

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 46th year | No. 14784 | Wednesday | May 29, 2024 | Khordad 9, 1403 | Dhu al-Qadah 20, 1445

The Fruit of Resistance: Towards a Palestinian State

Spain, Ireland, Norway formally recognize Palestinian state



Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares, Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide and Ireland's Foreign Minister Micheal Martin gesture after a press conference in Brussels, Belgium May 27, 2024.

Iran's acting foreign minister meets with former Iraqi PM

TEHRAN - Iran's Acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, met with former Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi in Tehran on Monday night. Abdul-Mahdi had traveled to Iran to pay his respects to the late President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, who lost their lives during a helicopter crash on May 19.

In a post on his social media account, Baqeri described the meeting as "warm and friendly." He said that they discussed a wide range of international and regional issues, including the ongoing Israeli aggression in Palestine.

"I had a warm and friendly meeting with Adel Abdul-Mahdi, the former Prime Minister of Iraq who has traveled to Tehran to honor Iran's martyred President and Foreign Minister. We discussed and exchanged views on a wide range of international and regional issues, including the crimes and genocide of the occupying regime in Palestine and the moral and humanitarian responsibilities of Islamic governments in this regard", Baqeri wrote on X.

According to a later report released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Baqeri and Abdul-Mahdi also discussed the importance of regional cooperation and the need to address common challenges. ▶ Page 2

Sorrow engulfs Kashmir

TEHRAN - During the past week, the streets of Kashmir witnessed a series of mourning as a profound sorrow took hold of the region. The news of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi's tragic death in a helicopter crash has sent ripples of grief and sympathy across the area.

From the bustling markets of Srinagar to the quiet towns of Budgam, the community has come together to honor President Raisi, who was martyred in a helicopter crash on May 19.

The untimely loss of Raisi and several of his companions has sparked a wave of solidarity and grief across the region.

Just a day after the news of the tragic crash came out, Shia Muslims from various parts of Kashmir gathered near the Clock Tower in Lal Chowk, Srinagar, for a candlelight vigil. This vigil was part of a broader series of mourning events, reflecting the deep respect and admiration many in Kashmir hold for the late Iranian leader.

One local among the gathering, Ali Hussain expressed deep sorrow and solidarity with the Iranian people, saying that the tragic event has shocked them. "We gather here to show our support and offer our prayers for the victims and their families. We would like to request the Muslim Ummah to pray for the departed souls and remember them in your prayers," he said. ▶ Page 3

▶ Page 5

Israel Katz resorting to deceitful and misleading remarks

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN - Feeling that Israel is being badly isolated, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz made a strong criticism of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over recognizing Palestine as a sovereign and independent state, claiming he is a "partner to incitement" of Jewish "genocide".

Contrary to claims by Katz, a member of the right-wing Likud Party, Sanchez said the recognition is intended to establish peace.

"The recognition of the state of Palestine is not only a matter of historical justice, but we are all aiming at establishing peace," the Spanish prime minister said while speaking at the Moncloa Palace.

The remarks by Katz openly show that Israel does not want Palestinians to have a state of their own in their motherland.

For decades, extremists in Israel and their die-hard supporters in the West, particularly in the United States Congress,

Yemenis attack Israeli and U.S. ships

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - The Yemeni Ansarullah government has launched a wave of military operations in response to the recent Israeli massacre in Rafah.

The spokesman for the Yemeni forces said drones and missiles were used to target Israeli and American ships as well as U.S. destroyers in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.

In a televised speech, Yahya Saree, said the Yemeni armed forces attacked the American LAREGO DESERT and the Israeli MSC MECHELA in the Indian Ocean.

Recently the Sanaa-based Ansarullah government announced it would target Israeli ships and those affiliated with the regime in the Indian Ocean in the fourth phase of its military operations in solidarity with Gaza.

Saree also announced the crude oil tanker MINERVA LISA was targeted in the Red Sea for violating Ansarullah's ban on vessels transiting the Bab al-Mandeb strait for "entering the ports of occupied Palestine".

Also, two special operations were carried out on two American war destroyers in the Red Sea, according to the Yemeni military spokesman.

Global protests condemn Israeli carnage in Rafah

TEHRAN- Israel's weekend brutal attack on a tent camp in Gaza's southernmost city of Rafah has sparked global outrage and anti-war protests across the world.

Dozens of civilians, most of them women and children, lost their lives after an Israeli airstrike hit the camp on Sunday. It ignited fires that spread quickly through tents and makeshift accommodation.

The gruesome scene of scorched tents, burning bodies and dismembered children has left the international community reeling in shock and horror.

Calls are growing to hold the Israeli regime accountable for perpetrating the heinous attack.

On Monday, anti-war protesters hit the cities across the world to vent their anger at Israel's savage crimes.

Anti-war rallies in US

In the United States, people staged rallies in different cities including Washington DC and New York condemning the Israeli deadly strike on Rafah.

Protest organizers and demonstrators in the American capital blasted the White House for using US taxpayer money to feed Israel's war machine.

Iranian scholars grab COMSTECH awards

TEHRAN -Three Iranian scholars won Life-time Contribution Award in physics, and mathematics, as well as the Best Patent Award of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) in 2023.

Life-time Contribution Award in physics has been awarded to Yasaman Farzan, from the school of physics at the institute for research in fundamental sciences.

The award of the same category in mathematics has been bestowed upon Saied Akbari Feyzaabaadi, from the department of mathematical sciences at Sharif University of Technology.

Somayyeh Koohi, from the department of computer engineering at Sharif University of Technology, has won the Best Patent Award. ▶ Page 7



Qalibaf re-elected as Iran's parliament speaker

TEHRAN - Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf was elected overwhelmingly on Tuesday as the speaker of the new Iranian parliament, securing 198 votes in the 290-seat body.

Two other candidates for the post, Mojtaba Zonouri, and Manouchehr Mottaki, garnered 60 and 5 votes respectively. 24 votes were also invalid. 287 votes were cast as a whole.

Hamidrez Hajbabyee also won 175 votes as the first deputy speaker and Ali Nikzad 169 votes as the second deputy speaker.

Qalibaf was also the speaker of the previous parliament for four years. He is a figure who has been active in different political scenes in Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He held office as the Mayor of Tehran from 2005 to 2017, served as Iran's Chief of police from 2000 to 2005, and acted as the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Air Force from 1997 to 2000. He is also a veteran of the Iran-Iraq. ▶ Page 3

YouTube shuts down Iranian Foreign Ministry channel

TEHRAN - American media platforms have once again targeted accounts affiliated with Iranian officials and organizations, with YouTube removing the channel of the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

According to IRNA, YouTube in a message to the Iranian Foreign Ministry declared that the government department's channel had been removed for "severe or repeated violations" of the platform's "violent criminal organizations policy."

The ban seems to have taken place after Iran's foreign ministry shared a video on the plight and resistance of Palestinians amidst ongoing Israeli attacks in the besieged Gaza Strip. ▶ Page 2

TEHRAN PAPERS

Biden admits inability of sanctions

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

In its editorial, Siasat-e-Rooz analyzed Biden's confession that Iran's missile and drone attack was devastating and wrote: First of all, this confession is another proof of the falsity of the previous claims of the Zionists and the United States.

They claimed that these small attacks have been with little damage. Second, America's help to Israel in intercepting Iranian missiles and drones was an official acknowledgment of the collapse of the Zionist regime's deterrence power and being ineffective its missile systems against the authority of the resistance. Biden's words are another acknowledgment of the inability of U.S. sanctions and threats against Iran's deterrence power. Biden's words about the True Promise operation are not an indication of America's power but was a sign of the collapse of the deterrence power of America, the Zionist regime and even their allies and supporters against the authority of missiles and drones and the will of the resistance front. This is a great disgrace for America and its allies, and also it reveals the undeniable role and position of Iran in the equations of the new world order, including in the realization of stability and security in the region.

Kayhan: Chasm in the West is indicative of Iran's great victory

In a commentary, Kayhan addressed the opposition of the United States to the issuance of a resolution by three European countries and wrote: According to the diplomats present at the negotiations, the Biden administration is seeking to prevent the escalation of tensions with Tehran before the American presidential election, and for this reason, it has put European allies under pressures to stop criticizing Iran for its progress in its nuclear program.

The United States has pushed against a tough IAEA resolution, but the previous disagreements over how to handle Iran's nuclear activities are between Washington and the Europeans. British and French officials have told Washington that they want to continue with a tough resolution. It is unclear whether the Europeans will do this, but according to the American media, if they propose a resolution that fails, it will be a major diplomatic achievement for Tehran, indicating that Western pressure on Iran is dying.

Iran: Desire to resume relations with Tehran

In a note, the Iran newspaper pointed out the approach of Hossein bin Abdullah, the Crown Prince of Jordan, to reduce tension and establish a constructive relationship with

Iran and said: The improvement of regional relations, especially Arab countries in the 13th government, led to the resumption of relations with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt, and this desire was recently expressed by the Crown Prince of Jordan. The case of relations between Iran and Jordan was put on the agenda of the 13th government. The first significant signal sent by Jordan was this government's opposition to creating a military-political coalition against Iran in the region.

After the October 7 war, Arab observers emphasized that with the resumption of relations between Tehran and Riyadh, the Jordanian embassy in Iran must resume its work after 7 years of severance of relations. The messages and positive signs of the Arab countries, which had previously defined the basis of their relationship with Tehran in confrontational alignment, can be evaluated following the occurrence of the "True Promise" operation and the transformation in the equations of power deterrence in the Middle East. Now, with the support of its military power, Iran has put the idea of ?intra-regional cooperation on the table of all countries in the region and has defeated the ineffective efforts to prevent this process through the interventions of Western actors.

Donya-e-Eqtesad: A meeting without a resolution?

In an article, Donya-e-Eqtesad dealt with the upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors. It wrote: Earlier this month, Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, visited Iran to improve cooperation between the parties and asked Tehran to take significant steps before the June meeting of the Board of Governors to show its goodwill. Of course, there has been no significant change yet. The U.S. officials held their first talks with Iranian officials in Oman to manage tensions with Tehran.

According to people familiar with the talks, the indirect talks, which included the movement of Omani officials between the parties, were about regional and nuclear issues. Until now, the censure resolution has been postponed and the Board of Governors believes that diplomatic efforts should be made to control Iran's nuclear program to lift sanctions. According to Kelsey Davenport, director of nonproliferation policy at the Arms Control Association, the Board of Governors should send a message to Iran that there will be consequences for non-cooperation with the agency. But it should be part of a broader strategy. The goal should be to pressure and encourage Iran to cooperate with the Agency and expand access.

Late President's office thanks Iranian nation for outpour of grief



TEHRAN - The office of the late Ebrahim Raisi, Iran's president who lost his life during a helicopter crash on May 19, has expressed appreciation at people's large turnout at funeral processions held in major Iranian cities last week.

"All these fervent and intelligent mourning that has crossed the borders of Iran shows that a new phase of the evolutionary movement of the Islamic Revolution has begun in reality, and the people of Iran have a great and historical responsibility to preserve, promote, and complete the great heritage of the martyrs," the office said in a statement released on Tuesday.

Estimates show that over 12 million people took part in funeral rites in Tabriz, Tehran, and Mashhad in the span of three days. Across the country, residents in small cities and villages also held their own funerals to bid farewell to the late Raisi, who was martyred alongside Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and six other officials in Iran's

mountainous northwestern region.

"Comprehensive resistance against the enemies of God, while maintaining national unity and cohesion, and by timely adherence to the commands and recommendations of the esteemed Leader of the Islamic Revolution, is possible. We should continue to advance in all political, cultural, and military fields despite the loss that we suffered," the statement added.

President Raisi is credited for significantly improving Iran's saddled economy and increasing the country's diplomatic presence on regional and international stages. During his three-year tenure, Iran became a member of important international bodies like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Agreement. Its relations with regional and extra-regional nations also expanded significantly.

Elsewhere in the statement, the late president's office also expressed gratitude for Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's guidance during the turbulent time Iran experienced.

"Once again, we express our gratitude for the fatherly and enlightening grace of the esteemed Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, and all this kindness, love, and sympathy of the great nation of Iran, and we ask Almighty God for success and prosperity for dear Iran and a long life with dignity for the wise leadership."

YouTube shuts down Iranian Foreign Ministry channel

From page 1 ▶ This incident follows a similar pattern of censorship by American media platforms which have been in full swing to block access to data and muzzle dissent critical of the Israeli regime in the past 8 months. In February, Meta shut down the Instagram and Facebook accounts of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, "for repeatedly violating Dangerous Organizations and Individuals policy."

Ayatollah Khamenei had been posting in support of Palestinians, urging countries and organizations around the world to uphold human rights and stop Israel from committing a genocide in the devastated enclave.

Between October and November 2023, Human Rights Watch conducted a thorough investigation and found that over 1,050 instances of content takedowns and suppression occurred on Instagram and Facebook. These posts, which were shared by Palestinians and their



advocates and focused on human rights violations, were the subject of censorship.

Human Rights Watch actively sought out instances of online censorship related to Israel and Palestine, regardless of the perspective being shared. Upon reviewing 1,050 cases for this report, it was revealed that 1,049 of these involved the censorship or undue suppression of peaceful content in support of Palestine, while only one case pertained to the

removal of content in support of Israel. The documented instances encompassed content from more than 60 countries, predominantly in English, all expressing peaceful support for Palestine in various forms.

Israel has been carrying out a deadly and destructive military campaign in the besieged Gaza Strip in the past 8 months. The regime has so far killed over 36,000 Palestinian civilians, razed the majority of Gaza to the ground,

and committed acts amounting to war crimes multiple times since October 7th.

In its latest breach of humanitarian law, Israel killed over 45 women, children, and men who were sheltering in tents in Gaza's southern Rafah region, which had been designated a "safe zone" by the Israeli military. Reports indicate that the victims perished while trapped in burning tents. A widely circulated video capturing the impact of the Sunday airstrikes has also shaken people around the world, as it shows a slaughtered toddler who lost his head and limbs during the attacks.

In addition, there has been a lack of response from American media platforms in addressing the rise of Islamophobia that is being propagated by Israeli accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Despite the dehumanization of Palestinians and the justification of violence against Gaza's children by Zionist figures, their posts and accounts have not been removed, banned, or even limited.

Iran's acting foreign minister meets with former Iraqi PM



From page 1 ▶ "I had a warm and friendly meeting with Adel Abdul-Mahdi, the former Prime Minister of Iraq who has traveled to Tehran to honor Iran's martyred President and Foreign

Minister. We discussed and exchanged views on a wide range of international and regional issues, including the crimes and genocide of the occupying regime in Palestine and the moral and humanitarian responsibilities of Islamic governments in this regard", Baqeri wrote on X.

According to a later report released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Baqeri and Abdul-Mahdi also discussed the importance of regional cooperation and the need to address common challenges.

The Iranian diplomat emphasized the role that West Asian elites can play in pressuring Israel to halt its crimes in Gaza. He also highlighted the

contributions of the late President Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, and Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in supporting the Axis of Resistance in the region while vowing that Tehran will continue to support resistance forces despite the loss of these prominent figures.

The Iraqi government declared a national day of mourning on May 21 following the passing of Iranian President Raisi and his companions. Iraq's President Mohammed Al-Sudani also traveled to Iran last week to offer his condolences over the tragedy. Several other high-ranking officials accompanied him to Tehran.

Macron offers condolences to Iran acting President over Raisi passing

TEHRAN - French President Emmanuel Macron has conveyed his condolences to Mohammad Mokhber, the acting President of Iran, in the wake of the tragic death of President Ebrahim Raisi and his accompanying officials.

In a message addressed to Mokhber, Macron expressed his heartfelt sympathies to both him and the Iranian nation.

Macron's message read:

"With deep sorrow, I extend my condolences to you and the Islamic Republic of Iran following

the untimely passing of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and their companions. My thoughts are also with the families and loved ones of the victims during this difficult time.

Throughout my tenure, I have had the privilege of engaging in bilateral discussions with President Raisi and the Foreign Minister, addressing various shared interests and challenges. Despite the complexities we face, I remain steadfast in my commitment to nurturing the relationship between

our nations."

Macron concluded his message by expressing his deepest sympathies to Mokhber over the tragic incident.

The helicopter carrying Raisi and his entourage crashed around afternoon on Sunday as it was on its way to Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan, from a location on the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan where the Iranian president had opened a major dam project.

Rescuers found the wreckage of

the helicopter early on Monday after hours of extensive search which involved more than 70 teams.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and two senior provincial officials along with crew members and bodyguards also died as a result of the crash.

Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber has been appointed to assume interim duties after the death of the president.

Iran's cabinet has also appointed deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani as acting Foreign Minister.

Iran to modernize homegrown weapons

TEHRAN - The Iranian Army Ground Force is embarking on a comprehensive plan to modernize and upgrade its arsenal using cutting-edge technologies developed domestically, according to a high-ranking commander.

During a recent inspection of a mechanized brigade base in southeastern Iran, Army Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari emphasized the close collaboration between the military and academic institutions to harness advanced technologies effectively.

Highlighting the necessity of integrating modern technologies into the Army Ground Force's operations, General Heidari underscored the ongoing efforts to design and produce weapons at the forefront of technological advancements.

He outlined the force's strategic approach to

acquiring precision weapons capable of long-range strikes, equipped with smart features, and seamlessly integrated into network systems to enhance operational efficiency.

General Heidari added that the deployment of modern weaponry aims to ensure swift and decisive responses to any potential threats or hostile actions targeting Iran's borders.

In a meeting with senior military officials in 2023, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander-in-chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, urged continuous enhancement of readiness across all military domains, emphasizing the persistent nature of external threats.

Ayatollah Khamenei also stressed that maintaining robust military preparedness serves as a deterrent against adversaries and called for unwavering vigilance against hostile

elements plotting against Iran's security and sovereignty.

Iran has become a pioneer in the development and production of various weapons after 4 decades of vigorous efforts in the face of heavy Western sanctions. The country's vast and sophisticated arsenal of drones and missiles has particularly caught the attention of buyers from all across the world. Reports suggest that Iranian-made weapons are now present across Asia, Africa, South America, and even Europe.

Tehran's mid-April attack against Israeli positions in the occupied territory further indicated the West Asian country's progress in military manufacturing. Iranian drones and weapons managed to hit and destroy their targets after passing through Israel's three-layer defense shield and evading fire by American, French, British, and Jordanian forces in the region.

Iran demands Denmark's cooperation in returning autistic child to family

TEHRAN - In a strongly worded letter to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kazem Gharib Abadi, Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights, has called for the immediate repatriation of an autistic Iranian child from Denmark.

The child's parents, who were residing in Denmark, are now back in Iran. However, the Danish government has failed to cooperate in returning the child to his family.

"The main question is that now that the parents of this child are in Iran and are no longer present in Denmark, why is the Danish government avoiding fulfilling its obligations to return this sick child to his parents?" Gharib Abadi wrote.

The letter highlights the extensive efforts undertaken by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including the Iranian Embassy in Denmark, to resolve the situation. Despite these

efforts, the Danish government has been uncooperative, making the child's family anxious about the well-being of their beloved son.

Gharib Abadi urged the Foreign Ministry to hold the Danish government accountable for its failure to fulfill its obligations under international law. He also emphasized that the Iranian government is prepared to take further steps, including transferring

the child's guardianship to the State Welfare Organization of Iran.

Dariush Heidari, born in 2016, has been separated from his parents for over 4 years. The Danish Government took Dariush away after municipal workers dispatched to the family's home to observe the residence's walls at their request, determined that the young boy was not at the ideal "height and weight".

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Kashmir mourns death of Iranian President Raisi

From Page 1 ▶ Similarly, another participant said their hearts and prayers go out to the people of Iran during this difficult time.

Additionally, numerous funeral ceremonies were organized across Srinagar, where mourners reaffirmed their faith and devotion towards the late President.

Magam town in Budgam observed a complete shutdown on Monday as a sign of mourning. Shops closed, and traffic was minimal as the community expressed its solidarity with the people of Iran.

As the funeral ceremonies dragged on for consecutive days, religious scholar Syed Aknoon paid homage to the Iranian leaders, noting their sacrifice in the path of the Almighty.

"They actually sacrificed their lives in the path of the Almighty," he said, highlighting the spiritual significance of their loss.

On Thursday, a significant condolence rally took place, with residents of Kashmir paying their respects to the late Iranian leader. "We recognize the importance of unity, respect, and mutual understanding. Our thoughts are with the



Iranian nation as they strive for peace and progress," said local resident Muzammil Hussain in an interview with AFP.

On Friday, mourning ceremonies continued with large crowds taking to the streets in Srinagar to express condolences. Shia-dominated localities, such as Zadibal and Saida Kadal, observed complete shutdowns.

Shops and businesses remained closed, and hundreds of mourners participated in a procession through Zadibal's streets, carrying photographs of the late President Raisi and the Leader of Islamic Revolution.

"The Muslim world is sad about the death of a religious scholar. He was more than a president;

enemies should know that others will follow the way shown by our leader," said Afaq Ali, a mourner.

Another participant, Syed Basit, stated, "We are here to pay tributes to Raisi, who died serving his fellow humans."

The gatherings and expressions of grief in Kashmir highlight not only the respect for President Raisi but also the shared sense of loss and solidarity with the Iranian nation.

Raisi's efforts in raising the Palestinian issue and defending the sanctity of the Quran at the UN General Assembly were particularly appreciated by the mourners.

President Ebrahim Raisi held a special place in the hearts of

many Kashmiris. His unwavering support for the rights of Muslims worldwide earned him profound respect and admiration in the region. Raisi's advocacy for oppressed communities and his efforts to bridge divides resonated deeply with Kashmiris who have long faced their own struggles.

Local leaders often cited Raisi's speeches and initiatives as a source of inspiration.

His calls for unity and justice echoed through Kashmir. This shared sentiment was evident in the outpouring of grief and solidarity following his tragic death.

As Kashmir continues to mourn, the collective actions of the community underscore the enduring bond between the people of Kashmir and Iran, united in their grief and respect for a leader who made a lasting impact on the Muslim world.

President Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and six others died on May 19, when their helicopter crashed in foggy weather in the mountains near the northwestern border with Azerbaijan. The charred wreckage of the aircraft was found the following day.

Qalibaf re-elected as Iran's parliament speaker

From Page 1 ▶ In his first speech since re-election, Qalibaf urged lawmakers to focus on finding solutions to the country's issues and refrain from engaging in trivial and controversial matters.

"The Leader of the Islamic Revolution clarified the main

approach of the parliament in his message on Monday. We should follow those guidelines and work to establish unity and hope.

We need to reach a common understanding to create hope in the society and act in a harmonious and coordinated manner, prioritizing solving

people's problems regardless of our political tendencies and preferences," he said, adding that parliament's main focus should be on making sure the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) gets implemented.

The 7NDP was unveiled in a ceremony attended by more

than 500 government officials, experts, and scholars on May 20, 2023, during Qalibaf's first tenure as the parliament speaker.

The plan aims to reach an average annual economic growth rate of 8% in the span of five years.

Tehran's warm welcome highlights deep Iran-Iraq ties: Iraqi official

TEHRAN – The warm reception given to Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani in Tehran underscores the profound and enduring relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq, according to Hussein Alawi, an advisor to the Iraqi Prime Minister.

As reported by the Iraqi news network 964, Alawi highlighted Al Sudani's recent meeting with the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and other senior Iranian officials.

This meeting took place on the sidelines of a commemoration ceremony for the martyrdom of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions.

Alawi noted that a delegation led by Prime Minister Al-Sudani visited Tehran to express condolences on behalf of the Iraqi government and people.

During this visit, Ayatollah Khamenei warmly welcomed the Iraqi Prime Minister, a gesture that Alawi believes is a testament to the deep bonds between the two nations.

Alawi elaborated on the historic and geographical ties between Iran and Iraq, as well as their mutual strategic interests and social, cultural, and religious connections. These factors, he said, contribute to a stable and prosperous future for Iraq.

"The relationship between our two countries is built on a foundation of shared history and common goals, which ensures that we can face future challenges together," Alawi stated.

Furthermore, Alawi emphasized the efforts of Prime Minister Al Sudani's government to

strengthen Iraq's national interests with its six neighboring countries, notably Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and Kuwait.

He highlighted that these efforts are part of a broader strategy to implement government programs and focus on constructive diplomacy, which is central to Iraq's foreign policy.

"Our government's commitment to fostering positive relations with our neighbors is crucial for regional stability and economic growth," he added.

Security, development, and regional dialogue are among the top priorities for Prime Minister Al-Sudani. According to Alawi, these efforts aim to enhance stability in the West Asian region.

"Prime Minister Al-Sudani is dedicated to promoting peace and development through dialogue and cooperation with our regional partners," Alawi concluded.

This visit and the subsequent discussions are seen as a significant step towards bolstering the already strong ties between Iran and Iraq, setting the stage for future collaborations that will benefit both nations.

The helicopter carrying Raisi and his entourage crashed around afternoon on Sunday as it was on its way to Tabriz, the capital of East Azerbaijan, from a location on the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan where the Iranian president had opened a major dam project.

Rescuers found the wreckage of the helicopter early on Monday after hours of extensive search which involved more than 70 teams.



Iraqi PM Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and two senior provincial officials along with crew members and bodyguards also died as a result of the crash.

High-ranking officials from 68 countries and several international organizations traveled to Iran to participate in the funeral ceremonies honoring the late President and Foreign Minister.

Iraqi Prime Minister was among the foreign leaders received in Tehran.

During his meeting with Ayatollah Khamenei, Al Sudani also pointed to the large turnout at the funeral ceremony of the martyred Iranian president, reflecting the depth of the strong relationship between the people and the officials in the Islamic Republic, despite all the pressures, sanctions, and the recent tragic incident.

Earlier this week, Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid, along with several former prime ministers, and the heads of several political parties arrived in Tehran to offer condolences on the martyrdom of President Raisi to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

northeast Iran last Thursday.

President Raisi and Minister Amir Abdollahian were regarded as figures who had fostered close ties to resistance forces across West Asia.

The two deeply felt for freedom fighters in the region and supported them in various ways.

Raisi's home to express the group's condolences over the president's martyrdom.

During the visit, they discussed Raisi's qualities and praised his unwavering support for the Axis of Resistance, particularly Lebanon's Islamic resistance.

Ebrahim Raisi, the eighth

president of Iran, tragically passed away in a helicopter crash in the Varzaqan region in the northwestern Iranian province of East Azerbaijan on May 19, along with his companions, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

Raisi was laid to rest at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) – the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims – in

Basketball federation weighing up candidates: official

TEHRAN – It has been more than two months since Iran's last game in the FIBA 2025 Asia Cup Qualifiers, and the national team still don't have a new head coach.

The Iran Basketball Federation decided not to renew the contract of the team's previous coach, Hakan Demir, and is now looking for a replacement.

Last month, the technical committee of the federation held a five-hour meeting to discuss potential candidates for the men's national team. Four Iranian and five foreign candidates were presented and reviewed, and ultimately two foreign and two Iranian coaches were selected for further negotiations.

The two foreign candidates are 43-year-old Marco Ramondino from Italy and 51-year-old Radovan Trifunovi from Slovenia.

The names of the two Iranian coaches will be also announced after the end of the Iranian Basketball Super League due to the sensitivity of the competition.

"After reviewing all the conditions, the technical committee will make the final decision," said Iran basketball federation president Javad Davari in an exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

"No individual decision will be made in the selection of the new national team coach and everything will be decided by the technical committee," he added.

It has been rumored that Iranian coaches have a better chance than foreign coaches of leading the national team.

"This is not true," Davari responded. "The criteria of the technical committee are the performance and track record of the coaches, and being Iranian or foreign is not a priority."

"Among the foreign coaches, Radovan has a better chance, and the technical committee may have a meeting with him in Switzerland in the near future," he continued.

When asked about the Iranian coaches who are candidates for Team Melli hot seat, Davari said: "As previously announced, the names of the Iranian candidates will be announced after the final match of the Iran Basketball League. However, the coaches who have been selected are among the best and definitely have the merit and ability to lead the national team at the highest level."

"The basketball federation carefully follows its programs for all national teams and supports all men's and women's national teams. Of course, the Iranian men's national team are of great importance, and therefore the selection of the coach of this team is being pursued with great care and attention in the technical committee," Davari concluded.

Iran are currently at the top of Group E of the Asia Cup qualifiers after two games, ahead of Kazakhstan, Qatar and India. Team Melli will host Kazakhstan on Nov. 22 and travel to Qatar three days later.

IPC praises Iranian runner Safarzadeh

TEHRAN – Runner Hajar Safarzadeh became Iran's first female athlete to win a world title.

She came first with a time of 57.56 seconds at the Women's 400m T12 Final at the 2024 World Para Athletics Championships last week in Kobe, Japan.

Brazilian athletes Lorraine Gomes De Aguiar and Ketyla Teodoro won silver and bronze medals with 58.26 and 1:00.21

This year's Para Athletics World Championships saw history being made by a series of nations at the Kobe Universiade Memorial Stadium.

Shahsavari, Olfati named flag-bearers for 2024 Olympic Games

TEHRAN – Neda Shahsavari and Mahdi Olfati have been chosen to carry Iran's flag at the Opening Ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic

Games.

Female table tennis player Shahsavari will represent Iran at the 2024 Olympic Games. She has previously competed in 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.

Olfati will be also the first Iranian gymnast to compete at the Games in 60 years.

Manaf Hashemi, Secretary General of the Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC), announced the decision on Tuesday.

Countries can have both male and female flag bearers at opening ceremony in a strong show of gender equality.

The Opening Ceremony at Paris 2024 will take place on July 26.

Iran beat Hong Kong 2024 AVC Challenge Cup for Women

TEHRAN – Aytak Salamat scored a massive 26 points on Tuesday afternoon to help Iran complete a 3-1 match (26-24, 26-24, 19-25, 25-19) against Hong Kong in the 2024 AVC Challenge Cup for Women.

Iran's victory at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum earned them right to play for their best possible finish at fifth place.

Iran coach Padideh Bolourizadeh reflected upon the team's performance, while according much regard to their opponents

"Most of the points that we lost were due to our own mistakes.

In the previous match (against Australia) nearly the same thing happened. In very critical moments, we lost our serve, or we decided not to follow the ball.

"This match was a very good opportunity for us because their style of play is really close to the East Asian level.

We really appreciate this opportunity to play against a team like Hong Kong. They were very fast and it was not easy for us to detect the ball early on," she said.

Iran will aim to replicate their 5th place finish in the Surabaya edition in 2023 as they face India in Wednesday.

Iran's first Olympics gold medal winner Habibi turns 93

TEHRAN – Iran's first Olympics gold medal winner Habibi celebrated his 93rd birthday on Monday, May 27.

The freestyle wrestler, nicknamed 'Mazandaran's tiger', won a gold medal in the 67kg weight class in 1956 Melbourne and became the first Iranian gold medal winner in Olympics.

Habibi also won three gold medals in the 1959, 61, 62 World Championships.

He claimed the gold medal of the 1958 Asian Games in Tokyo.

RPL clubs show interest in Orenburg player Ghorbani

TEHRAN – Several Russian Premier League (RPL) clubs are reportedly showing interest in Orenburg midfielder Mohammad Ghorbani.

The Iranian player joined Russian team Orenburg in February on a 3.5-year contract.

"There is interest from RPL clubs, but it's too early to say anything concrete. Ghorbani has already adapted to the RPL and, it seems to me, is ready for the next step if it is a serious club that is interested in inviting him," said football agent Sergei Galunov.

Ghorbani moved to Orenburg in February from the Iranian side Sepahan.

The midfielder has 14 matches and three goals for the Russian team.

Martyr Raisi's family receives Hezbollah chief's condoling daughters

TEHRAN – The daughters of Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, the current secretary-general of Hezbollah, and Seyyed Abbas Mousavi, the former head of the Lebanese resistance movement, visited the family of Iran's late President Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday.

Five representatives of Hezbollah also visited Martyr

Raisi's home to express the group's condolences over the president's martyrdom.

During the visit, they discussed Raisi's qualities and praised his unwavering support for the Axis of Resistance, particularly Lebanon's Islamic resistance.

Ebrahim Raisi, the eighth

president of Iran, tragically passed away in a helicopter crash in the Varzaqan region in the northwestern Iranian province of East Azerbaijan on May 19, along with his companions, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian.

Raisi was laid to rest at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) – the eighth Imam of Shia Muslims – in

Agrofood exports increase 28% in two months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Iran exported 1,562,000 tons of agricultural products worth \$684 million since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) to May 20, an increase of 28 percent in value year on year.

Agricultural exports rose also by 24 percent in terms of weight, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Iran exported some 1,260,000 metric tons (mt) of agricultural products worth \$536 million in the same period last year.

In terms of value, the main agricultural items exported in the mentioned period are apples worth \$96.3 million, in-shell pistachios worth \$74.1 million, watermelons worth \$73.8 million, field tomatoes worth \$50.3 million, and greenhouse tomatoes worth \$44.7 million, the report added.

The statistics show that agricultural items account for about 6.66 percent of the total weight and 8.53 percent of the total value of Iran's exports in the same period this year.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

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

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

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

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

The value of Iran's total foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year.

According to the Head of the Islamic

Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mohammad Rezvanifar, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

The official put the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical engineering services in the mentioned year, according to Rezvanifar.

The value of Iran's foreign trade including oil and technical engineering services reached \$153.178 billion in the last Iranian calendar year 1402 (ended on March 19), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, the value of the Islamic Republic's trade with the partners in the previous year increased by 2.6 percent compared to the same period last year, Tasnim News Agency reported.

The official put the country's non-oil exports, excluding exports of electricity, crude oil, and techno-engineering services, at 136.4 million tons worth \$49.33 billion which shows a 9.82 percent rise in terms of tonnage and an 8.87 percent decline in terms of value.

Iran exported \$35.87 billion of crude oil, \$370 million of electricity, and \$1.293 billion of technical engineering services in the mentioned year, according to Rezvanifar.

According to him, during this period, 48.8 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$19.4 billion were also exported, which shows a decrease of 11.32 percent and 28.59 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

During this period, liquefied natural gas worth \$3.9 billion, liquefied propane with \$3.62 billion, and bitumen-oil with \$2.19 billion were Iran's top exported items.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$13.915 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$9.215 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$6.611 billion, Turkey with \$4.16 billion, and India with \$2.17 billion.

Over 9m tons of goods transited via roads since mid-March

TEHRAN – In the first 2 months of the current Iranian calendar year which started on March 20, some 9.2 million tons of goods have been transited via the country's roads, IRNA reported.

The volume of the transited goods has seen a growth of 78 percent compared to the same period in the previous year.

The transit of foreign goods through Iran has increased by 56.5 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20) compared to the same period last year, according to the latest report by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

The IRICA reported that over 3.6 million metric tons (mt) of goods were transited through Iran in the mentioned two months, Mehr News Agency reported.

Parvizkhan customs on Iran's western borders with the Iraqi Kurdistan Region ranked first by registering 1.07 mt of commodities in the two-month period, which accounted for 29.5 percent of the foreign transit.

Shahid Rajaei customs in the southern country recorded the second-largest foreign transit in the period, registering 893,000 mt of goods.

Also, 474,000 mt of the commodities went through Bashmaq customs which connects Iran to Iraq, coming third in this regard.

During this period, the largest increase in foreign transit went to the customs of Piranshahr, Sarakhs, and Parvizkhan, marking a rise of 726 percent, 294 percent, and 238 percent, respectively.

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 corridors.

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.

In early June 2023, Deputy Transport Minister Shahriar Afandizadeh announced that the Transport and Urban Development Ministry is preparing a five-year comprehensive plan for increasing transportation and transit relations with Central Asia, as well as the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman countries.

'Tehran, Muscat have potential to multiply trade'

TEHRAN – Iran and Oman have untapped economic potential which they can use to multiply their economic and trade interactions, Acting President Mohammad Mokhber has said.

The two countries enjoy brotherly and historical ties, but there is still unused potential that both sides can use to further strengthen their cooperation, especially in the economy sector, he added.

Mokhber made the remarks on Monday as he hosted talks with Oman's Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi and his accompanying delegation, who visited Tehran to pay respect to martyred president Ebrahim Raisi and his entourage killed in a recent copter crash.

He also expressed gratitude to Oman for its sympathy with the Iranian people and government over the martyrdom of President Raisi and his companions, including Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

Badr bin Hamad al-Busaidi said that he had conveyed Omani King Haitham bin Tariq's message of sympathy to Iran's Supreme Leader, as well as officials and



people, over the tragic incident in which Oman lost its close friends.

He also said that relations between the two countries are strategic and important, adding that Muscat is willing to expand ties with Tehran further.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi has said the value of trade between Iran and Oman is targeted to become \$5 billion. Saying that signing a preferential trade agreement with Oman is being followed up, the minister said: "Our trade with Oman is targeted to be \$3.5 billion first and then \$5 billion."

Iran and Oman have signed two memorandums of understanding (MOU) to boost bilateral

cooperation and emphasize the importance of using their national currencies in mutual trade instead of the dollar.

The mentioned MOUs were signed during the two countries' 20th Joint Economic Committee meeting in Tehran on December 6, 2023.

In May 2023, the two countries signed four cooperation documents in various areas including energy, investment, and free zones during the official visit of Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said to Tehran.

The document on the energy sector was signed by Iran's Oil Minister Javad Oji and Omani Minister of Energy and Minerals Salim bin Nasser al-Aufi.

The two countries also signed three other documents to cooperate in the economic, investment, and free zones sectors.

Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi and Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Hojatollah Abdolmaleki signed the mentioned documents with the ministers of economy and commerce of Oman.

Meanwhile, in July 2023, the former head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) called for promoting joint investment between the private sectors of Iran and Oman in order to boost the trade exchanges between the two countries.

Hossein Selahvarzi made the remarks in a meeting with the Omani Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim bin Ahmed Almuaini.

During the meeting, Selahvarzi expressed the readiness of the private sectors of Iran and Oman for joint investments, as well as, using transit capacities of the two countries for re-exports if the necessary infrastructure is provided by the governments of the two countries.

Russia underscores need for enhanced trade with Iran



TEHRAN – Russian Consul General in Isfahan Andrey Zhiltsov has highlighted the need to increase the trade volume between Iran and Russia, saying the current trade volume does not live up to the capacities.

Zhiltsov said in an exclusive interview with IRNA that the trade volume between Iran and Russia is a little over four billion dollars, which is insignificant considering the existing capacity.

He said the joint Iran-Russia economic commission emphasized the need to expand bilateral cooperation in space, aviation, shipbuilding, peaceful nuclear energy, oil and gas production and refining, transportation, science, medicine, agriculture, finance, education, culture, and tourism sectors.

He also pointed out that some 6.5 million Russian tourists visited Turkiye in 2023, but only 10,000 Russians toured Iran in the same year, calling for joint efforts to increase the figure.

The consul general also noted that the two friendly states could play a key role in creating a new world order free from unilateralism to guarantee a just world.

In the current situation, Iran and Russia's support for each other at the international level is of great importance, he said, adding that holding different economic, political, scientific, and sports events is a strategic endeavor to this end.

Zhiltsov also referred to the articulation of a roadmap to pave the way for improving cooperation between Iran's Isfahan and Russia's Tatarstan cities, adding that the Russian consulate general in Isfahan plans to expand collaborations with Iran's chamber of commerce, higher education, and religious centers. He also noted that the two sides intend to develop relations among different Russian regions with Iranian provinces such as Yazd and Kerman.

The Russian official noted that Isfahan is a wonderful, cultural, authentic, clean, cozy, and comfortable city, and called for more cooperation between Isfahan and Saint Petersburg.

The value of Iran's exports to Russia rose 26 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), as compared to

the preceding year, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said.

Akbar Godari said that 2.185 million tons of products worth \$946 million were exported to Russia in the previous Iranian year, while a year earlier the Islamic Republic had exported only 1.436 million tons of goods valued at \$751 million to the country.

According to the official, Iran's exports to Russia also increased by 56 percent in terms of weight during the previous year.

Agricultural products, petrochemicals, and oil-based products were the top exported products to Russia in the mentioned year.

Referring to the volume of imports from Russia in the past year, Godari stated: "3.353 million tons of goods worth \$1.691 billion were also imported from Russia in the previous year."

The imports have grown by nine percent in terms of value and 27 percent in terms of weight, he said.

In line with the two countries' determination to increase the level of trade exchanges, during a video conference meeting between the deputy transport ministers of Iran and Russia on November 28, 2023, the two sides discussed ways of increasing annual transit through Iran to 10 million tons.

In this virtual meeting, the two sides discussed transportation cooperation between the two countries in all areas including rail, road, and sea. Speaking in this meeting, Iranian Deputy Transport Minister Shahriar Afandizadeh referred to the high potential for port cooperation between the two countries, especially in the Caspian Sea, and noted that there is a good capacity in Iran's northern ports for receiving goods sent from Russia and sending them to desired destinations using combined transportation methods.

The officials also discussed the Rasht-Astara

railway project and the representative of the Iranian contractor of the project, namely the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company, presented a report on the project's physical progress.

In April, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted an Iran-Russia business forum, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The event was attended by officials and businesspersons from both sides.

Speaking in this gathering, ICCIMA Deputy Head Ghadir Qiafeh said the volume of trade between Iran and Russia is expected to reach \$40 billion within 10 to 15 years.

The forum took place as a Russian trade delegation was in the Iranian capital to attend the Iran Expo 2024. The official said that Iran and Russia together can gain access to a 2,000-billion-dollar market.

He however regretted that the two neighboring countries have not been able to make use of their potential in bilateral exchanges.

Underlining the role of the customs administrations of both Iran and Russia in the enhancement of bilateral trade, he said that customs agreements called "green corridor" were signed by the two countries seven years ago.

Qiafeh also hailed Iran's preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which he said can give a further boost to trade between Tehran and Moscow.

In the meantime, Leonid Lozhechko, Chairman of the Russian-Iranian Business Council, said that measures are underway for facilitating trade between Iran and Russia, adding that Russian SMEs have very good relations with Iran.

Referring to the preferential agreement recently signed between Iran and the EAEU bloc, he said that once the agreement is put into practice, trade with Iran will be much easier.



Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of Accommodation Units and Offshore Explosion proof & Fireproof Container for Belal Project, Tender No. 958675

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to **Purchase of Accommodation Units and Offshore Explosion proof & Fireproof Container for Belal Project** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC 's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with MS Mahabadpour with Tel: +9821-82841057 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

The fruit of resistance: Towards a Palestinian state

Spain, Ireland, Norway formally recognize Palestinian state

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Three European countries on Tuesday formally recognized Palestine as a state, throwing a spotlight on the fact that the Palestinian struggle for statehood and self-determination remains a powerful and influential force on the international stage.

Spain, Ireland and Norway officially recognized the Palestinian state despite backlash from Israel and objections from some of its Western allies, in particular the United States.

The three countries said their move is aimed at accelerating ceasefire efforts in Israel's war on Gaza, which has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Palestinians since October 7.

Spain wants unified Palestinian state

The Spanish prime minister hoped the recognition of Palestine as a state will advance the so-called two-state solution.

Pedro Sanchez said his country wants a unified Palestinian state, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, under the Palestinian National Authority with East Jerusalem (al-Quds) as its capital.

"It's the only way of advancing toward what everyone recognizes as the only possible solution to achieve a peaceful future, one of a Palestinian state that lives side by side with the Israeli state in peace and security," Sanchez added.

Dublin eyes full relations with Ramallah

The Irish prime minister also touched upon Dublin's motive for the recognition.

"We had wanted to recognize Palestine at the end of a peace process however we have made this move alongside Spain and Norway to keep the miracle of peace alive," Simon Harris said.

He also took a jab at Israel for continuing its brutal onslaught on Gaza.

"I again call on Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel to listen to the world and stop the humanitarian



catastrophe we are seeing in Gaza," the Irish premier said.

The Irish government also "agreed to establish full diplomatic relations between Dublin and Ramallah".

"An Ambassador of Ireland to the State of Palestine will be appointed along with a full Embassy of Ireland in Ramallah," the Irish government said in a statement.

Milestone relationship

In Norway, which is not a European Union member, Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said in a statement that "for more than 30 years, Norway has been one of the strongest advocates for a Palestinian state. Today, when Norway officially recognizes Palestine as a state, is a milestone in the relationship between Norway and Palestine," according to the Associated Press.

Israel faces intl. humiliation

The recognition of Palestine by two EU members, namely Spain and Ireland highlights widening cracks between Israel and the European Union.

Slovenia has also said it will decide on the recognition of a Palestinian state on Thursday.

These moves signal Israel's growing global isolation as it rejects calls to end the brutal war on Gaza.

Israel has been recently stuck with painful diplomatic blows.

On May 10, the UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to back the Palestinian bid for full UN

membership.

More than a week ago, the International Criminal Court also announced it was seeking arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and war minister Yoav Gallant on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity over the Gaza war.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell threw his weight behind the ICC's move, saying, "All States that have ratified the ICC statutes are bound to execute the Court's decisions".

Israel suffered another blow after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a dramatic ruling on Friday ordering it to "immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah".

Israel battlefield failures

Apart from being dealt with severe diplomatic blows, Israel has also been humiliated in the Gaza battlefield.

Israel has failed to achieve its military goals in the Gaza Strip, which include achieving "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group.

The Israeli army has not only failed to eliminate Hamas after more than seven months but it has also suffered heavy defeats at the heads of the resistance fighters.

A recent missile attack on Tel Aviv along with confrontations between Israeli and Hamas forces in a northern Gaza tunnel indicate that

the Palestinian resistance has the upper hand.

Israel has intensified deadly attacks against civilians in Gaza, including the Sunday massacre in a camp tent in Rafah, in retaliation for its defeats in the Gaza war.

Presently, the recognition of Palestine by Spain, Norway and Ireland is a show of resilience by Palestinians in the face of Israel's genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Western countries like the United States which still remain supportive of Israel are also sliding into international isolation as they face domestic pressure to stop arming the regime.

The US claims it is not opposed to the recognition of a Palestinian state. However, it says this should come through talks between Israel and Palestinians. Germany has followed the US line while France says conditions are not right to officially recognize a Palestinian state.

Israel, however, has opposed the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The last round of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations collapsed in 2014 mainly over Israel's continued settlement construction and its land grab policy in the West Bank.

In fact, Israel has expanded its illegal settlements under the cover of talks.

Nonetheless, the surprise October 7 military operation that was carried out by Hamas in southern Israel acted as a game changer.

The Hamas attack caught Israel and its Western supporters off guard and shifted the balance of power in favor of the Palestinian resistance.

It has become crystal clear that Palestinians cannot achieve their goals through negotiations with the apartheid regime and making concessions.

For now, it is as clear as day that the Palestinian resistance has isolated Israel and its allies, exposed the savage nature of the bogus regime and paved the way for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

Global protests condemn Israeli carnage in Rafah

From page 1 ▶ In New York, protesters chanted slogans such as "Resistance is justified when people are occupied."

The United States is accused of complicity in Israel's genocidal war on Gaza which has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Palestinians since October 7.

Washington has rejected growing calls to use its powerful leverage at the UN Security Council to pressure Israel to end the Gaza onslaught. It has also dismissed demands for attaching conditions to huge military supplies for the regime.

Paris protest

In the French capital, protesters gathered near the Israeli embassy.

"It is a massacre too many," said François Rippe of the Association France-Palestine Solidarity group that organized the protest.

He took a jab at the French government for its inaction towards Israel's brutal strike on the tent camp in Rafah.

"They start a fire in a camp for displaced, they burn people and we (France) don't even summon the Israeli ambassador to ask for an account. It is just not acceptable," Rippe said.

Protesters also chanted slogans like, "We are all Gaza children," and "Free Gaza".

Others held a banner showing French President Emmanuel Macron, US President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with the slogan "It is humanity they are assassinating".

British police beat protesters

Similar protests were held in Britain. In Manchester, police violently attacked demonstrators to disperse them.

According to a coalition of student activists, the demonstrators were beaten with batons.

"We utterly denounce this unwarranted escalation by GMP. The police have yet again proven that they are an oppressive and violent force that aims to silence us whilst defending the right of a state to commit genocide," Manchester Leftist Action wrote on X.

Britain, like the United States, has turned a blind eye to calls to stop arming Israel.

Foreign Secretary David Cameron said in April that arms sales to Israel by British companies will not stop.

Prior to his remarks, three former senior UK judges joined more than 600 members of the British legal profession urging the government to stop arms sales to Israel, saying it could make London complicit in the regime's war of genocide in Gaza.

Madrid march

In the Spanish capital, protesters outside the Foreign Ministry called for imposing sanctions on Israel. In Barcelona, people also gathered at the European Commission Headquarters echoing the same call.

Anti-war protests erupted in other countries, such as the Netherlands, Australia, Turkey, Morocco and Tunisia.

In addition to global protests, condemnation continues to pour in over Israel's horrific attack in Rafah.

OIC slams "heinous massacre"

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemned the Israeli strike as a "heinous massacre".

"The Secretary-General held the Israeli occupation accountable for the consequences of its crimes, terrorist practices, and brutal attacks against the Palestinian people, which are inconsistent with all human values," OIC, representing 57 member states, said in a statement, according to Al Jazeera.

"The OIC renewed its call on the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to assume its responsibilities in compelling Israel, to implement the orders of the International Court of Justice to stop this Israeli aggression immediately," the statement added.

On Friday, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a dramatic ruling ordering Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah". Israel, however, ignored the order and continued its deadly strikes.

The slaughter of Palestinian scholars in Gaza is a deliberate Israeli tactic

By Wafa Aludaini

Throughout the 235 days of the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza, the Israeli occupation has deliberately targeted and assassinated dozens of Palestinian scholars, scientists, academics and researchers along with their families. All were targeted while at home with their families or seeking refuge with relatives. Last week, the Gaza media office released a list containing the names of 100 Palestinian researchers who the Israeli occupation has killed, including scientists, university professors and doctors.

I had personally met a number of the now-slain, highly qualified academics and scientists before their assassinations, including Dr Khitam Elwasifi, Dr Refaat Alareer and Dr Sufyan Tayeh, all elegant and clever people whose work had very positive impacts on our society.

Dr Elwasifi was a physics professor and the deputy dean of the Faculty of Science at the Islamic University of Gaza. She authored some 50 published research papers on subjects such as the effect of mobile radiation on living tissue, slab waveguides and non-linear optics, among others. Dr Elwasifi was assassinated along with her husband, Dr Mahmoud Abu Daf, former dean of the Faculty of Education at the Islamic University, after an Israeli airstrike hit her home in Gaza City on 1 December, 2023.

Another loss for Palestine was Dr Alareer, a poet, writer and English literature professor at the Islamic University. An inspiring figure and teacher for many young people in Gaza, he co-founded several programs and initiatives to train and support young activists and writers to express themselves and convey their stories to the world as oppressed people living under occupation, blockade and siege.

Dr Alareer was also a social media influencer and often received threats online and by phone from Israeli accounts for his efforts to expose Israeli crimes against the Palestinians. On 6 December, 2023, Dr Alareer was assassinated in a massacre along with his brother, sister and her three children in an Israeli airstrike that targeted his sister's apartment in northern Gaza.

Dr Tayeh, a world-renowned physicist, was ranked in the top two percent of scientific researchers worldwide in 2021 by Stanford University in the US. He held a PhD in theoretical physics and applied mathematics. He was appointed the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) chair for physics and space sciences in Palestine in 2023. On 2 December, 2023, Israeli warplanes intentionally flattened Dr Tayeh's home in the Al-Faluja neighbourhood of the Jabalia refugee camp in north Gaza, where he was born and raised, murdering him and his family.

The occupation pursues systematic assassinations of Palestinian scholars and intellectual figures to impact the structure of the social fabric, as they make up the cornerstone of developing Palestinian society and shaping its future. Often, these academic elite figures positively influence members of society, who will be affected by their absence. The occupation's tactic of deliberate assassination of scholars is intended to terrorize and demoralize the population, simultaneously creating pressure on people to immigrate out of the Gaza Strip. For decades, the occupation has systematically been striving to produce uninhabitable conditions in the Gaza Strip, according to many political analysts and human rights organizations. The intentional targeting and killing of academics, scholars and researchers whose work enhances life in Gaza is one of the many methods the occupation uses to degrade life in Gaza. The immensity of the loss of over one hundred scholars and academics, as well as the destruction of universities and educational institutions, will have long-lasting effects on the Palestinian people.

According to the Geneva-based human rights organization Euro-Med Monitor: "Given the systematic and widespread destruction by Israeli forces of cultural buildings, including institutions of great historical significance, it is highly likely that Israel is intentionally targeting every aspect of life in Gaza."

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Israel Katz resorting to deceitful and misleading remarks

From page 1 ▶ have been launching blistering attacks against any scholar or official who has opposed Israel's mistreatment of Palestinians or continuous stealing of the remaining Palestinian lands.

They have accused them of being anti-Semitic.

The recent student protests to Israel's cruel war in Gaza in American and European universities have also been branded as anti-Semitic while students, some of them Jews, have been calling for an immediate end to the carnage in the blockaded Gaza enclave.

But this time Katz is promoting the term "genocide" as anti-Semitism has largely lost color.

Truly, it is the current extremist Israeli regime that is committing genocide in the Gaza Strip to the extent that some activists in Israel are demanding the United States to stop delivering arms to Israel that is committing "genocide" in Gaza.

Katz and other extremists have been misleadingly portraying the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas as an existential threat but describe the attack on Gaza, which has so far led to the death of about 36,000, maiming or injury of about 80,000, demolishing or destruction of half of Gaza homes, the starvation of 2.3 million people and many other horrendous acts, as an act of "self-defense".

If Israel had abided by the UN Security Council

resolutions that oblige Israel to return to the 1948 lands the Oct. 7 attack would not have taken place.

If a durable solution is not found for this bleeding wound the world should wait for more atrocities in the future.

The bitter reality is that Israel has rebuffed every chance to resolve the decades-long conflict in the region.

14 years ago, the late Saudi Prince Saud al-Faisal said Israel was the world's "spoiled child" and got away with violations of international law and war crimes without punishment.

"Not reaching solutions is (the result of) the special treatment Israel gets," he said at a news conference with the then Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu in Riyadh.

Mustafa Fetouri, an independent award-winning journalist and author, also says Israel has grown up as the spoiled boy of the world by the United States.

"By being nurtured, coddled, hugged and financed by the US, Israel has grown up just like a badly behaved child and over-spoiled kid who knows what is right and what is wrong, but insists on doing the very wrong thing and always repeating it, counting on 'mother America's' help," Fetouri wrote in Middle East Monitor on December 7, 2023.

On May 6 when Hamas agreed to a Qatari-Egyptian mediated ceasefire deal, Israel,

Washington's spoiled child, rejected it and embarked on attacking Rafah.

Now, feeling largely isolated because of the ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC) obliging Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah", the request by International Criminal Court chief prosecutor Karim Khan to issue arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity coupled with an international outrage against the Sunday night attack on a makeshift tent in Rafah that marked another chapter in the history of Israel's mad war in Gaza have prompted Foreign Minister Katz to make unfounded, misleading and deceitful accusations against the Spanish prime minister.

It seems that the statement by Sanchez that "the state of Palestine must be viable, with the West Bank and Gaza connected by a corridor and with East Jerusalem as its capital" has largely angered Katz and other Zionists who want the entire Palestine for themselves.

The Spanish recognition of Palestine as an independent and sovereign along with Ireland and Norway on Tuesday, which also be followed by Slovenia on Thursday, is part of a chain of events that are taking place one by one and pushing Israel and its main allies - the US and Britain - to a corner.

Deceitful and misleading remarks will not work for long years.

Yemenis attack Israeli and U.S. ships

Sana'a government responds to Rafah massacre

From page 1 ▶ Health officials say about 46 people were killed and some 250 others injured in the Israeli raid on Sunday night. Most of the dead were women and children.

Rafah was home to more than 85% of the

Gaza population who had fled the Israeli bombing campaign in other parts of the coastal enclave.

A million people have been forced to leave the southern city since Israeli tanks began to

crawl in on May 6.

The latest Israeli massacre has drawn further global condemnation at the disproportionate level of force by the Israeli army against civilians in totally besieged territory.

Shimbar plain: lost paradise of Khuzestan

TEHRAN - Known as the 'Lost Paradise of Khuzestan,' Shimbar plain is a protected natural haven boasting stunning landscapes, diverse wildlife, and rich historical significance.

Shimbar plain is a picturesque area located 100 kilometers from Masjed Soleyman, at the border between the provinces of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari and Khuzestan. With its breathtaking landscapes, diverse flora and fauna, and stunning natural scenery, Shimbar plain has become one of the must-visit attractions in Masjed Soleyman, southern Iran.

This region is home to extraordinary and mesmerizing nature, featuring pristine and awe-inspiring views. It serves as a habitat for various animals and a growth area for rare plant species and medicinal herbs. Due to its mountainous terrain, Shimbar plain is ideal for hikers and nature enthusiasts.

Covering an area of 50,000 square kilometers, Shimbar plain is nestled within the Zagros Mountain Range at the foot of Mount Dela. The region boasts some of the most spectacular natural wonders in Iran, including gushing springs, lush forests, majestic waterfalls, and towering mountains. These natural elements create a captivating and scenic environment that attracts nature lovers and photography enthusiasts alike.

The plain is composed of dense, verdant forests hosting a wide variety of trees and plants. From almond and oak trees to various fungi and citrus plants, the area's botanical diversity enhances its boundless beauty. The vegetation is divided into three distinct zones: the mountainous region covered with oak and wild almond trees, the Shimbar river area with shrubbery, and the Shimbar plain itself, home to a variety of colorful flowers and fragrant shrubs.

As a protected area where hunting is pro-



hibited, the plain shelters numerous wild animals such as boars, bears, jackals, hyenas, wolves, and leopards. It also hosts animals like rabbits, goats, partridges, urials, and the Persian squirrel, along with birds of prey such as vultures and eagles. Unfortunately, illegal hunting in recent years has disrupted the local ecosystem, causing significant damage to the wildlife. Currently, Shimbar plain is a natural habitat for 70 bird species and 25 mammal species, all thriving in this generous natural environment.

Beyond its natural wonders, Shimbar plain holds significant historical value, having been inhabited during various historical periods. The area is rich in ancient artifacts, including inscriptions and petroglyphs, revealing its long history and cultural importance. Notably, the rock carvings of Tang-e Bota, featuring 12 human figures believed by historians to be participating in a religious ceremony, offer a glimpse into the past.

The best time to visit Shimbar plain is in the spring, when the area dons a vibrant green attire and showcases its enchanting and dreamy nature. Autumn is also a great time to visit, as the plain displays a unique and mesmerizing array of colors and natural beauty.

This mountainous sanctuary is a must-visit for nature lovers, hikers, and history enthusiasts, offering a unique blend of lush forests, cascading waterfalls, and ancient relics.

Hobbyist archaeologists identify thousands of ancient sites in England

Bronze age burial mounds, Roman roads and deserted medieval villages are among almost 13,000 previously-unknown ancient sites and monuments that have been discovered by members of the public in recent months.

Truck drivers and doctors are among more than 1,000 people who participated in Deep Time, a "citizen science project" which has harnessed the power of hobbyists to scour 512 sq km of Earth Observation data, including high-resolution satellite and lidar - laser technology - imagery.

They have found 262 possible Bronze age barrows and three Roman roads, among other discoveries. The project is a partnership between DigVentures, an archaeology social enterprise, and the National Trust, which owns and manages large areas of those landscapes.

Maiya Pina-Dacier, a senior archaeologist with DigVentures, said: "We've now got the preliminary results in and they're really impressive. Our citizen scientists - or 'Pastronauts' as we call them - identified 12,802 ancient sites and monuments that were previously unknown."

Pina-Dacier said the discoveries were particularly exciting because "all of this was achieved within just three months and included local, national and international citizens, many of whom had never done any archaeology before."

Dr Brendon Wilkins, founder and co-chief executive of DigVentures, said: "Thanks to our Pastronauts, we were able to map much larger areas, in much greater detail, and much more quickly than professional archaeologists alone could have done."

(Source: The Guardian)

Shah Abbasi Caravanserai reopens after four years

TEHRAN - Shah Abbasi Caravanserai in Karaj, northcentral Iran, a historic gem tracing back to the Safavid era, has reopened its gates after a four-year hiatus, to host a handicrafts, souvenirs, and food exhibition

Alborz province's director-general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, speaking on Tuesday, announced the reopening of Shah Abbasi Caravanserai after four years to host the exhibition showcasing crafts to enthusiasts and tourists, from May 27 to June 16.

Rahim Khaki emphasized that the Shah Abbasi Caravanserai is a highly valuable venue in the center of Karaj for holding cultural, artistic, and handicrafts events. "It not only positively impacts tourism in the city," he further pinpointed. "But also provides a recreational space for residents and tourists."

Moreover, Hossein Rahimi, the chief of a company, which is organizing the exhibition, highlighted the participation of over 60 booths in the event.



More than 35 booths, he brought to light, are dedicated to handicrafts and 25 to regional souvenirs and food.

Rahimi added that artisans in various fields such as wooden crafts, kilims, leatherwork, felt, pottery, ceramics, and glassmaking are presenting their crafts throughout the exhibition.

According to the organizers, the souvenir and food booths will feature products from Kermanshah, Isfahan, Gilan, Mazandaran, Qom, Kashan, and more, with a Bakhtiari

tribe's black tent offering various traditional breads, soups, and local products.

The Shah Abbasi Caravanserai, dating back to 350 years ago, built during the reign of Shah Suleiman Safavi, was registered as a national monument of Iran in 1977. Due to its strategic location, it held significant importance, being on the main route connecting Rey, Taleqan, and Mazandaran. Its strategic placement on the Silk Road made it a crucial rest stop for caravans and their animals.

Initially, it served as a rest stop for caravans and their animals, later becoming a military barracks or fortress in the early Qajar period, and eventually used as a school (known as Felahat) in the late Qajar era. Additionally, the first agricultural school in Iran was established in this caravanserai.

The Shah Abbasi Caravanserai, known as the Iran's only urban caravanserai is one of the most valuable buildings from the Safavid period, holding a great potential to serve as a tourism hub, in the heart of Karaj city.

Abyaneh village to embrace event-driven development

TEHRAN - Abyaneh village in Isfahan, central Iran, is set to evolve into an event-focused destination.

The Director-General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Isfahan Province emphasized the necessity of defining permanent events to develop this village in the future.

On Tuesday, Amir Karamzadeh, Isfahan's official in charge of tourism, accompanied by a group of provincial officials, inspected the process of compiling the dossier for the global registration of this village on the World Tourism Organization's list.

Karamzadeh stated during the visit to this village:

"With over 1800 years of history, this historic village has valuable structures and artifacts dating back to the Sassanian era, enriching its historical richness," Karamzadeh highlighted during his half-day visit. "At the same time, it has hospitable and welcoming people who play a significant role in the economic and cultural development of this village."

He continued that based on the compilation of the dossier for the global registration of Abyaneh, all efforts are ramped up for the village to thrive in at least three areas: tourism, horticulture, and handicrafts, shaping its future as event-centric.

"Today, we must work to reform the economic management model of Abyaneh village," Karamzadeh outlined.

Efforts are being made, the official added, to address issues such as organizing unauthorized accommodations, installing tourist guide signs, and improving service provision to the visitors.

"We are striving to transform Abyaneh village into a suitable venue for hosting tourism events," he wended up. "To facilitate its global registration process."

Abyaneh, located in Isfahan province, is renowned for its ancient roots, distinct red mud-brick architecture, and rich cultural heritage. Dating back over 1800 years, the village boasts a unique charm that has captivated travelers and historians alike.

One of the most striking features of Abyaneh

is its architecture, characterized by houses made from reddish-brown clay. This traditional building style not only blends harmoniously with the surrounding landscape but also provides natural insulation against the region's weather conditions.

Beyond its architectural allure, Abyaneh is home to a vibrant community that takes pride in preserving its cultural traditions and customs. Visitors to the village are greeted with warm hospitality and the opportunity to immerse themselves in local rituals, crafts, and cuisine.

In recent years, efforts have been made to promote Abyaneh as a cultural and tourism destination, with initiatives aimed at showcasing its historical significance and fostering sustainable development. The village's inclusion on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage status underscores its importance as a cultural heritage site of global significance.

Through a combination of cultural events, tourism promotion, and infrastructure improvements, Abyaneh is poised to continue enchanting visitors for generations to come.

Qazvin's traditional dolls join national intangible legacy

TEHRAN - Three traditional dolls from Qazvin province have been officially recognized as intangible cultural heritage, highlighting the region's rich cultural tapestry.

Qazvin's director-general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, on Tuesday, announced the registration of three dolls as national intangible cultural heritage.

Further elaborating the recognition, Alireza Khazaeli highlighted the inclusion of the skill of making these dolls, each from different regions of Qazvin province, in the national heritage list.

"The dolls, named 'Beklou' from Koohgir village in central Qazvin, 'Qolchag' from Rudak village in Buin Zahra," he brought to light. "And 'Khale Ba'ba' from Ardabilak village are officially registered."

Khazaeli explained that some of these dolls hold ritual significance, while others are used for children's entertainment. All materials used in the creation of these dolls come from leftover sewing fabrics and pieces of wood, the director-general noted.

The official further outlined that with efforts of the province's heritage registration experts, a total of 106 intangible assets from Qazvin have been registered on the national heritage list to date.

Additionally, the registration files for four more intangible assets from the province are being prepared for submission, Khazaeli concluded.

Qazvin province, is a region steeped in rich cultural heritage and historical significance. As one of Iran's ancient capitals, Qazvin boasts a diverse

array of cultural, architectural, and artistic treasures that reflect its storied past. The province is renowned for its historical monuments, including the Sa'd al-Saltaneh caravanserai one of the biggest roofed caravanserais in the country, and numerous exquisite mosques.

Cultural heritage in Qazvin extends beyond its architectural marvels to encompass a vibrant tapestry of intangible cultural elements. Traditional crafts, folklore, music, and local customs are integral to the province's cultural identity. Handicrafts such as carpet weaving, pottery, and miniature painting are celebrated for their intricate designs and craftsmanship.

Qazvin is also known for its rich culinary heritage, featuring distinctive dishes, and various sweets and pastries that are cherished both locally and nationally.



IRANIAN MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION

سازمان توسعه و نوسازی معادن و صنایع معدنی ایران

The Iranian Copper chain and Development Company (ICDCo) under affiliation The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has issued a public call (No: 140301/1) for the identification of contractors, investors, and financial providers. This call is related to the **Phosphoric acid production project from phosphorite ore under the EPCF (Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing) framework.**

Eligible legal entities (single or consortium / cooperation group) with the capability for investment, financial provision, and project execution within the EPCF contractual framework are invited to submit the following documents by **June 20, 2024**:

- A profile and professional resume (including a list of similar ongoing or completed contracts).
- An expression of interest.
- Other relevant information related to the call.

Submissions can be made either by mail to the following address:

- **Address:** 63 IMINO Building, 5th Floor, Between Jahan Kodak Square and Vanak Square, Vanak, Tehran, Iran, Postal Code: 1969935788

Or electronically to the email address: info-iccdco@imidro.gov.ir

In this regard, Mr. Mostafa Eini Sohail can be contacted at phone number +98 2141868000-742 for collaboration and document retrieval.



IRANIAN MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION

سازمان توسعه و نوسازی معادن و صنایع معدنی ایران

The Iranian Copper chain and Development Company (ICDCo) under affiliation The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has issued a public call (No: 140301/3) for the identification of contractors, investors, and financial providers. This call is related to the implementation of development projects under the **EPCF (Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing) framework.**

Eligible legal entities (single or consortium / cooperation group) with the capability for investment, financial provision, and project execution within the EPCF contractual framework are invited to submit the following documents by **June 20, 2024**:

- A profile and professional resume (including a list of similar ongoing or completed contracts).
- An expression of interest.
- Other relevant information related to the call.

Submissions can be made either by mail to the following address:

- **Address:** 63 IMINO Building, 5th Floor, Between Jahan Kodak Square and Vanak Square, Vanak, Tehran, Iran, Postal Code: 1969935788

Or electronically to the email address: info-iccdco@imidro.gov.ir

The project scope includes various aspects related to copper production:

- **Design, construction, and installation of renewable energy power plants** (solar and wind).

In this regard, Mr. Mostafa Eini Sohail can be contacted at phone number +98 2141868000-742 for collaboration and document retrieval.



IRANIAN MINES AND MINING INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT AND RENOVATION ORGANIZATION

سازمان توسعه و نوسازی معادن و صنایع معدنی ایران

The Iranian Copper chain and Development Company (ICDCo) under affiliation The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) has issued a public call (No: 140301/5) for the identification of contractors, investors, and financial providers. This call is related to the implementation of development projects under the **EPCF (Engineering, Procurement, Construction, and Financing) framework.**

Eligible legal entities (single or consortium / cooperation group) with the capability for investment, financial provision, and project execution within the EPCF contractual framework are invited to submit the following documents by **June 20, 2024**:

- A profile and professional resume (including a list of similar ongoing or completed contracts).
- An expression of interest.
- Other relevant information related to the call.

Submissions can be made either by mail to the following address:

- **Address:** 63 IMINO Building, 5th Floor, Between Jahan Kodak Square and Vanak Square, Vanak, Tehran, Iran, Postal Code: 1969935788

Or electronically to the email address: info-iccdco@imidro.gov.ir

The project scope includes various aspects related to copper production:

- **Design, construction, and installation of phosphoric acid production lines** and related by-products.

In this regard, Mr. Mostafa Eini Sohail can be contacted at phone number +98 2141868000-742 for collaboration and document retrieval.

Health minister attending 77th World Health Assembly

TEHRAN –Health Minister Bahram Einollahi is participating in the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) which is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 27 to June 1.

A total of 192 health ministers from World Health Organization (WHO) member states are attending the event.

The strategic roundtables span the overarching theme of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly: All for health, health for all.

During the meeting, experts discuss and reflect on current and future priorities and challenges facing global health as per related documents, and the member states will express their ideas about each document, IRNA quoted Deputy Health Minister Mohammad Hossein Niknam as saying.

Einollahi will present a statement on 34 specific documents related to the country's health system.

Out of 34 documents, 25 are on general health activities, six focus on the activities of different departments, one titled 'The Global Health Initiative for Peace' is related to international cooperation, one addresses the health situation in the occupied territories (Palestine), and the last one pertains to the eradication of smallpox, Niknam noted.

In addition, other topics such as the budget and financial issues, the membership status of the member states, auditing, and issues raised in the executive board session of the WHO will be reviewed by specialized committees.

In the 77th WHA, a total of 70 topics will be discussed in the form of documents, he stated.

To promote collaborations,



Einollahi is scheduled to hold meetings with his counterparts from different countries including Armenia, Pakistan, Cuba, Zimbabwe, China, the health ministries of the G5 countries, and the Director General of the WHO, on the sidelines of the WHA, the official further noted.

The WHA is the decision-making body of WHO. The main functions of the WHA are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed program budget.

Held annually in Geneva, Switzerland, it focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board.

Health is a universal right

On April 7, Einollahi said, "Health is a universal right and responsibility that is not limited to any specific age group, culture, or nationality."

All members of society from their childhood to old age have the right to access high-quality health services without financial worries.

Access to clean drinking water, soil, air, and food is a fundamental right and responsibility, the Health Ministry's website quoted Einollahi as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Health Day 2024, calling upon decision-makers to create conducive environments for individuals to actively participate in creating and maintaining health, from home to the community and the environment.

Health services in Iran

Procurement of vaccine, the positive efforts of the health ministry facilitated the process of procuring the vaccine for the country, and with the help of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, up to 10 million doses of coronavirus vaccine were brought into the country in each flight, accelerating immunization in the country.

Vaccination centers operated actively in the country; six different types of vaccines were produced and vaccines were imported.

Taking necessary measures, the health ministry successfully mitigated the pandemic.

Free health insurance coverage, many individuals are covered by insurance free of charge and many others benefit from discounts to receive health insurance services.

The Law on Family and Youth Support and the contribution

of incentives for childbearing which has resulted in offering free infertility treatment to couples to benefit from numerous services. There are about 400 hard-to-treat diseases. Currently, the number of diseases covered by insurance has reached 107. According to the authorities, the chance to come down with the rest of the diseases is so low that there are less than 100 cases of individuals suffering from them.

Family Health Program and Electronic Referral System is one of the most important priorities of the health ministry, designed and implemented to increase access to health services and strengthen the country's health network system.

According to the program, a health team comprised of two caregivers and a physician is responsible for 3,000 individuals.

Over the past two years, hospitals have been equipped with about 16,000 beds. Two hospitals with respectively 1000 and 821 beds were built.

Also, the first specialized hospital for children, named Hakim, after the Islamic revolution was built in 27 months.

About 79 other important hospital projects are also on the agenda, and between 8 and 10 hospitals with 1,000 beds are under construction.

The treatment of children under seven years of age is free of charge, and now medical centers are obliged to implement it.

Additionally, providing free services to improve the nutrition of pregnant mothers and their children, free cochlear implantation for deaf children for the first time in the country, and dispatching 2,800 doctors to deprived and less privileged areas are part of the offered services.

Malnutrition among children under 5 drops by 40%

TEHRAN –The implementation of a child care nutrition program has led to a 40-percent reduction in malnutrition among children under five years of age, according to an official with the health ministry.

The program has successfully improved acute malnutrition (severe thinness) in 40 percent of cases, IRNA quoted Ahmad Esmaeilzadeh as saying.

Child Care Nutrition Program was launched in the fall of 2023 with the aim to improve the nutritional status of children through means testing and the cooperation of the National Plan and Budget Organization and the Ministry of Cooperative, Labor, and Social Welfare.

Out of 179,519 children introduced by the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, 133,690 were eligible based on the results of the test and were covered by the program. Nutritional education, counseling, and monitoring are carried out by the health

centers, the official said.

Approximately, 50 percent of children received nutrition counseling services. The program's effectiveness is demonstrated by a 70 percent improvement in severely thin children, a 66 percent improvement in underweight children, and a 57 percent improvement in short children.

As part of the program 18,611 mothers of children aged 6 to 12 months (83.6 percent) and 99,992 mothers of children aged 12 to 59 months (85.9 percent) received nutritional training from health staff, Esmaeilzadeh stated.

The official went on to say that despite challenges, the program has shown a positive, significant, and meaningful impact on the improvement of anthropometric indicators of children (weight for height, weight for age, and height for age).

By meeting the nutritional needs of children, the program has been able to improve acute malnutrition (severe thinness) by 40 percent. In 30 percent of cases, it has improved the index so that children are classified as thin rather than severely thin, he said.

In other words, increasing access to foodstuff needed by children has been effective in the recovery of over 60 percent of severely underweight and 42 percent of underweight children, whose weight for age chart at the end of the program shows a normal range.

The child care nutrition program has resulted in the recovery of 57 percent of cases of severely short children (with 26 percent recovered and 31 percent currently recovering), and some 57 percent of cases of short children (with 32.5 percent recovered and 24.4 percent currently recovering), the official further noted.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran working with Green Climate Fund

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is working with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to reduce the effects of climate change.

FAO and the Department of Environment as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of GCF, partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day workshop.

"Throughout the implementation of this Project, FAO as the delivery partner has always stayed committed to providing its technical expertise, data, and tools to support the country in its efforts to financing with particular attention to the requirements of the GCF," said Gerold Bödeker, FAO Representative to Iran.

همکاری ایران با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل

سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست به عنوان مرجع رسمی ایران در زمینه حفظ محیط زیست با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل با محوریت سازمان خواربار و کشاورزی ملل متحد (فائو) در راستای کاهش تأثیرات تغییر اقلیم همکاری می‌کند.

فائو و سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور به عنوان مرجع صلاحیت دار ملی ایران و صندوق اقلیم سبز با همکاری یکدیگر، این پروژه را پیش بردند و در قالب چند برگزاری چند کارگاه اقدامات را بررسی کردند.

گروولد بودکر نماینده فائو در جمهوری اسلامی ایران گفت: در طول اجرای این پروژه، فائو، به عنوان شریک اجرایی، همیشه متعهد به ارائه تخصص فنی، داده‌ها و ابزارهای سیاستی خود برای تأمین مالی اقدامات اقلیمی با در نظر گرفتن الزامات صندوق اقلیم سبز بوده است.

ISC WUR by subject includes 43 Iranian Universities

TEHRAN – The Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has released the ranking of universities by subject 2023 according to which 43 universities from Iran are among the top 239 universities from Islamic nations.

In 2022, there were 44 Iranian universities on the ISC ranking by subject from 224 universities in Islamic countries.

ISC, as an avant-garde citation system in the Muslim world, published Islamic World University Rankings in 2013. Building on past experience, ISC's Department of Universities Ranking published the new ISC World University Rankings in 2018.

The ISC ranking by subject includes 3 key criteria, namely research (70 percent) international activity (15 percent), and innovation (15 percent).

The included universities have been ranked in six subjects namely natural sciences (mathematics, computer and information sciences, physical sciences, chemical sciences, earth and related environmental sciences, and biological sciences); Engineering and Technology (electrical engineering, electronic engineering, information engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, chemical engineering, medical engineering, environmental engineering, environmental biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, nano-technology, and other engineering and technologies); Medical and Health Sciences (basic medicine, clinical medicine, health sciences, medical biotechnology, and other medical science); Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (agriculture, forestry, fisheries animal and dairy science, veterinary science, agricultural biotechnology, and other agricultural science); Social Sciences (psychology and cognitive sciences, education, sociology, law, political science, economics and business, social and economic geography, media and communication, and other social sciences); and Humanities and the Art (history and archaeology, languages and literature, philosophy, ethics and religion, art, and other humanities).

In Natural Sciences, Tehran University (with a global rank of 301 – 350); Amirkabir University of Technology, Tarbiat Modarres University, and Tehran University of Medical Sciences (both with a global rank of 501 – 600) are ranked first and second in the country.

The University of Tehran is globally ranked 130 in Chemical Sciences, and 128 in earth and related environmental sciences.

There are 45 universities from Islamic countries in Natural Science. Iran with 12 and Egypt with 7 have the highest number of universities. The best ranking pertains to Saudi Arabia 150.

In Engineering and Technology, the University of Tehran (150), Sharif University of Technology (251-300), Amirkabir University of Technology, and Iran University of Science and Technology (301-350) are ranked first to third nationwide, respectively.

The University of Tehran is ranked 68 in Civil Engineering, 49 in Mechanical Engineering, and 99 in Chemical Engineering globally. It ranked 73 in Environmental engineering.



A total of 59 universities from Islamic countries are present in Engineering and Technology. Iran (15), Egypt (10), and Malaysia (9) had the highest number of universities in this subject area.

In Medical and Health Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranked first (251-300), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranked second (351-400), and Iran Medical Sciences ranked third (401-450).

In Medical and Health Sciences 56 universities from Islamic countries are ranked. Turkey (16), Iran (13), and Egypt (8) ranked first to third in terms of the number of universities present in the ranking.

In Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences, the University of Tehran ranked 144 worldwide, it ranked first in the country. It is the only university from Iran present in Veterinary Science with a rank of 140.

Tarbiat Modarres University (301-350), Isfahan University of Technology, and Urmia University (both with a global rank of 401-450) are placed second to third in the country.

A total of 85 universities from Islamic nations are ranked. Iran (16), Turkey (15), and Egypt (13) had the highest number of universities included. The best ranking goes to Saudi Arabia 28.

The University of Tehran is the only university from Iran present in Social Sciences (with a rank of 351-400), and Humanities and Art (ranked 501-600).

In Social Sciences, 20 universities from Islamic countries are ranked, with 7 universities from Malaysia. Saudi Arabia ranked 318.

Islamic countries are presented with 11 universities in Humanities and Art. Five universities are from Malaysia, three are from Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, and Nigeria are presented with one university each. Malaysia with a global rank of 245 is the best in this subject area.

Recent rankings

The Times Higher Education placed Iran second among Islamic countries in terms of the number of universities included in Young University Rankings 2024.

The country now boasts 46 universities included in the Young University Rankings, up from 39 last year and 20 in 2020.

Turkey (58) and Pakistan (33) ranked first and third, respectively.

The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings include institutions that were founded between 1974 and the present.

Iranian scholars grab COMSTECH awards

From page 1 ► According to the OIC COSMTECH website, the winners, have been selected through a rigorous peer-review process. The awardees' dedication has significantly advanced scientific knowledge and fostered innovation in OIC member states and globally.

Each award carries a certificate signed by the chairman of COSMTECH (the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan), a shield of honor, and a cash prize.

The main objectives of COMSTECH include the assessment of human and material resources of member states and the identification of their scientific and technological needs and requirements.

Enhancement of cooperation and coordination in scientific and technological fields amongst the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states with a view to achieving collective competence in science and technology for the solution of the problems of the OIC member states is the other main goal.

Moreover, it looks for the creation of an effective institutional structure for planning, research, development, and monitoring of scientific and technological activities at national, regional, and international levels.

COMSTECH

COMSTECH the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the

OIC was established by the Third Islamic Summit of OIC held at Makkah, Saudi Arabia in January 1981.

The core mandate of COMSTECH is to strengthen cooperation among OIC Member States in science and technology (S&T), enhance their capabilities through training in emerging areas, undertake follow-up-actions and implement the resolutions of the OIC, and draw up programs and submit proposals designed to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology (S&T).

The ultimate aim is to build and nourish a scientific culture in addition to using S&T as a major contributor to socio-economic development and rapid industrialization.

COMSTECH works in close collaboration with various Standing Committees and other organs of the OIC, Member States of the OIC, and their major Scientific and Technological Institutions, in addition to some international organizations.

Some organizations include the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Islamic World Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ICESCO), Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Foundation for Science (IFS), World Health Organization – Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO-EMRO).



Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**
Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran P.O. Box: 14155-4843 Zip Code: 1599814713

MAY 29, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best among you is the one who doesn't harm others with his tongue and hands.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:33 Dawn: 3:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:51 (tomorrow)

Persian edition of "Blindness" republished



TEHRAN- The 56th edition of the Persian translation of Portuguese writer José Saramago's 1995 novel "Blindness" has recently been published.

Markaz is the publisher of the book translated by Mehdi Ghabrai. The publisher released the first edition in 2000.

"Blindness" tells the story of a mysterious and sudden epidemic that causes people to lose their sight.

The novel follows a group of characters who are affected by the epidemic, including a doctor and his wife, a businessman, a young woman, and a family with children.

The story begins with the doctor, who is driving to work when he realizes that he can't see anything. He is eventually joined by his wife, who also becomes blind. As they try to navigate their new reality, they encounter other blind people who are struggling to survive.

The group soon discovers that the blindness is not only physical, but also emotional and psychological, as they begin to lose touch with their sense of self and their relationships with others.

The novel explores themes of isolation, loneliness, and the breakdown of society. As the blind people struggle to adapt to their new reality, they are forced to rely on each other for support and survival. However, their reliance on each other also leads to conflicts and tensions within the group.

Throughout the novel, Saramago uses his unique writing style, which is characterized by long sentences and philosophical musings, to explore the themes of the book. The novel is a powerful and thought-provoking exploration

of what it means to be human, and how we respond to crisis and adversity.

Ultimately, the novel ends with a sense of hopelessness and despair, as the blind people are left to fend for themselves in a world that is no longer familiar or safe.

The novel is a powerful critique of society and our ability to adapt to change, and it is a testament to Saramago's skill as a writer that he is able to create such a powerful work.

"Blindness" received widespread critical acclaim upon its release in 1995. The novel was praised for its unique exploration of the human condition, and its ability to convey the emotional and psychological effects of the blindness epidemic on its characters.

The book was a bestseller in Portugal and Spain, and it quickly gained international recognition, being translated into over 30 languages. The novel won several prestigious awards, including the Prix Médicis Étranger, the Premio Planeta, and the Camões Prize.

The novel's success also led to several adaptations, including a film adaptation directed by Fernando Meirelles in 2008. The film starred Mark Ruffalo and Julianne Moore as the doctor and his wife, and it received widespread critical acclaim for its powerful and poignant portrayal of the characters' experiences.

The film was nominated for several awards, including two Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Adapted Screenplay. In addition to the film, "Blindness" has also been adapted into a stage play, with productions in several countries around the world.

The book's accolades have continued to accumulate over the years, with many critics and scholars considering "Blindness" to be one of Saramago's greatest works.

The novel has been included in numerous lists of the best books of the 20th century, including those compiled by The Guardian, The New York Times, and Le Monde. The book has also been the subject of numerous academic studies and essays, with scholars analyzing its themes, characters, and literary style.

Cartoon of Day



Rafah Holocaust

Cartoonist: Mahmoud Rifai from Jordan

Iranian vocalist Alireza Ghorbani to perform in Dubai

TEHRAN- Renowned Iranian vocalist Alireza Ghorbani is set to give a concert at the prestigious Dubai Opera on June 7.

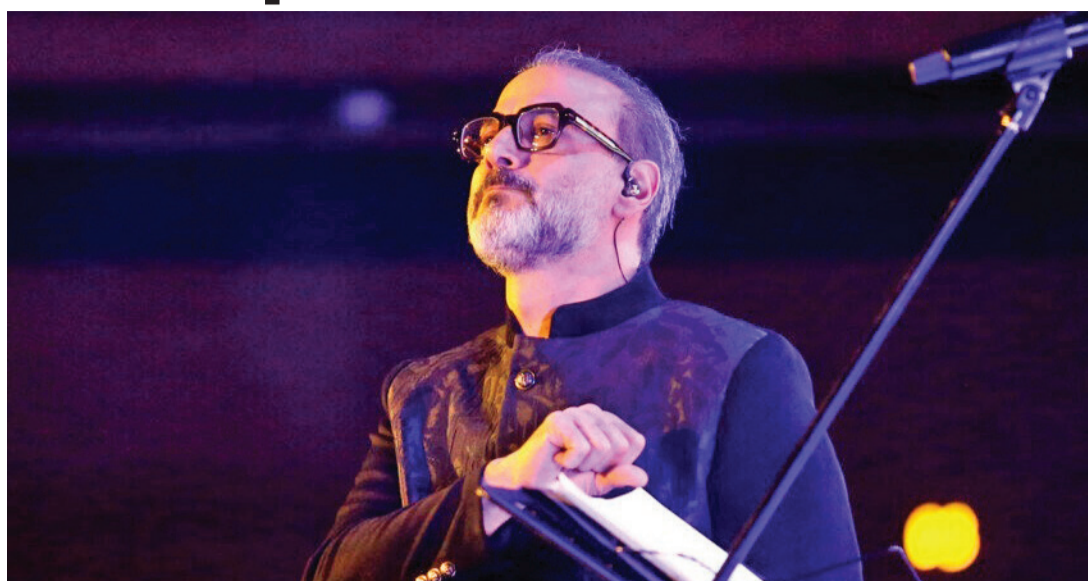
The concert, organized by Raaz Moon Events, will feature a collection of Ghorbani's most popular songs from recent years, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The concert will feature a blend of traditional Persian melodies and soulful vocals, showcasing Ghorbani's unique style. The performance will also feature the renowned Dubai's "Ferdows" orchestra, known for their exceptional musical expertise.

Following his successful performance in Tehran during Iranian new year in March, Ghorbani has gone on to perform in Berlin, Gothenburg, and Milan, cementing his reputation as a global music sensation.

With over 150 concerts in the past year alone and over 300,000 tickets sold, Ghorbani has become a cultural icon in the music industry.

Recognized as one of the most active traditional contemporary singers of Iran, Ghorbani started his vocal lessons at the age of 12 and became a solo vocalist of the National Orchestra of Iran at 27.



Three years later, he became a foreground singer of Persian song, having mastered the numerous scales of Middle Eastern music. Flawlessly controlling the rarest vocal techniques in singing, his very ramified repertoire constitutes the radif (non-rhythmic) and the tasnif (rhythmic) techniques.

An artist of great caliber, Ghorbani is deeply rooted in the tradition with an insatiable curiosity and open-mindedness towards other cultures. He has laid claims to being a worthy successor of Mohammed Reza

Shajarian, the man regarded as the undisputed master of Persian classical song. He is attributed with dozens of musical albums, numerous live performances and concerts, and scores of international multicultural projects and festivals in many countries around the world.

The versatility and creativity of his work is illustrated by his many collaborations with artists of various backgrounds, such as Alim Qasimov (Azerbaijan), Jobran Trio (France), Dorsaf Hamdani (Tunisia), Bombay Jayashri (India),

Celia Woodsmith to name a few.

Ghorbani is also the founder of the Voices and Bridges project, which brings together composers and musicians from diverse world music styles. Songs on the project feature lyrics by well-known poets such as Youshij, Rumi and Pablo Neruda.

He also has a great deal of experience with cinema and television and has sung some of the famous pieces in many popular TV series.

Nava-ye Aftab orchestra to perform famous movie soundtracks at Milad Tower



TEHRAN-Nava-ye Aftab orchestra led by Amin Salemi will perform a selection of famous movie soundtracks at Tehran's Milad Tower on June 20.

Nava-ye Aftab (literally meaning sound of sun) will deliver a new arrangement of 17 soundtracks from well-known films of Iran and world cinema, ISNA reported.

The orchestra comprises musicians playing

a wide range of Iranian, classical, and pop instruments. The Iranian instruments include tar, oud, santur, daf, and tonbak, which are accompanied by violin, flute, piano, guitar, harmonica, saxophone, drums, and percussion as classical and pop instruments.

The concert repertoire consists of soundtracks from three Iranian movies and 14 foreign films. The Iranian pieces include the soundtracks for Ali Hatami's drama "Kamalolmolk" (1984) and Kayhan Rahgozar's series "Bu Ali Sina" (1985), both composed by Farhad Fakhreddini, renowned Iranian composer, conductor and founder of Iran's National Orchestra.

The foreign pieces include the soundtracks of Sergio Leone's western "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" (1966) and Giuseppe Tornatore's drama "Cinema Paradiso" (1988), both composed

by renowned Italian composer and orchestrator Ennio Morricone; Francis Ford Coppola's crime "The Godfather" (1972) composed by Italian composer and pianist Nino Rota; Ridley Scott's "1492: Conquest of Paradise" (1992) composed by celebrated Greek musician and composer Vangelis; Luc Besson's action/crime "Léon: The Professional" (1994) composed by French composer Éric Serra; and the fantasy-drama series "Game of Thrones" (2011-2019) composed by the Iranian-German film score composer and conductor Ramin Djawadi.

The pieces have received new arrangement for orchestra by Amin Salemi, Firouz Veysanlou, and Mohammadreza Aghaei.

In its last concert, Nava-ye Aftab orchestra performed famous Persian love songs in the past five decades in Tehran.

Hannah Arendt's "Responsibility and Judgment" available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of "Responsibility and Judgment" written by the German-American historian and philosopher Hannah Arendt has been released in the book market across Iran.

Meysam Mohammad-Amini has translated the book and Now Publishing House has brought it out in 318 pages, Mehr reported.

Originally published in 2003, the book gathers together unpublished writings from the last decade of Arendt's life, where she addresses fundamental questions and concerns about the nature of evil and the making of moral choices.

At the heart of the book is a profound ethical investigation, "Some Questions of Moral Philosophy," in which Arendt

confronts the inadequacy of traditional moral "truths" as standards to judge what we are capable of doing and examines anew our ability to distinguish good from evil and right from wrong.

We also see how Arendt comes to understand that alongside the radical evil she had addressed in earlier analyses of totalitarianism, there exists a more pernicious evil, independent of political ideology, whose execution is limitless when the perpetrator feels no remorse and can forget his acts as soon as they are committed.

"Responsibility and Judgment" is an indispensable investigation into some of the most troubling and important issues of our time.

Hannah Arendt (1906-1975) was

one of the most influential political philosophers of the twentieth century. Born into a German-Jewish family, she was forced to leave Germany in 1933 and lived in Paris for the next eight years, working for a number of Jewish refugee organizations.

In 1941 she immigrated to the United States and soon became part of a lively intellectual circle in New York. She held a number of academic positions at various American universities until her death in 1975. She is best known for two works that had a major impact both within and outside the academic community. The first, "The Origins of Totalitarianism," published in 1951, was a study of the Nazi and Stalinist regimes that generated a

wide-ranging debate on the nature and historical antecedents of the totalitarian phenomenon.

The second, "The Human Condition," published in 1958, was an original philosophical study that investigated the fundamental categories of the vita activa (labor, work, action).

In addition to these two important works, Arendt published a number of influential essays on topics such as the nature of revolution, freedom, authority, tradition and the modern age. At the time of her death in 1975, she had completed the first two volumes of her last major philosophical work, "The Life of the Mind," which examined the three fundamental faculties of the vita contemplativa (thinking, willing, judging).

Guy Pearce's Palestinian pin removed in photo sparks fury

Vanity Fair France apologized for removing a Palestinian pin worn by actor Guy Pearce from a photo after a furious reaction online.

The Australian actor posed for a photo for the French version of the magazine as part of its portraiture series at the Cannes Film Festival.

Pearce posed while sitting in a chair, wearing a tuxedo and smiling widely at the camera. On his left lapel was a pin of the Palestinian flag and he also wore the Palestinian colors on his wrist via a woven bracelet.

But when the photo was shared on the Vanity Fair France website and its official Instagram account, the pin was conspicuously absent.

The editing of the picture to remove the pin was quickly met with fury on social media.

"The famous American magazine, Vanity Fair photoshopped the photo of the actor and

musician, Guy Pearce who wore a pin in solidarity with Palestine at the Cannes Film Festival, but they forgot to photoshop the bracelet which was also in the colors of Palestine," wrote @rifain_nouvelle in French and translated to English on X, formerly Twitter.

"Variety edited the pin that Guy Pearce wore in solidarity with Palestine at the Cannes Film Festival. They didn't realize that the actor also wore a bracelet with the nation's colors," added @marcosallem in Portuguese and also translated to English.

"So Guy Pearce showed solidarity with Palestine at Cannes by wearing a pin and Vanity Fair decided to photoshop it out. Little did they know the bracelet was also of the Palestinian flag colors," wrote Hathout.

Vanity Fair later updated its website to replace the edited photo with the original.

"A previous version of this image was posted on the site, the original version was this one, posted simultaneously on Instagram. We sincerely apologize," it wrote under the portrait of Pearce.

Celebrities at major events have shown their solidarity with the Palestinians since Israel began its unrelenting military offensive in Gaza almost eight months ago.

Israel's unprecedented assault on the Palestinian territory has killed nearly 36,000 people in Gaza and displaced hundreds of thousands more, according to The Associated Press.

The United Nations' International Court of Justice ordered Israel to halt its military operation in Rafah on Friday, saying it was "not convinced" that Israel was doing enough to evacuate Palestinians from the besieged city.