Pages

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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.

#### 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 oninion through propagand; 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.

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#### **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

"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** 

#### 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

## **POLITICS**

Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES** 

#### -TEHRAN PAPERS-

### Manifestation of a balanced policy

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

In a note, the Iran newspaper discussed the resumption of Baku's embassy in Tehran and the economic cooperation between the two countries. It wrote: Tehran and Baku's cooperation is in the process of a trilateral partnership with the presence of Russia in the field of connecting the north to the south. After the start of the war in Ukraine, the speed of this cooperation has increased. Last year, Russia and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding to complete the Rasht-Astara railway, which is the main bottleneck of the North-South international transport corridor, and Russia will be able to connect to India through the Republic of Azerbaijan and Iran.

In this way, pursuing a balanced and focused policy by the 13th government to achieve its regional policy has provided a new wave of the development process of political and economic relations. These developments are at a time when the recent tension between Iran and Israel led to a confrontation, and Iran's deterrent power caused Tel Aviv to take backward steps in the field. Therefore, the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan have found it necessary to coordinate with all sides of this tension.

#### Ham Mihan: Armenia's turn to the West and the creation of a new security challenge

In a commentary, Ham Mihan discussed Armenia's turn to the West and said: Despite the fact that Armenia is largely dependent on Russia for its security, Yerevan eventually adopted the policy of getting closer to the West. According to this policy, Yerevan signed an agreement with France so that Paris help Armenia by providing military equipment. The fact is that Ukraine is Russia's top priority, and that's why it couldn't

But the country most affected by the new geopolitical realities in the South Caucasus is Iran. Iran is a close ally of Armenia and has been hurt by Azerbaijan's recapture of Nagorno-Karabakh. Tehran has always been worried about the security conditions of its borders with Azerbaijan and the expansion of Turkish influence in its northern borders, and now that Yerevan is on the way to being closer to the West, Iran will have less space to maneuver in its northern borders.

#### Jam-e-Jam: Contradiction in the positions of the Agency

In an analysis, Jam-e-Jam dealt with Grossi's contradictory positions on Iran's nuclear activities. The paper said: Grossi said that cooperation with Iran is not completely satisfactory, but we must continue. Grossi's contradictory positions about Iran's nuclear activities indicate that he prefers unprofessional activities. He is willing to follow the positions of the Western parties with this approach and constantly creates deadlocks in negotiations; the deadlock is undoubtedly the result of unprofessional reports by American officials to gain the satisfaction of the Zionists. However, the U.S. intelligence evaluation has acknowledged that the Islamic Republic of Iran is not seeking to build nuclear weapons. Iran does not possess any weapons of mass destruction because Islamic Iran has a special deterrence power and will never resort to nuclear weapons. Possessing nuclear weapons is only a short-term regional advantage that creates a major crisis in the region while the main policy of Iran is to establish peace in the region.

#### Arman-e-Emrooz: JCPOA or temporary agreement?

In an article, Arman-e-Emrooz investigated the issue of Iran's nuclear agreement. It wrote: 6 years after Donald Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear agreement, Iran is continuously advancing its nuclear program and is getting closer to the breakout time. The countries of France, Germany, Britain, and the United States have evaluated that if Tehran decides to make an atomic bomb, it has enough infrastructure and experience to quickly produce the uranium required for this bomb. According to the former U.S. president, achieving a meaningful nuclear agreement is much more difficult than destroying it. Analysts believe that if we are lucky enough to reach such an agreement, we should protect it. And if we lose it, we should try to replace it with another agreement. The Iran nuclear agreement was a valuable achievement, and if the United States hadn't sought a better agreement, we would be in a much better place now. In the meantime, what is important is whether the parties now take the risk of reviving the JCPOA or go towards a temporary agreement with more options to improve their position in the diplomatic and economic arena.

### Iran condemns deadly terrorist attack in central Afghanistan

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran has that preliminary investigations suggest the m a market in Bamiyan, a central province of Afghanistan

In a statement issued on Saturday, Nasser Kanaani, spokesperson for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and extended prayers for the swift recovery of those injured in the attack.

According to reports, the tourists were ambushed by an unidentified armed man while walking through a market in the mountainous city of Bamiyan, approximately 180 kilometres from the capital Kabul, on Friday evening. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

"All dead bodies have been transferred to Kabul and are currently undergoing forensic examination," stated Abdul Mateen Qane, spokesperson for the Afghan interior ministry, on Saturday. "Both the deceased and the injured include women."

Qane further added that among the eight wounded individuals, four of whom are foreign nationals, only one elderly foreign woman remains in critical condition.

The death toll has risen to six, including two Afghan civilians and one Taliban member, Qane confirmed.

Security forces have swiftly apprehended four individuals in connection with the attack, Qane stated.

The Taliban government has vehemently condemned the atrocity, expressing profound sympathies to the families of the victims and vowing to apprehend and punish all perpetrators.

Sources from Afghan hospitals indicate

strongly condemned the heinous terrorist presence of three Spanish nationals among the attack that targeted a group of foreign tourists deceased, while the wounded hail from Norway, Australia, Lithuania, and Spain.

A spokesperson for the Spanish foreign ministry has confirmed the presence of Spanish nationals among the victims, but the precise number of casualties is yet to be ascertained.

International bodies have also reacted to the attack, expressing concern over the rise of violence in Afghanistan.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has expressed its profound shock and dismay over the attack, describing it as a "heinous act of violence" against unarmed civilians and tourists.

In a statement issued on Saturday, UNAMA strongly condemned the "deadly terrorist attack" in central Afghanistan, emphasizing the need to protect civilians and uphold the rule of law.

The agency also highlighted its commitment to providing assistance in the aftermath of the incident, offering support to the affected individuals and their families.

"UNAMA is providing assistance following the incident," the statement read, underscoring the organization's dedication to promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Bamiyan, known for its rugged mountain landscapes, is home to a UNESCO World Heritage site and the remnants of two colossal Buddha statues that were regrettably destroyed by the Taliban during their previous reign in 2001.

Terrorism and insecurity have become rampant across Afghanistan, which remains in shambles after two decades of war, destruction, and occupation by U.S. forces.

## Envoy says Iran willing to collaborate with Europe on comprehensive Afghanistan plan

TEHRAN - Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's special representative to Afghanistan, has conveyed Iran's openness to partnering with Europe in formulating a comprehensive plan of action that aligns with the aspirations of the Afghan people.

In a social media post on Friday, Kazemi Qomi highlighted the significance of basing the agenda of the forthcoming Doha III summit on the unique circumstances of both Afghanistan and its wider region.

"During a meeting with the Italian Special Representative for Afghanistan, I emphasized that the topics and themes of the Doha III summit should be based on the realities of the region and Afghanistan," the envoy wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Expressing concern over the impact that the conduct of external



To address these challenges, he stated that Iran is prepared to engage in fresh cooperative efforts

the situation remains unresolved.

potential consequences for Europe if

with Europe. This collaboration would involve ongoing consultations on a range of Afghanistan-related matters and the development of a comprehensive framework for cooperation that prioritizes the interests of the Afghan nation.

Afghanistan is grappling with

various economic, social, and security issues after two decades of U.S. occupation. Since Washington's military withdrawal from the wartorn country in 2021, the White house has frozen billions of dollars of Afghanistan's assets under different pretexts, further worsening the plight of Afghan civilians. The Afghan frozen assets are the second-largest amount of financial money from a country that was seized by the U.S. since the Iranian frozen assets from 1980.

Iran, which is home to the largest number of Afghan refugees in the world, has been urging regional and extra-regional countries as well as international bodies to help Tehran soothe the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. It has also repeatedly condemned the U.S. for obscuring the establishment of peace and security in the war-stricken nation.

### Opt. True Promise sparked pro-Palestinian student movements, says general

TEHRAN - The chief of the Basij Construction Organization has stated that Operation Al Aqsa Storm has led to a global awakening and that Iran's retaliatory response to Israel has ignited uprisings and pro-Palestinian student movements in universities worldwide.

On April 1, the Israeli regime conducted airstrikes on the consular section of Iran's embassy in Damascus, Syria, resulting in the deaths of two IRGC generals, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and General Mohammad Hadi Haji Rahimi, along with five of their accompanying officers.

In response, the IRGC launched Operation True Promise on April 13, targeting Israeli military bases across the occupied Palestinian territories with a series of drone and missile strikes.

The Chief of Iran's Army, Major General media outlets have attempted to hide the genocide

Abdolrahim Mousavi, also declared on Friday that the Islamic Republic's retaliatory response to the Zionist regime, known as Operation True Promise, will hasten the liberation of Palestine and the downfall of the Zionist regime.

General Mohammad Zahraei also stated that the reality of the Palestine issue had been concealed for 80 years, but Operation Al Aqsa Storm sparked a global awakening, revealing the truth to people

The Al-Aqsa Storm operation, executed by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas on October 7, 2023, marked a pivotal event that significantly altered the geopolitical landscape of Palestine and the broader West Asia region.

General Mohammad Zahraei claimed that Western



and killing of children by Zionists in Gaza, but the truth has now been revealed to people worldwide.

According to the general, the current uprisings stem from global support for Palestinians.

He also called for a more active media role, urging the country's outlets to adopt a proactive approach rather than a defensive stance in confronting Western media narratives.

#### Iranian, Azerbaijani presidents to inaugurate Qiz Qalasi Dam

TEHRAN - The Qiz Qalasi Dam, a and Azerbaijani President Ilham most significant border water collaborative effort between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan constructed on the Aras River, is set to be inaugurated on Sunday by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi

During a one-day visit to northwest Iran, the two presidents will officially open the dam, which is the largest and boost economic and agricultural

project in the region. The dam regulates 2 billion cubic meters of water annually.

The project is expected to

development, promote tourism in the region, secure Iran's water rights from border sources, and provide drinking water to nearby cities and villages.

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

From page 1 ► Equipped with a three-dimensional phased array radar, sea-to-sea and sea-to-air missiles, and sophisticated telecommunication systems for electronic warfare, the Shahid Mahdavi warship possesses a versatile capability, including the capacity to carry various types of attack helicopters, combat drones, and fast attack craft.

The vessel gained global attention in February 2024 when official reports confirmed the launch of ballistic missiles, meticulously fired from within containers, each boasting an approximate range of 1,700 kilometers (1,050 miles).

IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami had previously announced that the missile carrier warships extended the IRGC's range of influence and naval power up to any desired spot in the world.

"Our oceangoing warships can be present in every location across the world, and when we can fire missiles from them, there is accordingly no safe spot for anyone intending to create insecurity for us," the IRGC chief stated.

In recent years, Iranian military specialists and engineers have achieved notable advancements in producing a diverse array of domestically developed equipment, fostering self-reliance within the armed forces.Officials from Iran affirm their commitment to enhancing the nation's military capabilities, particularly in missile technology, emphasizing their

Iran unequivocally states that negotiations will not affect its defense capabilities. Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, consistently emphasizes the importance of maintaining and enhancing Iran's defense capabilities.

#### Iran to aid Venezuela in launching medical accelerators

TEHRAN - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). Mohammad Eslami, has announced that Iran will assist Venezuela in deploying medical accelerators. following a request from the Venezuelan government.

Eslami noted that Venezuelan hospitals possess accelerators that are currently inoperative due to Western sanctions. He emphasized Iran's readiness to cooperate internationally, with neighboring countries and those engaging with Tehran, in fields such as education, research, services, and technology.A meeting took place between an AEOI deputy and the Venezuelan Deputy Minister of Science and Technology to enhance technological and scientific collaboration.

The discussions aimed to advance specialized and technical cooperation.

The AEOI deputy also met with Alberto Jose Quintero, Venezuela's Deputy Technology Minister and Head of the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research (IVIC), along with the Venezuelan ambassador and the accompanying delegation.

On November 20, 2022, a meeting was held between Dr. Rahim Sorouri, Director of Pasteur Institute of Iran, and Dr. Gabriela Jimenez, Vice President and Minister of Science and Technology of Venezuela. The parties emphasized the need to expand cooperation.At the beginning of the meeting, Gabriela Jimenez expressed her gratitude to the Pasteur Institute of Iran for exporting BCG and Hepatitis B vaccines to this country.

He called for increased scientific and technical collaboration with the Pasteur Institute of Iran and expressed hope that the export of vaccines from the institute to Venezuela would continue.

She said that during the visit of her colleagues to the Pasteur Institute of Iran, she had been informed of the technical and scientific capacities of this center. In the meeting, Dr. Rahim Sorouri, while expressing the capabilities of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, emphasized the increase of cooperation between the Pasteur Institute of Iran and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Venezuela in the fields of production, research, and education.

Furthermore, the Director of Pasteur Institute of Iran and that of Venezuela Scientific Research Institute, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), expressed their desire for a sustainable scientific partnership in the field of vaccines and other pharmaceutical products, biological research, as well as

improving educational systems based on the best national and international standards.

Earlier on the same day, Dr. Mahdi Paryan, the Deputy Director of Production of the Pasteur Institute of Iran, and Dr. Jesus Brito, the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology of Venezuela, had a meeting in which they both emphasized the cooperation of the two countries. The Deputy Director of production of the Pasteur Institute of Iran announced the readiness of the Pasteur Institute of Iran to export vaccines, diagnostic kits, and injection solutions, and discussed the readiness of the Pasteur Institute of Iran to hold workshops and training courses in the field of quality control, ensuring vaccine quality, the production and formulation processes of biological products and vaccines, and the technology transfer of vaccines.

#### IRGC to launch Ghaem 105 satellite carrier

TEHRAN - The Commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force's Space Division has announced that the Ghaem 105 satellite carrier will be launched by the end of this year or next year in four phases.General Ali Jafarabadi emphasized the significance of the Ghaem 105 project, describing it as a "serious project."

The Ghaem 105, capable of carrying Ghaem 100 satellite carrier. This launch, nearly twice the payload of its predecessor, the Ghaem 100, marks a significant advancement in Iran's space capabilities.

Earlier this year, Iran set a new milestone by launching the Soraya satellite to an altitude of 750 kilometers using the domestically manufactured

attended by top IRGC officials, was the first time an Iranian satellite carrier reached a 750 km orbit.

The Ghaem 105, being the first fourstage satellite carrier, introduces new complexities and promises to enhance Iran's ability to launch larger satellites into higher, more stable orbits.

General Jafarabadi also expressed optimism about future advancements of Iran's space program. The Ghaem 105 will be able to carry satellites weighing up to 200 kg to an altitude of 500 km or lighter satellites up to 2,000 km. This development underscores Iran's growing capabilities in space technology and satellite deployment.

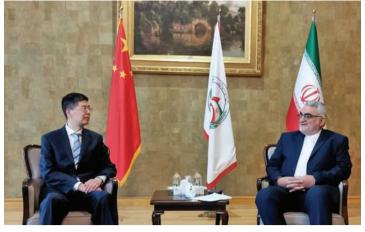
## Iran-China 25-year cooperation program strengthens relations: official

TEHRAN - The head of the Iran-China Friendship Association says the 25-year cooperation agreement between Iran and China is a solid foundation for strengthening and developing bilateral relations between the two countries.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi emphasized the necessity of further strengthening and expanding friendly relations between the two countries during a meeting with Cong Peiwu, the new Chinese ambassador to Iran. He described the 25-year cooperation agreement as a solid foundation for developing relations.

Boroujerdi described the 25-year cooperation agreement between Iran and China as a solid foundation for strengthening and developing bilateral relations. He emphasized, "We believe in taking practical steps to develop relations because enough documents and agreements have been signed between the two countries."

Cong Peiwu who recently arrived in Tehran, held his first official meeting



in his new role with Boroujerdi on Thursday, May 16, the day after presenting his credentials to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

This two-hour meeting, attended by the Chinese embassy's political advisor, several embassy staff members, and board members of the Iran-China Friendship Association, covered a wide range of topics and issues related to bilateral relations.

The new Chinese ambassador noted that he chose his first official meeting after submitting his credentials to be with the head of the Iran-China Friendship Association, indicating the importance of the

Boroujerdi welcomed the new Chinese ambassador and wished him success during his mission in Iran. He stated, "We in the Iran-

association's role in facilitating the

strengthening and development of

bilateral relations in various fields.

China Friendship Association closely monitor the relations between the two countries and believe that there are third countries, particularly the United States, that are not interested in the expansion of friendly relations between Iran and China. They use anti-China sentiments as tools to obstruct the development of friendly Iran-China relations."

China holds the position of being Iran's primary trading ally. Both nations face varying degrees of unlawful sanctions imposed by the

In recent times, the two countries' relationship has grown stronger, notably following the reimplementation of sanctions on Iran's economy by the U.S. in 2018, subsequent to its unilateral withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear agreement.

In March 2021, Iran and China entered into a significant 25-year partnership deal, aiming to bolster their enduring economic and political

## Iraqi government moving to revoke passports of anti-Iranian separatists



TEHRAN - A Qatari newspaper has reported that the Iraqi government is moving to revoke passports issued by the Iraqi Kurdistan's regional governing body to anti-Iranian separatist elements.

Recent reports indicated that the Iraqi government had already revoked the passports of several leaders of the terrorist group known as the "Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan"

On Saturday, the Qatari newspaper Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported that the Iraqi Ministry of Interior has ordered the revocation of the passport of Mostafa Mohammad Hijri, the

group's leader, without providing specific reasons for this decision.

Al-Araby Al-Jadeed noted that this decision aligns with an agreement between Iraq and Iran to remove separatist elements from the border area between the two countries. It appears to be one of the outcomes of this agreement, aimed at revoking the passports of anti-Iranian separatist elements.

The Qatari media outlet further reported that Iraq, in coordination with the Iraqi Kurdistan's regional governing body in northern Iraq, has intensified its measures to restrict the activities of these separatist elements against Iran. As part of these efforts, Iraq has begun revoking their passports.

According to information obtained by Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, Iraqi authorities have revoked not only Hijri's passport but also those of other anti-Iranian separatist elements. These passports were allegedly obtained illegally through the Kurdistan Region's passport office, facilitating easy travel for these individuals.

The report also mentioned that Jasim Mohammad Jaafar, a former Iragi minister, had criticized the Iraqi Kurdistan's regional governing body in February for granting citizenship and Iraqi passports to anti-Iranian separatist elements, stating that this action violates the Iraqi constitution. He emphasized that the Iraqi Kurdistan region has become a haven for terrorist elements and separatist groups against neighboring countries.

Earlier this year, news sources announced that the Iraqi government had revoked the passports of several leaders of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan. Following the revocation of Mostafa Hijri's passport, the Iraqi government also revoked the passports of several other leaders of this group.

Under the security agreement between Iran and Iraq, the activities of terrorist groups opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran in northern Iraq are to be monitored, and the leaders of these activities are to be expelled from these

#### Operation True Promise shifted Iran's enemies' tactics: IRGC spokesman

TEHRAN - The spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has highlighted the significance of Operation True Promise, noting its pivotal role in reshaping Iran's adversaries'

Brigadier General Ramezan Sharif, addressing a conference on Saturday, lauded the PR endeavors of the IRGC and Basij, stating, Zionist regime; all those who aided out terrorist airstrikes on the consular "While some viewed Operation True" and abetted the Zionist regime over section of Iran's embassy in the Syrian

Promise as limited, it proved to be a the past 74 years, across military. potent, game-changing endeavor in reshaping our enemies' tactics." Sharif underscored the operation's impact, stating, "Our adversaries marshaled all resources to discredit this punitive mission, employing media prowess to downplay its significance."

propaganda, intelligence, and media realms, joined the fray."

The IRGC spokesman emphasized, "However, divine intervention ensured this landmark decision by the Leader of Islamic Revolution to penalize the Zionist regime unfolded in full view, Highlighting the operation's restoring our nation's prestige and scale, he added, "It wasn't just the glory." On April 1, the Israeli regime carried capital Damascus, which killed two IRGC generals, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and General Mohammad Hadi Haji Rahimi, as well as five of their accompanying officers.

In retaliation, the IRGC targeted the Occupied Territories on April 13 with a barrage of drones and missiles. The retaliatory strikes, dubbed Operation True Promise, inflicted damage on Israeli military bases across the occupied Palestinian territories.

#### Iran's sky safest in region, most terrifying for adversaries: top officer

TEHRAN - The deputy chief of Iran's Air Defense Force has declared that the Islamic Republic's airspace is "clearest and safest for allies, and most unsafe, dangerous, and terrifying for adversaries."

Second Brigadier General Amir Mohammad Khoshghalb highlighted that Iran's Air Defense has accumulated significant experience over the 40 years since the Islamic Revolution.

Despite the sanctions imposed on the country's Air Defense, the general noted that the nation's defense capabilities have been fortified, establishing a "logical and correct path" for its air defense strategy.

General Khoshghalb outlined several key advancements within the Air Defense Force including enhanced equipment, expanded capabilities, increased diversity and frequency range in detection, conflict resolution, surveillance, drones, and communication systems, strategic ambiguity, combined use of equipment to create uncertainty and confusion for enemies, and advanced command and control.

He emphasized that the force has made significant advancements compared to the early days following the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Back on March 11, General Khoshghalb expressed deep pride in attaining advanced aerial assets, highlighting their strategic importance in safeguarding the country.

He drew attention to the remarkable progress

achieved by the country. This progress, he emphasized, is not merely technological but serves as a resilient response to attempts to undermine the spirit and unity of the nation.

Khoshghalb also stressed the pivotal role of unity among the people and officials in fortifying the nation's unprecedented success and strength.

The commander also highlighted the imperative of raising awareness and vigilance, particularly among the younger generation, to effectively counter enemy propaganda. Underscoring the research-oriented initiatives within the defense industry spearheaded by the air defense forces, he said these initiatives have yielded positive results through collaboration with professionals and experts in the field.

## U.S. and its Western allies brazenly disregard international law: Spox

TEHRAN - Iran's government spokesman, Ali Bahadori Jahromi, has accused the United States and the West of flagrantly violating international law and exploiting their power to undermine the authority and effectiveness of international

In a social media post on Friday, Jahromi condemned the arbitrary

actions of Western states, which he believes have hampered the progress and influence of international law.

His remarks were prompted by a letter sent by 12 American senators to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its judges. In the letter, the senators threatened the ICC with severe sanctions if it issued arrest warrants for Israeli officials.

Jahromi pointed to the ongoing Israeli military campaign in Gaza, which has resulted in the deaths of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including women and children. He highlighted the attacks on civilians, medical facilities, and even United Nations camps as evidence of the true nature of some Western countries' attitudes towards human rights.

emphasized ineffectiveness of international law in preventing such atrocities underscores the impunity enjoyed by certain nations.

Jahromi's comments reflect Iran's long-standing criticism of Western powers for their selective application of international law and their tendency to prioritize their own interests over the principles of justice and accountability.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### Iran win title of 2024 **Asian Taekwondo Championships**

From Page 1 > Abolfazl Zandi and Matin Rezaei took two bronze medals in the men's -58kg and men's -63kg, respectively.

Also, Melika Mirhosseini won a silver medal in the women's -73kg and Saeideh Nasiri seized a bronze medal in the women's -46kg.

South Korea came second with three gold medals, two silvers and five bronzes.

China came third, winning two golds and four

#### Ashkan Dejagah hangs up his boots

TEHRAN - Ashkan Dejagah announced his retirement from football at the age of 37.

The attacking midfielder started his career in 2003 in the Hertha BSC II and won the Bundesliga title with Wolfsburg in 2008/09.

He joined Premier League side Fulham on a €2.5 million three-year deal in 2012 but joined Oatari side Al Arabi in a shock move in 2014.

Dejagah represented Germany U17, U18, U19, U20 and U21 football teams but opted to play for his homeland international side in the senior level.

He won 59 caps for Team Melli and scored 11 goals. Dejagah represented Iran in two 2014 and 2018 FIFA World Cups, although he did not play in

Dejagah also played for Iranian teams Tractor

"After years of unforgettable moments on the field, it's time to say goodbye to football. From the very first days when I was playing football in the streets, and when I represented my country in the biggest tournaments, football was more than a game, a love, a journey and a way of life for me," Dejagah posted on his Instagram account.

"I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to wear the shirt of the respected clubs and my beloved national team. Every game, every goal and every win will forever have a special place in my heart.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart to my teammates, coaches, fans and everyone who has supported me throughout this incredible journey! thank you football," Dejagah said.

#### Double disappointment for Persepolis

TEHRAN - The end of the AFC Champions League era in its present format brings back to fans of Asian football two decades of happy memories and successes, but also unforgettable moments of heartbreak which is part of the beauty of the game.

As Al Ain FC and Yokohama F. Marinos prepare to conclude the era that started in 2003-04 with the final showdown at Hazza bin Zayed Stadium, the-AFC.com recounts some of ever-lasting heartbreak moments for fans of some of Asia's

One of Asia's best supported clubs, Persepolis had to watch their fierce rivals Esteghlal lift the Asian Club Championship trophy twice, in 1970 and 1990-91, and reach the final two times more, while the now defunct Pas Tehran also won the title in 1992-93 and Sepahan reached the final

Persepolis' time finally came in 2018 when the side featuring the likes of Alireza Beiranvand, Jalal Hosseini and others navigated Al Jazira and Al Duhail before beating Xavi's Al Sadd in the semifinals to reach their first-ever AFC Champions

Travelling to Japan to face a Kashima Antlers side also playing their first final in the competition, Persepolis held on for an hour but found themselves falling behind to two quick goals from Brazilian duo Leo Silva and Serginho, leaving them with a mountain to climb in the second leg. Despite the backing of a record 100,000 fans at Azadi Stadium on a cold November night, Persepolis missed chance after chance, failing to claw back the difference as a 0-0 draw in Tehran meant the home crowd went home disappointed and the trophy was Kashima's to carry home.

Two years later, a fresh squad including some of the 2018 stars alongside new names such as Hamed Lak and Mehdi Abdi repeated the magical journey, seeing-off Al Sadd, Pakhtakor and Al Nassr to set-up a date with Ulsan HD in a single-legged final in Qatar due to the COVID-19

The dreams appeared to be getting closer to becoming a reality when Abdi drilled an effort from the edge of the area into the bottom corner to put Persepolis ahead four minutes before the

Minutes later, Lak saved a penalty from Junior Negrao but the Brazilian swept home the rebound to send the two sides into the dressing rooms level. Quickly after the restart, Negrao added his second from the spot again, the two mistakes in the box eventually costing Persepolis the longawaited title as one of the Tehran side's best generations missed out on continental glory once

#### Iranian Para athletes win two bronzes at 2024 World Para **Athletics**

TEHRAN - Saman Pakbaz and Amanollah Papi of Iran claimed two bronze medals in the 2024 World Para Athletics Championships on Saturday.

Pakbaz finished in the first place at the Men's Shot Put F12 with a throw of 14.56 meters. Spanish thrower Kim Lopez Gonzalez and

Latvian Emils Dzilna won the gold and silver medals with 15.22 and 15.00 meters, respectively. Papi also won a bronze medal in the men's

Javelin Throw F57. He came third throwing 49.61 meters in the men's Javelin Throw F57.

Brazilian Cicero Valdiran Lins Nobre won the gold medal with a throw of 50.18 meters.

The silver medal went to Turkey's Mohammad Khalvandi with 49.80 meters.

The 2024 World Para Athletics Championships are organized by the World Para Athletics subcommittee of the International Paralympic

It's the 11th edition of the event and are being held in the Kobe Universiade Memorial Stadium in Kobe, Japan, from May 17 to 25.

The event was initially scheduled for September 2021 but it was rescheduled to avoid clashing with the 2020 Summer Paralympics which were rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Held in East Asia for the first time and a crucial qualifier for the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, the Kobe 2024 Para Athletics World Championships attracted over 1,000 athletes from 100 countries and regions to compete in 168 events.

#### Jordan defender Al-Arabi linked with Iranian teams

TEHRAN - Jordan international defender Yazan Mousa Mahmoud Abu Al-Arab has been reportedly linked with a move to Iranian teams Persepolis and Sepahan.

Jordanian media has reported that Turkish football team Kas?mpa?a has also shown interest in signing the 28-year-old center back.

Al-Arab currently plays in Qatari club Muaither.

He is a member of Jordan football team and won the silver medal at the 2023 AFC Asian Cup

#### Woman Para athlete Dibaei banned for doping

TEHRAN - Iranian woman Para athlete Faezeh Dibaei has been banned for 18 months for violation of ant-doping rules.

The discus thrower won a silver medal in 2022 Asian Para Games in the F56/57 class.

Dibaei has used banned substance hydrochlorothiazide and triamterene and been

banned for 18 months. The Para athlete is ineligible from Nov. 27, 2023 until May 26, 2025.

## **ECONOMY**



#### Transit of goods via Iran rises 55% in 2 months on year



TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Iran increased by 55 percent during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20) compared to the same period last year, Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash said.

Transit via Iran also increased by 47 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-April 19)), as compared to the preceding year, according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, 1.6 million tons of goods were transited via the country in the mentioned month, IRNA reported.

As previously announced by IRICA, 17.79 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1402.

Transit of commodities through Iran increased

by 36.52 percent during the previous year compared to the preceding year.

As stated by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative offered by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters.

Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world, and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries with a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

## Iran's oil output reaches 3.2m bpd in February: IEA

TEHRAN- Iran's oil production increased by 50,000 barrels per day (bpd) in April from March, the International Energy Agency (IEA) announced in its latest monthly

According to the IEA's released data, Iran produced 3.3 million bpd of oil in April, while the figure was 3.250 million bpd in March.

Based on the IEA data, Iran's oil production is now only 300,000 bpd less than the figure in 2018, when the U.S. imposed sanctions on the country's oil industry.

In late April, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) also released a report that said Iran's oil production in 2023 saw an increase of 500,000 bpd in comparison to the previous year, reaching 3.1 million bpd.

According to the IMF data, the oil

2022 and 2023. sector of Iran's economy recorded a noteworthy growth of 15 percent in 2023. Over the three years of President Ebrahim Raisi's tenure, this sector experienced a double-

digit growth; therefore, the oil sector

saw 10.1 percent, 10 percent, and 15

percent growth respectively in 2021,

It is predicted that Iran's oil production will increase by another 100,000 bpd, reaching 3.2 million bpd in 2024.

Iran's gas production also increased from the equivalent of 4.8 million barrels of oil per day in 2022

to the equivalent of 5.1 million bpd in 2023. According to IMF, the figure is expected to rise by 300,000 bpd to reach the equivalent of 5.4 million bpd in 2024.

Iran exported 1.4 million barrels of oil per day in 2023, indicating an increase of 500,000 barrels compared to its oil export data in the previous year, and it is expected that in the current year, an additional 100,000 barrels would be added to Iran's oil exports, reaching 1.5 million bpd.

Iran exported gas in 2023 the equivalent of 300,000 barrels of oil per day and it is expected that the figure will remain the same in 2024.

Earlier this month Financial Times reported that Iran is exporting more oil than at any time for the past six years, giving its economy a \$35bn-a-

#### Iran able to export renewable electricity to 4 neighbors

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has said the country is able to export renewable electricity to four neighboring countries, IRNA reported.

According to Mojtaba Rajabi-Mashhadi, considering the county's power grid capacity, private sector power plant owners are able to export up to 300 megawatts of electricity in eight months of the year, when domestic consumption is not that high.

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

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

Solar power plants accounted for 58 percent of renewable electricity production and were followed by wind farms that represented 31 generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share. percent of the total capacity.

Small hydropower plants and biomass plants stood next, as they accounted for 9% and 1% of the total renewable capacity respectively in April.

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

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

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

Last year, the ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of the mentioned renewable power

Renewables, including hydropower, account for nearly seven percent of the country's total energy

While Iran enjoys some proper conditions for the development of renewable energies, unfortunately, the country is lagging behind its

Based on Iran's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), the country was aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity

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

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

#### Iranian parliament endorses PTA with Indonesia

TEHRAN - The Iranian parliament has ratified a last year preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Indonesia.The PTA was signed between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his Indonesian counterpart Joko Widodo in Jakarta on May 23, 2023.

Writing on his official X account, Iran's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Alireza Peimanpak hailed the agreement as the first PTA with an Asia-Pacific country. The agreement will allow the two Muslim countries to reduce tariffs on exports and imports of certain goods and products.

The PTA agreement will require Iran to lower tariffs on imports of products like processed food and pharmaceuticals, textiles, palm oil, coffee, and tea from Indonesia while Indonesia will give easier and greater access to its market for Iranian oil and chemical products, metals and some dairy products.

Indonesia is one of the world's consumption markets, and this country's market is the main destination of many countries' export goods. Considering Indonesia's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and low tariffs for imports to this country, Iran can also take advantage of the economic status of Indonesia and expand its trade with this country.

In recent years, Iran has started to sign preferential trade agreements with other countries to expand its economic relations through the reduction of tariff rates. A clear example of this policy is the trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Pakistan, based on them zero tariffs are to be applied on at least 100 items.

The data of the last decade of Iran's trade with Indonesia show that the peak of Iran's trade relations with this country was in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20, 2022), which can be a turning point in the history of trade between the two

Iran's 10-year exports to Indonesia show that in 1400, the highest value of exports to Indonesia occurred in the last ten years, which was \$1.081

### Collecting associated gases to reach 40 mcm/d

administration took office in August 2021, approximately 25 million cubic meters of associated gases have been collected, and the figure will reach 40 million cubic meters per day at the end of the current Iranian calendar year 1403 (20 March 2025).

According to the Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for Planning Hoshang Falahian, during the Iranian calendar years of 1400, 1401, and 1402, associated gas collection figures stood at 1.400 million cubic meters, 8.2 million cubic meters, and 15 to schedule but we plan to collect 18 million cubic meters per day, respectively.

Generally speaking, out of 40 million cubic meters of burnt associated gases per day, approximately 25 million cubic meters are being collected while burning the remaining 15 million cubic meters will be stopped up to the end of the current Iranian year,

"Even though we lag behind in view of gathering associated gases nearly all of them at the end of next Iranian calendar year of 1404 unless 10 percent, which is needed to be burnt to secure treatment plants safety," the official added.

He went on to say that over the last year 9 million and 1.7 million cubic meters of associated gases were collected from Aghajari and Gachsaran and Karoon and Maroon oil fields respectively on a daily basis.

According to him, in total, this year as much as 15 million cubic meters of associated gases will be collected from Naftshahr and Saadatabad oil fields as well as the remaining part of associated gases of West Karoon, Khesht, Masjid Soleimanm oil fields, plus the remaining part of the associated gases of Aghjari, Karoon and Maroon oil fields which are planned to be transmitted to NGL 1300 treatment plant.

He noted that collecting associated gases from Salaman and Aghajari and Gachsaran platforms will be carried out next year.

#### Over 6,500 villages, 50 towns connected to national gas network in 2.5 years

Company (NIGC) said 6,500 hard-to-reach villages and 50 towns have been connected to the national gas network over the past 2.5 years since the 13th administration took office.

According to Mjaid Chegeni, over 98.5 percent of families in urban areas are currently using natural gas through the national network, Shana reported.

During the period, 836,042 gas service lines have been installed in urban and rural areas, he continued, putting the number of natural gas service subscribers added during the 2.5-year period at

TEHRAN - The head of National Iranian Gas Chegeni noted that 1,472 kilometers of new gas transmission pipelines have been installed and five ga compressor stations have been added to the national network, increasing their total number to 91.

> According to the official, 16 more power plants receiving gas have been added since the incumbent government took over in August 2021, increasing the total number to 102.

> He also said 3.195 more industrial units have been supplied with gas during the 30-month period, concluding the number of industrial consumers has soared to 32,518.

## 1000 Km of oil pipelines to go operational this year: Oji

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said environmental situation and deterring air pollution. 1,000 kilometers of oil pipeline will come online this Iranian calendar year ending on 20 March 2025, to facilitate the transfer of oil products.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Oji said that three projects are ready to go operational in Eastern Azerbaijan Province including a 222-kilometer pipeline for conveying oil products from Tabriz to Oromyyeh, improving the quality of gasoil produced at Tabriz oil refinery and its sulfur recycling unit project.

"Tabriz refinery's improving gasoil quality project will increase the country's euro-5 gasoil production capacity by five million liters per day", the oil minister said, adding the project will be a considerable contribution to the improvement of the

Tabriz-Oromyyeh and Bandar Abbas-

Rafsanjan- Sirjan oil products transfer pipelines, as part of a general plan for the construction of a 1000 km pipeline this year, will facilitate oil product conveying from oil refineries to consumption destinations like power plants, industries, oil products storage facilities and so on, he said.

currently about 16,000 to 17,000 tanker trucks are involved in carrying oil products on roads across the country, the petroleum minister said, adding carrying oil products through pipelines will decrease tanker trucks movements and their related accidents while at the same time will improve the quality of air, will lessen the cost of transportation as well as preventing road quality

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said that under the related laws, 90 to 95 percent of fueling at gas stations should be done by using personal fuel cards which stands at around 70 percent currently.

The official pointed to the creation of a system in the country to reduce fuel smuggling and said: At first, this system will be used on a trial basis, and based on it, the allocation of oil and gas for trucks and inter-city buses will be done online.

According to Oji, gasoil burning vehicles will receive their fuel rations depending on the distance they travel (allocating gasoil based on online documents) which will play an important role in gasoil smuggling prevention.

#### Iran RAILEXPO 2024 opens in Tehran

TEHRAN - The 11th International Exhibition of Rail Transportations & Related Industries Equipment dubbed "IRAN RAILEXPO 2024" was inaugurated at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Saturday. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash and Head of Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran Miad Salehi.

More than 100 domestic companies and five foreign companies from China, Russia, India, and the Republic of Azerbaijan have participated in this exhibition to showcase their latest achievements and technologies in the railway industry.

Concurrent with organizing this exhibition, the 15th Meeting of the Heads of Railway Authorities of the ECO Member States and the 9th Rail Committee Meeting of the ECO Transit Transport Coordinating Council will be held with the participation of Iran, Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The domestically manufactured GM locomotive engine, Model GT26, and Locomotive Microprocessor Control System (LCS) will also be unveiled in the exhibition.

#### **TEDPIX falls 10,800 points on Saturday**

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 10,847 points to 2,208,244 on Saturday, which is the first 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).

By Mahnaz Abdi BEIJING- Over 100 journalists from more than

90 countries around the world participated in a one-week internship program organized by China International Press Communication Center

The journalists enjoyed the highly fruitful internship program at the place of China Central Television (CCTV) Headquarters in Beijing.

During the mentioned program which started on May 11, journalists were categorized in different groups for different departments.

While every journalist got familiar with the activity of the Chinese media in a new department in the CCTV building every day, he/she had also the chance to visit other departments and all different parts of the huge building.

Although visiting all parts of the high-profile skyscraper during just one week is impossible, going around different sections really astonished the intern journalists.

CCTV provides opportunity for foreign journalists

to flourish their skills

Headquarters is 51-floor skyscraper formed out of a pair of conjoined towers that sits on the East Third Ring Road, Guanghua Road in the Beijing Central Business District (CBD) and serves as the headquarters for China Central Television (CCTV).

The building's construction began on 1 June 2004 and its façade was completed in January 2008. The structure was feted by some architectural critics as "the greatest work of architecture built in this century" and was named the 2013 Best Tall Building Worldwide by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

China Central Television (CCTV) is the national television broadcaster of China, established in 1958. CCTV is operated by the National Radio and Television Administration which reports directly to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s Central Publicity Department.

CCTV has a variety of functions, such as news communication, social education, culture, and entertainment information services.

The idea of an English channel was brought out in 1996. CCTV-4 had three half-hour English news broadcasting every day, but later, on 25 September 2000, CCTV-9 a satellite channel was set up to be the first 24-hour English channel, aimed to establish the overseas market

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

# War in war cabinet

#### Coalition collapse looms as Netanyahu and Gallant lock horns

#### By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Growing rifts in the Israeli government are increasingly reflecting the protest movements on the streets of Tel Aviv.

The Israeli minister of war Yoav Gallant has again hit out at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for lacking a clear post-war plan for Gaza after the genocidal war, set to enter its eighth month, drags on, with no clear vision for the "day after".

As troops invade cities in northern Gaza months after Netanyahu's government declared victory against Hamas in the north, Gallant has demanded that Netanyahu set out a clear strategy for the war.

Former army generals also in the war cabinet, Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot, have both taken sides with Gallant's position.

However, this position has been condemned by the more fascist ministers, Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir. The two ministers have threatened to pull out of the cabinet, which would trigger its collapse if Netanyahu does not keep an Israeli military government to rule Gaza after the war.

Making things more complex, the war itself has come to a standstill as battle lines are not shifting and more Israeli soldiers are being killed.

Hamas says the Palestinian resistance will continue to confront the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) in Ra-

have warned of a humanitarian catastrophe as Is-

Israel has slaughtered about 35,400 Palestin-

Israel stands accused of genocide at the Inter-

national Court of Justice. Prominent rights groups

have also said Israel's military actions in Gaza

amount to war crimes and crimes against human-

UN experts, meanwhile, have accused the re-

Fears are now growing that a large-scale incur-

The tragic situation of Gazans has led to rising

As part of "Blockout 2024" campaign, online ac-

ivists are unfollowing or blocking famous names.

They put a block on content from the accounts

of certain celebrities on social media platforms

such as Instagram, TikTok and X, formerly known

pressure on certain celebrities in particular those

gime of deliberately starving Palestinians in Gaza

as famine is spreading in the territory.

sion into Rafah could cause bloodbath.

who attended the Met Gala.

Celebrities lose followers

ians, including over 15,000 children in Gaza since

rael is expanding its military operation there.

launching war on the territory on October 7.



fah and across the enclave "no mat-

Reports have cited sources as

Israeli warplanes have been forced IOF troops can enter.

says it has killed 15 more IOF troops, Israeli news outlets and officials have picked up on the battleground challenges facing the occupation regime's military in Gaza.

A reporter with the Hebrew Kan Network said "Hamas has achieved

significant control and dominance

over vast areas". An Israeli Channel 14 reporter underlined, "Hamas units are in areas where the (Israeli) army has taken control have once again revived their capabilities, and this is worrisome."

One representative in the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) went further by saying the "Minister of Defense lies when he says that most of Hamas' units and brigades have been destroyed; all Hamas brigades; all twenty-four brigades, are active, standing, formidable, and operational in the region".

Palestinian resistance factions continue to confront the IOF in various combat zones, especially in the

southernmost city of Rafah and Jabalia, where they are targeting Israeli troops and their vehicles while engaging in fierce clashes at close

The military wing of Hamas, the al-Qassam Brigades, announced that they targeted 15 Israeli troops after their fighters stormed a house where a large number of soldiers were holed up, engaging them with gunfire and hand grenades at pointblank range, then detonating an anti-personnel mine in the neighborhood of Hay al-Tanur east of Rafah city in the southern Gaza Strip.

The latest footage released by Hamas in Jabalia shows Israeli troops retreating and seeking safety from Palestinian resistance fighters. Unknown to them is that a Hamas operative is waiting with an RPG, which he launches in their direction.

These types of tactical ambushes are turning Israeli media, officials and a growing angry protest movement against Netanyahu over the lack of any real progress in the war.

Hamas is appearing from holes in the ground and engaging the IOF in the last places imaginable. There is no indication that this war of attrition will end with an Israeli victory.

It is therefore no surprise that those in the Israeli cabinet with military experience are at odds with Netanyahu who is seeking to avoid a lengthy prison sentence at the expense of the regime's soldiers and captives holed up in the Gaza Strip.

# INTERNATIONAL

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### WORLD HEADLINES -

#### London march: UK officials complicit in Gaza genocide



Anti-war protesters have rallied in the British capital condemning UK officials for their involvement in Israel's brutal war on the Gaza Strip.

Protesters in central London accused Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Labour Leader Keir Starmer of being complicit in the regime's geno-

The weekend protest was staged to mark the 76th anniversary of the "Nakba" - or "catastro-

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), which organized the protest, said the march commemorated "ethnic cleansing of 750,000 Palestinians.

#### **Ex-Mossad deputy** chief: Israel's war on Gaza futile

Israeli Knesset member and former Mossad deputy chief Ram Ben-Barak said the ongoing war in Gaza is "futile", asserting that Israel is on the losing end and facing economic collapse.

"This war lacks a clear objective, and it's evident that we're unequivocally losing it," Ben-Barak told Israeli public radio.

"We are forced to engage in fighting in the same areas and end up losing more soldiers. We're also facing setbacks on the international stage, our relations with the US deteriorating significantly, and the Israeli economy in decline,"

"Show me one thing we have succeeded in," he

#### **Putin: Russia not** seeking Kharkiv capture

Russia is currently not seeking to capture Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv, President Vladimir Putin said

"There are no such plans today," he said at the end of his visit to China, according to the BBC.

But he stressed that Russian forces were advancing in the north-eastern Kharkiv region to create a "security zone" for Russia's border re-

Ukraine says the front line has stabilized, admitting that Russia has occupied a number of

Russia launched its offensive in the region last week, and fierce street fighting has been report-

Hamas has stressed that any way to bring in aid, including the American pier, is no substitute

Hamas rejects any

Palestinian land

supervision.

military presence on

ed for the past several days in the key town of

Vovchansk near the Russian border.

In a statement, the movement emphasized its rejection of any military presence of any force in the Palestinian territories, stressing the right of the Palestinian people to receive all the aid they need in light of the catastrophe created by the occupation, Al Mayadeen reported.

for opening all land crossings under Palestinian

The government media office in Gaza, meanwhile, stressed that the US administration was trying to whitewash its brutality by establishing a pier off the coast of Gaza City.

The media office issued a statement questioning the intentions of the US administration, which is working to manage the genocidal war and form a protective barrier for "Israel."

The statement underlined that the pier does not cover the Palestinian people's need for food, and that what it will provide "will not end the famine".

#### Flash floods claim more lives in **Afghanistan**

At least 50 people have died in flash floods triggered by heavy rains in central Afghanistan, officials have said.

Authorities in Ghor province say a number of others are missing, as people ran to safety on higher grounds just minutes before the floodwaters hit, the BBC reported.

They say the floods have also killed thousands of cattle, destroyed some 2,000 houses, and damaged many more.

The fresh bout of heavy rain follows widespread flooding in northern and central areas of

Over a week ago, more than 300 people died after unusually heavy rains devastated scores of villages in the north, according to UN and Taliban

#### Swedish city to ban Israeli goods

The local government in the Swedish city of Gothenburg has put forward a proposal that would ban goods from occupying powers, including Israel.

"We think the taxpayers in Gothenburg do not want to be included in feeding the war machine", the city's deputy mayor, Daniel Bernmar, told Al

The city has seen protests against Israel's war on the Gaza Strip for more than seven

#### American media provide fodder for fire in Gaza

From page **1** ▶ In general, one can observe the use of selective discourse aimed at dehumanizing Palestinians, which in many cases perpetuates openly colonial language that facilitates the justification of violence against those who are portrayed as "less human.'

Another widely used tactic to "explain" what is happening in Palestine is to refer to it as a war, presenting the image of two parties with a similar use of military power, which obscures the reality of genocide perpetrated against the civilian population. In many cases, there is not much difference between the coverage of certain American media outlets and Israeli hasbara accounts on social media, as both attempt to establish a false equivalence between Palestinian resistance and one of the most powerful armies in the

Examples of fake news and various distortions began shortly after Hamas's operation against Israel on October 7, 2023. One of the most notorious fabrications was that of "babies decapitated by Hamas" during the "Flood Al Aqsa" operation. This lie was initially created in Israel and quickly repeated ad nauseam by prominent and prestigious media outlets in the United States and the West. In this regard, it is important to note the similarities between the "decapitated babies" of Hamas and the babies allegedly removed from incubators in Iraq in the 1990s, which contributed to creating public consensus on the need to carry out the well-known "Operation Desert Storm" against the Arab country.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

ter how long the aggression lasts and regardless of its form".

saying Israeli troops have refused to comply with military orders to enter some of the streets in Jabalia in fear of being caught in an ambush. The northern Gaza city had been invaded by the IOF months after Benjamin Netanyahu's government declared

to raze areas to the ground before

As the armed wing of Hamas

for ignoring Israel's carnage in Gaza From page 1 ► UN agencies and aid groups as Twitter.

In addition, some other social media users have posted about the celebrities they have blocked while others have shared posts from users lambasting attendees of the Met Gala and contrasting it with the situation in Gaza.

Silent stars: How celebrities are hurt

The move is aimed at reducing the earnings the celebrities make through advertisements on social media platforms.

Hashtags such as #blockout, #blockout2024, or #celebrityblockout are being used to draw attention to the celebrities who are deemed as being unsupportive or insensitive towards the death and destruction in the Gaza Strip.

Some users have also called the Blockout, the "digitine" or the digital guillotine, leaning into the French Revolution reference.

Haley Kalil is a former American model and a current TikTok influencer who has nearly 10 million followers on the platform. On May 7, a video surfaced of her lip-syncing the words "let them eat cake", outside the Met Gala.

"Let them eat cake" is the most famous quote attributed to Marie-Antoinette, the gueen of France during the French Revolution.

When she was told that her starving peasant

subjects had no bread to eat, she suggested that they eat cake. Because cake is more expensive than bread, the anecdote has been cited as an example of her obliviousness to the conditions and daily lives of ordinary people.

The footage sparked fierce backlash as Gazans are grappling with starvation more than seven months into Israel's war of genocide.

According to Blockout2024.org, celebrities such as Beyoncé, Kim Kardashian, Billie Eilish and Selena Gomez have lost a large number of followers.

The 2024 Met Gala took place as it was circled by protesters who brought to light the contrast between the event's celebrity opulence and the situation in Gaza

#### **Condoning crimes**

Many believe when celebrities keep mum on Israel's genocide, they are tacitly condoning or supporting the reprehensible act. This is particularly true if their silence is considered a form of acquiescence, allowing Israeli criminals to go ahead with their atrocities without fear of consequences. Individuals, in particular celebrities, can raise awareness and play a crucial role in holding criminals accountable by speaking out against their atrocities.

## Netanyahu wants entire Palestine

From page 1 > If the attack on Rafah - the southernmost city in Gaza which Israel has so far not launched a large-scale military against it would lead to the elimination of Hamas the other parts of Gaza should now be clear of guerrillas as Israel started carpet bombing from northern Gaza to the south. Surprisingly enough, Israeli forces are now coming under attack from the places that were supposed to have been purged from resistance fighters.

On May 12, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken acknowledged that Israel's attack on Rafah would fail to eliminate all fighters.

"Israel is on a trajectory potentially to inherit an insurgency with many armed Hamas fighters left or if it leaves a vacuum filled by chaos. filled by anarchy and probably refilled by Hamas," Blinken said on NBC's Meet the Press.

He also said Hamas fighters are returning to northern Gaza areas that Israel claimed to have cleared

Benjamin has just one intention in his mind: a greater Israel from "the river to the sea". Other far-right extremists and religionists, some of whom have coalesced his coalition government, are also pushing for the project.

The attack by Hamas on southern Israel on October 7 has provided the pretext for Netanyahu and other extremists to expedite their vicious goal. If there had been no such intention there were no justifications for such colossal destruction and untold human disaster in Gaza.

The Gaza Strip - a 365 km2 area - has already become an uninhabitable place for its 2.3 million population. Since October 7 the rulers in Israel have been putting Gazans under extreme pressure to seek refuge in a place outside the coastal strip. Israel first intended to drive Gazans into Egypt's Sainai. However, it faced fierce resistance from Egypt.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in early March that Israel's months of attacks on Gaza seem designed to make the strip into an uninhabitable wasteland.

"After five months of devastating war and destruction, the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza give the impression that its objectives go beyond destroying Hamas. As Major General Giora Eiland wrote last December in (Israeli daily) Yedioth Ahronoth there appears to be an effort to 'turn Gaza into a place that is temporarily or permanently impossible to live in," Borrell wrote on his EU blog.

Satellite analysis by BBC Verify has found hundreds of Gaza's water and sanitation facilities have been damaged or destroyed since Israel began military action against Hamas. Aid agencies

have also said the lack of clean water and flows of untreated sewage pose a serious threat to people's health.

The "greater Israel" project that Zionist religionists and far-rightists pursue is to wipe out the State of Palestine. They have started the project both in Gaza and the West Bank.

"I fear that after finishing off Gaza, Israel would head to the West Bank and deport its people to Jordan." Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told the World Economic Forum in Riyadh in late April.

The accelerated building of settlements on the occupied West Bank and the intensified violence against Palestinian West Bank residents coupled with barbaric acts in Gaza are part of the efforts to create an Israel from the "river to the sea".

But whether this treacherous and vicious plan, which has been formulated and pushed for inside and outside Israel for many years, will translate into reality remains to be seen. Being fully aware that they cannot defeat resistance fighters, Netanyahu and other like-minded figures want to leave ordinary people with no option but to seek refuge somewhere else, although opinion polls suggest support for armed resistance against Israel has risen both in the blockaded Gaza and the West Bank and Palestinians prefer to be killed rather than leave their homeland.

## TOURISM



#### Exhibits of rarely-seen antiquities opens in Iranian provinces

TEHRAN - In commemoration of International Museum Day [MAY 18], a number of exhibitions, showcasing rarely-seen relics borrowed from the National Museum of Iran, have raised the curtains on across the country.

On Saturday morning, the very first day of National Cultural Heritage Week coinciding with International Museum Day, in the presence of the cultural heritage deputy chief, Ali Darabi, 14 exhibitions were inaugurated simultaneously via a video conference.

According to the event organizers, more than a hundred lesser-known relics which are loaned from National Museum of Iran, are being displayed in 14 exhibitions countrywide.

During the video conference, where priorities on the cultural heritage agenda were discussed, some provincial governors shared insights into necessary initiatives which could lead to apt exploitation of capacities lie within

Pointing to the exhibitions as narratives revealing Iran's vicissitudinous history, Esmaeel Zarei-Kousha, the Kordestan's governor, highlighted that six showcased objects are uncovered from the Ziwiye hoard, a treasure hoard containing gold, silver, and ivory objects in

Kordestan province, he continued, is considered as an ancient human settlement inhabited by respected Iranian ethnics.

Mentioning cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts as the cornerstones of provincial



development, Zarei-Kousha expressed hope toward underway initiatives, demanding to extend the duration of the exhibitions with an eye toward attracting more enthusiasts.

Moreover, the Kerman's governor, Mohammad-Mahdi Fadakar, pinpointed the remarkable capacities lie across the province.

"Boasting ten UNESCO-listed properties, Kerman is home to a third of national world recognized sites," the governor further brought to light.

He also revealed that some excavated elements from Jiroft, which were being held in foreign countries, have recently brought back to Iran, and measures are in place to unveil them in a near future.

Winding up the event, Ali Darabi highlighted that as the slogan "Museums for Education and Research" has been set by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) for this year, all related organizations are expected to ramp up efforts aiming to promote museums' position within the country.

#### Great mystery of how ancient Egyptians built the pyramids finally appears solved

Scientists have discovered a long-buried branch of the Nile river that once flowed alongside more than 30 pyramids in Egypt, potentially solving the mystery of how ancient Egyptians transported the massive stone blocks to build the famous monuments.

The 64-kilometre-long river branch, which ran by the iconic Giza pyramid complex among other wonders, was hidden under desert and farmland for millennia, according to a study revealing the find on Thursday.

The existence of the river would explain why the 31 pyramids were built in a chain along a now inhospitable desert strip in the Nile Valley between 4,700 and 3,700 years ago.

The strip near the ancient Egyptian capital of Memphis includes the Great Pyramid of Giza – the only surviving structure of the seven wonders of the ancient world – as well as the Khafre, Cheops and Mykerinos pyramids.

Archaeologists had long thought that ancient Egyptians must have used a nearby waterway to move the giant materials used to build the pyramids.

"But nobody was certain of the location, the shape, the size or proximity of this mega waterway to the actual pyramids site," lead study author Eman Ghoneim of the University of North Carolina Wilmington in the United States told AFP.

The international team of researchers used radar satellite imagery to map the river branch, which they called Ahramat - "pyramids" in Arabic

Radar gave them the "unique ability to penetrate the sand surface and produce images of hidden features including buried rivers and ancient structures," Ghoneim said.

Surveys in the field and cores of sediment from the site confirmed the presence of the river, according to the study in the journal Communications Earth & Environment.

The once mighty river was increasingly covered in sand, potentially starting during a major drought around 4,200 years ago, the scien-

The Giza pyramids stood on a plateau roughly a kilometre from the banks of the river.

Many of the pyramids had a "ceremonial raised walkway" which ran alongside the river before ending at the Valley Temples which served as harbours, Ghoneim said.

This indicates that the river played "a key role in the transportation of the enormous building materials and workmen needed for the pyramid's construction," she added.

Exactly how ancient Egyptians managed to build such huge and long-standing structures has been one of history's great mysteries.

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

From Page 1 ▶ The exhibit will be open to the public at the National Museum of Iran until the end of Tir (July 21).

These tablets, which include letters, seals, and geographical documents, offer a clear glimpse into the highly organized and transparent economy of the Achaemenid period.

The artifacts detail various aspects of daily life and administrative affairs during the reign of Darius the Great, reflecting the meticulous record-keeping of that era.

Nokandeh noted that five shipments of tablets have been returned to Iran to date, with this recent collection comprising 3,500 pieces. Of these, 2,800 are written in Elamite script, while the remainder are in Aramaic.

Prior to this unveiling, other sets of tablets had been displayed at the National Museum of Iran.

The clay tablets provide insights into the administrative and accounting practices of the Achaemenid Empire, as well as the daily lives of workers and officials.

They reveal respect for worker specialization and document various transactions, including the payment of mission allowances to officials and provisions for live-

Archaeologists affiliated with the University of Chicago discovered the tablets in the 1930s while excavating in Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire.

The institute has now resumed work in collaboration with colleagues in Iran, and the return of the tablets is part of a broader effort to strengthen ties between scholars in the two countries, said Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chi-

Experts say that the tablets

are crucial sources of information, revealing economic, social, and religious data about the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the broader Near Eastern region in the fifth century

Persepolis, locally known as Takht-e Jamshid, was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It stands out among archaeological sites for its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

Historical narratives state that Persepolis was burned by Alexander the Great in 330 BC, apparently as revenge against the Persians, as the Persian King Xerxes had burned the Greek city of Athens around 150 years earlier.

At its height, the Achaemenid Empire was the largest and most enduring empire of its time, stretching from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and In-

#### Iran calls for Russian partnerships in tourism development

TEHRAN - The Iranian Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, has extended an invitation to Russian firms to invest in Iran's tourism infrastructure.

He made the remarks on Friday during a specialized meeting on Iran-Russia relations, attended by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Ali Bagheri Kani, along with Russian federal and provincial officials.

He made the remarks in an address to the 15th Economic Cooperation Summit of the Russia - Islamic World (Kazan Forum). The annual event, held from May 15-18, aims to strengthen Russia's ties with Islamic countries, IRNA reported.

Highlighting tourism as a significant potential area for collaboration, Jalali emphasized the opportunities for Russian firms to invest in developing Iran's tourism infrastructure and building hotels.

Responding to a question about the necessity of preparing infrastructure to enhance tourism relations between the two countries, Jalali said that tourism infrastructures are somewhat ready to start op-

He mentioned that regions such as Kish Island have suitable hotels and recreational areas, but naturally, more hotels are needed.

Additionally, Jalali proposed the establishment of direct flights between cities in Iran

and Russia to further boost tourism.

He pointed out that Iran's southern islands, with their moderate weather during the cold season, could attract Russian tourists.

He noted that different cities in Iran, such as Shiraz, Isfahan, Rasht, and Tabriz, have the potential to establish direct flights between the

"In this regard, one of the Russian companies has expressed its readiness, with the matter currently being pursued."

Furthermore, the ambassador suggested enhancing bilateral cooperation by setting up trade houses to facilitate business activities between the two countries.

So far, the Islamic Republic has initiated several measures to ease travel and enhance accessibility in a bid to position itself as a top tourist destination for Russians.

Last year, Tehran and Moscow introduced a visa-free exchange program, allowing tour group travelers to visit without the hassle of obtaining a visa.

However, the move, at the beginning, notably sparked more interest among Iranian tourists compared to their Russian counterparts.

Statistics reveal a significant contrast in the utilization of this opportunity.

By the end of 2023, around 29,500 travelers from Iran had journeyed to Russia, while



only about 10,700 Russians visited Iran.

To further stimulate tourism from Russia, authorities from both countries are actively working on enabling payments with "Mir" cards within Iran.

This initiative aims to streamline financial transactions for Russian travelers, enhancing their overall experience in Iran.

As Iran endeavors to establish itself as a tourist hotspot, these developments mark significant strides in fostering closer ties between the two nations and opening up new avenues for cultural exchange and tourism.

More than six million foreign tourists arrived by air, road, and sea in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 19.

Last year. Iran set the stage for the unilateral abolition of visa requirements for citizens of 32 countries, which took effect on February 4.

### Esfahak receives inbound tourists with open arms

countries, toured Iran's Esfahak village, immersing themselves in rural tranquility.

A local official in charge of tourism, on Saturday, mentioned Esfahak had witnessed presence of 22 foreign travelers, coming from varying nations, such as Australia and England, to name

"Throughout the course of two-day stay, the tourists par-

TEHRAN - A team, consisting ticipated in village's historical Award that is annually presented integral parts of village celebraof tourists hailing from different sites restoration workshops," Mohammad Arab further elaborated. "They also paid visits to the region's places of interest."

> Shedding light on Esfahak's tourism statistics, the official revealed that in the course of the past months, more than 40 foreign travelers have been accommodated in the village along with exploring Tabas UNESCO Global Geopark.

In 2020, Esfahak won a TO-DO

by the German Institute for Tourism and Development.

The ancient village boasts a mild climate ideal for crop growth, presenting lush scenery nearly everywhere you look.

Its houses typically feature domed roofs and small windows.

In addition to handicrafts, local music holds particular significance for the villagers. Traditional songs and the playing of the tar, a local stringed instrument, are

According to local tourism officials, the original essence of Esfahak was tragically altered by a 7.4 earthquake in 1978. Following the quake, a new village was constructed adjacent to the old one, which had been heavily affected.

Today, with the active involvement of the locals, the refurbished village has been transformed into a tourist destination with plentiful eco-lodge units.

### Iran in frame



Travelers pose for a photo near the ancient Asbads, 1,000-year-old windmills that stand as a testament to Nashtifan's rich heritage in Khaf county of Khorasan Razavi

### Museum sites set to illuminate Kermanshah's heritage

TEHRAN - Construction of four new museum sites is underway in Kermanshah to enrich the ancient city's cultural heritage landscape.

Speaking on Thursday, the provincial director-general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced the initiation of four museum sites within Kermanshah.

Detailing the initiative, Dariush Farmani stated that the establishment of museum sites in the Anahita Temple, the historical city of Dinavar, the Sassanid Historical Ensemble of Qasr-e Shirin, and the Qabaq Tappeh in Kuzaran is on the agenda.

Farmani added that the Anahita Temple site holds great potential for conversion into a museum site, with necessary funds allocated for further archaeological excavations.

Dinavar is another potential site, he underscored, despite some destruction due to modern city construction, emphasizing the possibility of establishing a museum site through archaeological endeavors

Additionally, Farmani pointed out the promising prospects for a museum site establishment in Qasr-e Shirin, citing historical Sassanid structures within the city, such as the Khosrow Palace, Charqapi, Ban Qaleh, and the Sassanid canal.

The official also identified Qab-

ag Tappeh as a rural museum site candidate, noting recent archaeological discoveries of Assyrian remnants and, increasing its archaeological significance.

According to the official, over the past year, 50 restoration projects have been implemented in the cultural heritage sites of the

Kermanshah province, nestled in the western part of Iran, boasts a rich cultural heritage that spans millennia. Its strategic location at the crossroads of ancient trade routes has endowed it with a diverse tapestry of historical sites, artifacts, and architectural wonders. As a result, the province has long been recognized as a treasure trove of archaeological marvels, offering invaluable insights into the region's past.

The existing museum capacity in Kermanshah province includes several notable institutions, such as the Kermanshah Museum of Anthropology, and the Taq-e Bostan Museum, renowned for its impressive Sassanid rock reliefs and archaeological exhibits.

Moreover, Kermanshah's museum landscape is complemented by a network of cultural centers and historical sites, each contributing to the province's vibrant cultural scene. From the iconic Bisotun Inscription, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to the majestic Anahita Temple, Kermanshah offers visitors a captivating journey through time.

# 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 conti-

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 humankind 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

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.

structure, and the type of geo-

graphical region, show different

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 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 deci-

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

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

Straight Truth TEHRAN TIMES

#### 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

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.

## 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, re-

#### 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-

> 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

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



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.

### 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

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 boost ing 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 compa-

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.

#### **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 ويروس كرونا غلبه خواهد كرد. به گزارش ایرنا، چانگ هوا روز دوشنبه گفت: ما باور داریم که با ارسال كمك هاى أنساندوستانه از سوى دوستان دولت أيران از بحران اين 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.

## DERANGU



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#### **GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

There is reward for kindness to every living thing. Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:01 Evening: 19:26 Dawn: 3:15 (tomorrow)

#### Palestinian filmmakers aim to challenge perceptions at Cannes

A delegation of Palestinian filmmakers is in Cannes, seeking both international support for projects and the opportunity to alter the discourse on how Palestinians are perceived

"A lot of the time, in western media, Palestinians are just a bunch of angry Arabs," suggested Palestine-Denmark filmmaker Mahdi Fleifel, whose debut "To A Land Unknown" is playing in Directors' Fortnight. He hopes his film "can contribute a level of humanity to the discourse" on Palestinians.

"People don't see us as people with dreams, and hopes and fears. I hope that's what will resonate with audiences," Screen Daily quoted him as saying.

"To A Land Unknown" is about the desperate attempts of two Palestinian men stranded in Athens, trying to reach Germany

It is a co-production between eight countries

"To make a Palestinian film, you have to really create your own pathway," noted Fleifel. "No film is made the same way again. Every Palestinian film that gets made is a miracle."

It began filming in Greece around the time of the October escalation of the Israel-Gaza war. "When we started filming, things had just kicked off," said Fleifel.

"It was on the minds of everyone. At one point, I had to tell the actors - they were young guys in their mid-20s, sat on social media all night – that we have to try to focus on this for the next six weeks. This is the best thing we can do.'

Fleifel is also taking part in the Palestinian doc showcase on May 19, with "My Father's House," which is being produced by Geoff Arboune of the UK's Inside Out Films.

The showcase is a collaboration between the Palestine Film Institute, under the stewardship of Gaza-born, Norway-based Mohamed Jabaly, and Cannes Docs in which

Cartoonist: Ahmad Qaddura from Sweden

Cartoon of Day

four Palestinian-directed documentaries-inprogress are being presented.

"We hope the film industry will increase their support and recognition for our filmmakers, continuing to uplift Palestinian stories, especially during these dark moments we live amid the ongoing genocide in Gaza," said Jabaly.

The other docs in the showcase are Alaa 'Regash' Aaliabdalla's "Palestine Comedy Club," produced by Charlotte Knowles of the UK's Tough Crowd; "The Myth of Mahmoud," directed by Mayar Hamdan and Shaima Al-Tamimi and produced out of Qatar by Al-Tamimi, and Bilal Alkhatib's "Unmaking of," produced by Alkhatib and Ala' Abu Ghoush in Palestine and Paris-based Lebanese producer Tania El Khoury.

Alaa Shehada, an actor and comedian, is attending Cannes for the first time.

He is one of the comedians who appears in "Palestine Comedy Club," that follows five Palestinian comedians who write and tour a stand-up show.

"As Palestinians, we have a stereotype that we are living under occupation, and so we

How can you have a hard life and still be

funny?" said Shehada. "With comedy, it breaks that. We become

closer to people. At the Cannes market, Palestinian projects looking to generate buzz include Laila Abbas'

"Thank You for Banking With Us," sold by MAD World, Rashid Masharawi's "Ground Zero." and Tarzan and Arab Nasser's "Once Upon A Time in Gaza" sold by Bac Films.

And despite having no festival base of their own, with no official pavilion in the international village, "Palestinian cinema is one of the most regular, stable Arab cinema [presences] at festivals, all the time, every year," said Alaa Karkouti, co-founder of pan-Arab outfit Mad Solutions, who runs the Arab Cinema Centre at Cannes.

## Cultural commonalities between Iran, Turkmenistan helping improve friendship

Frome Page 1 > Referring to the common interest of the people of the two countries in the history, culture and literature of Magtymguly Pyragy, he called the great poet and mystic one of the most valuable common cultural symbols of the two nations and said: "Cultural commonalities in various fields have existed between Iran and Turkmenistan for a long time. Holding this conference in the hometown of Pyragy helps revive further friendly and cultural relations between the two countries".

"Magtymguly's poetry presents patriotism and unity, and holding the celebration considerably helps expand the relations between Iran and Turkmenistan," he added.

Imanipour then unveiled the two-volume book "Divan of Magtymguly Pyragy, Comparative Version," each consisting of 700

Referring to the importance of the book, Imanipour said that it can serve as a reference for a better understanding of Pyragy's

Also attending the event, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov unveiled the monument and cultural park complex of Magtymguly Pyragy on Friday.

The event featured musical performances and literaryartistic compositions by creative groups. An exhibition of paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and carpet products was also organized in the park complex.

The Magtymguly Pyragy Cultural-Park Complex includes monuments to famous personalities and poets from around the world.

Pyragy (1724–1807) was a Turkmen spiritual leader, philosophical poet, Sufi, and traveler, considered the most famous figure in Turkmen literary



Statue of Iranian-Turkmen poet, philosopher Magtymguly Pyragy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

He was born in a village near the city of Gonbad-e Qabus in the modern-day province of Golestan, Iran, the northern steppes of which are known as Turkmen Sahra. It was part of the extensive Safavid Empire in the first half of the 18th century. His tomb is also located in Aq-Tuqai village, Golestan Province.

is the He greatest representative of Turkmen literature, credited with the creation of Turkmen written literature, and whose literary form became a powerful symbol of the historical and incipient national consciousness of the Turkmen people. He is part of a unique period in the cultural history of Central Asia, with his exceptional talent projecting his personal poetic synthesis onto the next generation of poets of

Magtymguly Pyragy a Turkmen spiritual leader, philosophical poet and Sufi who is considered to be the father of Turkmen literature and the most famous figure in Turkmen literary

Born in 1733 in Hajjigowshan, a village near Gonbad-e Qabus in the modern-day province of Golestan, Iran, Magtymguly received his early education in the Persian and Arabic languages from his father, Dowletmammet Azady, a leading Turkmen scholar. Magtymguly studied in various

madrassahs, including Idris Baba Madrassah in the village of Gyzyl Ayak, Sirgazy Madrassah in Khiva and Gogeldas Madrassah in Bukhara. After returning home,

Magtymguly worked as a silversmith, and taught and wrote poetry. He developed a realistic style of writing about 18th-

century Turkmen that became very popular and led him to become one of the most cherished Turkmen poets of all time.

Magtymguly traveled extensively during his lifetime, mostly to widen his erudition, with the territories of presentday Azerbaijan, India, Iran and Uzbekistan among the countries known to have been visited by him.

Some of his poetry, along with stories collected from Turkmen oral traditions, suggests that he was taken prisoner. It is unknown who took him captive but such events were common in 18thcentury Turkmenistan region.

Magtymguly's poetry also gave start to an era litterateurs depict as the "Golden Age" in Turkmen literature. His literary form became a powerful symbol of the historical and the incipient national consciousness of the Turkmen people.

Magtymguly's poetry is often personal and takes up universal themes. His work includes elegies on the deaths of his father and children, the disappearance of his brothers, incitements to Turkmen unity, and praises of Muslim religious figures among others.

A number of Magtymguly's poems display philosophical attitudes that stress certain teachings and practices of the Quran and the sunnah, describing ethical and spiritual goals.

The International Conference of Ministers of Culture dedicated to the 300th birth anniversary of Magtymguly Pyragy was held with the presence of 24 ministers, representatives of countries and international organizations in Turkmenistan capital for two

According to latest reports, Iran and Turkmenistan are making efforts to produce a joint film for

## IAF cinematheque to show Thomas Kail's "Hamilton"

TEHRAN- The Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) will screen American theatre and television director Thomas Kail's "Hamilton" on Wednesday.

The screening will be followed by a review session by Iranian theater critics Abbas Ghafari and Aran Qaderpour.

"Hamilton" is a musical that tells the story of Alexander Hamilton, one of America's most influential founding fathers and first Secretary of the Treasury.

The show is a unique blend of hip-hop, jazz, R&B, and traditional Broadway music, wnich brings a fresh and innovative approach to the traditional biography.

The musical is based on the life of Alexander Hamilton, from his arrival in America as a young immigrant to his later years as a key figure in the American Revolution and the early years of the United States.

The show explores his personal and professional struggles, including his relationships with Eliza Schuyler, his wife, and



Aaron Burr, his rival. The musical features a diverse cast of talented actors, including Lin-Manuel Miranda, who created the show and plays the title role.

The original Broadway production of "Hamilton" was filmed live at the Richard Rodgers Theater in New York City, capturing the energy and excitement of the show. The film features the original Broadway cast, including Leslie Odom Jr., Renée Elise Goldsberry, and Jonathan Groff, among others.

The show's creative team, including Thomas Kail, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Alex Lacamoire, have received widespread acclaim for their work on "Hamilton," which has been hailed as a game-changer in the world of musical theater.

Thomas Kail is a renowned American theatre and television director, celebrated for his work on several notable productions. Born in 1977, Kail has made a significant impact on the industry through his collaborations with innovative artists. He is particularly recognized for his direction of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Off-Broadway and Broadway musicals, including "In the Heights" and "Hamilton".

Kail's most notable achievement is his direction of "Hamilton", for which he received the prestigious 2016 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical. This accolade solidified his position as a leading figure in the world of musical theatre. His exceptional work on "Hamilton" earned him widespread acclaim and recognition, cementing his reputation as a masterful director.

In addition to his theatre work, Kail has also ventured into television directing. His most notable television project to date is the 2019 series "Fosse/Verdon", for which he received two Primetime Emmy Award nominations.

#### Documentary on Khorramshahr liberation to be screened at Film Museum

TEHRAN-On the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of Khorramshahr's liberation from Iraqi occupiers, the documentary "Bridge of Freedom" directed by Mehdi Madani will be screened at the Film Museum of Iran on Monday.

The documentary will be part of the special screenings of documentary films under the title "Documentary Nights" in collaboration with the Iranian Documentary Producers Association, ISNA reported on Saturday.

The screening will be followed by a review session, featuring discussion between the director, Mehdi Madani, and

Mohammad Davoudi, producer and cinematographer, who will share their insights on the film.

"Bridge of Freedom" is a documentary about the liberation of Khorramshahr, made in 1982. The film tells the story of the efforts of various engineering groups on the eve of Operation Beit ol-Mogaddas and the liberation of Khorramshahr.

The documentary recounts the story of building a bridge over the Karun River, which ultimately culminated in the liberation of Khorramshahr despite heavy

Khorramshahr, a city located in southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan, was a crucial strategic

point during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1982). The city was captured by Iraqi forces on October 26, 1980, after the people's 34-daylong resistance against the Iraqi invaders during the early months of the war, and its liberation became a major objective for the Iranian military.

After years of intense fighting, the Iranian army launched a major offensive, known as Operation Beit ol-Mogaddas, to retake the city. The operation was a complex and daring plan that involved the construction of a pontoon bridge over the Karun River, which allowed Iranian forces to cross into the city.

The liberation of Khorramshahr was a turning point in the war, marking a significant defeat for the Iraqi forces. The city's liberation was achieved on May 24, 1982, after it was totally reduced to rubble by Iragis and a fierce battle that lasted for several days. The Iranian military suffered heavy losses during the operation, but their bravery and determination ultimately led to the recapture of the city.

The liberation of Khorramshahr was a major morale boost for the Iranian people and marked a significant shift in the momentum of the war. The city's liberation also had significant strategic implications, as it allowed Iranian forces to regain control of the region and to push deeper into Iraqi territory.

