

76 years after that fateful day

# The Rise of a 'Resistant Nation' from the Ashes of 'Nakba'



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## Foreign Ministry issues statement marking 76th anniversary of Nakba

TEHRAN- the Iranian Foreign Ministry has expressed solidarity with Palestinian people in their struggle against the "fake and illegitimate Zionist regime" on the anniversary of the day when Israel declared existence 76 years ago, describing Palestine as the foremost issue of the Muslim world.

On the 76th anniversary of the Nakba (catastrophe) Day, which occurred in 1948 and coincided with the Israeli regime's declaration of independence, the Iranian Foreign Ministry released a statement on Tuesday.

The following is the text of the statement, published on the Ministry's website:

The 14th of May 1948 was the beginning of the calamitous period of the occupation of Palestine and the clear violation of the rights of its oppressed people, especially their right to self-determination whose sinister consequences have engulfed the region and the Islamic world for the past 76 years and turned into a deep and painful wound on the body of the Islamic world. ▶ Page 2

## UN: Gaza death toll exceeds 35,000

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Palestinian Ministry of health revised the death toll of Gazans killed by indiscriminate Israeli attacks, but the figure remains the same and most likely an undercount.

As Israeli occupation leaders leap to downplay the credibility of Gaza's Health Ministry by accusing it of manipulating the number of dead, the United Nations has verified the ministry's figure.

The enclave's latest death toll is an updated breakdown of how many children, women, men and the elderly have been killed, according to UN spokesperson Farhan Haq.

The death toll in the Gaza Strip, cited regularly by the UN is still more than 35,000 but now reflects a breakdown of 24,686 bodies "who have been fully identified".

Medics working in extremely difficult conditions in the blockaded Gaza Strip, where the health sector is on the brink of collapse, say the bodies of the dead that arrive at hospitals are, on many occasions, unrecognizable. ▶ Page 5

## Even nuking Gaza will fail to break the will of Palestinians

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN – The suggestion by Senator Lindsey Graham to drop nuclear bombs on Gaza is extremely astonishing that also shows that he is not only out of his mind but also detached from reality.

Speaking on NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday, Graham drew comparisons between Israel's war on Gaza and the decision by the United States to drop atomic bombs on Japan during World War II – urging Israel to "do whatever you have to do". He called the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 the "right decision" for the US.

"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 bombing Hiroshima, Nagasaki with nuclear weapons," Graham said. "That was the right decision," he concluded.

The inflammatory remarks by the Republican senator can be analyzed from different angles. Through his appalling and dreadful suggestion, Graham is indirectly creating a sense of fear among countries that they may also one day be threatened by nuclear

## Iran urges increased efforts to release imprisoned citizen in Iraq

TEHRAN – The Iranian foreign minister met with the father and wife of Mohammad Reza Nouri, an Iranian citizen imprisoned in Iraq on Tuesday, discussing his arrest process and legal situation.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian passionately called for heightened efforts to secure Nouri's release and repatriation. Expressing deep concern, Nouri's wife highlighted the emotional toll his prolonged imprisonment has taken on both him and their young children, emphasizing the critical importance of his overall well-being. She urged the Foreign Minister to redouble efforts in securing her husband's freedom and his safe return to Iran.

In response, Amir Abdollahian underscored the diplomatic apparatus's obligation to protect the consular rights of Iranians globally. He emphasized the urgent need for Iranian officials to actively engage in Mohammad Reza Nouri's case.

As he outlined the efforts made thus far, the Iranian foreign minister assured Nouri's father and wife that the diplomatic apparatus would leave no stone unturned in assisting him and expediting his release and repatriation to Iran.

## Iran, Vietnam deepen ties with police cooperation agreement

TEHRAN – Iran's Police Chief, Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan, and Vietnam's Minister of Public Security, General Tô Lâm, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral police cooperation.

During the signing ceremony held in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, General Tô Lâm emphasized the importance of fostering relations between the two nations, particularly in the sphere of law enforcement. He highlighted the friendship and mutual respect that serve as the foundation for expanded collaboration.

The agreement aims to enhance law enforcement cooperation in combating organized crime. ▶ Page 3

## "Read the Headlines Again": an artistic protest against ongoing genocide in Gaza

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The "Read the Headlines Again" exhibition, currently on display at the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran, is an art project that aims to shed light on the ongoing genocide in Gaza through the language of art.

In an interview with Tehran Times on Tuesday, Zeinab Zandpour, one of the exhibition's organizers, shared the story behind the project. She explained that the exhibition was conceived after witnessing the devastating events that took place in Gaza since October 7 and the stark contrast between light and darkness. ▶ Page 8



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## Iran says technical, legal talks with Kuwait is only way to resolve Arash gas field issue

TEHRAN – Nasser Kana'ani, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has invited the Kuwaiti government to the table of technical and expert negotiations to solve the Arash gas field issue, Shana reported.

"The only solution to this issue is the technical and legal dialogue between the two sides without resorting to media controversies," Kana'ani said.

The development of bilateral relations with the neighboring and Arab countries of the region and the creation of a positive and constructive atmosphere in bilateral and multilateral dialogues with the neighboring countries requires additional steps to be taken to improve the level of multilateral cooperation, he said. ▶ Page 4

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Iran, a global transit route

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

In an article, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with the implementation of the Tehran-Delhi agreement after 7 years. It wrote: Iran's decisive response to Israel was the crossing of one of the most important red lines of the United States, and it was faced with only a diplomatic response from the United States. This caused India to change its policy and sign the Chabahar Agreement. Considering the current contract with India and the 25-year contract with China, we can hope that Iran will become an important corridor and transit center in the world in the coming years because Iran is supposed to become a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Chinese will play an active role in the construction of refineries and petrochemical industries in this port and make long-term investments. Also, in the agreement with India, Chabahar is supposed to become an important transit center. According to these agreements between Iran and the great powers, it can be said that Iran is becoming one of the important transit hubs in the south of the Persian Gulf, and in the long term, it has the ability to play the role of a global intersection.

#### Etemad: Tehran's policy change towards the Caucasus

In a note, Etemad addressed the issue of Iran's strategy towards its northern neighbors and said: Iran is trying not to turn the Caucasus region into a venue for extra-regional competition. In a situation where both in Armenia and Azerbaijan the extra-regional actors are finding their place, Iran has warned both sides to avoid doing so. Due to its strategic connection with the Zionist regime, Baku can provoke regional conflicts. On the other hand, Armenia, which is under pressure from the United States and France, fears that this will damage its very close relations with Iran, and it will provoke the Russians to occupy Armenia. Therefore, the conflicts in three points of Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Gaza have had a major impact on Iran's security strategy. Iran's enemies, including the United States and the Israeli regime, have long sought to challenge Tehran in the Caucasus and even Central Asia, in addition to the Middle East. In this situation, Tehran has changed its policy towards the Caucasus and its results will be clearer in the future.

#### Jam-e-Jam: Diplomatic achievement of the True Promise operation

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam pointed out

another achievement that was made by the implementation of the "True Promise" operation for Iran. It wrote: According to some experts, this event is a diplomatic achievement, and the support of China and Russia prevented the condemnation of Iran's action in the UN Security Council. This diplomatic success was manifested in the retreat of the United States and made the Biden administration worried about the consequences of the war and pushed the American foreign policy system to restrain Tel Aviv in two actions. First, to prevent the preemptive operation of the Zionist regime before Iran's operation, and second, to prevent this regime's severe retaliation after Iran's operation. In the end, it can be said that the implementation of the True Promise operation is in favor of Iran and the Resistance Front as an action towards change in the balance of power. Iran intelligently and deliberately did not use the two elements of surprise and multilateralism in this operation and did not use its most advanced and powerful weapons. Iran sending the political message of this operation was more important than its technical strike.

#### Hamshahri: Strategic competition in Chabahar

In an interview with former Iranian diplomat Mohsen Rouhi Sefat, Hamshahri investigated the strategic competition in Chabahar and wrote: Iran and India are taking forward steps in the development of bilateral cooperation in Chabahar port, an issue that, according to the strategic importance of this port in the region, is considered one of the basic agendas of both sides. According to Indian officials, the agreement between Iran and India can be a trust-building factor for world businessmen. Despite the importance of Chabahar port for the Chinese, Indians are not very interested in China's presence in Chabahar because they consider this country as their "strategic rival" in the region. Therefore, it should be considered that Chabahar port is one of the bottlenecks of geopolitical developments in the region. We hope that with this development, both sides will take a big step towards advancing the specified strategies in the field of cooperation in Chabahar. The point here is that the expansion of relations between Iran and India is not against the Islamic Republic's relations with China or Pakistan. Also, expanding our cooperation with Pakistan or China does not mean ignoring the importance of Tehran-New Delhi relations.

the international community to provide more financial support to reduce the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. In order to help the people of Yemen and allow the entry of necessary food and supplies into Yemen, the Houthis must stop their attacks on international ships in accordance with Resolution 2722. The U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria have been targeted by drone, rocket, and missile attacks since October 17, 2023. Islamic resistance groups in the West Asia region, including in Iraq and Syria, as well as Yemeni forces, are seeking revenge for Israel's genocide in the Gaza Strip, warning the United States that its bases in the region will be targeted.

The Yemeni army has targeted several Israeli ships or ships heading to the occupied territories in the Red Sea and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait in support of the Palestinian people's resistance in Gaza.

They have stated that their forces are committed to continuing the attacks until the Israeli regime stops its attacks on Gaza. The Yemeni army has also emphasized that navigation in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea is free for other ships and are fully secure. The United States and the United Kingdom, along with 8 other countries, launched an attack on Ansarallah positions in Yemen on January 21 in response to a UN Security Council resolution. The UN Security Council approved Resolution 2722 proposed by the United States and Japan on January 20, 2024, against the group in Yemen regarding attacks in the Red Sea without mentioning the main reason for these attacks and Washington's support for the Israeli regime's bombardment of Gaza.

The U.S. State Department declared Ansarallah "terrorist group" on February 17 following the implementation of a new round of sanctions against them by the U.S. Treasury Department. The administration of President Joe Biden removed the name of Ansarallah from Washington's terrorist list in 2021 with the aim of facilitating peace negotiations in Yemen.

# U.S. lingering intervention exacerbates situation in Afghanistan: FM

TEHRAN- Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Foreign Minister of Iran, has issued a warning that deliberate meddling by the United States in the internal affairs of Afghanistan will exacerbate the country's already difficult condition.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized Iran's commitment to peace, security, and sustainable development in Afghanistan at a meeting with UN Envoy for Afghanistan Roza Otunbayeva on Monday in Tehran.

According to the Foreign Ministry's website, the Iranian foreign minister denounced the damaging role the U.S. played during its occupation of Afghanistan and issued a warning that the country's position would worsen if the U.S. continued to meddle deliberately in Afghanistan's domestic affairs.

He said that Iran is in favor of the UN helping the Afghan people.

The minister praised the good work done in Afghanistan over the last 20 years by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and stated that Iran is in favor of UNAMA's humanitarian missions in the neighboring nation continuing.

He urged the UN to give the issues careful consideration, citing the millions of Afghans living in Iran.

"Afghanistan's problems are complex, so we should focus on diverse and multi-layered solutions," the top Iranian diplomat added.

Additionally, he expressed Iran's willingness to keep up its support of the neighboring countries' endeavor to assist in resolving Afghanistan's issues. Otunbayeva, for her part, talked extensively on the most recent events in Afghanistan as well as the schedule for the next Doha 3 meeting in Qatar. She praised the Iranian government and people for their gracious hospitality for the Afghan people and Iran's attempts



to improve their lot in life, but also blasted the international community for showing no concern for the humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan. In addition, Otunbayeva recognized the intricacy of the circumstances and advancements in Afghanistan, emphasizing the necessity of coordinating the disparate perspectives of regional players in order to promote stability and progress in the country.

She also praised Tehran's diplomatic efforts within the context of the conference of Afghanistan's neighbors and praised Iran's regional activities. In a meeting with Otunbayeva on Monday, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Ali Bagheri Kani, called upon the United Nations and international organizations to prioritize efforts aimed at promoting peace, security, and prosperity in Afghanistan.

Bagheri Kani also 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, particularly 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.

#### "Iran sees India as strategic partner"

In a meeting with Indian Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, held in Tehran on Monday, Amir Abdollahian stated that Iran views India as a trustworthy ally and seeks strategic ties with the South Asian nation based on mutual collaboration. He also noted that Iran's position on ties with India involves the development of strategic alliances.

The Indian minister has visited Iran to sign a landmark deal on the development of Iran's southeastern port city of Chabahar.

"We are prepared to promote cooperation with India with the

bilateral and multilateral capacities and within the framework of BRICS and the Shanghai (Cooperation Organization)," Amir Abdollahian added. He stated that Iran wants to collaborate with India for the long run and sees it as a trustworthy partner.

The agreement on the building of Chabahar Port and increased collaboration in the North-South Corridor were also praised by the foreign minister as ideal chances for the growth of commercial relations.

The Indian minister, for his part, stressed that the signing of the contract for Chabahar's operation and equipment signified a turning point in the history of the two nations' relationship as well as their regional ties. According to Sonowal, the deal is anticipated to increase commerce, fortify ties between Iran and India, and provide India greater opportunities to participate actively in the global supply chain and marine industry.

He said that the agreement will also lead to the establishment of a different economic route that will help Afghanistan, Iran, India, and the countries of Central Asia.

Iran and India have decided to work together through the 10-year agreement announced in Tehran on Monday to equip and run the freight and container terminals at Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar through the India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL).

India has committed to spending \$250 million on Chabahar's transportation infrastructure and \$120 million on the port's vital equipment supply.

India committed to providing funding for the expansion of the Iranian port in 2016, but the U.S. sanctions that were reinstated following Washington's unilateral departure from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) caused the project to come to a standstill two years later.

## State Department reacts to Kharrazi remarks over possibility of changing nuclear doctrine

TEHRAN- Vedant Patel, the spokesperson for the U.S. State Department, has reacted to the remarks by Kamal Kharrazi, the head of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, regarding the possibility of changing Iran's nuclear doctrine in the face of threats to its existence.

During a press briefing on Tuesday, the spokesperson was asked about Kharrazi's recent words that Iran has no choice but to change its nuclear doctrine when facing an enemy.

He then was asked for the opinion on such statements and whether the U.S. officials are concerned about a change in Iran's doctrine.

The spokesperson replied, "Let me reiterate what I have said before, that President Biden and Secretary Blinken will not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons." He went on to add, "We continue to assess, although Iran is not currently engaging in the key activities necessary to produce a testable nuclear weapon."

"We do not believe that Iran's Leader has made a decision to resume the weapons program that we believe was suspended or halted at the end of 2003. But again, we will not allow Iran to have

nuclear weapons," the spokesperson said.

Patel also stated that Washington has ways to communicate with Iran when it is in the U.S. interest, adding that "I will not comment on them. But I will only reiterate that we will not allow Iran to have nuclear weapons."

Kamal Kharrazi, the head of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, said in an interview with Al Jazeera that "if the Zionist regime dares to strike Iran's nuclear facilities, our deterrent level will change, and if Iran's existence is threatened, we will be forced to change our nuclear doctrine."

He answered multiple questions regarding the developments in Gaza, geopolitical changes in the region due to the war and the "Operation True Promise" as well as the shift in global order towards a multipolar world.

During his weekly presser on Monday, the spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, Nasser Kanaani, stated that Tehran has 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.

## Foreign Ministry issues statement marking 76th anniversary of Nakba

From page 1 ▶ Nakba Day (Day of Catastrophe) is the anniversary of the establishment of the occupier apartheid Zionist regime in the heart of the Islamic world due to the malicious conspiracy of British colonialism, marking the beginning of the bloody period of genocide, massacre, displacement, occupation and desecration of the holy land of Palestine with a green light and direct and indirect support by the colonial powers of the world led by the United States of America.

The false Zionist regime, which is a clear symbol of official organized terrorism in the world, adds a new shameful page to its thick ledger of international crimes every time; The discovery of mass graves in Nasser and al-Shifa hospitals in the Gaza Strip portrays a terrible picture of this brutal regime's crime against humanity.

Perpetration of international crimes, including war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity, is considered contrary to the fundamental values of the United Nations and all the recognized international norms, principles, and standards, and without a doubt has made the perpetrators criminally liable. The continued impunity granted to the Zionist criminals runs counter to the provisions of international law.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the killing of more than 35,000 innocent people including women, children and defenseless men and injury of 75,000 people as well as the displacement of hundreds of thousands of helpless people in the occupied Palestinian territories by the Zionist regime with the all-out political and military, economic and intelligence support of the United States over the

past seven months and considers the action of the United States in disrupting the process of stopping the war and killings against Gaza and its recent opposition to the recognition of the Palestinian state in the United Nations as unacceptable, irresponsible and contrary to the demands of the international community.

Now that the true visage of Israel's apartheid regime has been unveiled after years of hypocritical oppression hidden behind the image of anti-Semitism, and the awakened minds and consciences of the world have discovered the true nature of this evil entity after years of media propaganda, and on the other hand, as the internal dissension and discord are now more evident than ever among the very pillars of this fake entity, it is hoped that this real Nakba and holocaust against the oppressed, resistant, free and brave

Palestinian nation will end with the celebration of the Independence Day of the historical Palestinian lands.

On Friday, May 10, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution in which it was confirmed that Palestine is eligible for full membership in the United Nations in accordance with Article 4 of the United Charter.

In this regard, the Iranian Foreign Ministry, by emphasizing the Islamic Republic of Iran's steadfast position on the issue of Palestine and the fake and illegitimate Zionist regime and in support of the liberation struggles of the Palestinian people, once again declares its solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian nation and underscores that the issue of Palestine remains at the forefront of the problems faced by the Islamic world.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

TEHRAN - Iran's special envoy to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, has urged the United Nations to play a more active role in facilitating the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. In a Tuesday meeting with Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Kazemi Qomi emphasized the need for international organizations to assist the Afghan people.

# Tehran calls on UN to facilitate Afghan refugee repatriation



According to Kazemi Qomi's post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), he expressed Iran's readiness to immediately deliver humanitarian aid to flood victims and stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of migration. He also called on the UN to help facilitate the process of refugees returning to their country. The meeting also covered current

issues in Afghanistan and their regional impact, particularly the economic, security, and cultural consequences of migration waves. Kazemi Qomi pointed to the destructive role of the U.S. in the region and its illegal influence on the UN. He highlighted the organization's role in promoting sustainable peace and security in Afghanistan. Since

the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees have fled to Iran through the country's eastern borders. Estimates show that around 3 million Afghan refugees currently reside in Iran, the majority of whom are undocumented. Tehran says it is impossible to help the refugees with no

assistance from international bodies, as the country is grappling with its own economic woes due to heavy U.S. sanctions. Iranian officials have emphasized multiple times that the refugees should be able to return to their home country while being treated with utmost dignity and respect.

## Iran condemns 'interfering' remarks over detained French citizens

TEHRAN - The spokesperson for the Iranian foreign ministry has denounced a French foreign ministry statement that accused Iran of alleged "state hostage-taking" and "blackmail" in the detention of four French nationals.

During an interview with IRNA on Tuesday, Nasser Kanaani characterized the statement as unprofessional, interventionist, and inappropriate, especially given its reliance on unfounded claims. Emphasizing that the individuals mentioned in the French Foreign Ministry's statement were detained based on

solid evidence, Kanaani stressed that the French government is fully aware of their criminal activities. "The people mentioned in the statement of the French foreign ministry were arrested based on solid evidence and witnesses, and the French government is well aware of their crimes," he noted.

He argued that the use of inappropriate language in the French statement hinders progress and resolution. Furthermore, Kanaani reiterated the independence of Iran's judiciary and emphasized the need for respect and enforcement of its decisions. The spokesperson

also highlighted the French government's contradictory stance on human rights issues, pointing to its failure to address the Gaza genocide and its protection of notorious anti-Iranian terrorists. These inconsistencies, according to Kanaani, undermine France's authority to intervene in Iran's judicial matters.

Kanaani urged the French Foreign Ministry to refrain from issuing such statements and employing diplomatically inappropriate language, cautioning against the negative repercussions on bilateral relations and Iranian public sentiment.

## Nemati's participation in 2024 Paralympics not certain: official

TEHRAN - Iranian Para archer Zahra Nemati will likely miss the 2024 Paralympic Games, Jilil Koohpayehzadeh, head of Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled, said on Monday.

Nemati is arguably the most popular and successful female Paralympian to come from Iran. She has won golds at three different editions of the Paralympic Games but will likely not travel to Paris.

"As you know, Zahra Nemati is the most decorated Iran woman Paralympian but he has not yet registered in the Games. Her participation in the upcoming Paralympic Games is not certain yet," Koohpayehzadeh said in the news conference held in the federation's headquarters on Monday.

"Nemati is not in her best form and the Iranian people only want her to be champion. I think we should reduce the pressure on the athletes," he added.

Koohpayehzadeh is hopeful that Iran will finish the 2024 Paralympics among top 10 countries.

"Iran's delegation finished 11th in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, winning 10 gold medals, seven silvers and seven bronzes. We will do our best to be among the top 10 teams in the edition," he stated.

Koohpayehzadeh believes that the Iranian women are capable of stealing the show in the international events, as the sitting volleyball team narrowly missed qualification for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

"Our women's sitting volleyball team could have secured their spot but lost to Slovenia 3-2 in their last game at the 2024 WPV Sitting Volleyball Final Qualifiers in China. But, in my opinion, women's sports need infrastructure and we will support them in the future because I believe in them and I am sure they are capable of shining in the international events" Koohpayehzadeh concluded.

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.

## Iran to meet Kyrgyzstan at 2024 CAFA U15 Women's C'ship opener

TEHRAN - Iran will play Kyrgyzstan in the opening match of the CAFA U15 Women's Championship 2024.

The match is scheduled for May 21 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The Iranian girls will also meet Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on May 23 and 25, respectively.

The CAFA Youth Championship, is an international association football competition contested by the youth (U-14 to U-17) national teams of the members of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA), the governing body of football in Central Asia.

## PGPL: Esteghlal return to top after edging Foolad

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team edged past relegation-threatened Foolad 1-0 here in the 2023/24 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) on Monday.

The Blues returned to top of the table, one point above their archrivals Persepolis.

In the match held at the Azadi Stadium, Iman Salimi found the back of the net with a header just before the hour mark.

In Ahvaz, Nassaji defeated struggling Esteghlal Khuzestan 4-1. Esteghlal Khuzestan reduced to 10 men in the 40th minute.

Zob Ahan also defeated Paykan 1-0 in Isfahan. Ahmad Nourollahi nets a brace against Al Wasl

TEHRAN - Al Wahda football team ended Al Wasl's winning run and imposed their first loss in the UAE Pro League on Monday after securing a 4-1 big win at Zabeel Stadium.

Al Wahda needed just five minutes to break the deadlock. Omar Khribin stroked the ball into the back of the net from the penalty spot.

Soufiane Bouftini climbed above Al Wahda's defense to fire a powerful header into the bottom corner four minutes later.

Ahmad Nourollahi launched a long-range strike that fooled the goalkeeper to give the advantage to Al Wahda in the 62nd minute.

With four minutes remaining, Facundo Daniel scored the third goal and Nourollahi scored the fourth goal in the stoppage time.

The result means that Al Wasl are first with 55 points, while Al Wahda are third with 41 points.

## Iran's Alamiyan advances in ITTF ranking

TEHRAN - Iranian table tennis player Noshad Alamiyan was able to advance seventeen places in the new ranking of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

The latest international tennis player ranking, which was released on Tuesday, revealed that Noshad Alamiyan has improved his position.

He showcased his exceptional skills in the World Table Tennis (WTT) Saudi Smash 2024 tournament, which helped him climb the ranks.

In the Round of 32, Alamiyan defeated Jingkun Liang of China with a score of 3-2 (12-14, 11-6, 8-11, 11-9, 11-5) and advanced to the Round of 16.

Prior to this, he had already defeated players from Egypt, Belgium, and Austria in the same event.

According to the International Table Tennis Federation's May 2024 ranking, Noshad Alamiyan has improved his position by seventeen places and now holds the 51st position in the world.

## Consul general elaborates on Iranian delegation's agenda at Kazan Forum

TEHRAN- Davood Mirzakhani, serving as Iran's consul general in Kazan, Russia, has shed light on the forthcoming Kazan Forum, detailing the multifaceted representation of Iran by both public and private sectors.

Scheduled to commence on May 15, the 15th International Economic Forum titled "Russia-Islamic World," commonly known as the Kazan Forum, anticipates the participation of over 20,000 individuals from 100 nations. Mirzakhani, speaking on Tuesday, underscored Iran's robust engagement in the event, emphasizing its representation at both governmental and private levels.

He noted Russia's invitation to various Iranian delegations, with confirmed attendance from several high-ranking Iranian officials, including Iran's Deputy Foreign

Minister for Political Affairs.

Highlighting the objectives of the Iranian delegation, Mirzakhani outlined plans to articulate Iran's perspectives and stances on various issues during the summit.

Additionally, he revealed that a specialized session dedicated to discussing Iran-Russia relations is slated as part of the summit's agenda.

Russian president Vladimir Putin also sent greetings to the participants and guests of the 15th International Economic Forum "Russia-Islamic World: Kazan Forum," underway in Kazan.

The message reads, in part:

"Tatarstan is once again clearly demonstrating its abundant potential and strong commitment to progress in various areas. The region's achievements

in the economy, social sphere, science and culture are truly impressive and serve as tangible proof of the significant contribution that Russian Muslims, and people from all ethnic groups living in the Republic, make to developing the Fatherland, strengthening its sovereignty and influence in the world, and ensuring stability and harmony in our society.

Russia values its traditionally friendly ties with Muslim countries. We highly appreciate their desire to pursue an independent foreign policy and increase their role in international affairs. Together, we stand for the formation of a democratic multipolar world order, based on the rule of law and principles of justice, free from any form of dictatorship and discrimination. Of course, we

are also committed to expanding mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas, from trade and investment to sports and tourism.

We believe the next meeting of the Russia-Islamic World Strategic Vision Working Group, organised together with representatives of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, is of great importance.

It is also important that Russia's interaction with this authoritative international association on current issues of the regional and global agenda is progressing.

I believe that the work of the Forum will be meaningful and constructive as always and will be held in a spirit of openness and trust. It will serve to further promote the friendship and creative partnership between our countries and peoples."

## Iran, Vietnam deepen ties with police cooperation agreement

From Page 1 ► terrorism, cybercrime, drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, arms trafficking, document forgery, and illegal immigration. It also focuses on the exchange of information.

As part of his visit, General Radan will tour the National Training Centre on Terrorism Prevention,

the National Centre for Population Database, and the Department of Cyber Security and Hi-tech Crime Prevention. The visit is believed to showcase Iran's commitment to collaborative efforts in addressing transnational threats.

Iran and Vietnam have been on the path to deepen ties and expand cooperation in different

fields in the past two years.

In August of 2023, the two nations inked their first legislative agreement, which aimed to boost comprehensive cooperation with a focus on economy and diplomacy. The two countries are also poised to sign preferential and clearing trade agreements in near future.



most important ones is the Zones Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction

The UN Conference on Disarmament is the only international negotiating body on disarmament

## Iran presides over 'Conference on Disarmament'

TEHRAN- Ali Bahraini, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva, delivered speech in the Conference of Disarmament on Tuesday.

The meeting, which was held under the presidency of Bahraini, regarded the CD agenda item 6: "Comprehensive Program of Disarmament" with the topic of "Relationship Between Disarmament and Development."

The plenary began with panelist presentations followed by an interactive discussion on disarmament and development. The 2024 Conference on Disarmament will be held in accordance with the conference's rules in three parts of 10, 7, and 7 weeks from January 23 to September 13, 2024.

During its presidency, Iran has tried to hold panels on some disarmament issues. One of the

## Commander emphasizes northeastern border blockade project for national security

TEHRAN- The endeavor to fortify the northeastern borders of Iran has been underscored as a paramount measure for ensuring the security of the country by the commander of the Iranian Army's ground forces.

Emphasizing Tehran's adherence to amicable relations with all neighboring states, according to the commander, this initiative is framed within the context of safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Following an inspection of the project's progress, Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari extended his gratitude to the 41th Combat Engineering Group of the Army

Ground Forces, commending the dedicated efforts of its personnel.

Highlighting the significance of the border blockade project as a strategic imperative, the commander reiterated its vital role in national defense and security.

Furthermore, he lauded the tireless endeavors of the 41th Combat Engineering Group, expressing his earnest wishes for their continued success in executing this pivotal and strategic undertaking. Back on March 10, General Heidari underscored the extensive deployment of forces across all national borders. Highlighting

the significant contributions of these warriors, he emphasized their collaboration with the Islamic Revolution Guards' Ground Forces and border patrol, collectively working to establish and maintain stable security. General Heidari provided insights into the strategic positioning of the Ground Forces at the country's borders. "Divisions and regional bases are actively engaged in fulfilling their roles to bolster national security," he added.

Heidari reiterated the steadfast presence of the Army's Ground Forces at all national borders, emphasizing the enduring commitment of these warriors in

ensuring continuous stable security.

He stressed that Iran's primary objective is to ensure stability and security within its borders, a responsibility shouldered by its Armed Forces. Addressing ongoing efforts, he discussed the meticulous process of clearing areas contaminated with mines and remnants from the Iran-Iraq war era. Iranian authorities have consistently stated their commitment to enhancing the country's military capabilities, with a clear focus on defensive purposes. They have asserted that Iran's defense capabilities are non-negotiable and will not be subject to discussions

## Iran says technical, legal talks with Kuwait is only way to resolve Arash gas field issue



From page 1 ▶ “About the Arash gas field, our stance is clear. The maritime borders between Iran and Kuwait have not been determined, and we cannot say anything about their share in the ownership of Arash field,” the official noted.

The two sides have had nine rounds of legal negotiations with each other in this regard and the follow-ups to determine the border limits are continuing, he said, stressing that the only solution to this problem is the technical and legal dialogue between the Iranian and Kuwaiti delegations without resorting to media controversies.

“Iran, while emphasizing its goodwill with neighboring countries, invites the Kuwaiti government to return to the table of technical and expert negotiations to reach a stable agreement that will secure the interests of both sides,” he finally stated.

Back in April, Iran’s Foreign Ministry dismissed new assertions by Kuwait of exclusive rights to the entirety of the Arash gas field in the Persian Gulf. This was in reaction to a joint statement by Kuwait and Jordan following a meeting between their leaders, which underscored the gas field, Durra as they call it, is situated within the Kuwaiti territorial waters, with all its resources belonging to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, Kan’ani dismissed the remarks as invalid and said the unilateral assertion of such claims does not create any right for the claimant.

“We urge Kuwait to avoid the incorrect path of media hype on this matter and instead return to technical and legal negotiations, which is the best and most appropriate way to address the issue.”

“Based on historical rights and the record of joint negotiations, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to continue discussions within a framework that ensures respect for mutual interests.”

The spokesman emphasized Iran’s adherence to the principle of good faith in regional interactions and stressed the need to avoid the involvement of third-party states in this matter.

## ‘Agriculture Ministry to focus on export-based production’

TEHRAN - Iran’s Minister of Agriculture said his ministry is concentrating on export-based production in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024).

Speaking in a meeting with senior managers of the ministry, Mohammad Ali Nikbakht said more than \$1.0 billion of agricultural products were exported from the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024), showing a 13 and 23 percent hike in weight and value respectively compared to a year earlier.

He pointed to the current year’s motto “Production Jump with the People’s Participation” and added that his ministry will make efforts to materialize the objectives of the motto.

Nikbakht called on the responsible organizations and companies to provide exporters of agricultural products with the necessary facilities in order to spur exports and export activities, IRNA reported.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the agriculture minister termed investing in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors as an opportunity for realizing the goals of the production jump, noting that

fisheries and aquaculture sectors have ample capacities and can also improve the productivity of soil and water.

The value of Iran’s exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year, the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran’s House of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products accounted for 12.8 percent of the country’s total non-oil exports in the previous year.

Iraq was the top destination for Iran’s agro-food products in the mentioned year importing \$1.986 billion worth of the said items. The Arab neighbor accounted for 31.5 percent of the total exports of food and agricultural products from Iran.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood in second place, importing \$751 million of the mentioned products, followed by Russia with \$521.5 million.

## Iran seeking to link Chabahar port to railway network by Mar. 2025

TEHRAN - Iran’s Minister of Transport and Urban Development has announced that the government plans to connect the Chabahar port in southeastern Iran to the country’s railway network through the city of Zahedan by the end of the current Iranian year (late March 2025).

“Our entire effort is to complete the Chabahar-Zahedan rail section by the end of the year and put it in the service of the country’s transit development,” Mehrdad Bazrpush told reporters on Monday after signing a contract with India to develop the port of Chabahar.

India has been developing Chabahar on Iran’s southeastern coast along the Gulf of Oman to facilitate the transfer of goods to Iran, Afghanistan, and central Asian countries, as an alternative to the ports of Karachi and Gwadar in rival Pakistan.

Additionally, Bazrpush said he proposed a plan to Indian officials to launch a joint shipping company between Iran and India to expand transit routes in the region. “This

proposal will be officially presented soon,” he added.

The minister noted that the transit container line between Iran, China, and India is running regularly, and its transit volume grew by more than 154% last calendar year.

“With the development of the Chabahar port, we hope to see an even greater increase in this transit volume,” he said.

Speaking about the joint project, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari also said that the Chabahar deal is “good news for exporters, importers and transit in Iran and other Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Russia, and the Caucasus.”

He said that measures have been taken to facilitate the transit of goods from Iran to Central Asia and the Caucasus until the Chabahar-Khash railway becomes operational.

“In this regard, 150 trucks are transporting cargo through this route to Central Asia and the Caucasus,” he said.

## ISIRI becomes a member of ILAC

TEHRAN - The Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI) has become a member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the ISIRI head announced on Tuesday.

Mehdi Eslam-Panah delivered the news in a meeting with the members of the board of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries,

Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), IRNA reported.

According to Eslam-Panah, ILAC provides the tools and technical infrastructure to assess the conformity of calibration, testing, results of medical tests and inspections, proficiency testing programs, and the production of valid reference materials.

# Tehran, Moscow to expand cooperation in gas technologies

TEHRAN - Energy officials from Iran and Russia emphasized expanding and developing bilateral cooperation in the field of gas technologies.

Director of the Corporate Planning of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hossein-Ali Mohammad Hosseini in a meeting with the energy officials of the Russian Federation stressed the need to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the gas industry.

He said the two sides should identify the capacities and opportunities for more cooperation and coordination in the field.

Mohammad Hosseini pointed to the willingness of Iran to expand relations with Russia in the energy sector and said the country welcomes the suggestion of Russia’s Ministry of Energy on setting up a specialized panel discussion in the fields of digitization, monitoring, and analyzing data in the Russia Energy Week and also in Energy Congress in St. Petersburg. Elsewhere in his remarks, the NIGC director emphasized the need for sharing common experiences in areas such as reducing the amount of gas loss and improving gas installations’ safety against sabotages and terrorist attacks and added that Iran enjoys significant capacities for exporting, importing, refining and transmitting gas and is ready to enhance its cooperation with Russia



in this field.

The representatives and authorities of the Russian Federation emphasized the need to identify capacities and opportunities for more coordination.

Setting up a joint research center in the gas sector and also a gas hub in northern Iran as well as trading in gas and electricity sectors were among the other topics discussed by the two sides at the meeting.

Earlier this month, Mojtaba Damirchilou, the secretary-general of the Eurasian Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed to establish an energy corridor from Russia passing through Iran to the Persian Gulf. Speaking on the sidelines of the 28th Iran International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2024), Damirchilou said according to the

geographical location and existing infrastructure in Iran, the capacity is available to pay attention to this issue, as regional countries are also interested in cooperating with Iran in this regard. The use of existing infrastructure and the creation of new infrastructure to reach regional markets should be considered

constructive cooperation has been started to this end and we have a clear vision, the official stated.

He also noted that there is cooperation between Iran and the regional countries in the field of energy export, swap, and transit.

There have been long-standing ties between Iran and the countries of the Eurasian region, as these regions have extensive connections with Iran, the official stated.

The official went on to say that Iran has energy ties with all the

countries of the Eurasian region, explaining that these countries are either oil and gas producers and exporters or energy consumers.

Iran’s energy networks are connected with Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, Damirchilou noted, adding that effective communication between Iran and neighboring countries is underway.

“In the field of exporting petroleum products and petrochemical products, there are many capacities and a clear perspective could be imagined,” he said. As for investment and cooperation, such as the development of oil and gas fields, a constructive understanding has been formed between Iran and Russia, as several contracts are being implemented, he said, noting that under the new conditions of Russia due to the oil embargoes on the country, a new field of cooperation has been formed.

In the Iran Oil Show 2024, some companies from the Eurasian states were present to get familiar with the potential of Iran, and efforts were made to establish professional connections between the experts and representatives of Iranian and Eurasian companies, the official stated. Inaugurated on Wednesday, May 8, Iran Oil Show 2024 was open to visitors at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground until Saturday, May 11.

## Iran to use offshore rial in exchanges with Russia soon

TEHRAN - Governor of Iran Central Bank (CBI) Mohammadreza Farzin has urged the need for prioritizing the use of offshore rial in trade exchanges with Russia as he said the operational measures have been finalized in this regard.

Farzin made the remarks in a meeting with the president and other senior members of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) where deputies of the ministers of agriculture and industry were also present. Referring to CBI achievements in restoring major financial indexes such as liquidity rate, inflation and monetary base to the long-term levels, Iran’s chief banker stressed that the CBI has plans this year to stabilize the forex market

through the Iran Center for Currency and Gold Exchange. He also said that the enemies are struggling to destabilize the Iranian forex market and increase inflationary expectations, and urged the economic activists to help the central bank in curbing inflation and strengthening production.

Also speaking during the meeting, Mohsen Karimi, the deputy CBI governor for international affairs, said that the CBI is pursuing the use of offshore rial for trade with Russia, Afghanistan, and Iraq while noting that the mechanism has nearly been finalized for trade with Russia and will be operationalized soon.

He predicted that Iran and Russia would be able

to carry out 1 to 1.5 billion dollars of their trade exchanges in offshore rial. Karimi added that the CBI is still in talks with Afghan and Iraqi officials in this regard. In the meantime, ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh hailed CBI measures in calming the foreign exchange market in spite of different political disputes across the region. He demanded more increased cooperation between the CBI and Iran Chamber of Commerce for regulating trade processes. Yahya Al-e Eshaq, a member of the ICCIMA, also addressed the meeting, calling for the adoption of measures that would ensure the participation of all the business actors, including those active in the areas of imports and exports, in policy makings.

## Sea passenger lines to be launched from Iran’s Qeshm, Kish to Dubai, Oman

TEHRAN - The secretary of Iran’s Supreme Council of Free Industrial-Trade and Special Economic Zones said sea passenger lines are planned to be launched from Qeshm and Kish islands to the Sultanate of Oman and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Hojatollah Abdolmaleki pointed to the development of sea tourism and transportation of sea passengers in the free zones of the

country and said that in addition to developing the domestic sea lines, there are plans to launch recreational and passenger lines from Kish and Qeshm islands to the destinations of Dubai and Oman.

The development of maritime tourism and transportation of sea passengers in the free zones of the country have been put on the agenda of the council, Abdolmaleki

emphasized. He stressed that Qeshm and Kish islands have high capacities for launching maritime lines to Persian Gulf littoral states. Given the keenness of investors in the private sector, the country would witness the commissioning of these international maritime lines which will boost maritime tourism in the region, he underscored.

Abdolmaleki said more than 100

investment packages, valued at €1.0 billion, have been presented to the investors of the private sector.

Emphasizing that the free zones have become a safe place for preventing capital flight from the country, the adviser to the Iranian president stated that the presence of both domestic and foreign tourists in the free zones has contributed to the economic development of the country.

## President Raisi inaugurates major ICT projects



TEHRAN - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi participated in the ceremony of inaugurating six information and communications technology projects as well as the signing of contracts

for purchasing equipment from domestic manufacturers active in the telecommunications industry. Concurrent with World Communication Day, the infrastructure projects were inaugurated in the presence of the president at the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology in Tehran on Tuesday.

The seven projects include the fiber-optic project for homes and businesses in 20 cities, the connection of the 7,500th village with more than 20 households to Iran’s communication network, the national IP network development project in 6

new locations, the 1,800th site equipped with 5th generation of cellular network technology, the transmission network using domestic production capabilities, and the 5th generation of cell phones.

In the ceremony, 11 contracts were also signed to purchase network equipment from domestic knowledge-based companies by telecommunications operators.

Upon his arrival at the inauguration ceremony, President Raisi inspected the latest achievements of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology.

## Iran’s deposits with foreign banks Top \$13b: BIS

TEHRAN - The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) put Iran’s total deposits with foreign banks and financial institutions at more than \$13 billion.

The BIS said Iran’s financial transactions with foreign banks in the 4th quarter of 2023 registered a 10 percent growth, Tasnim News

Agency reported.

In its latest report, the bank put the amount of Iran’s deposits with foreign financial institutions and banks at the end of the 4th quarter of 2023 at \$13.143 billion.

Iran’s deposits with foreign banks and financial institutions increased by \$1.148 billion in the 4th quarter

of 2023, showing a nine percent hike compared to the same period in 2022, the report added.

It said Iran’s total financial transactions with foreign banks and financial institutions in the 4th quarter of 2023 exceeded \$14.140 billion, showing a 10% growth compared to the 3rd quarter of the same year.

Iran’s total foreign transactions with foreign banks and financial institutions in the 3rd quarter of 2023 hit \$12.832 billion, the report added. The Bank for International Settlements is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, and its reports are released four times a year entitled “International Banking and Financial Market Developments”.

## TEDPIX gains 4,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 4,275 points to 2,165,698 on Tuesday, which is the fourth day of the Iranian calendar week.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one.

The other three ones are Iran Mercantile

Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

76 years after that fateful day

# The rise of a 'resistant nation' from the ashes of 'Nakba'

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Palestinian people are marking the 76th anniversary of their mass expulsion by Zionists upon the establishment of the Israeli regime in 1948.

Palestinians refer to the tragic event, which falls on May 15 each year, as the Nakba, Arabic for catastrophe.

David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of Israel on May 14, 1948.

More than 700,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in a war between Israel and Arab armies that erupted a day later.

Israel did not allow Palestinians to return to their homes after the war.

Presently, up to six million Palestinians have become refugees, most of whom are living in slum-like urban refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Gaza and the West Bank.

Israeli forces have massacred a large number of Palestinians over the past decades. Zionists also butchered Palestinians before Israel's establishment.

Every year, Palestinians participate in demonstrations to commemorate the Nakba. They often display symbolic keys, emblematic of their lost homes.

However, this year's anniversary of the Nakba has been overshadowed by Israel's genocidal war on Gaza that began on October 7.

Israel has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide in the besieged Palestinian territory. The regime has slaughtered more than 35,000 Palestinians in Gaza. About 70 percent of them are women and children.

## History repeats itself

During the Gaza war, Israel has repeatedly issued evacuation or-



ders forcing around three quarters of the territory's 2.3 million population to flee their homes.

At the beginning of the war, the Israeli army ordered people in northern Gaza to evacuate to southern cities of Khan Younis and Rafah.

As a result, more than half of Gaza's population was crammed into Rafah. More than a week ago, Israel ordered Palestinians in parts of Rafah to leave their homes ahead of a ground offensive.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said "total victory" over Hamas won't be achieved without an incursion into the city.

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

Since then, hundreds of thousands of people have fled Rafah.

As the Israeli army moves deeper into Rafah, more people are forced to leave the city on foot, in cars and donkey carts.

The mass evacuations in Gaza are reminiscent of the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes in 1948.

Mustafa al-Gazzar, an 81-year-old grandfather, is among those people who have been forced to

flee from Rafah.

He was a 5-year-old child when his family was forced from their home in 1948.

Mustafa told the Associated Press that the current conditions are worse.

"My hope in 1948 was to return, but my hope today is to survive. I live in such fear and I cannot provide for my children and grandchildren," the grandfather told AP as he broke into tears.

Following the Six-Day War in 1967, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were also displaced.

Returning to their homes remain a key Palestinian demand.

Palestinians have also called for an end to Israeli occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

But Israel has always rejected these demands.

## Palestinian uprising

The continuation of Israeli crimes and occupation led to the first Palestinian Intifada or uprising in 1987. At that time unarmed Palestinians only threw rocks at fully armed Israeli troops and military vehicles to vent their anger at the regime's atrocities.

Sheik Ahmad Yassin established Hamas after the outbreak of the uprising.

The United States, Israel's main ally, was concerned over the growing power of resistance in the occupied territories.

It called for talks to resolve the decades-long conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority signed the US-mediated Oslo Accords in 1993, but no progress was made toward achieving Palestinian statehood.

Frustration and anger rose among Palestinians on the backdrop of Israel's refusal to abide by the Oslo Accords and end the occupation.

It was one of the main reasons that sparked the Second Intifada in 2000.

Israel killed thousands of Palestinians during the two uprisings.

Israel's brutal attacks against Palestinians failed to deter them from putting up resistance against the occupying regime.

As resistance against occupation grew, Israel had to deal with crushing blows at the hands of resistance groups.

## Power of resistance

In October last year, Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel which shattered the regime's image of invincibility. More than 1,100 people were killed and about 250 Israelis and foreigners were taken captive.

Over the past seven months, Israel has failed to achieve its goal of destroying Hamas.

The Israeli military's intelligence, the US intelligence community and Western officials including EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell have admitted that the regime will not be able to defeat Hamas militarily.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Even nuking Gaza will fail to break the will of Palestinians

From page 1 ▶ bombs and this may prompt them to seek nuclear weapons to protect themselves against a possible nuclear attack.

Also, by suggesting to provide Israel with nuclear weapons, Graham is giving a wrong address. He wants to deny the fact that Israel has nuclear weapons despite the fact that the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has announced Israel has about 90 nuclear weapons.

Graham is also indirectly acknowledging that Israel is losing the battle against the resistance fighters in the Gaza Strip despite more than seven months of relentless and indiscriminate war on the enclave, which is just 365 square kilometers (141 square miles).

"Give Israel the bombs they need to end the war they can't afford to lose and work with them to minimize casualties," Graham pointed out.

Senator Graham and other like-minded zealots must know that even if they nuke Gaza, they will fail to defeat resistance fight-

ers or weaken the will of the Palestinian people for justice. Therefore, comparing Hamas to Japan is fundamentally wrong.

Hamas is not a regular army. It is a guerrilla movement whose rebel fighters along with those from other groups are struggling against those who have stolen their lands and put them in a roofless prison. They are quite willing to sacrifice their lives to dismantle this suffocating prison.

Graham and other zealots may not understand that the situation that Israel has created for the Palestinians with the backing of the West naturally generates freedom fighters who are ready to die rather than give up to suppression, humiliation, and occupation.

When the youth in Gaza notice that Israel is established on the lands of their grandfathers but they have been crammed into a tiny territory that is surrounded from the land, sea, and air by Israel they are filled with anger.

Graham, pro-Zionist Western figures, and extreme rightists in Israel don't understand that the Palestinians have nothing to lose. They have been deprived of their most basic

rights for a normal life.

In part of his interview, Graham told Israel, "Do whatever you have to do to survive as a Jewish state. Whatever you have to do."

Contrary to what Graham claims, no group, movement or Palestinian politician wants to destroy Israel. It has been proven that they just want a rather fair solution to their decades-long problems.

The developments are rapidly changing in favor of the Palestinians. The overwhelming vote at the UN General Assembly to recognize Palestine as a full member coupled with the rapidly increasing campus protests against Israel's carnage in the Gaza Strip are strong evidence that the 1948 Nakba day in which about 700,000 Palestinians were driven out of their homes will not be repeated at any price.

Over the past seven months, Gaza's 2.3 million population have been subjected to different barbaric and sadistic atrocities but they are still resisting and this shows that even dropping nuclear bombs on them will fail to silence their struggle for freedom.

are dead under the rubble of collapsed residential buildings.

Israeli leaders have said between 10,000 to 16,000 Hamas fighters have been killed, depending on which Israeli politician or diplomat is speaking.

Analysts say it is extremely unrealistic that the 10,006 men identified as dead by the Gaza Health Ministry are all Hamas fighters. Even a ballpark figure would logically indicate that many innocent men have been killed as they are the most likely to venture outdoors in search of security or food in the totally blockaded "concentration camp".

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Rights group: Israel used Palestinian children as human shields

Israeli forces used three Palestinian boys as human shields in the northern occupied West Bank last week, Defense for Children International - Palestine said in a statement.

Karam, 13, Mohammad, 12, and Ibrahim, 14, were used as human shields by Israeli forces in separate incidents during an Israeli military incursion into the Tulkarm refugee camp on 6 May, according to documentation collected by the rights group.

In all three incidents, armed Israeli soldiers forced the boys to walk in front of them as soldiers searched Palestinian homes and neighborhoods in the Tulkarm refugee camp, and in two cases Israeli forces fired weapons positioned on the boys' shoulders.

### Hamas conducts new attacks against Israeli forces

The armed wing of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas said it has carried out a series of new attacks against Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip.

The Qassam Brigades said on its Telegram channel that its fighters destroyed an Israeli troop carrier with a Yassin-105 rocket in Rafah's eastern al-Salam neighborhood, killing some crew members and injuring others.

A Merkava tank was also targeted with a Yassin-105 rocket northeast of Jabalia, it added.

The Qassam Brigades said its forces blew up an Israeli military bulldozer east of Rafah and shelled a group of Israeli soldiers and military vehicles east of Jabalia.

The Palestinian resistance group has put up stiff resistance against Israeli forces as the regime's army expands its operations in Gaza, particularly in Rafah.

### Australian war crimes whistleblower jailed

A whistleblower who helped expose allegations of Australian war crimes in Afghanistan has been sentenced to five years and eight months in jail.

David McBride pleaded guilty to stealing and sharing military secrets on the eve of his trial last year, after legal rulings sunk his defense, the BBC reported.

An ex-military lawyer, McBride said he felt a moral duty to speak up.

A landmark inquiry later found evidence that Australian forces had unlawfully killed 39 Afghans during the war.

McBride's case has sparked uproar in Australia, putting a spotlight on what some say are flimsy whistleblower protections and slow progress towards prosecuting soldiers alleged to have killed with impunity under its flag.

McBride, 60, admits he gave troves of document to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), saying he was concerned about the attitudes of commanders and what he then thought was the "over-investigation" of troops, the court heard.

But instead the information he provided underpinned a series of reports in 2017 called The Afghan Files, which gave unprecedented insight into the operations of Australia's elite special forces in Afghanistan, and contained allegations of war crimes.

### Iraqi Resistance attacks Israeli site in Eilat

Fighters from Iraqi anti-terror resistance

groups have used a new kamikaze drone in its strike against a strategic target in the southernmost part of the Israeli-occupied territories in response to the regime's relentless offenses on Gaza.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, in a statement published on its Telegram channel, claimed responsibility for an attack on a "vital" installation in the Port of Eilat early on Tuesday.

It said the drone strike was carried out in continuation of the struggle against the occupying Israeli regime, in support of Palestinians in Gaza, and in retaliation for the massacres that the usurping Zionist entity is perpetrating against ordinary people, including women, children and the elderly.

The group noted that it will continue to target and destroy important installations across the occupied lands.

The strike marked the first application of al-Arfad suicide drones in operations against Israeli and US interests in the West Asia region.

### WSJ: Egypt considers pulling ambassador to Tel Aviv

Egyptian officials have told the Wall Street Journal that Cairo is considering downgrading but not cutting its diplomatic relations with Israel amid sharpening divisions over the Gaza war.

According to the report, officials say that pulling Egypt's ambassador from Tel Aviv is a move being weighed.

On Sunday, Egypt said it would support South Africa's ongoing lawsuit in the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza.

### Turkey: Israel increasingly alienated, isolated

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Israel is becoming "increasingly alienated and isolated by the international community".

Speaking at a news conference in the capital, Ankara, the top diplomat added that Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip are "an act of genocide".

"International law and human rights are being trampled by Israel, and diplomatic efforts have failed once again due to the Rafah invasion," he said.

This month, Fidan announced that Turkey will request to join South Africa's genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice.

### Red Cross opens new -60bed field hospital in Gaza

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and 11 Red Cross National Societies are combining efforts to open a field hospital in Rafah, Gaza, to help address the overwhelming medical needs emanating from the ongoing conflict.

These efforts aim to complement and support the essential work performed by the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in providing urgent care. Since the beginning of hostilities, PRCS staff and volunteers have continued to courageously provide emergency medical services to communities in Gaza, amidst unacceptably high levels of loss. Seventeen PRCS colleagues have been killed while on duty, and crucial facilities have been damaged. This includes Al-Amal and Al Quds hospitals and several Emergency Medical Service (EMS) centers, as well as emergency vehicles, with 25 ambulances knocked out of service. PRCS colleagues have been detained, with concerning reports emerging of their treatment, and the whereabouts of many still unknown.

(See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com))

## UN: Gaza death toll exceeds 35,000

### UN addresses revised Gaza health ministry figures

From page 1 ▶ First-hand accounts of a group of Western medics who arrived in southern Gaza before the Israeli offensive on Rafah began, add further weight to this argument.

Mohammed Tahir, an orthopedic and peripheral nerve surgeon, who is among the group, operating at the European Hospital near Rafah said, "People literally, their limbs and their bodies torn to shreds. Children with mutilated faces."

According to Haq, the new data released by the Gaza health ministry - 7,797 children, 4,959 women, 1,924 elderly, and 10,006 men - are the dead bodies who have been identified, assuming by family members, a relative or a

friend.

"There's about another 10,000 plus bodies who still have to be fully identified, and so then the details of those - which of those are children, which of those are women - that will be re-established once the full identification process is complete," Haq stated.

Palestinian health officials say with entire families being wiped out at such a rapid pace, the identification process has been revised, which means many women and children are yet to be fully identified.

And yet, it is estimated another 10,000 plus bodies, that have been registered as missing,

## Alborz and Zagros: natural barriers that cultivated Iran's cultural diversity

TEHRAN - On Monday, a tourism ministry's official in charge of registration and preservation of natural and intangible heritage highlighted the impact of the Alborz and Zagros mountain ranges on Iran's geographical and cultural landscape.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Niavaran Cultural and Historical Complex, Alireza Izadi emphasized that without these two vital natural elements, Iran would have been nothing more than a vast desert.

Addressing policymakers and government decision-makers at the session, which focused on the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Izadi elaborated on how these mountain ranges have significantly altered Iran's climate. "The beautiful regions neighboring the Alborz and Zagros have reshaped Iran's geography, creating conditions that allowed various civilizations to flourish," he said.

Izadi underscored the idea that these mountain ranges did more than just modify the climate—they laid the foundation for the emergence of civilizations.

"The rich and diverse cultures that we celebrate today as our intangible cultural heritage are the direct result of the civilizations that developed in the fertile areas around the Alborz and Zagros mountains," he added.

The Alborz and Zagros ranges stretch



across Iran, creating a natural barrier that has historically protected and nurtured the development of distinct cultures and communities. The regions surrounding these mountains, from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea, have formed a vibrant and powerful mosaic of ethnic groups.

"The geography formed by the Alborz and Zagros from the Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea has created a strong and vibrant rainbow of ethnicities," Izadi explained.

This diverse cultural landscape is considered one of Iran's greatest assets, contributing to its rich intangible cultural heritage. The ecosystems supported by these mountain ranges have not only provided the necessary resources for agricultural and societal development but have also fostered a unique cultural resilience that has persisted through the centuries.

## Markazi province to host special programs for Cultural Heritage Week

TEHRAN - Markazi province is preparing for Cultural Heritage Week and International Museum Day with over 20 special programs, aiming to engage all ages and promote awareness of its rich cultural heritage.

The province's director-general of cultural heritage, speaking in a press conference on Monday, highlighted various activities planned for the week, including free visits to museums, free museum tours for children, cycling and motorcycle rallies, and cultural competitions.

"These events are scheduled to take place from May 17 to 23," Mahmoud Moradi further elaborated.

The official emphasized that the Cultural Heritage Week programs aim to engage all age groups and segments of society, including children, teenagers, families, and the elderly.

"Special activities such as historical site clean-ups involving students, children's museum tours, and museum object painting," he noted. "Are designed to promote cultural awareness and preservation among children."

Markazi Province, located in the heart of Iran, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, boasting a diverse array of historical, architectural, and artistic treasures.

With a history dating back thousands of years, the province served as a crossroads of civilizations, leaving behind a legacy of remarkable cultural significance.



One of the most notable aspects of Markazi province's cultural heritage is its wealth of historical sites and monuments. From ancient ruins to well-preserved Islamic-era architecture, the province is home to a myriad of landmarks that bear witness to its storied past.

Furthermore, Markazi is renowned for its traditional arts and handicrafts, including carpet weaving and metalwork. These crafts have been passed down through generations, preserving the province's cultural identity and providing a source of livelihood for local artisans.

The province boasts over 2,000 identified historical, touristic, religious and cultural properties, with 882 of them listed as national heritage sites.

Overall, Markazi province's cultural heritage capacities are vast and diverse, offering a wealth of opportunities for exploration, preservation and promotion.

## Iran in frames



People browse through shops selling Persian carpets at Timcheh-ye Amin od-Dowleh, a stunning architectural marvel nestled within the centuries-old bazaar of Kashan.

# Discover unmissable historical houses while traveling Qom

TEHRAN - The ancient city of Qom, known for its rich history and cultural heritage, offers visitors a unique glimpse into Iran's past.

Among the city's numerous attractions, the historical houses stand out as remarkable treasures that showcase the architectural and artistic achievements of different eras.

Furthermore, Qom is a city of spiritual significance, home to the revered shrine of Fatima Masoumeh (SA) and a center of Shia scholarship.

Exploring these houses allows travelers to step back in time and experience the grandeur and elegance of Persian design and craftsmanship.

Here are some of the historical houses in Qom that you should not miss:

### Mulla Sadra's House

Muhammad ibn Ibrahim Yahya Shirazi, known as Mulla Sadra, is one of the world's greatest scholars and scientists in divine and Islamic philosophy. Born in 979 or 980 AH in Shiraz, he brought the



philosophy of enlightenment to its peak.

Mulla Sadra's traditional house in Iran, a remnant of the sage's residence in Qom, dates back to the Safavid era. Located at the western end of Kahak village in the Chal Hamam neighborhood, it is surrounded by rural houses with the architectural texture of tropical areas.

The house features an attractive and old space with a high ceiling, a domed cover, black walls with floral linings, and simple bed decorations with beautiful applications on

the four-sided roof, all in the Safavid style. Mulla Sadra's house was registered as one of the national monuments of Iran in 1996 with the registration number 1821.

### Allameh Rad's House

The Allameh Rad Historical House is located near the old neighborhood of "Mir Square" and is a short distance from the holy shrine of Masoumeh. This historic house dates back to the Qajar era.

It was registered in the list of national monuments of Iran with the number 31838.

### Shakeri's House

Built during the Qajar era, Shakeri's house faces the old bazaar of Qom and covers an area of 600 square meters. Situated at the intersection of two old passages, its main entrance is at the corner of the intersection. The traditional texture around the building has largely been preserved, with a number of buildings displaying original architecture still visible.

The main entrance of the building spans two floors and is decorated with brickwork and stone columns. The plinths on both sides of the entrance are made of beautifully engraved one-piece stones. Upon arrival, visitors enter a rectangular space that serves as the entrance porch and divides the building's rooms, leading to the courtyard.

Shakeri's house, characterized by the beauty of its forms and architectural decorations, boasts intricate brickwork, plasterwork, geometric patterns, and tilework, among other traditional decorations.

## Mint festival: where the flavor meets the culture

TEHRAN - A celebration of culinary tourism, Semnan's mint festival, has been set to run on Thursday, as part of the Silk Road-related tourism events.

"Semnan is slated to host a one-day event aimed to celebrate mint cultivation and its notable place in Persian recipes," the tourism chief of the ancient city said on Tuesday.

"The event forms part of a broader Silk Road Tourism Festival," Maryam Taherdoust-Mohammadi underscored. "And intends to highlight the city's rich cultural and culinary traditions."

Shedding light on arranged programs during the event, she elaborated that free tours of county's orchards are arranged to amuse participants.

Taherdoust-Mohammadi detailed that the one-day event is scheduled to take place on May 16, welcoming the enthusiasts from 4 to 8 pm.

"The event is designed to present hidden tourism capacities within the region," she further explained. "Which would eventually lead to the enhancement of the tourism industry."

The event is also intended to introduce the

region's rich cultural identity along with bringing joy and vitality to the community, according to the chief.

The mint event, she pinpointed, is an outcome of the joint effort between several county's organizations and tourism facilities.

In her concluding remarks, Taher-Doust-Mohammadi mentioned Semnan's membership in the Cities Along the Silk Road Union as an opportunity to promote its cultural, touristic and civilizational assets, thereby contributing further to the city's growth and development.

The mint has a long-standing and cherished place in Persian cuisine, valued not only for its distinct, refreshing flavor but also for its aromatic and medicinal properties. This herb, known as "nana" in Persian, is a staple in both fresh and dried forms and is integral to a variety of traditional dishes and culinary practices in Iran.

In Persian cooking, mint is often used to balance the flavors of rich and savory dishes. It is commonly incorporated into sauces, stews and soups to add a fresh, vibrant note. One of the most iconic Persian dishes featuring mint is

"Ash-e-reshteh," a hearty noodle soup where mint is used in the garnish, often sautéed with oil, known as "nana dagh" to enhance its flavor.

Mint is also essential in many Persian appetizers and sides. "Mast-o-khiar," a yogurt and cucumber dip, frequently includes mint, lending it a cooling effect that complements the creamy texture of the yogurt. Similarly, "Sabzi Khordan," a platter of fresh herbs served with meals, prominently features fresh mint leaves alongside other herbs like parsley, tarragon and cilantro.

Beyond savory dishes, mint is used in beverages and desserts. "Sharbat," a traditional Persian syrup-based drink, often includes mint for a refreshing twist. Mint tea is another favorite, providing a soothing and aromatic drink that is enjoyed throughout the day.

Historically, mint has also been valued in Persian culture for its health benefits, believed to aid digestion, alleviate headaches and act as a general tonic. Its use in Persian cuisine is a testament to the region's holistic approach to food, where flavor, aroma and health benefits are harmoniously intertwined.

## Saveh Jameh Mosque on track for UNESCO label

TEHRAN - Markazi province's architectural treasure, Jameh Mosque of Saveh, has taken a significant step towards global recognition as it is included in Iran's preliminary list for possible world recognition.

On Tuesday, a provincial official in charge of cultural heritage announced that Jameh Mosque of Saveh has been included in the preparatory list of the country's mosques proposed for UNESCO World Heritage registration.

In an interview with IRNA, Hossein Mahmoudi pointed to the earlier inscription of Ebrahimabad aqueduct and Bagh-e Sheikh caravanserai on the World Heritage list, provincewide.

He also outlined that the project manager for the registration of Iranian mosques visited Saveh Jame Mosque, and during a meeting following the visit, the official emphasized the necessary measures for its global registration.

A UNESCO evaluation team is expected to visit the city soon, he underscored, to assess the dossier for

the global registration of Saveh Mosque, aiming to secure its position as the third historical site in the province on the list of world heritage.

Highlighting the diverse historical elements of the Jameh Mosque, Mahmoudi noted that preparations for proposing its

registration on the prestigious list are underway, emphasizing its architectural significance.

According to cultural heritage experts, the congregational mosque is believed to have been constructed on an older structure, indicating traces of older materials or architectural

elements.

Historical records suggest that the mosque, which was completed in the 12th century, remains an active place of worship and has undergone various restoration endeavors over the centuries to preserve its grandeur.

### (CONSULATE OF INDIA, ZAHIDAN)

Consulate of India in Zahidan, Iran, is inviting the applications for the Post of Chauffeur in this Consulate with the following qualifications:

1. The Diploma Certificate (the least)
2. Five year-experience of driving by automatic vehicle (SUV etc.)
3. Driving experience in related offices ; Embassy / Consulate , Foreign posts in Iran
4. Age between 25-35
5. Sufficient knowledge of roads of Zahidan / Sistan & Baluchistan is desired
6. Sufficient ability and skills in speaking and writing in English
7. Completion of Military Service Card
8. Health Certificate & Police clearance Certificate

The applications should be sent on the Consulate Email,

[hoc.zahidan@mea.gov.in](mailto:hoc.zahidan@mea.gov.in), subjected **APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF CHAUFFEUR** along with complete CV / Resumé , Copy of Passport /National ID, one photo & contact number by 25-05-2024. Incomplete applications will be summarily rejected and no communication in this regard will be entertained

# IRCS ready to expand humanitarian services under IFRC support

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has announced its readiness to expand its humanitarian services with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC).

Razieh Alishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, and Vincent Cassard, the representatives of the IFRC in Iran, held a meeting in Tehran on Monday on the occasion of the World Red Cross Week and the Day of 'Humanitarian Diplomacy, Global Solidarity for the Preservation of Values'.

During the meeting, Alishvandi said the IRCS has been effectively participating in different international projects, including climate change and drought resilience.

The organization has conducted various programs to improve the situation of refugees and facilitate the families' reunification with the help of the IFRC, she noted.

However, more is needed to be carried out to address climate change and drought resilience better in the country since the IRCS is capable of taking valuable measures in this regard, the official highlighted.

Alishvandi also presented a report on the performance of the IRCS at the Geneva meeting.

She said in the preliminary meeting of the 34th IFRC International Conference, the IRCS expressed its opinions, views, and recommendations on the content of five international resolution drafts that are scheduled to be officially approved



in October.

"Informing and educating the public about the dangers caused by mines and unexploded ordnance is another successful project of the Iranian Red Crescent Society."

Alishvandi went on to ask the IFRC to support IRCS plans regarding health, treatment, and rehabilitation issues and to increase the international financial resources to carry out humanitarian projects in Iran.

"We call upon the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent as well as the representative of the Red Cross to endorse holding specialized training courses for staff and aid workers, as well as supporting relief operations of the Iranian Red Crescent Society," she added.

Vincent Cassard, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Tehran, for his part, said the performance

of the IRCS in health, treatment, and rehabilitation is valuable and commendable.

"We stress boosting cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society in health, treatment, and rehabilitation fields," he noted.

## IFRC seeks to boost co-op with IRCS

On May 10, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) expressed willingness to expand collaboration with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

Alishvandi, and Xavier Castellanos Mosquera, the IFRC undersecretary general for national society development and operations coordination, discussed ways to enhance cooperation.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the preliminary session of the 34th IFRC international conference.

During the meeting, Alishvandi

elaborated on IRCS capabilities in various fields of sanitary, treatment, rehabilitation, rescue and relief, logistics, education, volunteers, youth, climate change, crescent houses, mass gathering management, textile production, medical organizations, and many other things.

Castellanos Mosquera, for his part, acknowledging that the IRCS is one of the strongest members of the IFRC, said the IRCS could be a role model for other societies.

The official went on to ask the IRCS to share its expertise with IFRC by holding a webinar session and proposed the IFRC managers of different sectors, particularly logistics, and health, visit the IRCS medical equipment, artificial organ and prostheses production, and pharmaceutical companies, as well as rehabilitation centers to learn more about the IRCS experiences and knowledge.

"Despite the fact that the information of the Iranian Red Crescent Society has not yet been fully registered in the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent health map, the range of services provided by the organization at the national level has placed it among the top societies compared to 107 national societies that have registered their information, Castellanos Mosquera noted.

He also suggested the full membership of the IRCS in a think tank which is formed to investigate the adverse impacts of sanctions.

## Iran calls on UN to address drug-related issues in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – The Secretary-General of the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters, Eskandar Momeni, has urged the United Nations to allocate resources to address the drug-related problems in Afghanistan.

Momeni met the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva, in Tehran on Monday.

The officials discussed ways to fight drug trafficking from Afghanistan.

"Drug trafficking from Afghanistan to the eastern borders of Iran is associated with insecurity, terrorism, and armed actions, we ask the United Nations to recognize narcotics as a serious threat," ISNA quoted Momeni as saying.

Highlighting that drug trafficking from Afghanistan is still going on, Momeni noted, "The Islamic Republic of Iran supports and welcomes any effort that prevents and decreases the production, growth, and trafficking of drugs in Iran's neighborhood, but the fact is that there has been no noticeable reduction in drug production, and trafficking from Afghanistan so far."

The official made a proposal to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the delegation of The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) to impose strict control and supervision on the shipment of precursors

to Afghanistan.

The official urged Otunbayeva to follow up on Iran's proposals within the framework of a cooperation program between Iran, regional countries, and the United Nations, to adopt a strategy to combat drug-related problems in Afghanistan.

Otunbayeva, for her part, lauding Iran's efforts in improving the situation and livelihood of Afghan immigrants, promised to convey Iran's suggestions to the Secretary General of the United Nations.

She went on to say that the UN, in cooperation with the UNODC, has conducted studies on narcotics in Afghanistan, the results of which will be presented at the upcoming Doha meeting.

"The main focus of the study plan is to carry out alternative cultivation programs in Afghanistan," she further noted.

She criticized the international communities' indifferences regarding Afghanistan's issues.

In this regard, the UN should take serious action to help Afghanistan by allocating resources for infrastructure, sustainable development, and alternative cultivation programs to solve the problem fundamentally.

Momeni also expressed Iran's readiness to share its experiences and help the organization in its efforts.

## UNODC support

On May 1, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Iranian law enforcement force explored ways to boost cooperation in areas related to drug trafficking and drug-related crimes.

During a meeting between the UNODC representative in Tehran, Alexander Fedulov, and Director General of Iranian Interpol Brigadier General Majid Karimi, the two officials revised the activities under implementation, and discussed the scope and perspective of future cooperation, according to the UN website.

In this meeting, Fedulov briefed the Iranian side on the recent activities and procurements conducted by UNODC Iran under the generous funds received from the UNODC traditional donors.

He reiterated the readiness of the UNODC to delegate technical and procurement support to the Islamic Republic of Iran under the UNODC Iran Country Partnership Program with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Brigadier General Karimi, for his part, stated that drugs are obviously one of the pillars of the UNODC mandate as reflected in its name, though various topics on crimes could also be addressed by this Office, and inter alia he suggested cooperation to address challenges posed by drug trafficking and drug related crimes.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$3b approved for improving safety of schools

The sixth five-year national development plan (2016-2021) has predicted a total budget of \$3 billion to be allocated for rebuilding and retrofitting old schools across the country, director of the organization for renovation, development and equipment of schools has said.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards, ISNA quoted Mehrolah Rakhshanimehr as saying on Wednesday.

He went on explain that 30 percent of the schools nationwide, equaling 32,000 schools, are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

"However, after 2 years the budget has not been allocated yet," he lamented.

## درخواست تخصیص ۳ میلیارد دلار برای ایمن سازی مدارس

رئیس سازمان نوسازی، توسعه و تجهیز مدارس کشور با اشاره به وجود ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس نایمن در سطح کشور خواستار تخصیص بودجه سه میلیارد دلاری تصویب شده در قالب برنامه ششم توسعه برای ایمن سازی مدارس شد.

مهاله رخشانی مهر در گفت‌وگو با ایسنا، بیان کرد حدود ۱۰۷ هزار مدرسه با ۵۳۰ هزار کلاس درس در کشور داریم.

او اظهار کرد: از این میزان، ۳۰ درصد مدارس یعنی ۳۲ هزار مدرسه مشتمل بر ۱۶۰ هزار کلاس درس نیازمند مقاوم سازی و تخریب و بازسازی‌اند که به تفکیک می‌توان گفت ۱۸ درصد مدارس باید مقاوم سازی و ۱۲ درصد تخریب و بازسازی شوند.

با این وجود، بعد از حدود دو سال هنوز بودجه ای تخصیص نیافته است.

## Tehran to host 5th intl. transfusion medicine congress

TEHRAN – The fifth international transfusion medicine congress will start in Tehran today to showcase the capabilities and achievements of the country on a global scale.

The two-day scientific event demonstrates the knowledge and capabilities of the Blood Transfusion Organization and the High Institute for Research and Education in Transfusion Medicine (IRETM), Bashir Haji-Beigi, an official with IBTO who is also the executive chairperson of the congress, said.

It is the fifth experience of hosting a major scientific event at the international level in the field of blood transfusion medicine, a testament to the abilities and proficiencies of specialists in this field and the efficiency of Iran's blood transfusion system, the health ministry's website reported.

The IBTO and the IRETM have been selected as research training partners of the World Health Organization for multiple consecutive periods. With the cooperation of the WHO, they have contributed to the development of the knowledge and skills of the regional countries in establishing an efficient blood transfusion system.

"The congress serves as a platform to introduce scientific standing, capabilities, and achievements of the country in the field of blood transfusion medicine on a global scale. It provides an opportunity to learn from the participants' experiences and knowledge, as well," he added.

The main objective of the congress includes sharing the latest research findings and scientific achievements among the participants, blood transfusion organizations, institutions, and regional countries, the official noted.



Scientific analysis of management in blood transfusion centers, blood banks, and medical centers, improving blood transfusion work processes through information exchange among blood transfusion centers and blood banks of Iran and regional countries, enhancing the attitude and performance of clinical and laboratory specialists in medical centers in transfusion medicine are among the expected outcomes of the congress.

Participants from 30 countries of the world are going to attend the international congress and some 100 abstracts have been submitted.

More than 15 speakers from Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Oman, Nepal, Italy, and Egypt are scheduled to deliver speeches both in person and online.

Moreover, research posters by Iranian and foreign students and specialists will be showcased to help participants learn about new research findings more effectively.

Over 50 professors and academic staff members of the IRETM and universities across the country have cooperated as members of the scientific steering committee, scientific committee, scientific reviewers, executive committee, and student committee.

## Boarding school students to be equipped with essential skills

TEHRAN – The ministry of education and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have held a workshop for principals of Upper Secondary Boarding Schools from 10 provinces to boost their capacities in developing students' skills which are essential to find a decent job.

The four-day long workshop was held from April 27 to 30. A total of 90 Upper Secondary Boarding School principals from 10 provinces of Kordestan, Kermanshah, Hamedan, Ilam, Zanjan, Markazi, Qazvin, Ardebil, West and East Azarbaijan attended the workshop.

UNICEF's collaboration with the ministry of education focuses on adolescents in boarding schools, which are secondary schools in disadvantaged parts of the country.

The training opportunity provides school principals with the necessary knowledge and skills to support the students, at these schools in rural and remote regions, in improving their self-assurance, problem-solving, and teamwork skills.

This series of workshops marks the initial phase that will span across all provinces throughout the year, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on May 9.

Upon finishing the current series of workshops, UNICEF will focus on supporting the Boarding Schools on enhancing students' access to transferable skills such as digital literacy and entrepreneurship to prepare the adolescents for a smooth transition from learning to earning through alternative learning pathways.

Boarding schools are public schools that serve children from several villages and small towns who do not have access to secondary schools in their vicinity and in some cases homeless children from cities.

Children in these schools usually come from disadvantaged backgrounds and boarding schools are their only venue for access to education.

Students usually live in the school for 5 days of the week and go back to their families for the weekend. Across the country, there are 1019 lower secondary boarding schools serving approximately 130,000 students, and 1155 upper secondary boarding schools serving about 170,000 students.

## Well-being programs for youth

Earlier this month, adolescents Well-being

and Empowerment Centers, known as MASER-RAT, in Mashhad and Kermanshah cities revised and reviewed their protocols to make sure the adolescent girls receive the most efficient and high-quality services.

Adolescent girls aged 10-19 who are participating in well-being and empowerment programs supported by UNICEF will benefit from a significant improvement in the quality of services provided, the UNICEF website reported on May 6.

These changes resulted from a consultative workshop to review and modify the protocols.

The protocols included a wide range of procedures and measures based on which services such as healthy lifestyle, psychological health support, social and life skills, increased meaningful participation, prevention from drug abuse, social harms, and risky behaviors, as well as increased resiliency and self-care.

In November 2023, two pilot programs for the well-being and empowerment of young boys and girls were launched in four provinces of the country.

The Ministry of Sports and Youth and the Drug Control Headquarters in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) are implementing these programs in Kermanshah, Alborz, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi provinces.

One program is for empowering adolescents and young boys and the other program is for girls' psycho-social health and their empowerment.

Soft and technical skills are taught to boys aged 15 to 24 in three UNICEF-supported centers located in Kermanshah, Alborz, and Isfahan provinces.

The centers provide different services including on-the-job training, internships, mentoring, psycho-social support, counseling, and social entrepreneurship programs.

The focus of this program is to facilitate a smooth transition from learning to earning, empowering 1,618 adolescents and youth in these provinces, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on November 13, 2023.

In the next step, the program will encompass the following provinces: Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Kerman, and Hormozgan.



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MAY 15, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.*

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:23 Dawn: 3:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:58 (tomorrow)

## Tehran cultural center to screen "Mildred Pierce"

TEHRAN- American film director Michael Curtiz's 1945 movie "Mildred Pierce" will go on screen at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday afternoon.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian critics Kurosh Jahed and Amir Qaderi.

"Mildred Pierce" is a drama film, based on the 1941 novel of the same name by James M. Cain. The film tells the story of Mildred Pierce, played by Joan Crawford, a divorced mother who struggles to provide for her daughter Veda and her own desires.

The story begins with the murder of Monte Beragon, Mildred's second husband. The police suspect Mildred's first husband, Bert Pierce, of the crime, but Mildred protests that he is too kind to commit murder. She then recounts her story to the officer in flashback.

The flashback reveals Mildred's unhappy marriage to Bert and her struggles to provide for their two daughters, Veda and Kay.

After Bert and his business partner, Wally Fay, separate, Mildred must work multiple jobs to support the family. Veda, played by Ann Blyth, a spoiled and manipulative teenager, longs for high social status and is ashamed of her mother's humble background.

Mildred meets Monte Beragon, a wealthy man who pursues her romantically. Despite their differences, Mildred becomes involved with him and eventually marries him.

However, their marriage is loveless, and Monte only uses Mildred to improve his social status. Veda, who has become increasingly demanding and manipulative, begins to take advantage of her mother's wealth and influence.

As the story unfolds, Mildred becomes increasingly desperate to reconcile with Veda, who has become addicted to her mother's wealth and material possessions. Mildred coaxes Monte into a loveless marriage to

improve her social status, but this ultimately leads to financial ruin and the downfall of her business empire.

In the end, it is revealed that Veda committed the murder of Monte Beragon. Mildred is devastated by her daughter's betrayal and tries to apologize to her as she is sent to jail.

The film's climax revolves around Mildred's relationship with her daughter, which reaches a boiling point when Veda's manipulations are revealed. The film ends with Mildred's devastating realization that her daughter has never truly loved or appreciated her.

It ends with Mildred reconciling with her first husband, Bert, and coming to terms with the consequences of her mistakes. The film's themes of maternal sacrifice, ambition, and the destructive nature of materialism are timeless and continue to resonate with audiences today.

"Mildred Pierce" is widely regarded as one of the greatest films of all time, with Joan Crawford delivering a powerful and nuanced performance as the titular character.

The film's direction by Michael Curtiz is also noteworthy, as he brings Cain's complex characters and story to life with a masterful touch. The film won three Academy Awards, including Best Actress for Joan Crawford, and has been reevaluated and reappreciated over the years as a classic of American cinema.

The film's director, Michael Curtiz, was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Director, but did not win.

In 1998, the United States Library of Congress deemed "Mildred Pierce" "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" and selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry.

In 2012, the film was re-released in a restored version, and it was re-evaluated by critics.

# Tehran International Book Fair helping promote book reading culture

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla (prayer grounds) is hosting the 35th Tehran International Book Fair (TIBF), where more than 2,600 local and 50 foreign publishers from 25 countries are showcasing their latest titles (published in the past four years) to visitors.

The Tehran Times has conducted interviews with directors from Ghadyani Publications, Hermes Publishing Company, and Amir Kabir Publishers, which are among the most well-known publishing houses in Iran. They have attended the event with hundreds of books covering various subjects to a wide range of readers, from children and teenagers to adults.

Speaking to the Tehran Times, Nader Ghadyani, Managing Director of Ghadyani Publications, said that his company has published a total of 3,800 titles in the last four years, of which 450 are first editions and the remainder consists of reprints of previously published books.

"Approximately 85 percent of the books are showcased in our pavilion in the Children's section," he noted. The titles for children, teenagers, and young adults are published under the title of Banafsheh Books.

"Our pavilion in the Public section of the fair presents a variety of titles, with a focus on educational content for parents and teachers," Ghadyani added.

Pointing to the public reception of the fair, he said: "Despite the relatively high price of the books, it is heartening to see people visiting the book fair and showing interest in books and reading."

"Almost 55 percent of our titles include translations from other languages and the rest is written by Iranian authors," he stated.

On translating Persian works to other languages, he said: "Lots of our titles, especially children's books, have been being published by foreign publishers in the past two decades."

Replying to the query about the effectiveness of such book fairs in promoting book reading culture among the people, Ghadyani said: "Since its first edition, people have always swarmed to the fair and shown their interest". However,



he believes that the cultural authorities and managers should think of providing a permanent place to present books throughout the year so that people have access to a wide range of books in one location.

The Managing Director of Hermes Publishing Company Morteza Kardar also explained his company's presence at the fair, saying that Hermes Pavilion has brought more than 550 titles to the fair.

"Our titles are in the fields of fiction, literary criticism, art, history, and children's among others. Most of the books are translations. We have also published books by Iranian masters of philosophy, logic and literature," he said.

According to Kardar, the TIBF has experienced ups and downs during its past editions. "Sometimes it was warmly welcomed and, in some editions, it was not very successful in attracting the masses. This year also it seems to experience one of those not-very-crowded editions; at least the beginning days prove to be so. But the number of visitors may rise in the coming days."

Referring to the measures taken to translate Persian titles into other languages, he said: "We are collaborating with literary agencies to translate the works of renowned Iranian masters in various fields. We hope for such works to be published by international publishers."

Also speaking with the Tehran

Times, Mehdi Saroukhani, Director of Research and Publications at Amir Kabir Publishers, said they have participated in the fair, presenting 350 titles including first editions and reprinted ones, both for adults and children.

"About one third of the books are by Iranian authors and the rest have been translated including literature, fiction, history, and children's books," he noted.

Saroukhani stated that many titles by renowned Iranian authors published by Amir Kabir have been translated and published in other languages such as English and Arabic.

He is of the opinion that book fans always attend the fair and their presence is heart-warming for all publishers. "However, due to the rise in book prices, many people have difficulty purchasing books. And this has resulted in lesser reception of the fair this year compared to the previous editions," he rued.

Calling the TIBF one of the greatest cultural events in the country, Saroukhani said that it is necessary to hold it regularly. "Nevertheless, it is not enough. I believe promoting books and book reading should begin within families and continue through schools and by all relevant state organizations such as the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance."

"It is of high importance that parents introduce children to books from an early age.

Unfortunately, our schools are not equipped with useful libraries and valuable books. Moreover, many public libraries do not have new and practical books for young generations. All these bodies need to work on this field to promote the book reading culture. If children get used to reading books from an early age, it becomes an indispensable part of their life and they cannot do without it as grownups as well," he asserted.

The annual cultural event, which is the largest of its kind in Iran, is being held both physically and virtually. Visitors can explore physical stands at the Mosalla while also participating virtually through the official website ketab.ir. This dual approach allows for broader accessibility and engagement.

The fair covers a wide range of themes, including literature, history, philosophy, science, art, and children's books.

Throughout the fair, renowned authors and intellectuals will participate in book signings, panel discussions, and talks. These sessions provide a unique opportunity for readers to interact with their favorite writers.

Visitors can purchase books directly from publishers' stands. Many exhibitors offer special discounts during the fair, making it an ideal time to expand one's personal library.

Having launched on May 8, the 35th TIBF, with the slogan "Let's Read and Create," will run through May 18 at Imam Khomeini Mosalla in central Tehran.

## "Read the Headlines Again": an artistic protest against ongoing genocide in Gaza

From Page 1 ▶ "In an effort to bring attention to the ongoing genocide in Gaza, a group of art students, including myself, Afsaneh Qorbani, and other graduates, have come together under the title "Palestine and My Role" to work on various ideas in different fields and to create an art exhibition," she said and added: "The group included photographers, graphic designers, and writers from the literary field."

The exhibition aims to bring attention to the human crisis in Gaza through the language of art, using photomontage techniques to combine documentary photographs of the Gaza war with popular magazines around the world that have similar images to magazine covers. Without changing the magazine titles, they replaced them with their redesigned covers, a process that took about seven months to complete.

The redesigned magazines aimed to be more impactful by having the most similar form and content to the original magazine covers.

"We left the magazine titles untouched, replacing them with our redesigned covers, a process that took about seven months to complete."

"We decided to use photography as a medium to depict this tragedy and bring attention to the human crisis that has been overshadowed by mainstream media," she added.

These redesigned magazines guide the reader through a sea of diverse headlines to focus on a single neglected topic: 'Human dignity' in a time when humanity has been under attack more



than ever before.

The exhibition features a total of 27 redesigned magazine covers in different shapes and sizes. In the final statement of the exhibition, it says: "There is no title that can compete with the reality of this tragedy, and its impact will overshadow all other topics. So, 'Read the Headlines Again'."

One of the most striking aspects of this exhibition is how it uses the language of art to bring attention to a critical issue. In today's world, where people are bombarded with an abundance of visual content, it is easy to get lost in the noise.

The redesigned magazines serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of human dignity and the need to pay attention to issues that affect our fellow human beings. The exhibition has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who have seen it, despite some criticism.

Zandpour said: "We are grateful for the

overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who have seen the exhibition... Despite some criticism, we have met with diverse groups and opinions from society, but they were all united on this issue. The feedback has been very positive so far."

However, not everyone has liked the work and some have criticized it. Zandpour said: "Of course, there were some who did not like the work and criticized it, but that's okay.

We don't have an idea for internal newspapers yet, but maybe we can think about it now that you've asked."

The "Read the Headlines Again" exhibition highlights the importance of using art to depict war and its human crisis in an era where human eyes are saturated with visual content.

As its statement reads: "Two key elements, the front-page title and image, play a determinative role in capturing the audience's attention towards the world of magazine content.

Depending on their effectiveness, these two elements are directly reflected in sales and the audience's acceptance."

The exhibition's goal is to rise above the clichés of the press and deeply resonate with the audience. By using photomontage techniques, the exhibition creates a powerful visual representation of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, shedding light on the human crisis overlooked by media that is preoccupied with unrelated subjects. "Read the Headlines Again" exhibition will run until Friday.

## Cartoon of Day



Protests & Arrests

Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan