



Coalition collapse looms as Netanyahu and Gallant lock horns

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L), Defense Minister Yoav Gallant (C) and IDF Chief of Staff Herzi Halevi meeting at the 'Bahad 1' military base in southern Israel, March 7, 2024.

IRGC's indigenous 'Shahid Mahdavi' warship returns from mission

TEHRAN – The Shahid Mahdavi, an Iranian warship equipped with both long-range ballistic and cruise missiles, has returned from a 39-day mission.

The fleet was welcomed by IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri and several other Iranian commanders on Saturday.

Rear Admiral Tangsiri highlighted during the welcoming ceremony, "This is the first time that the brave men of the IRGC Navy have crossed the prime meridian and the equator, entering the southern hemisphere."

He credited the success of these missions to the unity and synergy among Iran's armed forces.

"Today, the Army and IRGC Navy, relying on faith, firm determination, and utilizing advanced and deterrent defensive and military capabilities, have become a major force, opposing the regional and extra-regional enemies," he stated.

Commissioned into the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Navy in March 2023, the Shahid Mahdavi boasts formidable dimensions, weighing over 2100 tonnes, with an impressive length of 240 meters and a width of 27 meters.

This multipurpose warship is designed for long-range operations and is outfitted with missiles, air defense systems, and advanced radar technology. ▶ Page 2

Over 600 companies attending Iran Health Expo

TEHRAN –The 25th international exhibition on medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and laboratory equipment (Iran Health Expo 2024) kicked off at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Saturday and will wrap up on Tuesday.

More than 600 companies are showcasing their latest findings and products in consumable and non-consumable medical, dental, laboratory, and pharmaceutical equipment at the exhibition, ISNA reported.

The distinguishing feature of this year's expo, compared to last year's edition, is the focus on emerging manufacturing and knowledge-based companies and startups in the medical equipment industry, offering a wide range of health-oriented products.

This year's exhibition presents a unique opportunity for the emergence and introduction of startups and small to medium-sized knowledge-based companies while showcasing their capabilities and innovation.

Iran Health aims to develop health technologies in the country, enhance the global competitiveness of Iranian knowledge-based companies in markets, expand the exports of knowledge-based and technological firms in the health sector, and form domestic and foreign technological consortia in Iran and global markets. ▶ Page 7

Netanyahu wants entire Palestine

By Matin Jamshidi

TEHRAN – Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu knows well that his proclaimed declaration of a "total victory" against Hamas will not come true.

"The idea that we will stop the war before achieving all of its goals is out of the question. We will enter Rafah and we will eliminate Hamas' battalions there... to achieve total victory," Netanyahu claimed in a meeting with families of hostages held by Hamas in Gaza on April 30.

It is a myth that Israel will eliminate the guerrilla fighters from Hamas and other resistance movements. If it had been so, the Israeli military, which is armed with Western-supplied modern weaponry, had to get rid of guerrilla fighters after more than seven months of relentless cruel war.

Israeli Knesset member, Amit Halevi, confirmed on May 16 that all 24 Hamas brigades are still present in Gaza and not a single one of them has been destroyed. Halevi said Netanyahu is lying to the Israeli people and inflating the army's achievements.

In addition to Hamas's steadfastness, the Islamic Jihad movement still exists, "and they lied to us that it had been eliminated," Halevi added in his interview with Israel's Channel 14.

American media provide fodder for fire in Gaza

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – While the genocide in Gaza persists, with attention now turned to Rafah, and as half the world protests against this violence perpetrated by Israel and criticizes the leading role of the United States in it, American media oscillate between inaccuracy, at best, and complicity in the violence against Palestinians when reporting on events in Gaza.

As Palestinian writer and activist Mohammed El-Kurd pointed out in an article, "unfortunately, when it comes to Palestine, confusion and manipulation are tolerated. Commitment to truth disappears."

A deeper analysis reveals complicity, or what is known as the manufacturing of consent for genocide, which involves manipulating public opinion through propaganda by major media outlets in the United States. In this analysis, one can observe how the media language fuels Islamophobic and pro-Zionist propaganda in its coverage of events in Gaza. One of the most common tactics to achieve this is through selective moral outrage, which hides the pain and suffering of the Palestinian people, as well as structural injustices, such as the Zionist occupation of Palestine, which explain the origin of Hamas's response on October 7th.

Silent stars: How celebrities are hurt for ignoring Israel's carnage in Gaza

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Calls are growing for social media users to boycott celebrities who have remained silent in the face of Israel's war crimes, crimes against humanity and acts of genocide against Palestinian people.

Earlier this month, an online movement known as "Blockout 2024" gained strength to block certain celebrities for their inaction amid Israel's appalling atrocities in the Gaza Strip.

It was sparked by the 2024 Met Gala, which took place in New York on May 6.

A host of famous faces from the worlds of fashion, movies, music and sports participate in the event which is held every year.

But this year's event sparked backlash because it took place around the same time Israel launched a ground offensive in Rafah, the Gaza Strip's southernmost city.

More than half of Gaza's 2.3 million population had been crammed into Rafah before the offensive. Israel's ground assault on Rafah has forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee the city.

▶ Page 5

Recovered Achaemenid tablets from U.S. unveiled at National Museum

TEHRAN – A significant section of Achaemenid tablets, lately recovered from the United States, was unveiled yesterday at the National Museum of Iran.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by prominent figures including Jebrael Nokandeh, the Director of the National Museum of Iran, Ali Darabi and Maryam Jalali Dehkordi, two deputy ministers of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, along with numerous cultural heritage enthusiasts.

The exhibit features 160 tablets, a curated selection from the 3,500 tablets that were returned to Iran from the U.S. last year.

Speaking at the event, Nokandeh highlighted the importance of these tablets, stating that they are crucial for understanding the administrative and economic systems of the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330). ▶ Page 6



Iran win title of 2024 Asian Taekwondo Championships

TEHRAN – Iran won the title of the 2024 Asian Taekwondo Championships on Saturday.

The Iranian taekwondo athletes won three gold, three silver and three bronze medals in the competition held in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Mehdi Haji Mousaei defeated his Korean rival Park Tae-joon in the men's -58kg final to win a gold medal.

Mohammadhossein Yazdani claimed a gold in the men's -87kg, beating his compatriot Mehran Barkhordari.

Arian Salimi also seized a gold after defeating Korean taekwondo athlete Park in the men's +87kg weight category.

Ali Khoshravesh lost to Uzbekistan's Jasurbek Jaysunov in the men's -80kg weight category. ▶ Page 3

Cultural commonalities between Iran, Turkmenistan helping improve friendship, solidarity

TEHRAN-The International Conference of Ministers of Culture dedicated to the 300th birth anniversary of the Iranian-Turkmen poet Magtymguly Pyragy was held on May 18 and 19 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, with the presence of the head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO).

In the meeting, Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour emphasized the importance of the common cultural identity of Iran and Turkmenistan as a bridge for friendship and solidarity between the two nations, IRNA reported on Saturday. ▶ Page 8

Iran is home to 8,000 plant species

TEHRAN –Some 8,000 plant species have been identified so far in the country, which, in terms of their diversity and number, equals 80 percent of the plant species of the European continent.

Plants are unique organisms. They can produce sugars just from sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water. This ability to directly synthesize their own food has enabled plants to successfully colonize, adapt to, and diversify within almost every niche on the planet and biologists estimate the total number of plant species to be about 250,000.

These abilities make plants the primary producers of biomass providing animals and human-kind with food, medicine, and an enjoyable landscape.

They create a variety of living conditions in different parts of the country. Many plants in the country have medicinal, economic, and ornamental value.

Despite the fact that plants are important for the survival of humans and animals, they have been neglected in recent decades so many of them are on the verge of extinction.

To remind the people of the importance of plants, the International Fascination of Plants Day is celebrated every year on May 18.

The day aims to get more people around the world fascinated by plants and learn about the importance of plant science in agriculture and sustainable food production, horticulture, forestry, and the production of medicinal plants as well as other products such as paper, timber, chemicals, energy, and medicines.



Fascination of Plants Day is a biennial celebration initiated by the European Plant Science Organization (EPSO) to highlight the importance of plant science in addressing global challenges.

Since 2012, the day has grown into a global movement, engaging communities worldwide in activities that promote an appreciation for the diverse world of plants.

The diversity of plants in Iran is unique in West Asia to the extent that the country ranks second following Turkey. In addition to native plants, there are also some other species in the country known as endemic species which are much more limited than native species. Out of 8,000 native species, some 1,800 are endemic. These species are found only in a certain geographical area.

Indiscriminate harvesting of plant species and climate change particularly drought have led to the destruction of many of them.

Plants, depending on their species, genetic and physiological

structure, and the type of geographical region, show different resilience to drought.

Among the effects of drought on plants, the reduction of plants' resistance to environmental stresses such as pests, high temperatures, and biological competitors can be named.

While certain species can tolerate extreme climatic and drought conditions or fluctuations, rare endemic species (native or species that are specific to a geographical area) are more sensitive and vulnerable.

The loss of these plants is one of the biggest damages caused by drought.

Drought also creates the potential for invasive and opportunistic species to grow faster increase in diversity and gradually take the place of native species.

Several measures can be taken to mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly drought, on the destruction of plants, such as managing the exploitation of natural resources and preventing

the destruction of ecosystems to prevent severe conditions and lessen pressures on plants.

In addition, it is essential, for all countries, to reduce greenhouse gases by making comprehensive, decisive, and coordinated decisions.

Raising public awareness to protect nature is also a very important step that helps governments to preserve nature.

Low vegetation

Considering that Iran is one of the countries with low vegetation and only seven percent of its total area is covered with forests, the need to increase the country's green space is very important.

One of the very important reasons for increasing the country's vegetation is that Iran is the seventh carbon-producing country in the world and in terms of carbon absorption, Iran has a very low rank.

Due to the importance of the per capita increase in Iran's green spaces, a campaign titled "Green Iran, Strong Iran" and a national program for planting one billion saplings over the course of four years were launched.

Experts say tree planting is a climate change solution that doesn't require scientists to come up with technological solutions to draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. It is available now. It is the cheapest one possible and every one of us can get involved.

The national budget bill for the past Iranian calendar year (March 2023-March 2024) has allocated a special line of credit for planting trees.

President highlights youth law enforcement

TEHRAN –President Ebrahim Raisi has underscored the need for the implementation of the 'Law on Family and Youth Support' and has urged the responsible authorities to follow up on enforcing the law.

He made the remarks on the occasion of the second national youthful population award on Saturday, ISNA reported.

The president has also stressed that the government has to provide facilities and incentives, such as housing, and loans for marriage, having children, and employment.

"The government bodies should evaluate and identify the accomplishments, as well as failures and shortcomings quarterly. Then by checking the outcomes at the end of the year, they can decide on further actions to be taken," the president highlighted.

The issue of the youthful population is the source of power, wealth, and assets for the country and prevents the aging of the country ensuring its growth.

The official went on to laud measures taken by the health ministry regarding the expansion of medical centers, free treatment of infertile couples and children under seven years of age, and solving nutritional problems of families.

He stressed the need to continue providing similar services.

In the end, highlighting the role of media and educational centers, the president stated that the success of the 'Law on Family and Youth Support' depends on both government agencies and public participation.



Youthful population week

The National Youthful Population Week commenced on May 13 with the theme of 'My share in youthful population' and will wrap up on May 19.

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

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

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

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

Iran hosts 3rd intl. WANA congress

TEHRAN –The third international congress of West Asian and North African (WANA) countries was held in the city of Urmia, northwestern West Azarbaijan province, from May 16 to 17.

The main objective of the two-day congress was to share scientific accomplishments in reproduction, stem cells, and biotechnology fields, leverage mutual experience, and revitalize scientific research among the regional countries, ISNA reported.

Royan Academic Research Institute and the West Azarbaijan University of Medical Sciences in Urmia initiated the congress which lays the ground for joint scientific research in the regional countries.

The third congress mainly focused on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Outcomes at the global level focusing on the WANA countries.

Moreover, it served as a platform for boosting synergy among scientific and commercial professionals in infertility treatment, as well as an opportunity for the presence of domestic and foreign knowledge-based companies involved in the production of medicines.

The congress also aims to transfer scientific expertise through networking; establish effective connections with other scientific centers, researchers, and scientists both regionally and globally; and identify opportunities for cooperation in the region, and expand communication networks.

Additionally, it sought to develop networking among knowledge-based companies in the WANA region to foster communication, interactions, and trade of scientific products; and present a wide range of knowledge-based services including training, consulting, supervision, and implementation of large-scale projects in the field of biotechnology to interested countries by knowledge-based companies.

The congress featured presentations and discussions by 30 noted Iranian, and 10 foreign lecturers on the consequences of Infertility treatment and its related challenges.

The themes included monitoring the children born as a result of infertility treatment, ethical and legal issues, the role of imaging, the impact of environmental factors and lifestyle, enhancing the outcome of assisted infertility: challenges, management and options, preserving fertility in patients suffering from cancer, and the role of surgery in improving assisted reproductive outcome technology.

Furthermore, three clinical and basic workshops and a pre-congress seminar titled 'Complementary Medicine in Infertility Treatment' with the participation of more than 130 attendees were among the side programs of this two-day congress.

The congress will be hosted by one of the other regional countries next year.

Establishing the WANA Scientific Network

The main objectives of establishing this scientific association include:

- Facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge by building connections with research institutions, scientists, and centers in the WANA region globally.

- Identifying opportunities for collaboration within the region and expanding communication networks.

- Enhancing networking among knowledge-based companies in the WANA region to boost interactions and trade of scientific products.

- Offering a comprehensive range of knowledge-based services (total solution), such as training, expert consulting, and project implementation in biotechnology, to countries seeking assistance from knowledge-based companies.

Royan International Twin Congress

Reproductive Biomedicine and Stem Cells Biology and Technology has been demonstrated to be one of the most successful experiences of scientific gathering in Iran and West Asia since 2000.

During these twenty years of active involvement in sharing and exchanging scientific knowledge and expertise with renowned scientific institutes and scientists, the Royan Congress has helped to form many shared scientific projects and exchanges.

Given that the Royan Annual International Twin Congress has so far been able to establish a good platform for the exchange of the latest achievements in the fields of Stem Cell Biology & Technology and Reproductive Biomedicine worldwide, the WANA International Congress has come into existence.

WANA Scientific Society enjoys a chain of reputable scientists, researchers, and university professors as its international partners who play crucial roles in enriching the society in its content and toward seizing its goals already set.

First international WANA congress as a sub-directory of Royan International Twin Congress in June 2022.

Over 600 companies attending Iran Health Expo

From page 1 ▶ Sharing experiences of health technology development as well as attracting foreign investment in the field of health are among other important goals of holding the exhibition.

Additionally, Iran Health aims to showcase the country's latest products and achievements in the fields of medical engineering; dental, medical, ophthalmic, and orthopedic equipment; pharmaceuticals; home care products; remote therapy; physiotherapy; surgical and medical emergency equipment; sonography and endoscopy; medical applications; electrical equipment; beauty products; and plastic surgery.

A number of foreign countries are participating in the Iran Health exhibition, with China, Russia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates having the largest pavilions, respectively.

Knowledge-based companies manufacturing medications

Some 600 medical equipment companies are active in the country, producing around 99 percent of the medicine supplied to the domestic market. Medical equipment manufacturers in the country produce and supply

over 10,000 types of medical equipment to domestic and foreign markets. Now, various pieces of laboratory equipment are manufactured at prices much lower than the same foreign products.

Iranian knowledge-based companies have succeeded in producing recombinant drugs which are mainly used for treating hard-to-



around \$20 million is exported to more than 60 countries annually.

More than 70 percent of medical equipment and 100 percent of normal hospital beds are domestically made, IRNA quoted Abdolreza Yaqoubzadeh as saying.

Also, over 95 percent of specific ICU and CCU beds and more than 85 percent of operating room medical equipment such as anesthesia machines and other equipment are manufactured with cutting-edge technology in the country, he added.

Yaqoubzadeh went on to say that the country's need for medical equipment production is three to four billion dollars per year, some one billion dollars of which is imported.

This year's exhibition presents a unique opportunity for the introduction of knowledge-based companies.

treat diseases such as cancers, MS, hemophilia, and viral diseases.

Over 60 countries import Iranian medical equipment

On January 13, the head of Iran's Union of Medical Equipment Manufacturers and Exporters said that medical equipment worth

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran will defeat COVID-19, we believe: Chinese envoy

Chinese Ambassador in Iran, Chang Hua, has said he believes that Iran would overcome the crisis of coronavirus outbreak.

"We believe that by sending humanitarian aid, Iran will overcome the crisis," he said, IRNA reported.

The envoy praised Iran's Red Crescent Society as the first organization affiliated with the Red Cross and the Red Crescent societies which sent humanitarian shipments of aid to the Chinese people.

سفیر چین: باور داریم ایران بر بحران کرونا غلبه خواهد کرد

سفیر چین در تهران ابراز امیدواری کرد ایران بر بحران شیوع ویروس کرونا غلبه خواهد کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، چانگ هوا روز دوشنبه گفت: ما باور داریم که با ارسال کمک های انساندوستانه از سوی دوستان دولت ایران از بحران این بیماری عبور خواهد کرد.

او ضمن قدردانی از جمعیت هلال احمر ایران به عنوان نخستین سازمان بشردوستانه عضو جمعیت های ملی صلیب سرخ و هلال احمر که محموله های کمک را برای مردم چین ارسال کرد، گفت: ما هم با شدت گرفتن ویروس کرونا در کنار ایران هستیم.

