing has been excluded to force Hamas to surrender. The only remaining option is dropping nuclear bombs on Gaza. Even if Israel uses nuclear bombs in Gaza, as top Republican Senator Lindsey Graham has suggested, it will not succeed. If, as Graham says, dropping atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki forced Japan to surrender, Hamas is a guerilla group.

Distorting history

Moreover, just 43 days have passed since Israel attacked the Iranian embassy in Damascus in violation of the Vienna Conventions but the British foreign secretary is falsifying the facts. Cameron is deceitfully distorting history regarding Iran's legitimate retaliatory attack on Israel on April 13.

As a chief diplomat, Cameron knows that an attack on a country's diplomatic premise is considered an attack on that country's soil. It was Israel that provocatively attacked the Iranian diplomatic premise in violation of international law.

"The last time I was urged to do that (not delivering arms to Israel), I didn't do that, and just a few days later there was a brutal attack by Iran on Israel... I think it would have sent an entirely wrong message," Cameron told the BBC.

Iran just responded to Israel's illegal and provocative act that killed seven Iranian military advisors, including two generals, in Syria. Contrary to what Cameron described as a "brutal attack" by Iran, the Islamic Republic choreographed its retaliatory attack in a way not to kill anybody. Iran just targeted military sites and just one person was killed unintentionally.

WORLD HEADLINES

US senator: Israel has the right to nuke Gaza

Senator Lindsey Graham has compared Israel's war on Gaza to the US decision to drop atomic bombs on Japan in World War II during an interview on NBC News' "Meet the Press."

"When we were faced with destruction as a nation after Pearl Harbor, fighting the Germans and the Japanese, we decided to end the war by the bombing [of] Hiroshima [and] Nagasaki with nuclear weapons," Graham said. "That was the right decision."

He added, "Give Israel the bombs they need to end the war. They can't afford to lose."

Graham, a staunch supporter of Israel, used the analogy multiple times while condemning President Joe Biden for threatening to withhold certain weapons from Israel if it launches a military operation in Rafah, the southernmost city in Gaza where over a million civilians are sheltering.

He turned a blind eye to the massacre of more than 35,000 Palestinians in Gaza saying, "So, Israel, do whatever you have to do to survive as a Jewish state. Whatever you have to do."

Colombians welcome 'Palestino' football team at airport

A pro-Palestinian rally took place at Colombia's El Dorado International Airport as activists gathered to welcome the Club Deportivo Palestino football team from Chile.

The Palestino team draws from the approximately 500,000 Palestinians who live in Chile, which has the largest Palestinian population outside the Middle East.

Supporters waved Palestinian flags and wore T-shirts saying "Free Palestine" as they welcomed the team ahead of its game against Colombia's Millonarios in South America's Libertadores cup on Tuesday.

Colombia's leftist President Gustavo Petro, who has been outspoken in support of Palestine, called for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue an arrest warrant for Netanyahu this week.

Polls highlight discontent over Biden's handling of Gaza war

New polls have revealed an erosion of support for US President Joe Biden ahead of the November presidential election over Washington's support for Israel's war on Gaza.

The surveys, conducted by The New York Times, Siena College and The Philadelphia Inquirer, showed Donald Trump leads Biden in five crucial battleground states as a yearning for change and discontent over the economy and the war in Gaza among young, Black and Hispanic voters threaten to unravel the president's Democratic coalition.

They also showed that the cost of living, immigration, Israel's war in Gaza and a desire for change continue to be a drag on the president's standing.

Pro-Palestine protesters take over university buildings in Dutch cities

Demonstrators have taken over university buildings in the Dutch cities of Amsterdam, Groningen and Eindhoven, slamming Israel's war in Gaza, the Dutch protest group behind the action says in a statement.

A spokesperson for the University of Amsterdam (UvA) confirmed the incident, Al Jazeera reported.

The Eindhoven University of Technology confirmed that there were "dozens of students peacefully protesting outside next to ten to 15 tents".

Students in the Netherlands have been protest-

ing against Israel's war on Gaza since last Monday and Dutch riot police had previously clashed with protesters at the University of Amsterdam.

Students in the United States and Europe have been holding peaceful demonstrations calling for an immediate permanent ceasefire and for schools to cut financial ties with companies they say are profiting from the oppression of Palestinians.

Russian troops enter border town near Kharkiv

Russia said on Monday its forces have entered the north-eastern border town of Vovchansk, near Ukraine's second largest city Kharkiv, BBC reported.

Ukraine says there is still heavy fighting taking place there.

Russia has intensified its attacks on the region following Friday's surprise incursions across the border, seizing at least nine villages and settlements in one of the most significant ground attacks since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Ukraine's army has said that Russia has deployed "significant forces" - up to five battalions - in its latest offensive, acknowledging it had had "tactical success".

But in a statement, the army claimed that Russia had lost more than 100 troops in a day, adding that it was taking steps to repel advancing forces.

Putin replaces defense minister

Russian President Vladimir Putin has nominated an economist to replace longtime defense minister Sergei Shoigu as the country is trying to better utilize defense spending and harness greater innovation to win the war in Ukraine.

On Sunday, Putin proposed Andrei Belousov, a 65-year-old former deputy prime minister who specializes in economics, to become the country's defense minister in place of Shoigu, as the Russian leader began his fifth term as president, Press TV reported.

Shoigu's replacement comes following the arrest of deputy defense minister Timur Ivanov, who was seen as a close Shoigu ally, on bribery charges.

Putin also dismissed Security Council chief Nikolai Patrushev, a key member of his inner circle, "in connection with his transfer to another job."

Noting that the military and law enforcement authorities accounted for 7.4% of gross domestic product (GDP), Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the decision made sense because it was vital to ensure such expenditures aligned with and better integrated into the country's overall economy.

"The one who is more open to innovations is the one who will be victorious on the battlefield," Peskov added.

According to the Kremlin, Putin appointed Shoigu as secretary of Russia's national security council.

Cohen says he lied, bullied on Trump's behalf

Donald Trump's fixer-turned-foe, Michael Cohen, characterized his celebrity client as a hands-on manager and said he sometimes lied for him and bullied others on his behalf during highly anticipated testimony Monday in the former president's hush money trial.

Cohen, Trump's former lawyer and by far the Manhattan district attorney's most important witness in the case, took the stand in an appearance that signals that the first criminal trial of a former American president is entering its final stretch, AP reported.

Prosecutors say they may wrap up their presentation of evidence by the end of the week.

The testimony of a witness with such intimate knowledge of Trump's activities could heighten the legal exposure of the presumptive Republican presidential nominee if jurors deem him sufficiently credible.

Tribal charm fills the air in Ardabil's picturesque plains

From Page 1 ▶ According to organizers, on the festival grounds, where a bustling array of booths awaits, visitors are invited to explore a treasure trove of handicrafts, artisanal goods, and savory dairy products, each telling a story of craftsmanship passed down through generations.

Moreover, guests have the chance to experience the soul-stirring melodies of Ashiq music, witness symbolic nomadic migrations, and partake in bridal ceremonies steeped in tradition.

The Shahsavan tribe stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of Ardabil's cultural mosaic. From pastoralists roaming the lush pastures to the Shia Shahsavan, who speak Azaeri language, their nomadic lifestyle has endured through the ages, rooted in a deep connection to the land and its bounty.

Mughan Plain is home to natural wonders and historical landmarks. From the tranquil waters of Lake Shahrak-e Mughan Dam



to the imposing Ulutan Castle, and from Dasht-e Hamisheh Bahar (Forever Spring) plains to verdant green mountains, and the winding Aras River, each attraction offers a glimpse into the region's storied past.

Iranian nomads live in other provinces such as Fars, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Khuzestan, and Isfahan. They usually change between their winter quarters in steppes (Qishlaq or warmer areas) and summer quarters in green mountainous regions (Yeylaq or cooler countryside).

Rosewater festival: a celebration of tradition and culture underway in Tehran

TEHRAN – A rosewater festival is currently underway at Tehran's Eshragh Cultural Center, captivating visitors with a myriad of cultural and artistic programs.

The festival, now in its 20th year, aims to promote Iran's traditional culture, introduce visitors to the lifestyle of Iranian ethnic groups, and foster social joy.

The event features a diverse range of activities, including traditional rosewater extraction ceremonies, exhibitions showcasing the specialties of different provinces and the handicrafts of ethnic groups, various cultural and artistic programs, and live performances of Iranian ethnic music.

According to organizers, its main goal is to familiarize citizens with the cultural heritage, artistic productions, and handicrafts from various regions of Iran.

The Tehran rosewater festival will be running through May 24.

Known as Golab-Giri in Persian, the rosewater festival, believed to be the birthplace of rosewater production globally, stands as a unique sociocultural event, revered enough to warrant consideration for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

This ancient ceremony takes place annually across various regions of Iran, notably in Kashan and its surrounding villages, highlighting the pivotal role of roses in cuisine, cosmetics, medicine, and local traditions.

Typically held during springtime, the festival spans from mid-May to late June.

Rosewater, known as Golab in Persian, is traditionally derived from damask roses, locally referred to as Gol-e Mohammadi or Gol-e Sorkh in Iranian culture.

As spring dawns in Iran, roses bloom pro-



fusely throughout the nation. Iran boasts the title of the world's leading producer of damask roses, responsible for approximately 70% of the global supply.

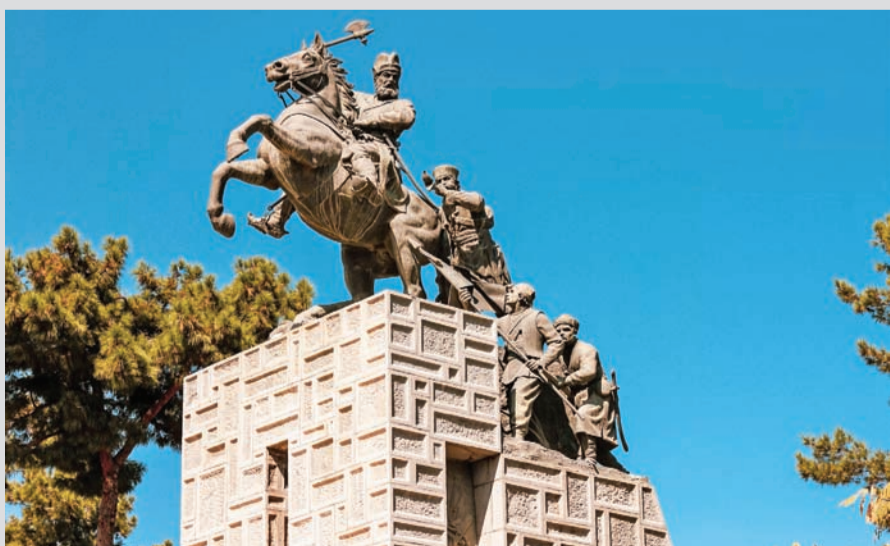
Primarily cultivated in the provinces of Fars, Kerman, and Isfahan, as well as certain areas of West Azarbaijan province, including Khoy and Urmia, Kashan and Qamsar remain the primary centers for rosewater production in Iran.

Though the ancient method of rosewater production has evolved over time, it has preserved its essence. Harvesters begin their work before dawn, adhering to an age-old farmers' belief that flowers picked before sunrise emit a more potent fragrance.

The petals are carefully placed into large copper pots and simmered. Each pot contains 80 liters of water and approximately 30 kilograms of rose petals, connected to metal pipes to allow steam to pass through for distillation. The resulting hydrosol is collected in special bottles.

Local tradition holds that the longer the distillation process, the higher the quality of the homemade rosewater. It's widely believed that traditionally distilled rosewater surpasses factory-made varieties in quality, likely due to the slower harvesting and distillation techniques.

Iran in frames



The statue of Nader Shah (the founder of the Afsharid dynasty of Iran and one of the most powerful rulers in Iranian history) and his soldiers at the Naderi Museum, Mashhad.

Iranian airlines set to promote tourism contents

TEHRAN – Key talks between the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, and a number of domestic airlines have highlighted a push for promoting tourism.

Moslem Shojai, the official in charge of promoting inbound tourism, on Monday, during a meeting dedicated to engage renowned airlines in future initiatives, outlined the pivotal role of air services in promoting rich tourism capacities within the country for passengers.

Shedding light on the hidden collaboration opportunities within the tourism industry, Shojai pinpointed that flight time is a suitable occasion to transmit the video contents with an eye to-



ward enticing potential tourists.

"Social media influencer marketing and arranging collaborative roadshows intended to present tourism capacities are other possible initiatives," he

continued.

The official further elaborated that transmitting contents covering health, cultural and culinary tourism capabilities is

considered a top priority for in-charge authorities.

Participants exchanged insights on successful global models for presenting tourism content, setting the stage for future collaborations.

As a result of the strategic discussions, representatives from international airlines such as Aseman, Kish Air and Sepehr expressed their readiness to participate in future tourism content presentations, with a particular focus on attracting inbound passengers.

This partnership marks a significant step towards enhancing cultural experiences and promoting tourism within Iran, according to related officials.

Agritourism on the rise in Alborz province

TEHRAN – Agritourism is on the rise in Alborz province, which is home to many villages and fruit gardens at the foot of Alborz mountains.

Rahim Khaki, the provincial tourism chief, has said that the development of agritourism not only generates revenue within the tourism domain but also serves as a secondary income source for farmers, potentially deterring extensive land conversion and destruction.

He made the remarks on Monday concurrent with the issuance of a fresh agritourism license in the province.

"The new license focuses on orchard-based agritourism and is granted for a farm located in Aghshat village in Savojbolagh county."

Khaki emphasized the significant potential that Savojbolagh holds in both the agriculture and tourism sectors, suggesting that by implementing and expanding agritourism projects, visitors could relish the captivating experience of nature tourism and farm visits.

He said the newly licensed agritourism facility comprises several sections, including fruit orchards and greenhouses, where tourists can engage directly in fruit picking and experience the charm of rural life. Additionally, the site offers mobile tents and lounges for light refreshments and local hospitality.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official stressed the necessity of collaboration with relevant authorities to facilitate the licensing process.

With this latest venture into agritourism, Alborz province aims to capitalize on its agricultural richness while providing visitors with an authentic and immersive experience of rural life and farming practices.

Rural tourism as well as agritourism and farm stays can be regarded as a win-win both for local communities and post-modern travelers who are tracking unique experiences. Sightseers may stay with a rural or nomadic family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic

routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

As mentioned by the UN Tourism (formerly known as UNWTO), rural tourism is a type of activity in which a visitor's experience is related to a wide range of products generally linked to nature-based activities, agriculture, rural lifestyle, culture, angling, and sightseeing. Such tourism also possesses characteristics such as low population density, a landscape dominated by agriculture and forestry, as well as traditional social structure and lifestyle.

The UN body aims to turn the spotlight on the "uniqueness" of each village to make tourism a means for further development in rural areas.

"We want to recognize the uniqueness of each village and showcase the best initiatives to make tourism a means for a better future in rural areas. As we restart tourism, we work to ensure that we leave no one - and no village - behind," according to UN Tourism Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili.

Reviving a century-old journey: Australian couple arrive in Iran with classic car

TEHRAN – An Australian couple, traveling in their classic Bean car from England to Australia, entered Iran on Sunday, recreating a tourist's epic journey, named Francis Birtles on 1927.

Lang and Bev Kidby, who began their journey on April 1, from London, have so far passed through countries including France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Turkey, and entered Iran through the Bazargan border crossing on Sunday, May 12.

During their 12-day travel in the Islamic Republic, the adventurous couple will visit the historical, cultural and touristic attractions of cities such as Maku, Tabriz, Zanjan and Tehran, and after a one-day stop in the capital, they will head to Kashan, Isfahan and Yazd.

Kerman, Bam, and Zahedan are the cities that Lang and Bev Kidby will leave after passing through them, through the Mirjaveh border in Sistan-Baluchestan province, which is the most important border crossing between Iran and Pakistan.

In 1927, an Australian tourist named Francis Birtles, who was interested in driving and traveling, traveled from London to Australia with this Bean car and visited countries such as Iran along his route.

This adventurous Australian couple has now entered Iran after almost a hundred years since Birtles' journey, with the car now classified as a valuable historic vehicle.

Lang and Bev Kidby, supported by the Historical Vehicles Associ-



ation of Iran, in collaboration with the National Safari Club will traverse through Iran, then through countries including Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Singapore and finally reach their destination in Australia.

Roman 'service station' found by archaeologists

A Roman "service station" may have been found on the site of a major road development, archaeologists say.

Some of the pieces found at the England's Cotswolds are from the Neolithic period, dating back 12,000 years.

The items, which include a rare cupid figurine, a Roman nail cleaner, pottery, coins and jewellery, are on display at a public event held at Gloucester Guildhall on 11 May.

Alex Thompson, project manager from Oxford Cotswold Archaeology, said they believe the items may have been used by people travelling between settlements.

"We have a nice Roman settlement and it lies on Ermin Street, the road between Roman Cirencester and Gloucester," said Mr Thompson.

"We think that our settlement was being used to help with people that were travelling along the road and probably something to do with horses."

One of the theories is that the settlement may have been used for people to stop by to have their horses cared for or exchanged.

"We have a nice Roman building that may have been used as stabling or potentially as somewhere where you could stay the night and have your horse looked after," he added.

The pieces date from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman periods,

and the Second World War.

One of the most unusual finds from the dig was a small Cupid figurine from the Roman period, said Mr Thompson.

Found during the excavation phase of the dig, the figurine is 7cm (2.7in) in height and is made from copper alloy.

The figurine is a depiction of Cupid in the style of Hercules.

"It represents the power of love over even the strongest Heroes. It was probably a love token," added Mr Thompson.

"It wouldn't have been cheap. It's a really unusual and special find."

Of more than a thousand metal figurines from across Roman Britain, some 33 are known to de-

pect Cupid, although this example appears to be the first to show Cupid as Hercules.

Archaeologists also unearthed a Roman nail cleaner.

(Source: BBC)

International Tender No.: 03.T/858

Security Printing and Minting Organization (SPMO) of Central Bank of I.R. of IRAN, intends to purchase one unit of Five-color Offset Printing Press with Coating System and its respective spare parts adequate for five years of use and consumables for three years, as well as installation and training at the site through a public tender from eligible companies, according to the specifications and conditions stated in the tender documents.

Required documents:

- 1- Bid Bond Guarantee will be issued by participants, according to the received documents in favor of SPMO, marked as Tender Guarantee.
- 2- The bidders are requested to submit their company profile, articles of association, turn over including list of supplied goods, client list, etc. for the last 3 years.
- 3- It should be noted that the priority for bidders is given to the domestic participants in equal conditions.

The tender documents consisting of technical specifications, requirements, price and packing conditions, required guarantees, terms of payment, shipment, delivery, installation and training are available on demand. For receiving them, please contact us via the following address, fax or E-mail until 2024/05/26:

Commercial Director

Security Printing and Minting Organization
No. 191, Pasdaran Ave., Tehran, I.R. of IRAN
P.O. Box: 1664647111
Fax: +98 21 22842033 - +98 21 22840053
Tel: +98 21 23733210 - +98 21 23733215
E-mail: spmo@cbi.ir

National youthful population week kicks off

TEHRAN –The National Youthful Population Week commenced on Monday with the theme of 'My share in youthful population' and will wrap up on May 19.

Health ministry has assigned each day a specific name.

Monday, May 13: 'Media and youthful population'.

Tuesday, May 14: 'Managers and youthful population'.

Wednesday, May 15: 'Successful family and youthful population'.

Thursday, May 16: 'Government bodies and youthful population'.

Friday, May 17: 'Private companies and youthful population'.

Saturday, May 18: 'The elite and youthful population'.

Sunday, May 19: 'Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and youthful population'.

The following topics are discussed during the week.

1. Enhancing maternal identity and implementing maternal dignity charter

2. Strengthening the family and fostering vitality within the family

3. Elaborating on demerits of having no child, one child, late childbearing, and low number of children

4. Addressing intentional abortion

5. Examining infertility causes and its treatments.

6. Promoting timely, simple and stable marriages in opposition to abstaining from marriage, late marriage, divorce.



7. Encouraging natural, safe and physiologic birth practices.

8. Exploring the significance of youth population, its achievements and outcomes

Health ministry plays key role

Two years after the enactment of the law on supporting families and the youth, investigations have shown that the health ministry has played a central role in the implementation of the law, Hasan Farshidi, an official with the health ministry, has said.

"Since the implementation of the law, the number of births among mothers aged 20 to 24 has notably increased," the official said.

The rate of mothers giving birth to three children increased from 16 percent in the Iranian year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020) to 18.97 percent in 1402 (March 2023-March 2024) and even the fourth childbirth increased from 5 percent to about 7 percent, Farshidi stated.

The health ministry's responsibilities in the field of health and education are well-defined and it has successfully implemented more than 95 percent of its tasks in the youth law, he added.

Meanwhile, Saber Jabbari, the head of the health ministry's youthful population center, has said the ministry was recognized as the best organization, implementing programs for the youth in the last year, which ended on March 19.

"A total of 32,000 nurse aides are providing health care services in rural and urban areas. Also, 22,000 health care providers offer fertility services in urban areas, with 13,809 of them being midwives," Jabari further noted.

There are 10,200 midwives working in delivery rooms. Also, 2,086 and 6,689 gynecologists are working in state sectors and private sectors, respectively, Jabbari added.

Over 188,000 registered births

were third-born, more than 63,000 births were fourth-born, and over 20,000 were fifth-born children.

A total of 462 marriage education centers are active in the country training various topics such as sexual health, fertility, and the complications of the prevention of pregnancy to young couples.

Furthermore, healthcare centers provide 113 free services to pregnant mothers, and the pre-pregnancy care index has increased by 50 percent to maintain the health of the mother and the child (fetus).

Fertility rate should reach 2.5

In November 2023, Jabbari said that the total fertility rate should reach 2.5 from 1.66 before the closure of the demographic window in the next five years.

"The country is on the threshold of aging; to tackle this crisis, we must promote childbearing and youth population," IRNA quoted Jabbari as saying.

Over the last 30 years, the total fertility rate of the country has declined, but in the Iranian calendar year 1401 (March 2022-March 2023), the downward trend in fertility came to a halt, he added.

"Carrying out programs that are focusing on the youth population at the national level is a strategy to increase the total fertility rate," Jabbari stressed.

WMO report counts extreme climatic events in Iran

TEHRAN –The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released a report on the State of the Climate in Asia, enumerating climate hazards and severe weather events in Iran in 2023.

Asia remained the world's most disaster-affected region in 2023 due to weather, climate, and water-related hazards. Storms and floods have hit the hardest, according to a new report published by the WMO on April 23.

The report has included extreme events such as floods, drought, dust storms, and strong winds that affected the country, ISNA reported.

According to the report, below-normal rainfall in most regions of Iran for the third consecutive year in 2023 has led to widespread drought in the country.

The eastern half experienced severe rainfall shortage within the year. Decreased rain and severe drought in the region along with above-normal temperatures have resulted in the drying up of the main inland lakebed, the Hamoun Lake.

In Iran, autumn 2023 was much warmer than normal with severe shortages of rainfall throughout the country, the report added.

Severe dust storms hit most parts of Asia. In mid-September, a dust storm affected Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan causing serious health problems.

High winds in the southeast of the country from September 18 to 25, caused severe dust storms resulting in severe injuries and hospitalization.

Levar wind along with the dust from dried Hamoun wetland affected the region, causing adverse health effects, closure of schools, transportation hazards, and damage to crops.

According to the report, the flood that struck Astara city from September 17 to 19 significantly affected 300 households. The flood resulted from intense and prolonged rainfall in Astara on September 18. Within a span of 12 hours, 220 mm of rain was recorded causing profound damage.

Undeniable threat

The phenomenon of climate change on the planet has caused extreme weather conditions posing a real and undeniable threat to the entire civilization.

The consequences of climate change will be even more detrimental unless actions are taken now.

Climate change has already had many harmful effects on our country. Due to climate change, the air temperature has increased. Warmer temperature increases the rate of evaporation, a good example of which is the Caspian Sea's reduced volume of water.

On the other hand, there has been a noticeable decrease in the amount of snowfall in the country and a change in the pattern of precipitation from snow to rain can be seen. But the total amount of rainfall has decreased as well.

According to the World Health Organization, climate change is impacting health in a myriad of ways, including by leading to death and illness from increasingly frequent extreme



weather events, such as heatwaves, storms, and floods, the disruption of food systems, increases in food-, water- and vector-borne diseases, and mental health issues.

As an example, climate change and the floods that hit the southeastern neighboring country two years ago, have jeopardized the malaria eradication program and caused the cases of malaria infection to spike from less than 1,000 to around 10,000.

Measures taken

Climate change with all its dimensions and consequences has caused serious challenges to life on the earth. One of the consequences of climate change, which has increased in intensity and occurrence, is the phenomenon of SDSs with severe harm to the world's biological and economic resources.

Holding the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, in line with the implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/171, in Tehran in September 2023 with the cooperation of the United Nations, is an example of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran to draw the attention of the international communities to the importance of these shared challenges and the necessity to find shared solutions to cope with these challenges

The conference, with the assistance of multilateral financial organizations and the United Nations, and the affected countries tried to compile, review, and implement sub-regional, regional, and global action plans to deal with dust storms and follow up on the creation of a regional fund for the West Asia region and the establishment of a regional center along with a network of countries affected by dust storms to investigate and follow up effectively.

In this regard, consulting with a group of interested countries and seeking the cooperation and support of UNEP and specialized funds, programs and agencies affiliated with the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted a draft resolution to the current session of the UNEA to take another step for collective action and develop appropriate regional and international mechanisms to deal with dust storms as one of the important hazards threatening our world and future.

The 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) has approved a resolution adopted at the international summit on dealing with sand and dust storms which was held in Tehran in September 2023.

The UNEA-6 was held from February 26 to March 1 at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It is the world's highest decision-making body on the environment.

Iran celebrating intl. astronomy week

TEHRAN – The Iranian Astronomy Association is celebrating International Astronomy Week in collaboration with amateur groups from May 13 to 19.

The Association will commemorate the event by holding scientific interviews with professional and amateur astronomers, conducting popular and scientific challenges, and holding competitions.

During the Week, various amateur astronomy groups will do their best to promote astronomy and familiarize people with this field of science both virtually and personally. The groups will share their findings with the Astronomy Association.

The event helps the general public get involved with astronomy, and have their questions about astronomy answered.

This year it will be celebrated under the theme of 'Persian astronomy, solidarity and interaction'.

The Week has been observed in Iran since the Iranian calendar year 1380 (2001-2002). The Week encompasses International Astronomy Day which will be held on Friday, May 17, this year.

This year, the poster of Astronomy Week also refers to the theme of the day, depicting Iranian people's solidarity and interaction using miniature paintings.

The Iranian Astronomy Association has designated specific themes for each day of the week, ISNA reported.

Monday, May 13: Astronomy as a guide to life

Tuesday, May 14: Astronomy, honoring the Earth and preserving the dark sky

Wednesday, May 15: Astronomy and artificial intelligence (AI)

Thursday, May 16: Astronomy, citizen science, and the role of academics

Friday, May 17: Astronomy and Iranian scientists (on the occasion of commemorating Khayyam)

Saturday, May 18: Astronomy Beyond Borders

Sunday, May 19: Persian astronomy, solidarity and interaction

The International Astronomy Day is held with the aim of promoting science in the world. Holding the event acts as a conduit to bring astronomy closer to the people.

Another main objective is to promote science and make people interested in astronomy. There will be day and night observations, webinars and scientific conferences, and pavilions that provide educational and scientific services to the people.

International Astronomy Day serves as an

avenue for astronomy enthusiasts and professionals to share their knowledge and love of outer space with the general public.

It is also a way for everyone interested in space to explore their passion and increase their knowledge.

Astronomy Day was started in 1973 by Doug Berger, the president of the Astronomical Association of Northern California.

His intent was to set up various telescopes in busy urban locations so that passersby could enjoy views of the heavens. Since then, the event has expanded and is now sponsored by a number of organizations associated with astronomy.

In 2007, an autumn Astronomy Day was added. It was scheduled to occur on a Saturday between mid-September and mid-October so as to be on or close to the first quarter Moon.

This holiday is a bit unusual in that it occurs twice a year on a Saturday, both between mid-April and mid-May and between mid-September and mid-October. Each year the dates are as close as possible to the first quarter moon of the two seasons.

The spring event in 2024 will be held on the 18th of May, and then the autumn event will happen on the 12th of October.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Afghanistan thanks Iran for 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.

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.



Maral, the beautiful Persian deer

Persian deer, known as maral in Iran, was unfortunately on the brink of extinction over the past decades.

Restoration plans started in 1991 and seven red deer were transferred from a breeding site in the northern Golestan to the northwestern East Azarbaijan province.



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MAY 14, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Beware! Whoever is cruel and harsh to a non-Muslim minority, curtailing their rights, overburdening them, or stealing from them, I will complain [to God] about that person on the Day of Judgment.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

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

Leader praises “Carpet Weaver Girl” in a published commendation

TEHRAN- Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has written a commendation for “Carpet Weaver Girl,” a biography that narrates the life of martyr Golab Ali Hosseinzadeh and his devoted wife.

The Leader, in the commendation unveiled at the 35th Tehran International Book Fair on Sunday, wrote, “May the grace and blessings of God be upon the patient and resilient lady introduced in this book.”

Written by Davoud Hosseinzadeh, son of the esteemed martyr, the book introduces aspects of the life of martyr Golab Ali Hosseinzadeh, one of the working-class society’s martyrs in the country and his devoted and patient wife. Initially, the

author wrote this book with a focus on narrating the hardships of the martyr’s wife. In the midst of his work, he realized that the book was lacking something by not mentioning the father.

In the introduction of the book, the author writes, “My aim in writing these lines was to keep alive and remind the prominent and irreplaceable role of the martyrs’ wives. Their perseverance and patience during difficult and exhausting days have been crucial for continuing the path of the martyrs. Hopefully, the sacrifices and selflessness of the martyrs and their patient and faithful wives will serve as a guiding light for future generations.”

“The Carpet Weaver Girl” consists of 15 chapters and was published in 2022 by Shahed Publications.

Film Museum to showcase restored biopic “Ferdowsi” from 1934

TEHRAN- The Film Museum of Iran, in collaboration with National Film Archive of Iran, is set to showcase parts of a restored version of “Ferdowsi,” a biopic about the Persian poet directed by Abdolhossein Sepanta in 1934.

The screening is scheduled to take place at the Ferdows Hall of the museum at 5 pm on Tuesday in commemoration of Ferdowsi Day.

Following the screening, scholars Fariba Shokuchi and Hooman Shobeiri will provide insights and analysis of the film. Considered one of the pivotal works in Iranian cinema history, the film has undergone restoration by the Film Archive of Iran.

This screening of the film is open to the public free of charge and welcomes film enthusiasts of the renowned Iranian poet.

Sepanta made the film after “Lor Girl,” the first sound film ever produced in the Persian language. It was produced by Ardeshir Irani and Sepanta under the Imperial Film Company in Bombay.

Ferdowsi, the poet of the epic Persian masterpiece Shahnameh, is celebrated every year on the 25th of Ordibehesht, which is Ferdowsi and

Persian Language Commemoration Day on the Iranian calendar. Ferdowsi, born in 940 CE in the city of Tus, eastern Iran, is celebrated as one of the greatest Persian poets and the author of the epic Shahnameh, also known as the Book of Kings. Comprising over 50,000 verses, this magnum opus recounts the mythical and historical tales of Iran from its creation to the Islamic conquest. Ferdowsi spent over three decades composing the Shahnameh, a labor of love and dedication to preserving Persian cultural heritage and language. His work not only became a cornerstone of Persian literature but also played a crucial role in revitalizing the Persian language during a time of Arab domination in Iran.

Ferdowsi’s poetry is not only renowned for its literary excellence and storytelling prowess but also for its nationalistic and patriotic themes. Through his epic tales of ancient kings, heroes, and battles, Ferdowsi immortalized the virtues of bravery, honor, and loyalty. His emphasis on the timeless values of justice and righteousness continues to resonate with readers and audiences to this day, making him a revered figure in Iranian culture and history.

Cartoon of Day



Concentration Camp
Cartoonist: Mohammad Sabaaneh from Palestine

Ayatollah Khamenei visits 35th Tehran Intl. Book Fair

From Page 1 ▶ They also presented him with information about their newest publications.

The Tehran International Book Fair opened to the public on Wednesday.

Over 2,500 Iranian publishers as well as 60 foreign publishers take part in this edition of the book fair, which is underway in both physical and virtual formats, allowing each publisher to choose their preferred method of participation based on the fair’s regulations.

For physical book sales, publications from 2020 onwards are accepted, while for virtual sales, books published from 2014 onwards are eligible for inclusion in the fair.

Yemen is the special guest of this edition of the book fair. Initially, India was designated as the special guest of the book fair, but due to restrictions on Indian citizens traveling to Iran, the organizers made the decision to replace India with Yemen.



Being Iran’s major trade fair for books, the TIBF has been turned into a landmark, momentous book fair in West Asia after 34 editions in a row. Millions of visitors inspect the fair every year, including thousands of university students, scholars, and

their families.

The cultural event currently serves as the most significant cultural event in Iran. The foreign publishers substantially offer their materials in English or Arabic however titles in French, German, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese are also available.

The 35th Tehran International Book Fair, with the slogan “Let’s Read and Create,” will continue until May 18 in the Tehran’s Imam Khomeini Mosalla.

Book by Israeli historian on occupied territories published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of the book “The Biggest Prison on Earth” written by the Israeli historian Ilan Pappé has hit the Iranian bookstores.

Maryam Gharagozlou and Mehdi Khanalizadeh have translated the book, which is published by Ketabestan Publications, Mehr reported.

Following his critically acclaimed investigation of the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in the 1940s, renowned historian Pappé turns his attention to the annexation and occupation of Gaza and the West Bank in this book, bringing the readers the first comprehensive critique of the Occupied Territories.

Based on groundbreaking archival research, NGO records, and eyewitness accounts, Pappé’s investigation of the “bureaucracy of evil” explores the brutalizing effects of occupation, from the systematic abuse of human and civil rights, the IDF roadblocks, mass arrests, and house searches to the forced population transfer, the settlers, and the infamous wall that is rapidly turning the West Bank into an open prison. Providing a sharp contrast with life in Israel, this is a brilliantly incisive and moving portrait of daily life in the Occupied Territories.

First published in 2016, “The Biggest Prison on Earth” exposes Israeli violations in Palestine against its indigenous people. The Israeli historian reveals Israel’s ugly crimes against humanity over the years, using clear-cut evidence that indicts the settler colonial entity. Pappé comprehensively analyzes Zionist objectives in occupied Palestine, and

the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians in different historical epochs.

He begins by describing Israeli preparations made several years before 1967’s Six-Day War to control large portions of Palestine without formally annexing them and thereby granting civil rights to the Palestinians living there. Instead, with the imposition of Israeli rule, “the Palestinians living there were incarcerated for crimes they never committed and for offences that were never committed, confessed, or defined.”

Pappé shows that the Israelis offered an “open-air prison” when the Palestinians were compliant and a “maximum security prison” when they offered any resistance. Both left them shorn of basic human rights but the latter also featured harsh punishments up to and including military attacks on civilians.

The author cites numerous violations of international law as well as generally duplicitous behavior by Israeli leaders toward other nations and international bodies, particularly during the Oslo Accord negotiations. Moreover, according to a 2016 U.N. report, Israel’s actions toward the Gaza Strip will render life there “unsustainable” by 2020. Pappé’s conclusions won’t be welcome in all quarters but this detailed history is rigorously supported by primary sources.

The Israeli historian’s work earned the 2017 Book of Palestine Award, and it was recently translated into Arabic.

He has dedicated his book to the children of Palestine who endured killing, injury, and bullying because they live in the biggest prison

on earth.

Pappé, 69, is a professor with the College of Social Sciences and International Studies at the University of Exeter in the UK, director of the university’s European Centre for Palestine Studies, co-director of the Exeter Centre for Ethno-Political Studies, and political activist. He was formerly a senior lecturer in political science at the University of Haifa (1984–2007) and chair of the Emil Touma Institute for Palestinian and Israeli Studies in Haifa (2000–2008).

Pappé is one of Israel’s new historians who, since the release of pertinent British and Israeli government documents in the early 1980s, have been rewriting the history of Israel’s creation in 1948, and the corresponding expulsion or flight of 700,000 Palestinians in the same year.

He has written that the expulsions were not decided on an ad hoc basis, as other historians have argued, but constituted the ethnic cleansing of Palestine, in accordance with Plan Dalet, drawn up in 1947 by Israel’s future leaders. He blames the creation of Israel for the lack of peace in the Middle East, arguing that Zionism is more dangerous than Islamic militancy, and has called for an international boycott of Israeli academics.

His work has been both supported and criticized by other historians. Before he left Israel in 2008, he had been condemned in the Knesset, Israel’s parliament; a minister of education had called for him to be sacked; his photograph had appeared in a newspaper at the center of a target; and he had received several death threats.

Artists using social media-based comics to support Gaza

Comics and graphic narratives have long been used to document the events of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, both by people visiting and reporting on the region, as well as by Palestinians and Israelis.

Prominent texts include comic book artist and journalist Joe Sacco’s “Palestine,” a detailed and visually chaotic account of the artist’s visit to Gaza and Sarah Glidden’s “How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less,” a travelogue detailing the cartoonist’s experience as a Jewish-American tourist in Israel, MENAFN reported.

There is also Guy Delisle’s “Jerusalem,” a story about living in Israel as a French-Canadian ex-pat, Palestinian artist Leila Abdelrazaq’s “Baddawi,” a historical and familial retelling of life in a Lebanese refugee camp and Palestinian political cartoonist Naji al-Ali’s “A Child in Palestine,” a collection of political cartoons featuring a now-iconic child named Handala. Israeli comic book artist Rutu Modan’s “Exit Wounds” recounts a love story set against the backdrop of a suicide

bombing.

As a Jewish American woman embarking on an Israeli-funded Birthright Trip, Sarah Glidden faces the violence enacted by the Israeli state. Her book highlights her quest for an authentic representation of Israeli and Palestinian lived realities, and her journey towards self-acceptance.

Personal memory and reflection - whether about identity versus culture or lived experience versus political unrest - has been a common thread across many graphic representations.

Comics and illustration can be powerful forms of witness in their capacity to juxtapose text and image. While some illustrators or cartoonists have replicated antisemitic, orientalist and anti-Arab stereotypes, taking up the long-established visual negative stereotypical tropes, others seek to document, educate and empathize with victims.

Palestinian artists such as Mohammad Sabaaneh, author of “Power Born of Dreams: My Story is Palestine and Palestine in Black and White,” offers regular updates

about events in Gaza while highlighting the artist’s criticism of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). In one post, Sabaaneh illustrates the word “Gaza” as if it were carved from large stones, and the word “genocide” spelled out across a series of rockets.

Sabaaneh’s evocative illustrations have been featured in the Washington Post alongside the work of other Palestinian and Israeli cartoonists who are similarly sharing their critiques of the ongoing violence.

Sabaaneh, along with other Palestinian artists, are joined by western illustrators who are similarly using their social networks to draw attention to the IDF military incursion and its deadly effects.

These digital comics are circulated among platform users and provide an accessible outlet for processing emotion, showing solidarity and disseminating knowledge.

This is in line with media and communication scholar Fredrika Thelander’s research on mental health and social media,

which argues that platform users “leverage platform affordances to create networks of care based in mutual experience.”

Cartoonist Lynda Barry has consistently used Instagram to showcase her protest, sharing what the artist calls “Ceasefire Balloons.” In these drawings, Barry uses balloons to represent the growing death count of Palestinian children.

One of Barry’s “Ceasefire Balloon” paintings along with other pieces were sold on the artist’s Etsy page in support of the Middle East Children’s Alliance.

Barry’s posts are often met with messages of support and empathy from followers. Her activist work has also translated into a fundraising project, with paintings of “Ceasefire Balloons” being sold on Etsy in support of the Middle East Children’s Alliance.

Montréal author and illustrator Sandra Dumais has also taken up a practice of creating comics that reflect her response to the ongoing attacks while simultaneously spreading messages of awareness and solidarity.