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Ayatollah Khamenei pens a letter to express solidarity with American students supporting Palestine

## 'Standing on the Right Side of History'



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New York police officers keep an eye on protesters as they demonstrate outside Columbia University, as the protest encampment continues in support of Palestinians, April 23, 2024

## UN General Assembly offers condolences to Iran for death of President, FM

TEHRAN - The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) convened a plenary session on Thursday to express condolences to the Iranian government and people following the deaths of President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The session began with a moment of silence and included remarks from UNGA President Dennis Francis, who commemorated the Iranian officials who lost their lives in a helicopter crash on May 19.

"President Raisi played a pivotal role in shaping our multilateral system and fostering international cooperation," Francis noted, also praising Amir Abdollahian as "a consummate diplomat."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledged that Raisi "led Iran during a challenging period for the country, the region, and the world."

Burundi's UN Ambassador Zéphyrin Manirantanga, representing African nations, lauded Raisi as a "dedicated leader who served his nation and promoted international cooperation, particularly with African countries."

"Raisi was a visionary whose commitment to equity, solidarity, and multilateralism was evident throughout his leadership," he added. [▶ Page 2](#)

## Israel deployed hundreds of warplanes to counter Iran's retaliatory operation: commander

TEHRAN - Israel placed hundreds of warplanes on high alert in anticipation of Iran's retaliatory attack which struck the occupied territories last month, according to a senior Iranian military commander.

Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Division, disclosed that approximately 221 Israeli warplanes were mobilized to counter Iran's Operation True Promise.

"Foreign countries have admitted that Operation True Promise was the largest missile and drone operation in the world. A large number of missiles and drones were needed to pass through Israel's Iron Dome; The operation was punitive, limited, and extensive, and two intelligence bases and operations that played a role in the martyrdom of Iranian military commanders in Syria were destroyed," the general explained during a gathering on Thursday.

Operation True Promise, launched on April 13, involved the Iranian Armed Forces firing dozens of drones and missiles at Israeli military bases in the occupied territories. It was a direct response to Israel's aggression against the Iranian diplomatic premises in Damascus on April 1, which resulted in the martyrdom of two IRGC generals and five accompanying officers. [▶ Page 2](#)

## Syrian president meets Ayatollah Khamenei to offer condolences over Raisi's passing

TEHRAN - President Bashar al Assad of Syria visited Tehran on Thursday to offer condolences to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei over the tragic death of President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash on May 19.

Addressing Ayatollah Khamenei, the Syrian president called the ties between Syria and Iran "strategic" that are progressing under "Your Excellency's directions."

Assad said, "Mr. Raisi and Mr. Amir Abdollahian" were [▶ Page 3](#)

## Iran gears up for snap presidential election

By Alireza Akbari



TEHRAN - Preparations for snap presidential elections in late June are underway in Iran, with presidential candidates heading to the Interior Ministry to register their bids for president.

In light of the upcoming snap presidential election, the executive deputy of the Constitutional Council announced that meetings to organize the election began immediately after the news of the martyrdom of the late President.

"According to Article 131 of the Constitution, the election must be held within 50 days of the President's martyrdom," Mohammad Hassan Sadeghi Moghaddam said.

Sadeghi Moghaddam assured that all necessary preparations for the election are well underway. The processes are progressing smoothly, and the Ministry of Interior began the candidate registration process on Thursday, May 30.

He emphasized that the Constitutional Council will vet candidates' qualifications according to the law, beginning after the registration period ends.

The Council has a deadline of two five-day periods to complete this vetting process. "We hope to announce the final decision in less than 10 days, giving candidates ample time for their election campaigns," he added. [▶ Page 3](#)



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## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Tehran's serious reaction to the issuance of a resolution against Iran

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

In a commentary, Shargh discussed the possible new action of the European troika to issue a resolution against Iran and wrote: The reason of European countries for issuing a resolution against Iran is so weak in international political conditions that even the United States, their main and permanent ally, is against it and believes that this action will only increase tension and increase Iran's nuclear activities, and on the other hand, will reduce the Agency's monitoring and access. At the same time, any resolution issued by the Board of Governors will result in a serious and definite reaction from Iran, and the European countries and the United States should keep in mind that due to the international political developments, the escalation of tension with Iran is not in the interest of any of the parties, even at the technical and security level. It is time for these countries to consult with their ally, the United States, to return to the JCPOA and implement their commitments instead of using the resolution to force Iran to cooperate more because the way of Iran's greater cooperation with the Agency in the field of access and monitoring of activities is through political negotiations to revive the JCPOA and cancel sanctions. The insistence of the European troika and the United States on issuing a resolution in the Board of Governors sends a message to Iran that they will have a path other than reviving the JCPOA.

**Siasat-e-Rooz: Old game with new claims**

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the opposition and Western media's abuse of the European troika's possible resolution against Iran and said: After the publication of this news, some Western media and the Persian opposition started a joint media activity. This media game is based on Iranophobia, repeating the old claims that Iran is getting close to building a nuclear bomb and changing its nuclear strategy.

These claims are made while the exact statistics of the Agency regarding the changes in the number of enriched reserves are clear evidence of Tehran's extensive and comprehensive cooperation with the Agency, which deserves to be appreciated as a global model, rather than a tool to repeat the Iranophobia lies. How do these media and their political masters claim to be concerned about the nuclear activity of a country like Iran, which has had the most cooperation and the highest inspections, while they have remained silent in the face of the Zionist regime's nuclear threats, the modernization of nuclear weapons by the owners of these

**Baqeri discusses Hajj, regional issues with Saudi FM**

TEHRAN – Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani announced in a Thursday post on X that he has held a phone conversation with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan to discuss a host of issues.

"In light of the good relations between the two countries, we are confident that Iranian pilgrims will perform Hajj in safety, peace and comfort," Baqeri wrote. "While reviewing the current miserable situation in Rafah and the genocide of the Zionists in Palestine, we emphasized taking effective and joint action to prevent the continuation of the occupation regime's genocide," he added.

According to the Saudi Press Agency, the two officials discussed relations between the two countries, ways to enhance them, and regional and international developments.

Baqeri has assumed the role of acting foreign minister since the recent passing of his predecessor Hossein Amir Abdollahian in

weapons, and the eight months of Gaza genocide?!

**Donya-e-Eqtasad: Relative peace will not dominate for long**

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad investigated the National Interest magazine's report on the tensions between Tehran and Tel Aviv in the past few months. The paper said: According to this magazine, a direct confrontation between Israel and Iran has been neutralized. Since the complaints and differences between the two sides are not resolved, Iran's new policy of direct attacks and Israel's strong willingness to carry out security threats means that now it is only a matter of time and there may be a more deadly exchange of fire between the parties in the future. The United States and Israel must rethink their strategy to create an American-Arab-Israeli alliance against the Iranian axis. American-Arab partners have shown over the past year that they value relations with Iran. Finally, the creation of a more comprehensive regional forum for dialogue and diplomacy can provide the possibility of indirect dialogues. Also, opportunities such as a ceasefire can act as a catalyst for direct and indirect diplomacy.

**Javan: The relations between Beijing and Tehran are reaching a higher level**

In an analysis, Javan discussed the increase of relations between Iran and China and wrote: Currently, China and Iran are promoting the deep development of exchanges and cooperation in various fields with all their efforts. Therefore, this enriches the concept of bilateral relations and economic and commercial cooperation between China and Iran is still deepening. Cultural exchanges between China and Iran have many highlights and effectively increase the familiarity and friendship between the people of the two countries and strengthen social bonds. China and Iran strengthen coordination in regional and multilateral affairs. Thus, with the joint effort of China, Iran and Saudi Arabia, Iran and Saudi Arabia resumed their relations in the Middle East and this issue promoted regional security and stability.

For a long time, China has decisively supported Iran's efforts to protect its national sovereignty and Iran's reasonable demands regarding JCPOA issues, as well as Iran's resistance to unilateralism and hegemony. China and Iran should continue to try to eliminate the interference and sabotage of foreign forces and promote their comprehensive strategic partnership to a high level.

a helicopter crash, which tragically claimed the life of President Ebrahim Raisi as well.

**Iran, Algeria decry Israeli attacks on Gaza**

In another telephone conversation with the Algerian Foreign Minister, Baqeri and Ahmed Attaf expressed deep concern over Israel's recent attacks on Gaza, calling for collective action by Islamic countries.

During the call, Baqeri condemned the "savage attacks" on Palestinian refugee tents, describing them as "heinous crimes" committed by a "bloodthirsty regime." He thanked Algeria for its efforts to halt the violence.

Baqeri stressed the urgent need for joint action within the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to stop Israel's crimes and assist Gazans. He proposed an extraordinary OIC meeting, which Attaf welcomed.

Attaf expressed condolences for the recent martyrdom of Iranian officials reaffirming Algeria's commitment to the bilateral agenda agreed upon during Raisi's visit to the Arab country in 2022.

Both ministers acknowledged the disruption of humanitarian aid to Gaza and expressed support for a collective initiative to achieve a ceasefire and alleviate the suffering of Palestinians.

# Ayatollah Khamenei's letter to American students draws ire in Zionist camp

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Several Israeli and American figures have reacted angrily to a letter by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution which praised students in U.S. universities for standing up for Palestinians subject to an ongoing genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip.

"When you've won the Ayatollah, you've lost America," wrote U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson on X. Johnson was met with boos when he visited Columbia University's campus last month to speak with protesting students asking for divestment from Israeli institutions.

In a later interview, the Republican called the students "aspiring terrorists," saying he would make sure that college professors and pupils involved in the protests would be hauled in front of Congress.

Johnson's largest donor is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), which is a pro-Israel lobbying organization that calls for unconditional U.S. support for Israel and pushes back against any criticism of the regime.

Another furious reaction came from Ritchie John Torres, a U.S. representative for New York's 15th



congressional district. Torres said that Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's praising of American students means that they are "useful idiots on the wrong side of history." The Democratic politician's biggest donor is also AIPAC.

Some Israeli officials were also fuming after the release of the letter. "Bravo students, you are now the beloved children of Mahsa Amini's killer," said Israel's envoy to Belgium and Luxembourg on her social media account.

Idit Rosenzweig-Abu was referring to the passing of an Iranian woman who lost her life in September of 2022 days after collapsing in a police

station. Western and Israeli media outlets claimed Amini had passed away due to a brain injury she sustained during a confrontation with police forces.

However, her hospital records, brain scans, and a video of Amini's father confirming to a judiciary worker that her daughter had not been injured in any form proved her demise was not the result of a police confrontation. Further investigations revealed that Amini died due to a pre-existing brain condition for which she had undergone surgery as a child.

Nonetheless, Israel and Western nations used Amini's death to spur

unprecedented riots in Iran in the fall of 2022, during which over 300 people including more than 70 security forces lost their lives.

More Israelis tried to use the false narrative regarding Amini's death to demotivate American students. A lawyer working for the Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy wrote on X: "When Ayatollah Khamenei is applauding you, you are on the WRONG side of history!"

The lawyer has backed Israel's massacre of women and children under different pretexts for the past 8 months.

American students, however, seem to have received encouragement from Ayatollah Khamenei's letter. They hailed the message as a sign that their efforts have not gone unnoticed and vowed that they would continue to stand up for human rights despite the mounting pressure.

For the past two months, students have been setting up encampments in universities across the United States, asking their institutions to cut ties with Israeli entities. Their peaceful protests have been met with extremely violent crackdowns, suspensions, and threats of various forms.

## Iran condemns U.S., Britain attacks on Yemeni cities

TEHRAN – The spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned last night's attacks by the United States and Britain on areas in the Yemeni cities of Sanaa and Hodeidah, which resulted in the deaths and injuries of dozens of people.

Nasser Kanaani stated that these aggressive attacks on Yemen, targeting civilians, coupled with the unwavering support of the U.S. and Britain for the ongoing war crimes and genocide by the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip and Rafah, are intended to spread insecurity in the region and undermine the Yemeni people's and the National Salvation Government's support for the oppressed people of Palestine.

He noted that the continued violation of Yemen's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the attacks on its citizens, are clear breaches of international laws and human rights. He held the governments of the United States and Britain responsible for the consequences of these crimes against the Yemeni people.

Kanaani called on the international community, global organizations, and Islamic

countries to fulfill their legal and humanitarian duties to support the oppressed people of Yemen and to oppose the provocative and reckless actions of the United States and Britain in the region.

Concluding, Kanaani expressed his condolences to the people of Yemen, particularly the families of the martyrs, for the loss of Yemeni citizens due to these unjust attacks, and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

On Thursday, The U.S. and Britain struck 13 targets in several locations in Yemen. At least 42 people were reportedly injured in result of these attacks.

"The American-British aggression will not prevent us from continuing our military operations in support of Palestine," Yemeni Resistance official Mohammed al-Bukhaiti said on social media account on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Yemen's armed forces began targeting Israeli ships and Israel-bound vessels passing through the Red Sea shortly after the regime began its

latest round of attacks against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. Sanaa has said that it would stop the attacks once Israel ends the devastating war in Gaza. The Arab country also began targeting American and British ships after London and Washington started to directly attack Yemeni soil in support of Israel instead of turning the screw on Zionists.

Israel initiated the Gaza conflict on October 7 in response to a surprise retaliatory operation by Palestinian Resistance factions in the occupied territories.

Simultaneously, the regime has imposed a nearly complete blockade on the coastal enclave, severely limiting the supply of essential goods such as food, medicine, electricity, and water to Palestinians.

During the ongoing war, the regime has caused the deaths of approximately 36,200 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, while another 81,777 Palestinians have been injured, according to the reports from Health Ministry in the battered enclave.

## Israel deployed hundreds of warplanes to counter Iran's retaliatory operation: commander

From page 1 ▶ Hajizadeh emphasized that Israel's decision to attack the Iranian diplomatic mission was a grave miscalculation.

"They assumed that Iran would not retaliate and that regional resistance forces would take action instead," he said.

The commander noted that Iran deployed only "20 percent"

of its military might during Operation True Promise. "Israel's missile defense systems were not attacked; Because they are located near big cities. But had war with Israel continued, it wouldn't have taken long to take down the whole regime," he noted.

Reports show that during Iran's retaliatory attack against Israeli positions in the occupied territories, several countries including the U.S.,

UK, France, and Jordan worked in tandem with Israel to intercept Iranian weapons. "The Israeli regime and the United States worked together to equip regional countries with the means to defend Zionists against our response," Hajizadeh said.

Hajizadeh added that Operation True Promise has had a profound impact on the region, marking a clear dividing line between the past

and the present. The operation has also bolstered the morale and resolve of the Axis of Resistance in its struggle against the Israeli occupation, he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the senior Iranian commander hailed the resistance of Palestinian people against the Israeli regime in the past months, adding that Gaza will emerge victorious against the regime sooner or later.

## UN General Assembly offers condolences to Iran for death of President, FM

From page 1 ▶ Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Munir Akram, spoke on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), highlighting Raisi's contributions to the OIC's mission, including advocating for Palestinian rights.

"Through the late President's leadership and the support of other OIC leaders, the Organization has become a stronger force for global peace, security, and prosperity," Akram said. Speaking for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Uganda's representative emphasized that Raisi and Amir Abdollahian were "key in bolstering cooperation among NAM members."

"Under their leadership, Iran played a crucial role in enhancing cooperation among developing

countries," the envoy stated.

Iran's Ambassador to the UN, Amir Saeid Iravani, expressed gratitude for the international messages of sympathy, reflecting the global respect for the Iranian people.

He described President Raisi as a "committed leader" widely respected for promoting good neighborliness, building trust, and encouraging dialogue regionally and globally.

The helicopter carrying Raisi and his entourage 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.

## Supreme Court of Canada refuses to seize Iranian state property, bank assets

TEHRAN- The Supreme Court of Canada has rejected an appeal by the families of Flight PS752 victims seeking to confiscate Iranian state property and bank assets held in Canada.

The victims' families had requested the seizure of Iranian government and banking assets to secure compensation. In 2021, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice claimed that Iran had intentionally shot down the Ukrainian aircraft, awarding nearly \$250 million in compensation to nine families representing 14 victims.

Despite this ruling, the federal government maintained that under international law, Canadian courts do not have the authority to allow the seizure of Iranian assets. An Ontario Superior Court

justice concurred, citing diplomatic immunity protections for Iranian property under Canadian law.

Nasser Kananni, spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that Iran has made extensive efforts within national and international legal frameworks to address the pain of the victims' families. He emphasized that Iran has acted responsibly from the outset, while accusing some countries of politicizing the tragedy to exert pressure on Iran.

Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 was mistakenly downed by the Iranian military on January 8, 2020, amid heightened tensions with the United States. Some passengers on board held Canadian citizenship, exacerbating tensions between Iran and Canada.

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

# 'Standing on the right side of history'

TEHRAN – The Leader of the Islamic Revolution has praised university students in the United States for showing their support for Palestinians in a letter, stating that they are on the right side of history.

The letter reads:

"In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

I am writing this letter to the young people whose awakened conscience has moved them to defend the oppressed women and children of Gaza.

Dear university students in the United States of America, this message is an expression of our empathy and solidarity with you. As the page of history is turning, you are standing on the right side of it.

You have now formed a branch of the Resistance Front and have begun an honorable struggle in the face of your government's ruthless pressure—a government which openly supports the usurper and brutal Zionist regime.

The greater Resistance Front which shares the same understandings and feelings that you have today, has been engaged in the same struggle for many years in a place far from you. The goal of this struggle is to put an end to the blatant oppression that the brutal Zionist terrorist network has inflicted on the Palestinian nation for many years. After seizing their country, the Zionist regime has subjected them to the harshest of pressures and tortures.

The apartheid Zionist regime's genocide today is the continuation of extreme oppressive behavior which has been going on for decades. Palestine is an independent land with a long history. It is a nation comprised of



Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

After the World War, the capitalist Zionist network gradually imported several thousand terrorists into this land with the help of the British government. These terrorists attacked cities and villages, murdered tens of thousands of people and pushed out multitudes into neighboring countries. They seized their homes, businesses and farmlands, formed a government in the usurped land of Palestine and called it Israel.

After England's initial help, the United States became the greatest supporter of this usurper regime, ceaselessly providing it with political, economic and military support. In an act of unforgivable recklessness, the United States even opened the way and provided assistance for the regime's production of nuclear weapons.

The Zionist regime used an iron-fist policy against the defenseless people of Palestine from the very beginning and has, day by day, intensified its brutality, terror and repression in complete disregard of all moral, human and religious values.

The United States government and its allies refused to even frown upon this state terrorism and ongoing oppression. And today, some remarks by the US government regarding the horrific crimes taking place in Gaza are more hypocritical than real.

The Resistance Front emerged from this dark environment of despair, and the establishment of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expanded and fortified it.

The global Zionist elite – who owns most US and European media corporations or influences them through funding and bribery – has labeled this courageous, humane resistance movement as "terrorism".

Can one call a people a terrorist nation for defending themselves on their own land against the crimes of the occupying Zionists? And is helping such a nation and strengthening it, an act of terrorism?

The oppressive leaders of global hegemony mercilessly distort even the most basic human concepts. They portray the ruthless, terrorist Israeli regime as acting in self-defense – yet they portray

the Palestinian Resistance which defends its freedom, security and the right to self-determination, as terrorists!

I would like to assure you that today the circumstances are changing. A different fate awaits the important region of West Asia. The people's conscience has awakened on a global scale, and the truth is coming to light.

Moreover, the Resistance Front has grown in strength and will become even stronger.

And history is turning a page.

Besides you students from dozens of American universities, there have also been uprisings in other countries among academics and the general public.

The support and solidarity of your professors is a significant and consequential development. This can offer some measure of comfort in the face of your government's police brutality and the pressures it is exerting on you. I too am among those who empathize with you young people, and value your perseverance.

The Quran's lesson for us Muslims and all of humanity, is to stand up for that which is right: "So be steadfast as you have been commanded" (11:112).

The Quran's lesson for human relations is: "Do not oppress and do not be oppressed" (2:279).

The Resistance Front advances by a comprehensive understanding and the practice of these and hundreds of other such commands – and will attain victory with the permission of God.

*My advice to you is to become familiar with the Quran.*

*Seyyed Ali Khamenei  
May 25, 2024"*

## Syrian president meets Ayatollah Khamenei to offer condolences over Raisi's passing

*Leader lauds resistance as Syria's unique characteristic*

From Page 1 ► the forefront of implementing these guidelines.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian was also among seven others who were killed in the helicopter that was carrying the president.

Assad also called President Raisi a "humble, insightful, and ethical person" who truly represented the positions and slogans of the Islamic Revolution.

Raisi took over as president in August 2021.

The Syrian president added that Raisi in his three-year presidency played an important role in advancing Iran's policies in the region, pursuing the Palestine issue, and deepening relations between Iran and Syria.

**Leader calls Syrian resistance 'unique'**

For his part, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution described Syria's resistance against arrogant countries as "unique."

"The special status of Syria in the region is due to this unique identity, and this important characteristic should be guarded," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

The Leader also pointed to the distinguished role of President Raisi in consolidating ties between Iran and Syria, adding, "Mr. Amir Abdollahian also paid special attention in this regard."

Ayatollah Khamenei said the consolidation of relations between Iran and Syria as the core of the resistance movement is highly important.

"The unique identity of Syria which is resistance took shape during the rule of the late Hafiz Assad based on the 'front of resistance and resilience' and this identity has contributed to national security in Syria," Ayatollah Khamenei remarked.

The Leader also pointed to the foreign-backed insurgency in Syria that started in 2011, saying, "By launching a war against Syria they (the foes) intended to topple the political system in the country and remove Syria from regional equations but they did not succeed. And now they intend to remove Syria from regional equations through other means and promises that they will never abide by."

Praising the strong resistance of the Syrian president against the enemies, Ayatollah

Khomeini said, "All should see resistance as the unique characteristic of the Syrian government with their own eyes."

The Leader also referred to the political and economic pressure on Iran and Syria by the United States and Europe, saying, "Through increasing and regulating cooperation we should pass this stage."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader pointed to the special attention of the late President Raisi in developing cooperation between Iran and Syria in different areas, saying now Vice President Mokhber by having all the authorities of a president will continue the same policy.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also criticized the position and inaction of certain regional countries in the face of the Israeli war on Gaza. He specifically referred to the summit of the Arab leaders in Bahrain, saying in that meeting some countries acted badly but certain others did well.

He added the Islamic Revolution has a "positive and clear" view toward the future, noting, "We all hope to be able to do our duties and achieve that bright future."

junction, and ignoring this chance will hinder our progress."

Jalili registered on the first day of the registration process.

Ali Larjani, currently an adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, also registered.

Highlighting the importance of national unity, Larjani said his cabinet would include skilled individuals from across the political spectrum.

Larjani's resume includes roles such as Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, head of the IRIB, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, and Speaker of Parliament for three terms.

Other notable registrants include Mahmoud Ahmadi Bighash, a representative in the 8th and 11th parliaments, and Mahmood Khoshchreh, a representative in the 7th parliament.

With a diverse array of political figures participating, it appears that more candidates will finalize their registration soon, setting the stage for a competitive electoral marathon.

## Iran gears up for snap presidential election



From Page 1 ► Sadeghi Moghaddam described election officials as "defenders of religious democracy," stressing the importance of protecting the integrity of the people's votes with a sense of responsibility and impartiality.

On the second day of candidate registration, Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi visited the Election Headquarters to oversee the process.

**Prominent figures register for Iran's snap presidential election**

Abdolnasser Hemmati, ex-Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), declared his candidacy for the 14th presidential election on Friday.

Ghodrat Ali Heshmatian, former representative of Sonqor city in Kermanshah province's central district during the 5th parliamentary term, has officially registered as a presidential candidate. He declared, "My cabinet will be the cabinet of welfare."

Abbas Moqtadaei, who represented Isfahan in the 9th, 11th, and 12th parliamentary terms, entered the race.

Mostafa Kavakebian, a representative in the 8th and 10th parliaments, also registered, promising a "democratic" government.

Mohammad Reza Sabbaghian, with experience as a representative in the 10th, 11th, and 12th parliaments, registered and aims for "political and economic reform."

Saeed Jalili, a current member of the Expediency Council and a three-time presidential candidate, emphasized the need for visionary leadership, stating "The president needs to aspire for greatness, not just basic routines... The Islamic Republic is at a crucial historical

### Women's football team fall to Belarus: friendly

TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team lost to Belarus 3-0 here in a friendly match on Thursday. Team Melli will play the European side once again on Sunday.

Anastasiya Linnik gave the visiting team the lead in the 17th minute.

Melana Surovtseva also netted a brace in the 71st and 77th minutes.

"Our goal of playing these two games is to test the young players in the team who have recently joined us, and then to know the weaknesses and strengths of the national team so that we can participate in official matches with better preparation," said Azmoun via the FFIRI website.

"The most important thing for the national team is to play. If we train for hours in the best camps in Iran and abroad, it will not help us as much as a good game, because we can find out our strengths and weaknesses in the competition.

"What is certain is that we must trust young players and test them to see which of these players can help the national team in the coming years in the positions and system of team programs. The issue of rejuvenation should be done step by step," she concluded.

### Milad Ebadipour joins KS Norwid Czestochowa

TEHRAN – Iran international outside hitter Milad Ebadipour joined Polish side KS Norwid Czestochowa.

Ebadipour, 30, has joined the team on a one-year deal.

This will be a return to the PlusLiga for the Iranian as the player has previously played for Skra Be?chatów from 2017 to 2022.

Ebadipour has been a mainstay of the Iranian national team for several years. In the ongoing VNL 2024 competition, he became the best receiver of the first weekend of the competition.

He most recently played for the Russia's Ural Ufa team, where he was a key player.

The Iranian is the eighth Norwid player in the 2024/25 season.

The coach will be Igor Kolakovic.

### AFC use VAR at all AFC Club Competitions for 2024-25 season

TEHRAN – As Asian club football prepares to enter a new era, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has reaffirmed its determination to maintain the highest officiating standards with the implementation of the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system.

The VAR system will be implemented across its revamped three-tier club structure as well as the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League for the 2024/25 season, the-afc.com reported.

Befitting the status of the newly introduced AFC Champions League Elite, which will see the Continent's top 24 teams battle for glory, the tournament will implement VAR from the League Stage, which kicks off this September.

The inaugural edition of the landmark AFC Women's Champions League, which kicks off in October, will see the VAR system made available in the Semi-finals and Final, underscoring the Confederation's commitment to supporting and developing women's football on the Continent.

Meanwhile, VAR support for match officials in the AFC Champions League Two will be available from the Knockout Stage onwards. The competition, comprising 32 teams, is set to commence in September.

For the AFC Challenge League, which will feature 20 teams, the technology will come into play in the all-important Final in May 2025.

### PGPL set to experience a historic day

TEHRAN – The final Matchweek of the Iran Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) is set to be a thrilling one, as the title race will be decided on the very last day of the season. Persepolis, the defending champions, are one point clear of Esteghlal at the top of the table and are looking to claim their seventh title in eight years.

\*A tight title race

In Week 28, the title race took a dramatic turn as Esteghlal drew with Nassaji and Persepolis came from three goals behind to beat Esteghlal Khuzestan 4-3. This saw Persepolis move into top spot, one point ahead of Esteghlal. In Week 29, both teams won their matches, setting up a winner-takes-all clash on the final day.

\*Persepolis on the brink of glory

Persepolis currently sit on 65 points, one point ahead of Esteghlal on 64 points. A win for Persepolis in their final match against Mes will be enough to seal the title, regardless of the result in the Esteghlal v Paykan match.

If Persepolis lose points against Mes Rafsanjan and Esteghlal win against Paykan, the Blues will be champions.

If Persepolis lose their match against Mes and Esteghlal draw against Paykan, both teams will finish on 65 points. In this case, the team with the better goal difference will win the title.

\*Battle for survival

At the bottom of the table, Sanat Naft Abadan's relegation to the Azadegan League (first tier) has already been confirmed. The three other teams fighting for survival are Paykan, Foolad Khuzestan and Esteghlal Khuzestan. Paykan are currently in 13th place on 27 points, Foolad Khuzestan are in 14th place on 26 points and Esteghlal Khuzestan are in 15th place on 25 points.

A day of excitement

The final matchday of the Iran Premier League is sure to be a day of high drama. Fans of Persepolis and Esteghlal will be on the edge of their seats as they wait to see who will be crowned champions. There is also a tense battle for survival at the bottom of the table, with one team set to be relegated.

### AS Roma's Azmoun scores against Milan

TEHRAN – AS Roma football team forward Sardar Azmoun scored a goal in his last match against AC Milan.

In the match held in Optus Stadium, Tommaso Baldanzi opened the scoring for Roma in the 27th minute but Theo Hernandez leveled the score. Roma forward Tammy Abraham made it 2-1 in the 45th minute.

Roma left-back Angelino made the scoreboard 3-1 in the 54th minute but Noah Okafor pulled a goal back just one minute later.

Paulo Dybala scored Roma's fourth goal in the 57th minute and Azmoun scored the last and fifth goal in the 77th minute to make it 5-2.

Azmoun has reportedly reached an agreement with Spanish football team Sevilla.

### Middle blocker Shafiei not fit for 2024 VNL Week 2

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team middle blocker Ali Shafiei will not be fit for week 2 of the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Iran finished 16th in week 1 in Brazil following four successive losses against Serbia, Italy, Cuba and Argentina.

In week 2, Iran will meet Japan, Brazil, Bulgaria and Turkey.

Team Melli will start the campaign on June 4 with a match against host Japan.

Shafiei's absence will be a big blow to the national team.

## 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 20) to May 20, an increase of 28 percent in value year on year. Agricultural exports also rose 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.

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

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

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

## Iran outlines measures to combat money laundering

TEHRAN - The Iranian delegation detailed the country's initiatives to counteract money laundering and the financing of terrorism during the 40th plenary session of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and Head of the Financial Intelligence Center Hadi Khani, presented

Iran's strategies to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism at the 40th plenary session of the EAG on Wednesday.

They announced the granting of comprehensive supervisory powers to the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The delegation also explained the capacities of the new Central Bank of Iran law in meeting anti-money laundering requirements.

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

## Quanzhou Maritime Museum rich collection impresses foreign journalists

By Mahnaz Abdi

FUJIAN - As a part of their one-week trip to Fujian Province, in the southeast of China, a number of foreign journalists visited Quanzhou City in this province.

Quanzhou, a coastal city in Fujian, is renowned for its long history and rich culture. It was once the starting point of the ancient Maritime Silk Road and a global maritime trade center back in the Song (960-1279) and Yuan (1271-1368) dynasties.

Quanzhou is a prefecture-level port city on the north bank of the Jin River, beside the Taiwan Strait in southern Fujian.

It is Fujian's largest most populous metropolitan region.

Among the different places that the journalists visited during their stay in this city, Quanzhou Maritime Museum was an outstanding one, as they were really amazed by the rich collection of the museum.

The following is the summary of an introduction for the exhibition provided to the Tehran Times by Zeng Guoheng, Quanzhou City Cultural Promotion Ambassador.

Founded in 1959, the Maritime Museum is the first museum in Quanzhou and the first maritime-themed museum in China. With tens of thousands of cultural relics, including a Song-Dynasty shipwreck, religious stone carvings from the Song-Yuan period and ceramics for export, the museum vividly reproduces China's flourishing maritime communication and trade which brought the East and West closer together during the Song-Yuan period. In 2008, it was rated as a first-class museum of China by the National Cultural Heritage Administration. The museum currently has five exhibition halls open to the public, showcasing the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road in Quanzhou with artifacts, documentary materials and ship models.

The exhibition hall which is described

as follows is "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China" the thematic exhibition showcases the outstanding universal value of Quanzhou's world heritage sites.

Quanzhou was inscribed on the World Heritage List, the name of the property of inscription is named as "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China".

Quanzhou is located on the southeastern coast of China, and according to scholars, formed the first global system in the 10th-14th centuries, connecting, from west to east, most of the inland and coastal regions of the North Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Indian Ocean and the western coast of the Pacific Ocean (the South China Sea and the East China Sea). In the 10th-14th centuries, the global system had no hierarchy, but there was a fulcrum. The major cities in these regions were joined together by sea routes, and Quanzhou was a mega-port with a highly integrated territorial system combining production,

transportation, cosmopolitanism and cultural interchange. The 22 heritage sites nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List include sites of administrative buildings and structures, religious buildings and statues of multi-cultural communities, cultural memorial sites and monuments, production sites of ceramics and ironware, as well as a transportation network comprising bridges, docks and pagodas

that acted as navigation markers. They comprehensively reflect Quanzhou's integrated maritime trade system that combined production, transportation and marketing, as well as its multi-culturalism. The serial property illustrates Quanzhou's status as a global-level emporium and key commercial hub during a highly prosperous stage of Asia's maritime trade in the 10th-14th centuries. The property demonstrates Quanzhou's great contributions to the economic and cultural development of East and Southeast Asia.

To reach China with plain sailing, merchant ships familiar with the patterns of monsoons usually chose to reach Quanzhou Bay in March and April with the help of the southwest monsoon, when the city was bathed in a sea of fiery red coral tree flowers. The coral tree is a tall deciduous tree that blooms in spring with red flowers, but the flowers and leaves are not simultaneous. In the 10th century, Liu Congxiao, the governor of Quanzhou who was vigorously promoting overseas trade, increased the circumference of the city walls sevenfold to accommodate the city's economic development, and planted coral trees (Citong in Chinese) around the city, hence Quanzhou's nickname - "the City of Coral Trees". Later, based on the local dialect, Citong was Romanized as Zayton by merchants from West Asia who came to Quanzhou for trade during the Song-Yuan period; from then on, Quanzhou became the world-famous harbor of Zayton in the writings of explorers.

Quanzhou's connection to the world

volume between Iran and Russia is a little over four billion dollars, which is insignificant considering the existing capacity.

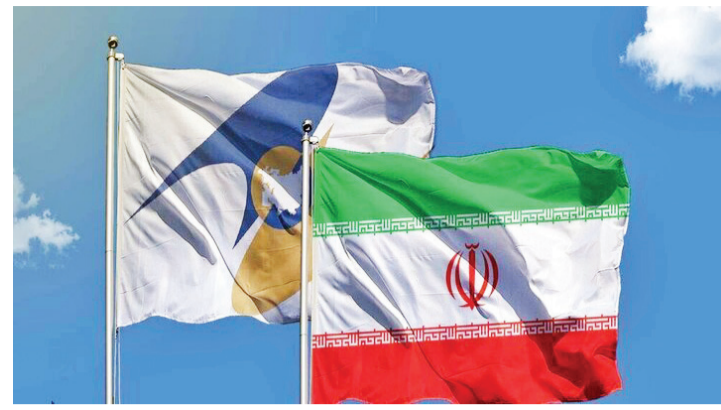
He said the joint Iran-Russia economic commission emphasized the need to expand bilateral cooperation in space, aviation, shipbuilding, peaceful nuclear energy, oil and gas production and refining, transportation, science, medicine, agriculture, finance, education, culture, and tourism sectors.

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.

# Russian State Duma ratifies FTA between EAEU, Iran



TEHRAN - Russia's State Duma (lower house of the parliament) has ratified the free trade agreement between Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) members and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The agreement lays down major guidelines in trade between the Eurasian Economic Union and its member states, on the one hand, and the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the other hand, in line with guidelines from the World Trade Organization, TASS reported.

Among those rules are the most favored nation treatment and national treatment, application of protective measures and customs administration, refusal to apply quantitative bans and restrictions on inflow of goods, as well as provisions fixing the WTO basic standards regarding veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, as well as technical regulations.

In addition to standard World Trade Organization practices, the agreement stipulates obligations outside their framework but those applied in the EAEU. Regarding technical regulation, obligations are fixed to ensure a 180-day transition period between publication and entry

into force of technical regulations.

Regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the possibility is suggested to provide commentaries at the stage of development of measures (provided they differ from international standards), holding of consultations and their scheduling.

The agreement stipulates working together in various areas, including mining, processing, and use of mineral resources, energy efficiency, research and innovations, education, medicine, and transport, including the development of multimodal (mixed) freight, telecommunications, transport and logistics infrastructure,

and transport corridors.

The document also defines preferential trade treatment regarding around 87 percent of the product range of international economic activities.

The agreement is set to facilitate future expansion of cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the trade and economic area, the Russian government noted.

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

## Iran-Brazil Joint Economic Commission to be held soon

TEHRAN - Officials from Iran and Brazil emphasized launching the joint economic cooperation meeting between the two countries in the near future to spur bilateral trade and economic activities.

In a meeting held between Ambassador of Brazil to Iran Eduardo Ricardo Gradilone Neto and Head of the Public Relations and International Affairs Department of the Iranian Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) Masoud Mirzaei, the two sides stressed their resolve to hold the joint economic cooperation

meeting between Iran and Brazil.

They exchanged views on the latest situation of bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The Brazilian envoy to Tehran also expressed condolences to the Iranian government and people on the martyrdom of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and accompanying delegation in a recent tragic helicopter crash in the northwestern province of East Azarbaijan,

Stressing the need to broaden economic activities between the two countries, the two sides announced their determination to hold the joint economic cooperation commission meeting and exchange economic delegations both from the public and private sectors of the two countries., IRNA reported.

Removing the existing problems and bottlenecks in the way of expanding trade and economic relations was another topic discussed at the meeting.



Iranian offshore Engineering & Construction

### Call for Tender 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement for Supply of Closed Drain Booster Pump Package

Related to the Belal Gas Field Development Project, Tender No. 958454

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to purchase the Tender of **Closed Drain Booster Pump Package Related to the Belal Gas Field Development Project** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have **20 days** after the date of 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS), and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.



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# Students stand strong: College campus protests shake US to the core

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - American college campuses have been engulfed by an unprecedented wave of protests against Israel's genocidal war in the Gaza Strip which has claimed the lives of more than 36,000 Palestinians since early October.

The demonstrations began to snowball after New York police disbanded a protest encampment at Columbia University on April 18 and arrested more than 100 people.

The protests have spread to more than 100 colleges and universities across the United States with students establishing tent encampments calling on their institutions to meet their demands.

But police have launched heavy-handed clampdowns; making some 3,000 arrests, including faculty members.

## Violation of freedom

In the latest wave of protests, police with batons approached arm-in-arm protesters early Friday at the University of California, Santa Cruz, according to the Associated Press.

Police also broke up a pro-Palestinian encampment at a Detroit university on Thursday and arrested a dozen demonstrators.

Police in riot gear removed fencing and broke down tents erected a week ago on green space near the undergraduate library at Wayne State University, according to ABC News.

On Tuesday, workers of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), walked off the job to protest the university's response to the Gaza demonstrations at the campus.

According to CBS News, researchers, graduate student teaching assistants, and other academic workers with the United Auto Workers (UAW) 4811 union joined the strike.

UAW 4811 represents 48,000 academic workers across all 10 UC campuses.

The union first announced a potential strike after an attack on a pro-Palestinian encampment at UCLA on April 30.

It said a group of count-



er-protesters were "hitting protesters including members of UAW 4811 with sticks, spraying them with bear spray, and pelting them with bottles and fireworks".

Caroline Luce, a historian who chairs the communications committee of the University Council-American Federation of Teachers at UCLA, described what happened on April 30 as "the worst incident of violence in our campus' history."

"Instead of protecting our rights to free speech and assembly, Chancellor (Gene) Block's administration has actively hindered them, rendering our students and our colleagues vulnerable to assault and arrest," Luce added.

The University of California has called some of the union's demands "politically motivated," and says the strike is not legal.

## Demands of protesters

Demonstrators at US universities have called for an end to Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza. They have denounced the complicity of their educational institutions in Israel's human rights abuses. The protesters have demanded that universities cut ties with companies involved in weapons manufacturing and other industries supporting the regime's war.

On Wednesday, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution, hailed US college students for protesting Israel's war of genocide on Gaza.

"Dear university students in the United States of America, you are standing on the right side of

history," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a message.

The Iranian Leader's comments raised eyebrows in the United States.

## Condoning violence

US officials have condoned police violence against anti-war protesters, accusing them of antisemitism.

But the protesters, many of whom Jews, have rejected such accusations.

Student protests in the US have expanded to Canada, Austria, Europe and some other countries across the globe.

In some European countries, such as France, Germany and Britain police have used violence against peaceful protesters.

In addition to college campus protests, people in American cities have held rallies over the past months to vent their anger at the genocidal war in Gaza and Washington's military and political support for Tel Aviv.

To appease domestic opposition to the Gaza war, US officials have made critical remarks about Israel over its brutal war on Gaza.

But Washington has rejected calls to use its powerful leverage at the UN Security Council to bring a halt to Israel's killing machine.

## Abetting genocide

Washington has also refused to attach conditions to its military support for Israel.

Data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) show the US has long been the biggest supplier of

arms to Israel.

Last month, President Joe Biden signed a foreign aid bill that included \$15 billion in Israeli military aid.

This is in addition to the \$3.8 billion of military aid that Israel receives from the US every year.

Israel has been committing cold-blooded massacres in Gaza since October 7.

On Sunday, Israeli warplanes fired missiles at a tent camp in a neighborhood in the city of Rafah killing dozens of displaced Palestinians, many of them women and children. Some of the victims burned alive in their tents. The carnage sparked global backlash but the US downplayed it and rejected calls to take practical actions to stop the onslaught. US media revealed that American weapons were used in the attack.

Nonetheless, unwavering support for Israel is costing the US dear.

The Tehran Times revealed in April former veteran US politician Dennis Ross, who held important positions in the administrations of Jimmy Carter to Barack Obama, had acknowledged a generational divide in the US over Washington's pro-Israel strategy.

According to a recording of a private meeting exclusively obtained by the Tehran Times, Ross admitted a growing dissidence movement in US educational institutions.

"There is a kind of dissidence now, among a lot of the younger Jewish students and who were attracted to the progressives before October 7th, created a kind of real dissidence for them, and I've seen a kind of, there is a question in their minds now who they were previously associated with," Ross said in the recording.

Polls show a growing number of people in the United States are opposed to the Gaza war and their country's pro-Israel policy.

Presently, the spillover of US college campus protests to Canada, Australia, Europe and beyond has brought disgrace on American politicians and their protégé Israel.

## Israeli efforts to end U.S. student protests fall flat

### American university students have not fallen for "antisemitism" trap

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- Anti-war protests sweeping university campuses across the United States depict a failure by Israel to muffle protesting students.

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has been vocal against the student protest movement, condemning them as "horrific".

In late April, he said the demonstrations "have to be stopped," as he branded the anti-war students as "antisemitic" and demanded a stronger crackdown on the protesters.

Despite U.S. security forces raiding and assaulting the students at their protest camps in universities, more have sprung up in an act of defiance.

The violent manner of their arrest as Netanyahu had demanded has been condemned by many inside and outside America.

No sector of American society has highlighted the Israeli genocide in Gaza more than students demanding their universities sever ties with the Israeli military over its war crimes against civilians in the blockaded enclave.

Some universities have agreed to the student demands and cut ties with the Israeli military, others have sat on the fence but allowed talks with students to reach a deal and the rest have coordinated with state authorities to launch a strong crackdown on the protest camps.

Widening news coverage of the student movement inside the U.S. is something Tel Aviv had strongly sought to put an end to.

Netanyahu's government is aware that even negative media coverage draws more public attention and could prove damaging to the Israeli image in the United States, the last major country standing shoulder to shoulder with Tel Aviv.

The tactic used by Netanyahu in branding the students as "antisemitic" is not something new but is seen as a desperate measure.

Any country, group or organization that condemns the Israeli military's actions against Palestinian civilians is branded as "antisemitic" by officials in Tel Aviv, the U.S., Britain and their corporate media.

The Israeli regime's persistent categorization of American students and professors joining the anti-war camps as antisemitic hasn't helped as many in the protest movement are Jewish themselves. However, this reality has been deliberately ignored by America's corporate media.

The false premise that any criticism of the Israeli occupation is antisemitic is also widely rejected by many Jewish people in America and beyond.

Israeli leaders embarked on a lengthy disinformation campaign over the events that unfolded on October 7.

The propaganda - which investigative journalists have debunked and continue to

do so - has been used to justify the Israeli military's punishment of an entire civilian population in Gaza with unprecedented firepower and starvation.

A similar smear campaign has been used by Tel Aviv against students in America in a bid to muffle the voices that are demanding an end to the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

The Israeli occupation has the strong backing of American leaders.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley wrote "finish them!" on the side of an IDF artillery shell during a visit to Israel. Close-up pictures of Haley's message show she added: "America [heart] Israel. Always, Nikki Haley."

Haley, who was Donald Trump's last-standing rival in the contest to be this year's Republican presidential nominee knows the munitions are more likely to be aimed at women and children rather than the armed resistance forces.

The genocidal comments sum up America's unequivocal support for the savage Israeli air and ground assault on civilians in Gaza, including from U.S. President Joe Biden, who is also referred to as "genocide Joe" by American university protests.

Yet, the anti-Israeli student protesters have displayed significant courage to demand an end to genocide in Gaza despite the widespread efforts by Tel Aviv to stop the movement.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Yemen targets US aircraft carrier

Yemen's military spokesman says the country's armed forces have targeted US aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Red Sea in response to deadly overnight attacks by America on the Arab country.

"The missile force and the naval force of the Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a joint military operation targeting the American aircraft carrier 'Eisenhower' in the Red Sea," said Yahya Saree in a televised statement, Press TV reported.

"The operation was carried out with a number of winged and ballistic missiles, the hit was accurate and direct, thanks to Allah," he added.

Saree said this was a response to aerial strikes by the US and UK on several targets across the Arab country, which he said targeted civilians in a "blatant violation of all international laws and a full-fledged war crime."

The American and British warplanes attacked the Yemeni capital Sana'a as well as the governorates of Hodeidah and Taiz.

Yemeni officials say the attacks on Hodeidah targeted the Radio building and the Coast Guard facility and several commercial ships, killing at least 16 people and injuring 41 others.

### Protests as French channel hosts Netanyahu

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied outside the offices of private broadcaster TF1 in the western Paris suburbs on Thursday to protest the broadcast of an interview with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the Gaza war, according to Middle East Monitor.

Wearing keffiyehs and waving Palestinian flags, protesters gathered at a distance from the channel's building due to a heavy police presence, and chanted: "Gaza, Paris is with you," "immediate ceasefire!" and "Israel, murderer".

Members of parliament from French far-left party La France Insoumise (France Unbowed, LFI) had called for the demonstration soon after the channel announced the interview would be aired.

Rima Hassan, a candidate for the upcoming European elections for France Unbowed, said on X: "This evening TF1 gives the floor to the war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu to broadcast his propaganda for genocide! Let's spread #boycottTF1 as widely as possible."

Antoine Leument, another LFI lawmaker, highlighted the irony of a lawmaker being recently sanctioned in the National Assembly for displaying a Palestinian flag while Netanyahu, the person directing the "bombing and killing" of these people, was invited to speak on a major television channel.

### Bolivia condemns Israel's 'war crimes' in Rafah

Israeli raids on Gaza's southern city of Rafah are heinous war crimes, Bolivia's President Luis Arce said, calling on the international community to take action to stop the fighting, Middle East Monitor reported.

Arce said in a post on X: "We condemn in

the strongest terms the Israeli bombings in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, which have left dozens of Palestinian civilians dead. This new war crime perpetrated by the Israeli army is sinister and inconceivable."

"We call on the international community to take de facto measures against Israel. Together we can stop the genocide," added the president.

On May 24, the International Court of Justice, the highest UN judicial body, issued an order calling on Israel to immediately stop its military attack and any other action in Rafah.

Israel responded to the decision by targeting a crowded area where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians had taken shelter. Dozens of civilians were killed, including those who burned alive when their tent camp was hit.

### Medvedev: Russia's nuclear threats over Ukraine are no bluff

NATO countries that have approved strikes with their weapons on Russian territory should be aware that their equipment and specialists will be destroyed not only in Ukraine, but also at any point from where Russian territory is attacked, Russia's Security Council's Deputy Chairman Dmitry Medvedev said on his Telegram channel, noting that the participation of NATO specialists could be seen as a casus belli.

"All their military equipment and specialists fighting against us will be destroyed both on the territory of former Ukraine and on the territory of other countries, should strikes be carried out from there against Russian territory," Medvedev warned, Tass reported.

He added that Moscow proceeded from the fact that all long-range weapons supplied to Ukraine were already "directly operated by servicemen from NATO countries", which is tantamount to participation in the war against Russia and a reason to start combat operations.

Medvedev added Russia was not bluffing when it spoke of the possibility of using tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine and warned Moscow's conflict with the West could escalate into all-out war.

### Trump's future hanging in the balance

A New York jury's historic conviction of Donald Trump on felony charges means his fate is now in the hands of the judge he has repeatedly ripped as "corrupt" and "incompetent."

Two experts told NBC News that it's unlikely Trump will be imprisoned based on his age, lack of a criminal record and other factors - and an analysis of thousands of cases found that very few people charged with the same crime receive jail time. But a third expert told NBC News he believes it is "substantially" likely Trump could end up behind bars.

Trump was convicted on 34 counts of falsifying business records, a class E felony that is punishable by a fine, probation or up to four years in prison per count. During the trial, Judge Juan Merchan threatened to put Trump behind bars for violating his gag order, but it's unclear whether the former president will face similar consequences now. It's expected that any sentence would be imposed concurrently, instead of consecutively.

### Why Jabalia?

For 20 days now, the occupation army has been committing massacres that have caught the attention of the entire world in Jabalia and the city's refugee camp.

Everyone is asking what makes this small spot the subject of this continuous destruction. This narrow area, which does not exceed 1.4 square kilometers, holds the highest population density in the world. It is home

to 116,000 people and is the largest refugee camp in Palestine.

At the beginning of the current war, the occupation army poured out its anger on Jabalia camp, carrying out four of the most violent and brutal massacres of this war so far.

It later announced victory over Jabalia and began to head south. So why has it returned? (See full text at [www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com))

## International students delve into Iran's heritage at Urmia Museum

TEHRAN - Overseas students from Urmia University have visited the Hasanlu Gold Bowl, one of the most enigmatic ancient treasures of Iran, currently on display at the Urmia Museum.

During their visit, on Thursday, the students also toured other sections of the museum, guided by a museum docent, and explored the extensive exhibits of what is considered as one of the richest museum in the country.

The Hasanlu Gold Cup, usually housed at the National Museum of Iran, is being showcased at the Archaeological Museum of Urmia for two weeks in celebration of Cultural Heritage Week and International Museum Day (May 18).

According to the provincial officials, The Urmia Museum, one of Iran's richest and largest museums, houses 25,000 historical objects. However, due to space limitations, only 10 to 15 percent of these artifacts are on display at any given time.

Hasanlu Gold Bowl was unearthed by Emamqoli Mohammadi Hasanluei from the ruins of a burned ancient building at Tepe Hasanlu, near Naghadeh and Lake Urmia in West Azarbaijan province.

Engraved with images of gods and rituals, a stone cylinder with gold caps, a figurine of laminated ivory, and a sword hilt with a bronze guard, the Gold Bowl of Hasanlu was discovered almost 3,000 years later near the skeletal hand of an individual who had been fleeing with it at the end of the 9th century BC.

The bowl quickly became recognized as a unique and significant example of ancient goldsmithing, showcasing a high degree of technical mastery and a wide range of ornamental motifs



that provide insight into the religious and mythological traditions of its time.

Over the years, the bowl has been discussed in countless scholarly books and articles, including an analysis by Marie-Therese Barrelet (1911-1996), who deemed it one of the greatest finds of the decade.

Evidence suggests that when the citadel of Hasanlu was under violent siege, some soldiers managed to penetrate it, grabbing valuable treasures, including the prized gold bowl. The hypothesis suggests that the building collapsed due to fire, crushing the warriors and their possessions under layers of debris. They remained there for around 3,000 years until the groundbreaking discovery in 1958.

Due to the lack of written records, very little is known about the inhabitants of Hasanlu and their invaders.

Among the most important objects uncovered at Hasanlu were an unusually decorated silver bowl, several iron garment pins headed by bronze lions, a solid gold bowl, a knife handle with gold cloisonné, and two hollow bronze horse heads that served to hold liquids.

## 2,000-year-old gold jewelry from mysterious culture discovered in Kazakhstan

Archaeologists have unearthed gold jewelry, arrowheads, and a large, bronze mirror from roughly 2,000-year-old burial mounds in the Turkistan region of southern Kazakhstan.

The artifacts are thought to have been made at the time of the Kangju state, a little-known entity that ruled the region between the fifth century BC and the fourth century CE.

From its style — circular, with an eight-sided arched design on the back and a hole in the center for a thread — the bronze mirror seems to have originated in China during the Han dynasty, which ruled from 206 BC until CE 220.

Such items were highly prized throughout Eurasia — similar mirrors have been found in Afghanistan and the southern Ural region — and it was a sign the woman it was buried beside had been wealthy and influential, according to the statement.

### Ancient state

A team from Kazakhstan's Ozbekali Zhanibekov University and local government archaeologists discovered the new finds in three burial mounds in Turkistan's Ordabasinsky district. They reported that two of the mounds had been looted in ancient times but that the third burial mound contained valuable relics, the statement said.

In addition to the bronze mirror, the artifacts included a Roman-style brooch called a fibula; large and small beads; a pottery jug; a shoe; a belt buckle; an arrowhead designed for hunting birds; and two gold earrings that are thought to date from the first century BC.

The earrings are especially ornate. They are fashioned with a colorful alloy known as "polychromatic" gold, inlaid with turquoise and rubies, in a crescent shape meant to represent the moon, with lower decorations that represent clusters of grapes and were designed to reflect sunlight.

Expedition leader Aleksandr Podushkin, an archaeologist at Ozbekali Zhanibekov University, said the Kangju state was a federation of different peoples, including, at times, nomadic groups of Sarmatians, Xiongnu, and Saki (who may have been Scythians).

The location of the Kangju cities on parts of the Great Silk Roads between China and the Mediterranean meant they had diplomatic and trade connections throughout the ancient world, he said in the statement.

The artifacts will now go on display in the National Museum of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the city of Astana, Podushkin said.

(Source: Live Science)

## Iran in frames



The Hindu Temple (aka Bot Gooran), a historical monument with a unique Indian-inspired architecture constructed in 1310 AH in Bandar Abbas, Iran.

# Teymareh petroglyphs edge closer to World Heritage Recognition

TEHRAN - Teymareh prehistoric petroglyphs are on track for World Heritage status, which will enhance preservation and tourism, a step that will enhance their preservation and local tourism.

Speaking to journalists and media representatives, on Thursday, Ali Mashhadi highlighted the significance of the Teymareh petroglyphs, which are believed to be around 40,000 years old.

"Achieving World Heritage status will not only ensure the preservation and protection of these ancient artifacts." The local official in charge of cultural heritage underscored. "But also, significantly boost regional tourism development."

Mashhadi also brought to light that the process for the global registration of the ancient Teymareh rock carvings is being pursued with utmost diligence.

The Teymareh petroglyphs, he continued, are spread across an area that intersects the provinces of Markazi, Isfahan, and Lorestan.

"Over 21,000 carvings have been identified within a 150 square kilometer area in Teymareh, Khomein," Mashhadi further elaborated. "With some dating back more than 40 millennia."

Moreover, Mashhadi explained that the preliminary evaluation of the World Heritage application took place during a meeting in Golpayegan, which was attended by experts and members of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

"Technical and expert discussions about the site were conducted, and the tentative registration procedures are now on the agenda of ICOMOS and the cultural heritage



departments of Markazi and Isfahan provinces," he wended up. "Both [provinces] are expected to collaborate closely on this initiative."

In Iran, the earliest known petroglyphs can be found in Teymareh where some date historical roots back to 40,000 years ago.

The Teymareh is situated at the intersection of the headwaters of the Anarbar River, between the cities of Mahallat, Khomein and Golpayegan. However, its mysterious rock paintings or petroglyphs can be found in three provinces of Markazi, Lorestan, and Isfahan.

This area boasts one of the wonders of tourism, the oldest examples of human engravings and early human habitation. In fact, its petroglyphs may help us observe the course of changes in human life thousands of years ago. The placement of these petroglyphs at 31 archaeological sites covering over 50 square kilometers has created an unparalleled museum in the heart of the region. Qeydu and Mazayen are the oldest remains of the petroglyphs at Teymareh.

The carved figures in Teymareh are sometimes abstract and sometimes real and include specific di-

visions such as animal and herb figures.

Animal figures such as goats (more than other motifs are present in these rocks, especially male goats with very large and pointed horns), felformia, canidae, horses, dromedaries, owls, fish, tigers, cows, birds such as storks, hoopoes, and partridges. Herb figures such as cedar, pine, and tuft of wheat. Among them are images of martial arts, magic dance, pregnant women, camel caravans, and people with big hands.

In March 2020, a team of entomologists and archaeologists concluded that a previously found petroglyph depicts a six-limbed creature with the head and arms of a praying mantis. The rare 14-centimeter rock carving was first discovered during surveys between 2017 and 2018 at the Teymareh rock art site, but could not be identified due to its unusual shape.

International experts Jan Brouwer and Gus van Veen have examined the Teymareh site and estimated that their carvings date from 40,000 to 4,000 years ago. Prehistoric rock art offers glimpses of bygone eras and cultures, as archaeologists classify the tools used

to carve them according to specific eras. Cutting tools include flint, metal, or femurs of hunted prey.

Iranian archaeologist Mohammad Nasserifard has proposed a bold hypothesis on a variety of petroglyphs that are scarred in the country, saying "Some prehistorical residents of the Iranian plateau migrated to the Americas." His assumption is based on evidence from similarities between the petroglyphs and cave painting symbols in central Iran and the ones found in the Americas.

"After years of exploring ancient paintings inside Iran's caves and mountains and other parts of the globe, amazing achievements have been made in this regard," Nasserifard said.

"The ancient paintings of cave walls and mountains in Iran have been compared with ones in other parts of the world, their similarities in appearance and motifs have been amazing, according to quotes by professors Jan Brouwer and Gus van Veen," Nasserifard explained, adding "His research and findings are presented to enthusiasts and researchers for the first time."

"Appearance similarities, artistic styles, and uniform themes of ancient petroglyphs and cave paintings of this land (Iran) reveal many missing links in human history and arts one of which is the resemblance of ancient artifacts in Iran with ones found in the American continent."

Visiting those petroglyphs may draw an idea that earlier people chose this way of communication to share their experiences and thoughts with later generations as these carvings contain some facts about livelihood, hunting, and lifestyle.

## Collection of ancient coins recovered in West Azarbaijan

TEHRAN - In a significant breakthrough, West Azarbaijan province has recovered a great number of precious gold and copper coins dating back two millennia.

Speaking on Thursday, West Azarbaijan's chief justice announced the discovery of 179 valuable historical gold and copper coins, along with cultural items dating back two millennia (from the Seleucid period), in one of the northern counties of the province.

"The suspects involved in this regard have been arrested and are under judicial proceedings with the formation of a case," Naser Atabati

elaborated. "And the valuable historical cultural items are being examined and evaluated by experts, and ultimately will be handed over to the in-charge authority."

Moreover, he emphasized the special attention of the judiciary of the province to the issue of cultural heritage, and historical sites.

"West Azarbaijan is one of the very rich provinces in this field, which has over hundreds of cultural and historical collections, registered areas as national monuments, and unique areas on the UNESCO world heritage list," Atabati brought to light. "Demanding special attention

and focus."

Both the organizations in charge of cultural heritage and the judicial system, he underscored, have a special focus on preserving the cultural and historical collections of the province, equally in terms of property rights registration, and issuing documents for these properties with an eye toward preventing intrusion.

"With the coordination and cooperation of all organizations, we hope to preserve invaluable historical and cultural treasures provincewide," the chief wrapped up.

## Tourism is booming but some say there are now too many tourists

The message was scrawled on a makeshift wooden placard with black marker pen and was in block capitals. It said: "Everywhere you look everyone is foreign."

Police said there were 10,000 marchers on the streets of Palma in Majorca on the last weekend of May at the start of the summer holiday season. Their message was that tourism was making life in Palma unlivable for locals.

But why does there suddenly seem to be such a strong sense of grievance in places where for decades large numbers of tourists have been the norm?

The answer, it would seem, is complicated. A Covid hangover is definitely a factor. But so too is the fact that, globally, many more people now have the money to travel. This presents big questions about the future of tourism.

The year 2024 is set to be a record-breaking one for tourism, surpassing the pre-

vious high in 2019. It appears that the travel and tourism industry is back with a vengeance after the pandemic, with any lingering doubts over the safety of travelling now banished.

In Spain's Balearic Islands - which include Majorca - pent-up demand post pandemic has con-

tributed to rents rising to such an extent that locals say they are being priced out of living in their own home towns.

It's not hard to see why locals can end up feeling like extras in their own movie.

There appears to be no simple

answer to who should be where and when, something nodded to by another of those placards back in Palma.

It read: "We live off tourism but tourism doesn't let us live."

(Source: BBC)

First Announcement

## "Appendix Number 1"

Announcement of the public invitation proposal number 1102115 for investors Pre-qualification assessment.

National Iranian Copper Industry Co. (NICICO) intends to "purchase the electrical energy required by the Sarcheshmeh copper complex in the amount of approximately 600 GWH/year in Kerman province through the construction of a large-scale solar power plant with a capacity of 320 MW by investor in the form of a 21-year long-term guaranteed purchase contract (three periods of 7 years) based on the B.O.O. method" through public invitation as pre-qualification of investors.

In order to get more information, it is necessary to refer to the official website of this company as described below:

<https://en.nicico.com/>



# 'Sanctions hinder realization of all for health, health for all'

TEHRAN –Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has called on the global community to stand against unilateral sanctions which hinder the realization of the World Health Assembly's goal of 'all for health, health for all'.

Einollahi made the remarks at the 77th World Health Assembly, which is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 27 to June 1.

The official started by elaborating on the activities of the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi which aimed at improving universal health.

The official highlighted the vital importance of family health and the referral system as the priorities of the country, stating, "We believe that developing family medicine educational programs with a holistic approach under the title of 'family health' guarantees all aspects in the health of the family.

It will ultimately result in providing effective patient care, improved services, and reduced burden on healthcare infrastructure, free outpatient and inpatient services for children under the age of seven with the help of government," the health ministry's website quoted Einollahi as saying.

The official went on to say, "We are committed to prioritizing health care as our top priority and allocating sufficient resources to maintain the significant progress in the sector in the face of ongoing and increasing external economic restrictions caused by illegal unilateral coercive measures."



"Our rightful expectation from international communities is to stand against illegal, unilateral sanctions on the health sector," he added.

The health minister also noted, "While we are gathering here at the World Health Assembly in Geneva, genocide is being committed against the Palestinians. Let's all make our best effort to realize the goal of 'all for health, health for all!'"

## The 77th WHA

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 presented 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 has held 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.

## Russia's Astrakhan seeking Iranian expertise in commercialization of science

TEHRAN – Russia's Astrakhan has expressed interest in utilizing the valuable knowledge and experiences of Iranian knowledge-based companies in the production and commercialization of science in industries.

The head of the Iranian Research Organization for Scientific and Technology, Hassam Zamanian, paid a visit to Astrakhan on May 29.

He met Denis Afanasyev, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Astrakhan region.

During the meeting, the officials discussed a wide range of topics and underscored strengthening scientific and technical collaborations, as well as boosting collaboration among technology parks of the two countries.

### Tehran, Moscow to boost tech ties

In October 2023, Vice President for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-based Economy, Rouhollah Dehqani-Firouzabadi, and Aide to the President of the Russian Federation, Andrei Fursenko, discussed ways to expand scientific and technological cooperation between the two countries.

The officials emphasized developing capacities to implement joint projects by high-tech companies of the two countries, ISNA reported.

Firouzabadi and his accompanying delega-

tion went on a two-day trip to Moscow at the invitation of Russia's Deputy Prime Minister and Industry and Trade Minister, Denis Manturov.

Upon his arrival in Moscow, Dehqani-Firouzabadi said, "A number of scientists from both countries will be used in research programs under a collaboration plan between Iranian and Russian science foundations," Center of International Science and Technology Center (CISTC) website announced in a press release on October 26.

The meeting was scheduled following the negotiations that took place in May 2023 during Fursenko's visit to Tehran's INOTEX exhibition. It was agreed then to revive the Iran-Russia high-tech committee and set new agendas for the committee.

Enhancing cooperation in the fields of medicine and medical equipment, energy, transportation, particularly civil aviation transportation, and microelectronics were among other agreements reached during that trip.

Also, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Science Foundations of Iran and Russia.

A total of 100 proposals were received for the implementation of joint scientific and tech-



nological projects. Only 20 projects were supposed to be implemented with the joint support of the national science foundations of the two countries.

Firouzabadi and his delegation also elaborated on Iran's achievements in the field of prosthetics and artificial limbs, which drew the attention of the Russian side.

A specialized team was appointed to visit Iran and investigate joint cooperation in this field.

Expanding communication and joint cooperation between top universities and science and technology parks of Iran and Russia were agreed on as well.

Firouzabadi was scheduled to meet with the Russian deputy prime minister and visit some industrial, scientific, and technological centers to discuss and exchange views on the details of their cooperation.

## Training program held to address drug use among inmates

TEHRAN –The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and its national stakeholders including the Iranian National Center for Addiction Studies (INCAS), conducted a two-day training program to enhance ongoing initiatives for addressing drug use issues among inmates.

The Iranian Drug Control Headquarters and the Iranian Prisons Organization also participated in rolling out the program, the UN website announced in a press release on May 28.

Topics covered during the two-day program included rapid HIV testing, evaluation of high-risk behaviors, assessment of quality of life and treatment satisfaction, and an in-depth review of the Addiction Severity Index (ASI).

The United Nations program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) grant, funded the study titled "A Comparative Research Study of Evaluating the Efficacy of Buprenorphine with Methadone Substitution Therapy in Prisons."

Iran faces a grave challenge in drug abuse, grappling with one of the highest rates of opiate use worldwide, alongside a significant prevalence of amphetamine-type stimulant abuse, the website reported.

In response, opioid substitution therapy (OST) has emerged as a proven intervention, replacing illicit drug use with medically prescribed, orally administered opiates such as buprenorphine and methadone.

While methadone maintenance therapy has been the cornerstone of OST for the past two decades, the introduction of buprenorphine in recent years calls for a comparative research study to gauge its effectiveness in this unique setting.

During the training program, national partners emphasized the alignment of this training with the country's overarching policies, which aim to diversify the treatment portfolio and promote Buprenorphine Maintenance Treatment (BMT) as a replacement for Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT) within prison facilities.

The importance of enhancing the expertise of professionals working with inmates, and facilitating accurate data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of BMT, thereby significantly influencing the country's treatment roadmap was highlighted.

Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, expressed his appreciation for the implementation of this comparative research study on the effectiveness of methadone and buprenorphine maintenance therapies within the prison setting.

Acknowledging the substantial number of inmates benefiting from opioid substitution therapy in Iran, currently exceeding 80,000 individuals, He

noted the significance of this research endeavor.

The training brought together experts well-versed in drug use disorders from the provinces of North Khorasan, Kordestan, Khuzestan, and Fars.

This collaborative endeavor between UNODC Iran and its national stakeholders holds promise for advancing Iran's drug treatment initiatives within correctional facilities and among inmates.

By conducting a comprehensive comparative study on the efficacy of buprenorphine and methadone maintenance therapies, the project aims to enhance evidence-based and informed critical decisions regarding inmate care and the future direction of drug treatment in Iran.

The UNODC works towards advocating for harm reduction programs within the Iranian penitentiary system, specifically targeting individuals with drug dependencies.

The organization promotes a human rights-based, gender-responsive, public health-centered, and evidence-based approach, aiming to eliminate stigma, discrimination, and violence within these facilities.

### Cooperation on drug-related crimes

On May 1, the UNODC and the Iranian law enforcement command explored ways to boost cooperation in areas related to drug trafficking and drug-related crimes.

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

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

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

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

This meeting was organized as part of the activities foreseen in the framework of sub-program 1 "Border Management and Illicit Trafficking" and sub-program 2 "Crime, Corruption, and Criminal Justice" of the UNODC Country Partnership Program for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## IRCS calls on ICRC, IFRC to help stop violations of humanitarian law in Gaza

TEHRAN –The head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Pirhossein Kolivand, has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to use their strength and capacities to end the violations of international humanitarian law by the occupiers in Gaza.

Writing letters to the President of ICRC, Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, the President of IFRC, Kate Forbes, and the other presidents of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the official urges them to condemn the brutal acts of the Zionist regime in Gaza and stand on the right side of the history, the IRCS website reported.

Lauding their efforts so far, Kolivand asked them to note the attached message of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, which has addressed the conscientious students in the United States of America for defending oppressed Palestinians as well as expressing sympathy & solidarity with the people in Gaza while condemning the inhumane measures of the Zionist occupation regime.

"Concerning the ongoing heinous crimes of Israel in Gaza, the Iranian Red Crescent Society urges you to stand on the right side of history, oppose the brutal acts of the Zionist regime, and use all your power to prevent further violations of international humanitarian law by the occupiers.

### Leader's letter to U.S. students

Ayatollah Khamenei has addressed a letter to

pro-Palestinian students across the United States, hailing their struggle and considering them to be part of the global resistance movement.

"I am writing this letter to the young people whose awakened conscience has moved them to defend the oppressed women and children of Gaza," reads the letter.

Dear university students in the United States of America, this message is an expression of our empathy and solidarity with you. As the page of history is turning, you are standing on the right side of it.

You have now formed a branch of the Resistance Front and have begun an honorable struggle in the face of your government's ruthless pressure—a government that openly supports the usurper and brutal Zionist regime.

The greater Resistance Front which shares the same understandings and feelings that you have today, has been engaged in the same struggle for many years in a place far from you.

The goal of this struggle is to put an end to the blatant oppression that the brutal Zionist terrorist network has inflicted on the Palestinian nation for many years. After seizing their country, the Zionist regime has subjected them to the harshest of pressures and tortures.

The apartheid Zionist regime's genocide today is the continuation of extremely oppressive behavior that has been going on for decades. Palestine is an independent land with a long history. It is a nation comprised of Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that the first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

## تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و داروی ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخلی با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید-۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ریوی کووید-۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.



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JUNE 1, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:36 Dawn: 3:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:49 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries



### Painting

\* Ashkan Hosseini is showcasing a collection of his latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibition named "Antiquity" will run until June 18 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* Sohrab Gallery is hanging a collection of paintings by Sadeq Tabrizi in an exhibition.

The exhibit named "Timeless Lovers, Infinite Horizons" will run until June 17 at the gallery located at 142 Somayyeh St.



\* A collection of paintings by Arsia Moqaddam is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition entitled "Supervised Space and Moderate Atmosphere" will be running until June 18 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



\* Raad Masoumi is displaying his latest paintings in an exhibition at Idea Gallery.

Entitled "Whisper of the Unknown", the exhibition will be running until June 5 at the gallery located at 26, 18th St. off Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



\* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Sahar Azadmehr, Avin Farhadi, Tara Shoeib, Savalan Jama'ati, and Najmeh Kazazi.

The exhibition entitled "In Search of Wild Orchids" will be running until June 14 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.



\* An exhibition of paintings by Shahla Homayouni is currently underway at CAMA - Contemporary and Modern Art Gallery.

Named "Fusion 2", the exhibit runs until June 10 at the gallery located at No. 44, 10th Golestan, Pasdaran St.



\* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Farhad Gavzan.

The exhibition named "Atom" will be running until June 21 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.



\* Paintings by Nasrin Maleksabet are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until June 21 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

### Drawing

\* Emkan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of drawings by Vali Javadi Azar.

The exhibit will be running until June 21 at the gallery that can be found at No. 3, Second Alley, Mirza Shirazi St.



### Statue

\* A collection of statues by Majid Farahmand is on view in an exhibition at Bostan Gallery.

The exhibit named "Chargameh" will be running until June 12 at the gallery that can be found at No. 71, 22th Alley, Larestan St. off Motahhari Ave.



# Iran's "In the Shadow of the Cypress" wins Oscar-qualifying prize at Animayo festival

TEHRAN- Iranian short animation "In the Shadow of the Cypress", co-directed by Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani, has won an Academy Awards-qualifying prize at the 19th edition of Animayo Gran Canaria, International Festival of Animation, Visual Effects and Videogames.

The film received the festival's Grand Jury Prize on Wednesday, which makes it eligible for the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film.

"In the Shadow of the Cypress" also received Best 2D Award of the festival, which was held in Gran Canaria Island in Spain.

The film portrays an aging sailor grappling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Living with his daughter in a modest seaside home, their relationship has grown distant. Despite the old captain's desire to reconnect with his daughter, their lives take an unexpected turn one morning.

"We are thrilled to see Iranian talent shining at this prestigious festival," said a spokesperson for the Iranian Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. "We



congratulate Hossein Molayemi and Shirin Sohani on their well-deserved win."

The festival competition featured 2,309 works from more than 80 countries, with 59 films screened in four official competition sections. The "Animayo Itinerant" global tour will bring the winning films to cities around the world, including

Los Angeles, Madrid, Barcelona, and more.

As the first and only animation festival in Spain designated a qualifying festival for the Oscars by AMPAS, Animayo's Grand Prize winner will receive a cash prize of 3,000 euros and an honorary trophy.

The International Jury consisted of John Musker and

Patrick O'Keefe, both from the U.S., Shuzo Shiota from Japan, Elena Ø Alexa and Sara Koppel, both from Denmark.

The "Animayo Itinerant" tour will visit Los Angeles, Madrid, Barcelona, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura, India, Brussels, Italy, Prague, Chicago, Belgrade, Colombia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Korea, Mexico, and Portugal.

## Iranian artists, officials to attend the BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum in Moscow

TEHRAN-Several Iranian artists, officials, and businesswomen will participate in the BRICS Women's Entrepreneurship Forum, due to be held in Moscow, Russia, from June 2 to 4.

With the support of the Eurasian Women's Forum, the forum is a business network for female entrepreneurs in BRICS countries. It will provide a platform for dialogue, where the representatives of the BRICS Women's Business Alliance (WBA) National Chapters, business, social and government circles will discuss new opportunities and challenges in the context of advancing women entrepreneurship in the expanded BRICS countries.

More than 300 attendees from 30 countries will take part in the event, where over 70 speakers are to discuss various issues, IRNA reported.

Invited by the forum, Iranian painter Ayda Razaghzadeh will attend the event, showcasing her collection of five oil-on-canvas paintings, conveying a common concept of cooperation and energy transfer.

Painting since 2010, she has participated in several solo and group exhibitions in Tehran, Dubai, and Barcelona. She won the leading woman in art award from the 22nd Middle East Women Leaders Excellence Awards in Dubai in 2023.

At the opening ceremony of the forum on June 3, officials from Russia, Brazil, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran will speak. Kazem Jalali, Iran's ambassador to the Russian Federation will be the Iranian speaker at the ceremony.

After the opening ceremony, the plenary session "BRICS: Opportunities for Growth and Development" will be held, during which the participants will discuss the areas and directions of joint mutually beneficial activities of the BRICS members and prospects for their growth and development.

Ashraf Sadat Miri Tameh, Advisor to the Minister of Economy and Finance on Women's Affairs, will represent Iran at the session, where representatives from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Africa, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia will also speak.

Afterwards, the panel session "International Settlements in BRICS National Currencies: Main Opportunities and Challenges" will be

held, in which the development of trade and economic cooperation in BRICS countries requires increasing the share of settlements in national currencies or the establishment of effective financial platforms.

Minoo Kiani Rad, University Lecturer for Undergraduate Courses at the University of Tehran and Khatam University, and Former Vice-Governor of Foreign Exchange at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran will address the session along with speakers from China, Ethiopia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

The program will continue with the panel session "BRICS: Creative Industries as a Growth Factor". In the modern world, business in creative industries forms new niches at the intersection of cutting-edge technology and creativity, expanding opportunities for the application of human capital. Creative industries not only create jobs and highly competitive products, but also contribute to improving the quality of life of people and fulfilling their potential. The development of creative infrastructure enables the BRICS countries to shape a positive image, to attract more international investments, and contributes to the growth of their tourism potential.

From Iran, Nafiseh Shahi Nouri, the CEO of Ilsa Creative House based on cultural industries will deliver a speech at the event along with speakers from Brazil, China, Egypt, India, and South Africa.

The next panel session will be "Tourism in BRICS: On the Way to Synergy". The share of tourists visiting the BRICS countries is noticeably increasing, which contributes to the development of the tourism sector.

The growth in tourist flow will have a positive impact on the economy of each of the BRICS countries, the preservation of the currency balance, and the strengthening of our countries' positions in the international tourism market.

A key condition in this regard is to ensure comfortable and safe conditions for the movement and stay of tourists in the BRICS countries, as well as at transportation, tourist infrastructure, cultural, and natural heritage sites.

Fatemeh Bonyadi, the Head of the Digital Innovations center in PR department of the

Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, a lecturer at Fars News College, a documentary film director and editor, and a freelance science journalist, will represent Iran at the session, where speakers from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, South Africa, and the UAE will also address the attendees.

The last panel session of the day will be "The Role of Women in an Inclusive BRICS Economy". Women play a key role in the inclusive economies of the BRICS countries as drivers of socio-economic progress and important actors in shaping a sustainable and diverse labor market.

The session speakers will share their experience and best practices to enhance women's participation in shaping an inclusive business environment that promotes sustainable development in the BRICS countries.

Mina Mehrnoosh, the Owner and CEO of KASBINO (the first social business network of Iran), will speak at the event, where speakers from Brazil, China, Ethiopia, India, and South Africa will also be present.

The initiative of establishing the BRICS WBA was proposed at the First International Women's Congress of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS member states in July 2017. In the framework of the Russian BRICS Chairmanship, the Inaugural Meeting of the BRICS WBA took place in July 2020.

BRICS is an intergovernmental organization comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Originally identified to highlight investment opportunities, the grouping evolved into a cohesive geopolitical bloc, with their governments meeting annually at formal summits and coordinating multilateral policies since 2009.

Bilateral relations among BRICS are conducted mainly on the basis of non-interference, equality, and mutual benefit.

The founding countries of Brazil, Russia, India, and China held the first summit in Yekaterinburg in 2009, with South Africa joining the bloc a year later. Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates joined the organization in January 2024.

## "Cold Sigh" wins Grand Prix at Cheboksary International Film Festival

TEHRAN- Nahid Azizi Sedigh's feature film "Cold Sigh" has won an award from the 17th Cheboksary International Film Festival in Cheboksary, Russia.

The Iranian feature-length film won the Grand Prix of the festival at its closing ceremony on May 29, Mehr reported.

The film was in competition with nine other films from Italy,

England, France, Germany, Greece, Austria, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, and Russia.

Earlier this year in April, "Cold Sigh" had won three prizes at the 46th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF) in Russia.

Iran's sole representative in the Main Competition section of the festival, the movie won the Best Director Award, the Audience

Choice Award for the Best Film, and the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema) Special Mention,

Last year, the film won the Special Jury Award for Best Film in the International Competition of the Fajr Film Festival.

The 72-minute film is about Baha, a young man from a border town, who learns that his father, Bahram,

has been released from prison after 20 years. Bahram killed his wife -- Baha's mother -- having accused her of cheating on him.

Baha, who has never coped with this and is still full of anger and resentment decides to revenge to end his suffering. A production of 2023, the drama has Iman Sedigh, Ali Bagheri, Ahoora Bahrami, Amir Aram, Mohammad Ashkanfar, and Salar Daryamaj in the cast.