

Presidential election sees a surge in candidacy registrations

Election Fever on a Gradual Rise

انتخابات چهاردهمین دوره ریاست جمهوری

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Iran's 14th Presidential Elections

The Candidates' Registration Process



The presidential candidates stand on the podium to talk to reporters after official registration at the Interior Ministry.

Tehran hosts international summit on Gaza

TEHRAN— The International Summit on Gaza, titled “The Oppressed but Resilient,” commenced in Tehran on Saturday, drawing prominent political figures as it coincides with the 35th anniversary of Imam Khomeini’s demise.

The event saw the attendance of Iran’s Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and Acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani, among other dignitaries.

The world hears the voice of Palestine: parliament speaker

In his address, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf emphasized the global awakening to the plight of Palestine. “Today, the conscience of the world’s free people is wounded by the events in Palestine, and the wave of support for Rafah has reached Europe,” he declared.

Ghalibaf drew historical parallels, noting that the voice of Palestine was first amplified by Imam Khomeini in Qom 60 years ago.

He highlighted Imam Khomeini’s enduring commitment to the Palestinian cause, which remained a cornerstone of his revolutionary agenda.

“Imam Khomeini ensured that Palestine stayed at the forefront of the Iranian people’s concerns, giving birth to the initiative of World Quds Day,” Ghalibaf stated. ▶ Page 2

Iran condemns new European sanctions, says it reserves right to respond

TEHRAN - In a strong rebuke, Iran has condemned the European Union’s imposition of fresh sanctions against Iranian officials and entities, emphasizing the Islamic Republic’s right to retaliate.

On Friday, the EU imposed sanctions on multiple Iranian individuals and entities, accusing them of facilitating the transfer of drones and missiles for use in the Ukraine conflict by Russia. Tehran has consistently denied any involvement in the Ukraine war and has called on Western powers and Kyiv to provide concrete evidence to support their claims.

On Friday Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanaani, sharply criticized the EU’s double standards. “The European Union, which has been passive and ineffective in dealing with the humanitarian disaster in Gaza and Palestine for the past months and has been criticized by Europe’s public opinion as well as people all over the world, once again instead of focusing on the war crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and punishing and banning this criminal regime, has put on its list of sanctions some leading and influential Iranian officials and institutions in the fight against terrorism and ensuring lasting security in the region,” he said.

“It is regrettable that the European Union, by resorting to repeated, ▶ Page 2

Hamas views ceasefire proposal “positively”

Palestinians respond to Biden’s speech

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Hamas has said it views “positively” the content of U.S. President Joe Biden’s speech and is ready to deal with any ceasefire proposal in a “constructive manner”.

The Palestinian movement in Gaza, which has been leading negotiations to end the indiscriminate Israeli air and ground assault, put out a statement a day after Biden outlined what he termed as an “Israeli” proposal.

The Hamas statement affirmed a positive view on Biden’s speech, which called for a permanent ceasefire, and included other conditions that the Palestinian movement had demanded in previous rounds of negotiations, expressing a readiness to deal “constructively” with any proposal that guarantees them.

Hamas says it stands ready to accept any deal that offers the following:

- A permanent ceasefire
- Complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza
- Reconstruction of the Gaza Strip
- A return of displaced Palestinians to their

place of residence

- A serious exchange of prisoners and captives

Hamas emphasized the Israeli occupation must show its “explicit commitment to this”.

The statement pointed out that the growing calls for a ceasefire and “the necessity of putting an end to the war on Gaza” are the result of the “legendary steadfastness of our struggling people and their valiant resistance.”

What Biden said

On Friday night, the U.S. president announced the initiative, which appears to have been built on a previous one that Hamas accepted on May 6, but Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s government ultimately rejected it.

The proposal is in three phases, with the first being a ceasefire lasting six weeks – during which Hamas and the Israeli occupation would negotiate a permanent end to the war on Gaza.

If the negotiations take longer than six weeks, the ceasefire would continue for as long as it takes to reach phase two “which is a per-

manent end to hostilities”.

The first phase also includes “a withdrawal of Israeli forces from all populated areas of Gaza”, the release of captives such as women, the elderly, the wounded in exchange for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, according to Biden.

“Phase two would involve Hamas handing over the remaining 100 hostages and Israel withdrawing all of its forces from Gaza,” the U.S. president said.

Biden acknowledged moving from phase one to phase two would be difficult, saying guarantors “the United States, Egypt, and Qatar would work to ensure negotiations keep going until all the agreements are reached and phase two is able to begin”.

Phase two “would be an exchange for the release of all remaining living hostages, including male soldiers; Israeli forces would withdraw from Gaza”.

The stumbling block before has been going from phase one to phase two.

Hamas has made clear to the Egyptians and Qataris that it would not release male Israeli soldiers held in Gaza in the second phase if there are no genuine guarantees that the Israeli onslaught of Gazan civilians would end once and for all in the first phase.

Biden also acknowledged that “there are those in Israel who will not agree with this plan and will call for the war to continue indefinitely. Some are even in the government coalition. And they’ve made it clear: They want to occupy Gaza, they want to keep fighting for years, and the hostages are not a priority to them”.

Biden noted this would make Tel Aviv isolated on the world stage.

The third phase is a major reconstruction plan for Gaza alongside any final remains of Israeli captives who have been killed.

Will this deal end the war?

Biden’s remarks led many to speculate on who has proposed this initiative.

The U.S. president at times alluded to the deal as something “Israel has offered”.

But at other points of his speech, he called on those in Israel to accept the proposal ▶ Page 5

26th Shanghai International Film Festival to screen seven Iranian films

TEHRAN—Seven cinematic works from Iran will participate in the 26th Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF), set to be held in Shanghai, China, from June 14 to 23.

The Iranian participants include feature, documentary, and animated films, selected to be screened in different sections of the festival, Mehr reported.

“The Wasteman” directed by Ahmad Bahrami will represent Iran in the main competition section, vying for the Golden Goblet award.

The movie will compete with 13 other films from Spain, Argentina, Germany, France, Japan, Bangladesh, Italy, Georgia, Russia, Kazakhstan, and China. ▶ Page 8

Imam Khomeini and Palestine: an everlasting legacy

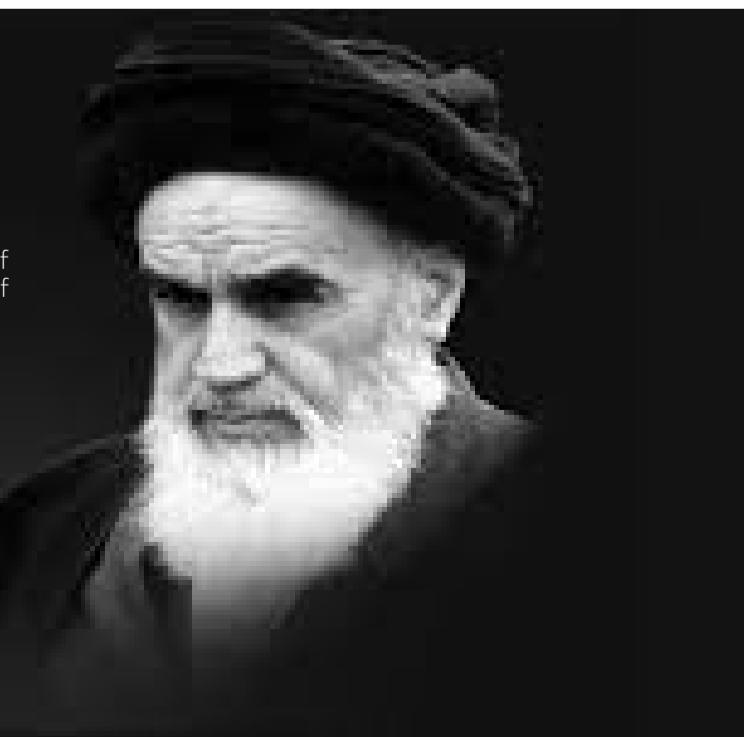
By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN – Iranians are gearing up for the passing anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who passed away on June 3, 1989.

Millions of people took part in his burial ceremony and for the past 35 years, Iranians have continued to honor the late Imam in large gatherings. His passing anniversary is marked each year in the shrine of Imam Khomeini, where Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei delivers a speech.

The 35th passing anniversary of the late leader is taking place this year as one of his most important agendas, the Palestinian cause, has taken center stage around the world. Imam Khomeini held the Palestinian cause close to his heart, considering it a matter of paramount importance for the Muslim world.

During the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Imam Khomeini issued a message to Muslim governments and nations. ▶ Page 2



Tourists get to know Persepolis through a digital voyage

TEHRAN - Persepolis, Iran’s crown jewel of ancient civilization, has opened its gates to the world with the launch of a comprehensive website and an immersive audio guide.

“With the launch of this website,” Director of the World Heritage site brought to light on Saturday, “Easy and comprehensive access to information, details, and event scheduling at this global site has been provided for the general public and enthusiasts.”

Alireza Askari-Chavardi further elaborated that this website includes various sections such as “About Persepolis,” “Achaemenid Artifacts,” “Knowledge Base,” and “Tourism,” each providing a detailed introduction to this historical collection.

Unique features of the Persepolis World Heritage Site website ▶ Page 6

TEHRAN PAPERS

You are standing on the right side of history

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

In an analysis, the Iran newspaper discussed the widespread coverage of the letter of the Leader of the Revolution in the international media and said: Upon the escalation and continuation of Israel's crimes against the oppressed Palestinian people, American and European universities have also become the scene of protest against the genocide of the Palestinian people by the Zionist regime. Now, at the same time as these anti-Zionist protests continue, in a letter addressed to the students who support Palestine and are against the Zionist regime, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution expressed his solidarity and empathy with them and said: "You are now standing on the right side of history and you are now part of the resistance front." This expression of empathy and especially the content of the letter, less than a few hours after its publication, became the main headlines of the media and international news and analytical websites in such a way that the weekly newspaper Newsweek, referring to the support of the Leader of Revolution to the American student protesters, declared that this letter has angered the supporters of Israel in America. Even the Israeli media are worried about this anti-Zionist letter and said that this letter has led to the escalation of tensions and security concerns.

Farhikhtegan: Politics is not gambling

In a commentary, Farhikhtegan dealt with the stupidity of Reza Pahlavi and his appeal to Netanyahu in hopes of sabotaging Iran and said: When Reza Pahlavi went to meet Netanyahu, he probably felt that since the Israelis could stage a coup or sabotage, nothing is better than forming an alliance with them. For this reason, pro-Pahlavi accounts all referred to it as a historical trip. In a very strange act, he tried to start the path to power by connecting with Israel, but this appeal is due to his lack of political understanding because the rapid developments in the world caused Israel to not only become the most hated country in the world within seven months, but anyone who is in an alliance with it will also lose their credibility. He thought that by supporting the crimes of the Israelis and even remaining silent at the moment of Israel's possible attack on Iran, all his imagination would have a positive result, but everything backfired. He not only showed that he didn't understand politics like his father and grandfather but also destroyed the patriotic gesture that he wanted to represent for years.

Kayhan: Hasty negotiations are not a solution

In a note, Kayhan addressed the difficult

international situation and the strong possibility of Trump's return in the coming months. It wrote: It seems that the concern of Trump's return has forced Iran to resume a new round of clear and hidden calls and negotiations in the last months of Biden's presence with the Americans and try to make an implicit or relative agreement before changing the current American government. However, it does not seem that the hasty negotiations will solve any particular problem. Because if Trump returns, he will undoubtedly break the implicit agreements, as he broke the much more valid JCPOA agreement. It is expected that such an agreement will not benefit Biden, and the Democratic campaign is worried that these negotiations will increase the intensity of attacks on Biden by the Israel lobby, Republicans, and even the right wing of the Democratic Party. With such a view, it can be imagined that the possible scenario facing Iran is to "prepare to negotiate with the new American government," a scenario that should be implemented either in the case of Biden's re-election or in the case of Trump's return. It can be said that its necessity and urgency will be greater in the case of Trump's victory.

Arman-e-Emrooz: Revealing details of Robert Malley's connection with Iran

In an article, Arman-e-Emrooz discussed the investigation of the Republican representatives of the U.S. Congress regarding the suspension of Robert Malley. It wrote: It has been heard that during the investigation of the suspension of Robert Malley, the special representative of the Biden administration for Iran affairs, the Republican representatives of the U.S. Congress found evidence that he downloaded sensitive and classified documents and possibly shared them with people outside the U.S. administration. Lawmakers found that Robert Malley downloaded more than 10 documents from sensitive but non-classified documents to classified documents, onto his electronic devices. These representatives believe that among these documents, there were detailed notes of Malley's meetings and conversations with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They say that these documents may also contain information related to the reactions of the Biden administration to the events related to the general protests of 2022 in Iran, which began after the death of Mahsa Amini. According to the Washington Post, the Biden administration would certainly like to have its top diplomat on the playing field with Iran. But the situation of Robert Malley, the special envoy of the Department of State, is complicated.

Tehran hosts international summit on Gaza



From page 1 ▶ The Parliament Speaker criticized the Israeli regime, describing it as "devoid of both humanity and wisdom," saying that Israel's expectation for Palestine to be forgotten has backfired.

"The cold sweat of death is now on its forehead," he remarked, in his address to Tel Aviv regime.

Ghalibaf praised the global youth movement supporting Palestine, attributing its origins to Imam Khomeini's wave of resistance and expressing confidence that this collective willpower would eventually dismantle the barriers upholding the Israeli regime.

Acting FM: Gaza is the most important issue in the Islamic world

Ali Baqeri Kani, Iran's Acting Foreign Minister, echoed the sentiment of resilience,

describing the Islamic resistance as a profound belief system embraced by Muslims and freedom seekers worldwide.

Baqeri Kani noted the growing international support for the Palestinian cause, including within the United States and other global organizations.

He highlighted Operation Al Aqsa Storm as a pivotal moment in Palestinian history, framing it as a strategic challenge to the Israeli regime.

Baqeri Kani argued that Israel faces a deteriorating situation, forced to choose between surrendering or confronting a strengthening resistance.

"The most hated entity in the eyes of the world's people is Israel, which stands legally accused of genocide, relying solely on murder and crime for its survival," he asserted.

Concluding his remarks, Baqeri Kani warned the Zionist regime and its allies of the futility of opposing the resistance.

Israeli genocidal war has resulted in the deaths of at least 36,379 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, and left some 82,407 injured, as Israeli forces targeted hospitals, residences, and places of worship in the Gaza Strip.

Iran condemns new European sanctions, says it reserves right to respond

From page 1 ▶ absurd, and baseless excuses and accusations, ignoring the realities on the ground in West Asia, and continuing its failed and ineffective approach, once again resorted to the outdated and ineffective tool of sanctions against sovereign Iran and preferred the Zionist regime's and the United States' satisfaction to the interests of the European Union and nations."

Kanaani stressed Iran's commitment to regional and international peace and security adding that the country reserves the right to respond to the EU's "destructive approach."

The EU sanctions target six individuals, including Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani and Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid, and three entities. The measures prohibit EU citizens and companies from conducting business with these parties.

According to Iran's late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Tehran only delivered drones to Russia prior to the Ukraine war in February of 2022. Iran held bilateral meetings with Ukraine to clear misunderstandings, but could not continue with the talks after the West intervened, preventing Kyiv from talking directly to Tehran.

The West Asian country has a vast arsenal consisting of



various sophisticated weapons. Its drones and missiles have particularly gained immense attention in the past years.

Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasized their commitment to enhancing military capabilities for defensive purposes only. They have warned that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military to ensure its sovereignty and national security.

Condemnation of US-UK strikes on Yemeni soil

Also on Friday, the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman denounced the recent airstrikes carried out by the United States and the United Kingdom against Yemen, which resulted in the deaths and injuries of dozens of people.

Kanaani expressed Iran's condemnation, highlighting the timing of the strikes, which coincided with Western support for Israel's ongoing offensive

against Palestinians in Gaza. He accused the U.S. and UK of seeking to destabilize the region and undermine Yemen's support for the Palestinian cause.

"Such attacks seek to expand insecurity across the region and prevent the Yemeni people's honorable support for the oppressed Palestinian nation," the spokesman noted.

Kanaani emphasized that the strikes violated international law and human rights, and called on the international community and Muslim countries to condemn the actions of Washington and London.

"The aggressive American and British governments bear responsibility for the repercussions of these atrocities against the Yemeni people," he asserted.

Ali al-Qahoum, a member of Yemen's Ansarullah resistance movement, vowed a "painful response" to the attacks. He

indicated that Yemeni missiles could target U.S. and Israeli vessels and the occupied territories.

"The Americans and Britons must have understood how powerful Yemeni strikes will be. Our ballistic missiles can target desired targets in the sea and in the occupied Palestinian territories," he told Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network.

In response to the airstrikes, the Yemeni Armed Forces announced that they had targeted the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Red Sea with winged and ballistic missiles.

"The operation was carried out with a number of winged and ballistic missiles," the forces' spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree said, noting that "the hit was accurate and direct."

Yemen has been targeting Israeli ships or Israeli-bound ships in the Red Sea, in an attempt to pressure the regime into putting an end to its genocidal attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip. The West, instead of pulling the plug on Israel, has decided to assault Yemenis through direct attacks on their soil.

Israel's war on Gaza which followed a successful military operation by Palestinian resistance forces on October 7, has so far killed over 36,000 civilians, mostly women and children.

Imam Khomeini and Palestine: an everlasting legacy

The late leader's legacy persists 35 years after his passing

From page 1 ▶ urging them to unite and confront Israel with all their might. He outlined a comprehensive strategy for the struggle against Israel, including:

- Providing support to the front lines of the battle
- Avoiding internal divisions
- Defying the perceived power of Israel's supporters
- Sending material and spiritual aid to the battlefields

Imam Khomeini believed that unity among Muslim nations was essential for the liberation of Palestine. He saw Israel as a "cancerous tumor" that threatened the entire

Muslim world.

To foster unity, Imam Khomeini established Quds Day in 1979, designating the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as a day of international solidarity with the Palestinian people. This day served not only as a symbol of Muslim sacrifices but also as a reminder of the importance of vigilance against Israeli aggression.

Imam Khomeini's opposition to Israel was particularly evident in his condemnation of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's decision to recognize Israel and negotiate with them at Camp David in 1978. He viewed this move as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause and a

deviation from the path of struggle.

Even Imam Khomeini's political-divine testament, written during his final days, emphasized the importance of the Palestinian struggle. He urged Muslim nations to take pride in opposing Israel, which he viewed as an enemy of God and Islam.

Throughout his life, Imam Khomeini remained a steadfast advocate for the Palestinian people, consistently denouncing Israeli oppression and calling for Muslim unity in confronting this threat. His legacy continues to inspire resistance against Israeli aggression and the pursuit of justice for the Palestinian people.

Bahrain seeks to rekindle Iran ties

to restore relations with Iran, emphasizing the importance of peace and stability in the region. The King welcomed Beijing's support in these endeavors, particularly in addressing the Palestinian issue.

Highlighting the relationship between Arab countries and China, King Al Khalifa expressed Bahrain's eagerness to strengthen cooperation and mutual friendship. He praised the significant progress achieved through close collaboration with China and called on the international community and the UN Security Council to take decisive action to halt the Israeli offensive in Gaza and to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Premier Li Qiang noted the long history of cooperation between

China and Bahrain, marking 35 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. He underscored the enduring partnership between the two nations. Bahrain's government has previously emphasized its desire to normalize relations with neighboring countries, including Iran.

In a recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, King Al Khalifa expressed support for restoring ties with Tehran, stating that the air is now clear between the Islamic Republic and Bahrain and there is no reason to delay normalization.

King Al Khalifa stressed Bahrain's commitment to good neighborliness and highlighted the importance of diplomatic,

commercial, and cultural relations with neighboring countries, which he believes will be welcomed by the Bahraini people too.

The recent wave of improving ties with Tehran began during the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi, with Saudi Arabia being the first nation to rekindle relations with Iran. In mid-August, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian made his first official trip to Saudi Arabia in 12 years, following a landmark rapprochement in March. During the visit, both Iranian and Saudi officials praised the enhancement of bilateral ties, emphasizing how their cooperation would contribute to regional stability.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Constitutional Council approves amendments to presidential election law

TEHRAN— The spokesperson for the Constitutional Council, Hadi Tahan Nazif, has announced on Saturday the approval of amendments to the presidential election law and measures to enhance the transparency of the three branches of government.

During a press conference, Tahan Nazif expressed condolences for the martyrdom of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and disclosed that the Council reviewed 12 drafts and bills, along with 11 queries.

In light of the identity verification process for the upcoming snap presidential election in late June, Tahan Nazif stated, "In the forthcoming elections, identity verification will be conducted using both the national ID card and the birth certificate."

He highlighted that the amendments to Articles 19 and 22 of the Presidential Election Law were examined and found to be in compliance with both Sharia and the Constitution.

Iranian origin and citizenship: key criteria for presidential candidates

Addressing questions regarding the eligibility criteria for presidential candidates, Tahan Nazif referred to Article 115 of the Constitution and Article 35 of the Presidential Election Law. He clarified, "Iranian origin and Iranian citizenship are stipulated by law as essential conditions for registration in the presidential elections. Naturally, anyone meeting these two criteria can register as a candidate."

Election fever on a gradual rise

Presidential election in Iran sees a surge in candidacy registrations

TEHRAN - As the deadline for candidacy registration in Iran's upcoming presidential election approaches, the nation is witnessing a notable surge in political activity.

The political landscape is alive with energy as candidates from diverse backgrounds rush to formalize their bids, setting the stage for what could be a transformative election.

This enthusiasm marks a significant turning point in Iranian politics, especially following the death of President Ebrahim Raisi.

The five-day registration period, which began on May 30th, will end on June 3rd, with the final list of candidates to be published on June 11th.

The early elections were necessitated by the tragic death of President Raisi in a helicopter crash on May 19th, which also claimed the lives of Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and six others.

Iranian law mandates that candidates must be aged between 40 and 75, hold at least a master's degree, and have four years of experience in state administration or related fields.

All candidates must be vetted by the 12-member Constitutional Council, with the Interior Ministry set to release the names of the qualified candidates on June 11.



This rigorous process ensures that only the most capable and experienced individuals are considered, maintaining the integrity of the election.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi told reporters on Thursday that the country is at a sensitive juncture after the death of the president but no disruption happened in managing affairs thanks to the wise guidelines of Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the rules set by the Constitution.

So far, prominent figures who have registered include Saeed Jalili, the former secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, Mostafa Kavakebian, the secretary general of the Mardomsalari (Democratic) Party, and Ali Larijani, the former speaker of the parliament.

Additional notable candidates such as Masoud Pezeshkian, who is currently representing Tabriz,

Osku, and Azarshahr electoral district in the Parliament of Iran, Vahid Haghani, a former military commander and deputy for special affairs in the office of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and Seyyed Ahmad Rasoulnejad, a representative of Damavand and Firozkoh electoral district, have also registered.

Other candidates include Alireza Zakani, the current mayor of Tehran, Habibollah Dahmardeh, the governor of Sistan and Baluchestan, Lorestan, and Kerman provinces, Sayyid Mohammad-Reza Mirtajodini, a former vice president for parliamentary affairs, and Zohreh Elahian, a member of the Parliament of Iran from 2008 to 2012 and from 2020 to 2024.

The enthusiasm surrounding the registration period has not only highlighted the vibrant political environment but also the

resilience and unity of the nation in the face of adversity.

The mood in Iran as the election approaches is a mix of cautious optimism and determined engagement. This period of political activity is a testament to the strength of Iran's democratic processes and the commitment of its people to participate in shaping their future.

Following President Raisi's death, Vice President Mohammad Mokhber was assigned to manage the executive branch, ensuring continuity and stability in governance.

Presidential campaigns will begin on June 12 and will run until June 27, providing ample time for candidates to present their platforms to the electorate.

This election represents a critical juncture for Iran, offering an opportunity to redefine its domestic and international policies and address complex challenges, such as economic sanctions and regional tensions.

The surge in candidate registrations for Iran's presidential election signifies a dynamic and pivotal moment in the country's political journey.

As the election campaign progresses, the nation watches with bated breath, hopeful that this electoral process will usher in a new era of progress, stability, and unity.

Iran, Qatar renew call for Gaza ceasefire

TEHRAN - Iran and Qatar have once again called on regional and extra-regional countries to help bring an end to the plight of Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip who have been subject to brutal and savage Israeli attacks in the past 8 months.

The remarks were made during a Friday phone call between Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

During the phone conversation, Ali Baqeri, on behalf of the Iranian government and people appreciated the sympathy and messages of condolences by Qatari officials over the martyrdom of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Baqeri voiced special thanks for the participation of the Qatari Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, and the country's prime minister and foreign minister in the commemoration ceremony of the

martyred Iranian president and foreign minister held in Tehran.

Meanwhile, Baqeri highlighted a recent recommendation by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, who emphasized the importance of maintaining good relations between Tehran and Doha during a meeting with the Qatari Emir.

Regarding the latest developments in Palestine and the ongoing Israeli crimes against Palestinian civilians in Gaza, the caretaker foreign minister called for stronger interaction and cooperation between the two countries and other Muslim states to defend the oppressed Palestinian people.

Baqeri also appreciated the Qatari government's efforts to halt the Zionists' genocide against Palestinians and send immediate humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Elsewhere in his comments, the diplomat noted that the occupying regime has intensified its

criminal activities in Rafah, stressing that Islamic states should work together to stop the crimes.

He asserted, "The Zionists need to know that continuing and intensifying the crimes in Gaza will come at a cost."

For his part, the Qatari prime minister and foreign minister underlined the special efforts by the Qatari Emir to enhance ties between the two countries in various areas.

Terming the situation in Gaza as complicated due to the Israeli regime's warlike approach, the Qatari premier elaborated on his country's efforts to stop the war, establish a ceasefire, and deliver urgent aid to the Palestinian people under blockade.

During the talks, both sides raised the idea of holding an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to review the latest developments in Palestine, especially the recent Israeli crimes in Rafah.

Iran makes advancements in aviation industry as sanctions constrict access to equipment

TEHRAN - In a significant development for Iran's aviation industry, a knowledge-based company has achieved a major breakthrough by mastering the production of jet engine turbine blades, according to a report by the Tasnim News Agency.

The CEO of the knowledge-based company, a subsidiary of the Iran Power Plant Projects Management Company (MAPNA) Group, proudly announced during an interview with Tasnim that Iranian scientists have successfully engineered high-

tech jet engine blades, a crucial component that forms the turbine section of aircraft engines.

Mani Rezvani shared that the recent technological advancement has paved the way for the rehabilitation of 28 grounded McDonnell Douglas passenger planes. The aircraft is out of service as a result of Western sanctions, which have severely restricted Iranian airlines' access to jet engine blades.

Rezvani explained that Iranian experts embarked on a reverse

engineering project, culminating in the creation of a prototype of the JT8D engine blades two months ago. This homegrown product is currently undergoing rigorous testing and is expected to receive certification from the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran.

By June 20, the first Boeing MD passenger plane equipped with Iranian engine blades will undergo its inaugural flight, the CEO added. Once this initial milestone is achieved, the knowledge-based company plans to mass-produce

the blades and implement them in other engines, subject to authorization from relevant bodies.

The production cost of the Iranian jet engine blades stands at approximately \$8,000, a substantial saving compared to the \$22,000 price tag of foreign products.

"The company's vision extends beyond domestic use. We have long-term plans to export these Iranian-made jet engine blades to Russia and nations in the Caucasus region," Rezvani added.

IRGC Navy official: Iran's strength lies beyond weaponry

TEHRAN - The Deputy for Knowledge and Research of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy has emphasized that the true power of Iran extends beyond its military capabilities, highlighting the resilience in the nation's spirit.

Speaking on Friday evening at a ceremony, General Ahmad Rasti reflected on the country's strength and stability in the wake of President Ebrahim Raisi's martyrdom. He credited the seamless continuity of Iran's executive processes during this sensitive period to the wise leadership of the Leader of Islamic Revolution.

Rasti pointed out that the unwavering obedience to the Leader and the sacrifices made by the martyrs are fundamental pillars of the Islamic Republic's enduring strength.

He highlighted the role of the nation's youth, who have driven Iran to an outstanding position in scientific advancements.

Discussing the evolution of the IRGC Navy, Rasti recalled its humble beginnings. "Today, the IRGC Navy boasts massive vessels, some

measuring 360 meters in length and 52 meters in width, capable of deploying drones and ships to the oceans. This transformation marks a significant milestone in Iran's maritime capabilities," he noted.

General Rasti also recounted the success of Operation True Promise, in which the U.S., U.K., France, and some neighboring countries of the Zionist regime, despite being forewarned, were unable to counter Iran's drones and cruise and ballistic missiles. "This operation showcased Iran's advanced military technology and strategic prowess," he added.

In addition to military achievements, Rasti highlighted Iran's progress in various technological fields. He noted that in international exhibitions across Europe, Iran, alongside the U.S. and Germany, is one of the three countries globally capable of manufacturing smart turbines. "This technological capability is in high demand and is a testament to Iran's self-sufficiency, achieved despite facing severe sanctions," he stated.

He further asserted that Iran's accomplishments in nuclear technology and nanotechnology place it among the world's leading nations. Rasti expressed confidence that Iran can continue to achieve significant milestones in other fields, reinforcing the nation's status as a global leader in technological and scientific innovation.

In recent years, Iranian military specialists and engineers have achieved notable advancements in producing a diverse array of domestically developed equipment, fostering self-reliance within the armed forces.

Officials from Iran affirm their commitment to enhancing the nation's military capabilities, particularly in missile technology, emphasizing their defensive nature.

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

Persepolis crowned PGPL champions for ninth time

TEHRAN - Persepolis football team defeated Mes 1-0 on Saturday here at the Azadi Stadium to win 2023/24 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) for the ninth time.

Persepolis defender Giorgi Gvelesiani scored the winning goal with a header in the 86th minute.

Elsewhere, Esteghlal defeated Paykan 2-0 to finish in second place, just one point behind Persepolis.

Paykan also were relegated from PGPL as the second team. Sanat Naft had previously relegated from the League.

Foolad and Esteghlal Khuzestan escaped from relegation with wins over Nassaji (1-0) and Havadar (3-1), respectively.

Malavan were held to a 1-1 draw by Aluminum in Anzali, Gol Gohar lost to Zob Ahan 2-1 in Sirjan, Sepahan defeated Shams Azar 4-1 and already-relegated Sanat Naft lost to Tractor 3-0.

Persepolis won the PGPL for the ninth time. The Reds claimed the title in the inaugural edition, dating back to 2002. Persepolis waited six years to win the title once again. They dramatically won the league under leadership of Afshin Ghotbi.

Persepolis waited longer (nine years) to win the title for the third time. They came first in 2017 under guidance of Branko Ivankovic and also were crowned champions in 2018 and 2019 under the Croat.

Persepolis also won 2020 and 2021 editions with Iranian coach Yahya Golmohammadi. Persepolis' archrivals Esteghlal won the title in 2022 but the Reds won their eighth title a year later with Golmohammadi.

Iranian Pahlevani wrestler banned for doping

TEHRAN - Iranian Pahlevani wrestler Mohammad Ramezani 19-Norandrosterone has been banned for three years after the athlete tested positive for a prohibited substance.

He tested positive for the banned substance 19-Norandrosterone, a performance-enhancing steroid.

19-Norandrosterone is a metabolite of the anabolic androgenic steroid nandrolone, and can help in increasing muscle strength and mass, and to speed up recovery.

The test was submitted on April 6, which makes Ramezani eligible to return April 6, 2027.

Iranian throwers Rasouli, Saberi win two golds at Nigerian Grand Prix

TEHRAN - Mehdi Saberi and Hossein Rasouli from Iran won two gold medals in the 4th MoC Grand Prix, underway in Lagos, Nigeria.

Saberi came first in the men's Shot Put also breaking the (Meet Record) MR with 19.61m.

Nigerian thrower Emeka Ugwu settled for second with 16.64 m, while his compatriot Emmanuel Shakamodu Audu finished in third with 16.16 m.

Earlier this season in January, Saberi threw an SB of 19.62m in Tehran, and then came to Nigeria to throw a mark of 19.61m.

Rasouli also claimed a gold medal in the men's Discus Throw. He shattered the Meet Record (MR) with a brilliant throw of 57.35 meters.

Nigerian Ifeanyi Onukwue came second with a 50.01 meters throw, while his countryman Ofuoku Nyerhovwo-Benaiah was third with 46.74 meters.

A total of 377 Athletes competed in the two-day competition, which runs from 31st May to 1st June, at the Yabatech Sports Complex in Lagos State.

Hong Kong coach Andersen quits ahead of Iran match

TEHRAN - Jorn Andersen announced on Wednesday that he is standing down as head coach of the Hong Kong football team with immediate effect.

The Norwegian, who was appointed in December 2021 and led the territory to the finals of the AFC Asian Cup for the first time in 55 years, said he had received an offer from an unnamed entity and was terminating his contract with the territory.

"After much careful consideration I've made a difficult decision, I have decided to take a new challenge and step down from my position as head coach of the Hong Kong, China representative team," Andersen told reporters at a specially convened press conference.

"However, I have recently received an invitation from a club outside that presents an opportunity I simply could not refuse. It's with a great regret that I bid farewell to the Hong Kong football scene."

Hong Kon will have to host Iran in Group E of the 2026 World Cup qualifier on June 6.

Gorgan beat Kuwait Club to advance to BCL Asia

TEHRAN - Shahr-dari Gorgan booked their ticket to the Basketball Champions League Asia after securing a third-place finish in the FIBA West Asia Super League Final 8.

The Iranian side accomplished as much following a masterful 92-76 conquest of Kuwait Club in the Third-Place Game on Saturday evening at the Lusail Multipurpose Hall in Qatar, fiba.basketball reported.

It couldn't be any sweeter for coach Mostafa Hashemi's crew as they got back against the very same team that foiled their bid of sweeping Group B last Tuesday.

Now they can all turn their attention to the prestigious BCL Asia on June 9-15 in Dubai, where they will be going up against some of the top teams in the continent.

Salar Monji played all 40 minutes and finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds, recording an efficiency of 33 to cop STEP AHEAD Player of the Game honors.

Sina Vahedi, on the other hand, fired 4 of the team's 10 triples on his way to 23 points, which he laced with 2 rebounds and 5 assists in the 34 minutes he played.

Will Cherry flirted with a triple-double as he tallied 13 points, 7 rebounds, and 8 assists. Mobin Sheikhi chipped in 11 points, 9 of which came from beyond the arc.

Arsalan Kazemi did a little bit of everything in the 33 minutes he saw action and delivered 9 points, 20 rebounds, 5 assists, and 4 steals for an EFF of 32.

Iran, Uzbekistan aiming top of Group E

TEHRAN - Iran and Uzbekistan will be aiming to top Group E of the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualification.

The Preliminary Joint Qualifiers - Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 returns for the final two matchdays with still much to play for.

While several teams have already booked their spots in the third round of the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Finals, numerous sides need results on the final two matchdays to earn their berths.

Having completed their respective tasks by Matchday Four, Iran and Uzbekistan will be aiming to top Group E in their remaining matches.

Both are on 10 points, with Iran ahead on goal difference with Turkmenistan and Hong Kong, China already out of the running.

Iran are away to Hong Kong while Uzbekistan host Turkmenistan and a win for both pacesetters will set up a blockbuster Matchday Six clash between the two at the Azadi Stadium on June 11.

Iran's non-oil trade exceeds \$25b in 2 months

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil trade reached \$54.6 billion in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 21), according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Iran exported 23.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.0 billion in the mentioned two months, registering 3.77 percent and 8.54 percent increase in terms of value and weight, respectively, IRIB reported.

Meanwhile, some 5.8 million tons of goods valued at \$9.1 billion were imported into the country in the said period, indicating a 9.19 percent rise in terms of value, and a 13.29 percent increase in terms of weight, year on year.

Iran's top export destination during this

period was China with \$2.193 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$1.584 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$1.08 billion, Turkey with \$729 million, and Pakistan with \$383 million.

Liquefied natural gas, liquid propane, and liquid butane were the top exported items in the said six months.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports in the first two months of the current year were the UAE with \$9.0 billion, China with \$8.8 billion, Turkey with \$3.3 billion, Germany with \$1.1 billion, and India with \$987 million worth of imports.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

NPC taking final steps to localize petchem catalysts

TEHRAN - The Head of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Morteza Shahmirzaie says almost all of the need for petrochemical catalysts in the country is met by domestic producers, and the company is taking final steps to fully indigenize the knowledge for the production of such catalysts.

Speaking with the representatives of the NPC's general assembly during their visit to several petrochemical complexes in Asaluyeh, he said NPC is seriously pursuing the plan for localizing petrochemical industry catalysts.

He further said Iran's petrochemical industry is moving on the way of progress and growth by relying on its capable infrastructures.

Referring to the government's strategy of relying on sea-oriented development, Shahmirzaie said that the petrochemical industry is

being expanded across the shores of the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman which will result in diversity in the basket of petrochemical products, economic growth and employment in the area.

Elsewhere in his remarks he said that "we should be determined to move toward providing our needs from within by relying on domestic capabilities, cutting the country's dependency to foreign-made products."

He told the visitors that about 550 grades of petrochemical products are being produced inside the country at the moment which by making new investments, the capacity to produce different petrochemical products will grow; consequently, not only will meet domestic needs but increase the potential for exports as well.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

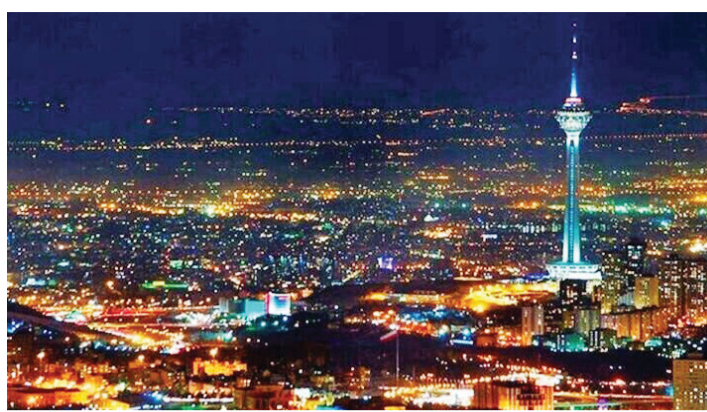
Electricity consumption increases 11% as temperature begins to rise

TEHRAN - Electricity consumption in Iran increased by 11% or 6,000 megawatts (MW) in the previous Iranian calendar week (ended on May 31) compared to a week earlier, the head of Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) said.

According to Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, the gradual increase in temperature has caused a surge in the use of air conditioning appliances, and consequently, electricity consumption has also begun to increase again, IRIB reported.

In order to meet the electricity demand in the peak summer period, the Iranian Energy Ministry has put several programs on its agenda among which increasing electricity production and managing consumption are the major ones.

The ministry is going to implement a comprehensive program during the summer, based on which low-consuming households are going to be rewarded while the subscribers whose consumption



exceeds the normal level will face a penalty.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rises and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

Tavanir has repeatedly announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Last week, an official said that Renewable power plants with a total capacity of 13,000 megawatts are under construction in Iran, including a 780-megawatt plant being built in the southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Alireza Parandeh Motlaq, the deputy head of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA) for technical and engineering affairs, stated that Sistan and Baluchestan is one of the richest provinces in the country in

the field of renewable energies and enjoys high capabilities in different sectors including wind energy and geothermal energy.

Currently, there is a 60-megawatt renewable power plant installed in Sistan and Baluchestan province, including a 10-megawatt unit that had been installed in Zahedan region and a 50-megawatt unit constructed in the northern part of the province in recent years.

Parandeh Motlaq pointed to the high advantages of the generation of wind energy in Mil Nader region, the northern part of Sistan and Baluchestan, where a 50-megawatt wind power plant has been installed and is generating 210,000 megawatts/hour of electricity.

He went on to say that the wind energy generated in Sistan and Baluchestan province not only can meet the electricity demand of this southern province, but also there is the possibility of exporting the electricity to neighboring Afghanistan.

Iran-Turkey trade hits \$1.75 billion in four months

TEHRAN - Iran and Turkey have exchanged as much as \$1.75 billion worth of goods in the first four months of 2024, according to a report by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

The figure shows a two percent growth com-

pared to the \$1.72 billion reported in last year's corresponding period. The report also indicated that the trade volume between the two neighbors stood at \$386 million in April 2024, a 12 percent increase over the same month in 2023.

Turkey exported some \$1.05 billion worth of commodities to Iran during January-April, up 16 percent compared to \$900 million in the same period of last year, the report suggested.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

ICCIMA, ICTA sign MOU on improving human resources

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC), and the Islamic Chamber Training Academy (ICTA) have signed a memorandum of understanding on developing human capabilities.

The document was signed by ICCIMA Head Samad Hassanzadeh and Secretary General of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry, And Agri-

culture (ICCIA) Yusef Khalawi on the sidelines of the 36th Board of Directors meeting of the Islamic Chamber for Commerce and Development (ICCD) in Amman, Jordan.

Under the terms of this MOU, the parties will establish effective communication between their members and affiliates to encourage, promote, and facilitate effective cooperation in the areas of education research, and training.

The document also requires the parties to support each other in organizing activities such as seminars, workshops, training programs, courses, and conferences to be launched in the ICTA and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The parties are also expected to prepare both virtual and non-virtual training programs and studies for their respective members which would benefit them in increasing "ICCD" member states eco-

nomics cooperation, and partnership in various sectors for Iranian and "ICCD" private sectors particularly for the SMEs.

The document also includes measures to be taken by the parties to assist and encourage the exchange of technical and professional experience between their members and to meet periodically and make new plans for future cooperation.

The CEO of BMI Participates in the 23rd Annual Conference on Monetary and Foreign Exchange Policies



Dr. Abolfazl Najjarzadeh, along with the board of directors and senior managers of Bank Melli of Iran (BMI), attended the 31st conference on monetary and foreign exchange policies.

The conference, themed "Revision of monetary and regulatory policies; Looking at the New Laws of the Central Bank," took place at the CBI.

Dr. Abolfazl Najjarzadeh along with the members of the board of directors and some senior managers of the Bank Melli of Iran (BMI) at the 31st conference on monetary and foreign exchange policies with

the theme "Revision of monetary and regulatory policies; Looking at the New Laws of the Central Bank" which was held at the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

According to MBI's public relations, on the first day of the conference, officials,

administration members, senior managers, executive board members of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), bank CEOs, and economic experts were in attendance.

On the first day, Mohammad Reza Farzin, the head of

the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), Dawood Manzoor, the head of the Planning and Budget Organization, and Ehsan Khandouzi, the minister of economic and finance affairs, delivered speeches on financial stability, sustainable economic growth,

amending CBI rules and regulations, the latest developments in money, banking, currency, and economic growth indicators.

Training sessions and analytical meetings are planned to familiarize researchers with

central bank procedures and operational functions, enriching their experience-based understanding of money and banking.

Also, on the second day of the conference, Dr. Najjarzadeh, the CEO, and Samad Aziz-Nejad, a member of the BoDs of BMI will attend analytical meetings and present their views about the financing of enterprises, the value chain, capacities, and regulatory and monitoring.

Over the years, the CBI and its Research Institute have consistently aimed to ensure that the conference on monetary and foreign exchange policies contributes to decision-making.



سی و یکمین همایش سالانه سیاست‌های پولی و ارزی
بازآرایی سیاست‌های پولی و نظارتی با نگاهی به قانون جدید بانک مرکزی



BMI rewards anyone using a bank card

Holders of any bank credit cards doing banking operations of more than 200 thousand Tomans using point of sale (POS), applications, and payment websites belonging to Digital Payment Services Company, SADAD, will be included in the lottery of 95 prizes of 100 million Rials of the Bank Melli of Iran (BMI).

As per MBI's public relations, the National Acceptor Plan (Pazirandeh Melli Plan) aids businesses in consolidating their banking and payment services via the bank's widespread branch network, preventing the dispersion of banking tasks and time wastage.

Pazirandeh Melli Plan awards valuable prizes to Bank Melli POS cardholders or customers with cards from other banks each month starting January 21, 2024.

In the festival, every 100,000 Tomans transaction with any bank card earns one point; Additionally, BMI POS owners can participate in the festival with a minimum of 30 million Tomans in monthly transactions by POS.

Bank offers up to 50 billion Rials at the approved rate or 2 billion Rials interest-free for device owners. Additionally, 10 billion Rials are available monthly for car purchase via lottery (1 point per 1 million Tomans).



Hamas views ceasefire proposal “positively”

Palestinians respond to Biden’s speech

From page 1 ▶ possibly alluding to Netanyahu himself or his security minister Itamar ben-Gvir and finance minister Bezalel Smotrich. Both of whom have threatened to topple the government if Netanyahu ends the war.

That has led some news outlets to speculate if Biden made contact with Israeli leaders opposed to Netanyahu (such as Benny Gantz who recently declared he was stepping down from the war cabinet) and bypassed the Israeli premier.

Biden is a self-proclaimed “proud Zionist”, something he regularly sought to make clear during his speech.

He is facing a major domestic problem with university students leading a growing anti-war movement ahead of the November presidential elections.

The U.S. president may have also received intelligence that



the Israeli military has failed in Gaza amid an eight-month campaign that has killed and injured tens of thousands of women and children.

“Indefinite war in pursuit of an unidentified notion of ‘total victory’ ... will only bog down Israel in Gaza, draining the economic,

military and human resources, and furthering Israel’s isolation in the world,” Biden said.

“That will not bring hostages home. That will not bring an enduring defeat of Hamas,” he added.

The U.S. may have lost patience

with Netanyahu, which experts say makes it difficult to see how the Israelis would accept the latest ceasefire proposal.

“If Hamas comes to negotiate ready to deal, then Israel negotiations must be given a mandate, the necessary flexibility to close that deal,” Biden pointed out.

Netanyahu’s office said the war would not end until all goals – including the “elimination of Hamas’ military and governmental capabilities” – are achieved.

The Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called on Netanyahu to take the ceasefire.

The ball is and always has been in the Israeli court, not Hamas.

The other major issue among Palestinians would be if the U.S. can be trusted. Washington has allowed multiple war crimes to take place in Gaza with American-made bombs.

Anti-IsraeI sentiment sweeping Egypt

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN – Public sentiments against Israel have been growing among Egyptian people since the Tel Aviv regime launched war on the Gaza Strip on October 7.

The recent deaths of two Egyptian soldiers at the hands of Israeli troops have fueled considerable resentment against the Zionist regime.

Abdallah Ramadan was killed in an exchange of fire between Egyptian and Israeli forces near the Rafah border crossing in the southern Gaza Strip on Monday.

Ibrahim Islam Abdelrazzaq, the other soldier, later succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the gun battle.

Their funerals were held last week as people expressed outrage over their killings by Israeli forces.

Their deaths also sparked anger on social media platforms, the only window for freedom of speech in the Arab country. Many social media users called the soldiers martyrs and heroes who have sacrificed their lives to defend the country.

They blamed the Egyptian army for not organizing full military funerals for the slain soldiers.

This came amid heightened tensions between Cairo and Tel Aviv after the Israeli army took control of the Gazan side of the Rafah crossing on May 7 following a ground assault on the city.

More than half of Gaza’s 2.3 population had been crammed into Rafah before Israel carried out an incursion into the city and took control of a buffer zone along the border between the strip and Egypt.

According to the UN, over one million people have fled Gaza since Israel’s assault on the city nearly a month ago.

Egypt has already issued a stern warning to Israel over the Rafah offensive amid reports that the regime seeks to forcibly transfer Gaza’s population to the Sinai Peninsula.

The recent gun battle incident has plunged relations between Egypt and Israel to a new low. According to the Wall Street Journal, Egypt told Israel it will not hesitate to respond militarily if it feels its security has been threatened.

Egypt says the Israeli military presence in the Gaza buffer zone appears to violate the Camp David Accords of 1978, the US-brokered agreements that led to a peace treaty between Cairo and Tel Aviv a year later.

Following Israel’s incursion into Rafah, reports suggested that Egypt had threatened to suspend the treaty if the Rafah offensive continued.

Egypt has also announced it will formally join the case filed by South Africa against Israel at the International Court of Justice, which accuses the regime of genocide in the Gaza Strip.

Israel says its offensive in Rafah, which has sparked global condemnation, is in line with its efforts to achieve “total victory” over Hamas and “destroy” the resistance group.

This dream has remained elusive in the face of growing support for the Palestinian resistance. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also been accused of seeking to prolong the war for his political purposes.

In the meantime, the gun battle between the Israeli and Egyptian forces clearly indicates that the Netanyahu regime does not scruple to violate the accords, that Tel Aviv signed with Cairo 45 years ago, for its military and political goals.

Israel has also signed normalization deals with some Arab states over the recent past years. Palestinians have called these agreements a stab in the back of the Palestinian people and their cause.

People in Egypt and other Arab countries that have normalized ties with Israel regard Israel as their number one enemy.

Such resentment and Israel’s warmongering attitude toward Egyptian forces should serve as a red flag for states seeking to build relationships with the regime.

Israel is an apartheid regime that has butchered more than 36,000 Palestinians in the nearly eight-month-old war on Gaza. Normalization deals cannot change the savage nature of Israel. As the saying goes, a leopard cannot change its spots!

Palestinians’ goals cannot be limited by ‘crumbs’ offered by two-state solution

By Xavier Villar

MADRID – The Spanish government officially recognized the State of Palestine on May 28th following a decision adopted by the Council of Ministers. The decision was announced to the parliament by Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.

In his institutional statement, Sánchez justified this decision as “the only way to move towards a solution that we all recognize as the only possible one: that of a State of Palestine coexisting alongside the State of Israel in peace and security.”

In addition to Spain, Ireland and Norway have taken the same step, joining more than 140 countries that already recognize Palestine. In response, Israel has summoned the ambassadors of the three European countries for consultations and has warned of possible more severe reprisals in the future.

In this context, Sánchez made Spain’s position clear regarding its recognition of the Palestinian State: “A viable state with the West Bank and Gaza connected by a corridor and unified under the governance of the Palestinian Authority.”

In the institutional appearance, the prime minister added: “This is a historic decision. We are acting in line with what is expected of a great country like Spain. It’s not just a matter of historical justice; it’s the only way to move towards what everyone recognizes as the only possible solution to achieve a peaceful future: a Palestinian state living alongside the State of Israel in security and peace.”

Yolanda Díaz, the second deputy prime minister and leader of the leftist Sumar alliance, which is part of Sánchez’s coalition government, gave an interview on state broadcaster TVE and stated: “This is a historic day; this is the path to peace. But with what we are witnessing in Palestine, it’s not enough.” Díaz emphasized the need for stronger measures: “We must summon the ambassador for consultations, we must join South Africa in an arms embargo against Israel. This is genocide. We are facing a far-right government, Netanyahu’s, which violates human rights and discredits all the institutions of the world, including the UN. Something must be done. We must act against Netanyahu,” added the second deputy prime minister.

The recognition of these three countries (along with the possibility that Slovenia and Malta may follow the same path in the coming weeks) underscores Israel’s increasing international isolation. In recent times, Israel has faced significant diplomatic setbacks. For instance, on May 10th, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in favor of Palestine’s full membership in the UN. Additionally, just over a week ago, the International Criminal Court announced that it was seeking arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Gaza war. With the potential addition of Slovenia and Malta to this movement, Israel’s international isolation appears to be deepening even further.

Despite Israel threats against Spain, it is crucial to remember that what has been recognized is the two-state solution. It is important to note that the idea of “two states” emerged as a response to the Zionists’ inability to successfully colonize the entire Palestine. From a political standpoint, Zionism, as a paradigm of settler colonialism, seeks absolute domination over all Palestinian territory. Therefore, the notion of “two states” does not align with Zionism’s colonial vision but rather arises as a result of material limitations.

According to the prevailing narrative, the “two-state solution” refers to the diplomatic process initiated in the 1970s, aimed at establishing a sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel. The first bilateral breakthrough in this direction came with the Oslo Accords, which were initially confidential. In these agreements, the Palestinians, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the Israelis, agreed on a declaration of principles aimed at creating the Palestinian Authority as an interim government, supposedly paving the way for a final agreement. These agreements were primarily a declaration of principles that did not detail what that state would look like. In fact, the word “state” in reference to the Palestinians was not even mentioned. It was two years later, in what is known as Oslo II, when negotiations became more concrete, discussing details and methods to establish what would become the Palestinian Authority on the ground.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

WORLD HEADLINES

NY police arrest pro-Palestinian demonstrators



Hundreds of people protesting Israel’s war in Gaza marched to the Brooklyn Museum Friday afternoon, set up tents in the lobby and unfurled a “Free Palestine” banner from the building’s roof before police moved in to make arrests.

New York City police officers tackled and punched some protesters during scuffles that broke out in the crowd outside the museum, AP reported.

Other protesters held banners, waved Palestinian flags and chanted boisterously on the steps of the grand, Beaux Arts museum, which is the city’s second largest.

The New York City Police Department says arrests were made, but it is unknown exactly how many people were taken into custody.

Thousands rally in Jakarta to condemn Israeli atrocities

Thousands of pro-Palestinian supporters held a mass demonstration on Saturday in front of the United States embassy on Jalan Medan Merdeka Selatan, Central Jakarta, condemning Israeli atrocities in the Rafah refugee camp.

The protest, themed “A Billion Curses for Zionist Israel,” was organized to show sympathy and support for the Palestinian people, particularly following an Israeli airstrike on May 26 in Rafah that killed at least 45 Palestinians, including many women and children.

The protesters in Jakarta chanted anti-Zionist and anti-US slogans.

Several religious leaders, celebrities, and politicians delivered speeches.

Palestinian child dies of malnutrition

A Palestinian child starved to death on Saturday in the central Gaza Strip due to Israel’s ongoing blockade of the Rafah crossing, which has prevented humanitarian aid from entering for nearly

Pro-Israel former US envoy to UN in spotlight again for backing massacre in Gaza

Nikki Haley, former US envoy to the UN and former Republican candidate for the US 2024 presidential elections, has again drawn attention with her political support and closeness to Israel, which continues its attacks on Gaza, Anadolu Agency reports.

Haley, who withdrew from the presidential election race because she could not get enough support, came to the spotlight again as she wrote “Finish Them” on an artillery shell during her visit to northern Israel.

Standing out with her intense support for Israel, she called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to “Finish Them”, referring to Palestinians, in her Instagram post the day after the October 7, 2023 attacks.

Haley was on the agenda with her statements revealing her unconditional support to Israel during her term as the governor of South Carolina from 2011 to 2017 and as the US ambassador to the UN from 2017 to 2018.

a month.

“A 13-year-old Palestinian child has died due to starvation in Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip amidst the closure of the Rafah border crossing,” the Palestinian official news agency Wafa reported.

So far, malnutrition and dehydration have claimed the lives of 37 people in the Gaza Strip due to strict restrictions on humanitarian aid entering the besieged enclave, it added.

Israel has kept the Rafah crossing for nearly a month sparking warnings of a deteriorating humanitarian situation due to the lack of essential supplies reaching Palestinians, particularly in the northern Gaza Strip.

Biden claims Israel’s war on Gaza not genocide

US President Joe Biden has said that his administration rejects the International Criminal Court’s (ICC) application for arrest warrants against Israeli leaders, saying there is “no equivalence between Israel and Hamas”.

“What’s happening is not genocide. We reject that, and we’ll always stand with Israel and the threats against its security,” he said at a Jewish American Heritage Month event at the White House on Friday, according to Al Jazeera.

Biden said that his support for the safety and security of Israelis is “ironclad”.

Israel stands accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. The regime has slaughtered more than 36,000 Palestinians since October 7. The majority of the victims are women and children.

Hezbollah shoots down Israeli drone

Fighters from the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement have intercepted and shot down an Israeli unmanned aerial vehicle as it was flying in the skies over southern Lebanon.

Lebanon’s al-Manar television channel, citing a brief Hezbollah statement, reported that the group targeted and downed an Israeli Hermes 900 drone with appropriate weapons over Lebanese territory on Saturday afternoon, Press TV reported.

The statement noted that the operation was carried out following careful monitoring of the Zionist enemy’s moves.

The Israeli military later confirmed in a statement that one of its drones had been shot down over southern Lebanon.

It says the Hermes 900 drone was hit by a surface-to-air missile while operating in the area.

The Hermes 900 is a medium-sized drone, which reportedly has the endurance to fly for over 36 hours and up to 30,000 feet (9,144 meters) and can carry a maximum payload of 350 kilograms.

In 2015, as governor, Haley signed a bill to stop the activities of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.

The BDS Movement, which seeks to isolate the Israeli regime academically, culturally, politically and, to some extent, economically, is seen by the Israeli government and its supporters as one of the “greatest strategic threats”.

While the bill Haley signed does not directly mention Israel, it prevents public entities from signing contracts with businesses that boycott an organization or individual with whom they do business under South Carolina’s open trade law.

With Haley’s signature, South Carolina became the first state in the country to enact such a measure into law.

Then-governor Haley said she was proud of the BDS legislation and it was her “privilege” to have signed it.

(See full text at www.tehrantimes.com)

Foreign passenger entries spike by 55% at Nordooz Border



TEHRAN - Foreign passenger entries through the Nordooz border, located in Aras Free Zone, have surged by 55% in the course of the last Persian year (ended in March 2024).

An official with the Aras Free Zone Organization, speaking on Saturday, revealed that the number of inbound tourists entering through the Nordooz border was increased by 55% reaching 161,067, compared to the same figure of a year earlier.

In line with introducing the tourism and historical attractions of the region, numerous familiarization tours have been held for Armenian travel agencies, leading to an increase in the entry of inbound passengers from the Nordooz border, Mohsen Mohammadzadeh continued.

He also pinpointed that the development of logistics at the border and increased communication with the Armenian Tourism Federation are among the main reasons for the increase in inbound trips through the Nordooz border.

Mohammadzadeh emphasized the need to maximize the use of the capacities of the world-famous Saint Stepanos and Chupan churches to attract Armenian tourists.

The official also stated that last year, information infrastructure in the Nordooz area was completed to guide inbound travelers towards the historical attractions and geopark of Aras.

"Armenia is a tourist-friendly country," he added. "And one of the organization's strategies is to establish combined tours to attract tourists of other nationalities traveling to Armenia."

Moreover, Mohammadzadeh announced formation of a specialized committee to attract foreign tourists, focusing on neighboring countries.

"With the formation of this committee, we aim to create specialized communications, introduce tourism capacities and attractions," the official elaborated. "And ultimately attract more foreign tourists to the region." The Aras Free Zone is located in the northwest of Iran. Established in 2005, it spans an area of approximately 51,000 hectares and is strategically positioned along major transportation routes connecting Europe to Asia. The free zone aims to promote economic growth and international trade by offering various incentives and benefits to businesses and investors.

The Aras Free Zone is also known for its efforts to promote tourism and cultural exchange. The region boasts a rich historical and cultural heritage, with attractions such as ancient monuments, religious sites, and natural landscapes.

Overall, the Aras Free Zone plays a vital role in Iran's economic development strategy, serving as a gateway for international trade and investment while also promoting regional tourism.

'carefully placed' horses in ancient burial may have been part of a sacrificial ritual

Archaeologists in France have discovered ancient pits containing the skeletal remains of more than two dozen stallions, which may have been part of a sacrificial ritual.

The 3-acre (1.2 hectares) excavation site, located in a valley near the commune of Villedieu-sur-Indre in central France, dates to sometime between the fifth and sixth centuries.

It includes several buildings and ditches, as well as a grouping of nine pits, according to a translated statement from the French National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research.

So far, archaeologists have excavated two of the pits, which contain the remains of a total of 28 horses.

The stallions were "carefully placed" on their right sides, with their heads facing south, and were "organized in two rows and on two levels," according to the statement.

Based on this positioning, the researchers determined that all of the horses were buried at the same time in an "extraordinary" burial.

Radiocarbon dating shows that the animals

died sometime between 100 BC and 100 CE. Because the horses are small — roughly 3 feet (1 meter) tall — researchers suspect the animals were Gallic livestock. All of the horse skeletons are from adult males.

One pit also contained a pair of medium-size adult dogs that were buried with their heads facing west.

Archaeologists are unsure of the animals' cause of death, but they hypothesized that the horses and dogs may have been part of a sacrificial ritual.

Further research is necessary, but archaeologists think the site also might be related to a Neolithic burial site in Auvergne to the south, where excavations several decades earlier revealed dozens of ancient burials and artifacts that were part of a mass sacrifice.

Archaeologists think the newly discovered burial, as well as another horse burial at the Gallic site of Gondola containing "eight riders and their horses," may be linked to the Gallic Wars, which were led by the Roman general Julius Caesar between 58 and 50 BC.

(Source: Live Science)

Esfahak hosts overseas tourists amid global village bid

TEHRAN - A group of tourists hailing from different nations have toured Esfahak, a historical village in eastern Iran, aligning with underway efforts to secure its status as a Global Tourism Village.

A local official in charge of tourism, stated that the group, comprising tourists from Canada, Australia, and Germany, visited the historic and natural attractions as well as the

handicrafts of Esfahak, staying overnight on Friday.

This is the second group of foreign tourists visiting Tabas and Esfahak in the past month, according to Mohammad Arab.

"Additionally, a German cyclist and a French motorcyclist," he continued. "Have recently toured the attractions of the region."

Moreover, Arab highlighted that the historical fabric of Esfahak village, registered nationally, is being reviewed by the World Tourism Organization for possible recognition as a Global Tourism Village.

He emphasized the extensive efforts made in preparing the documentation for this international registration.

In his concluding remarks, Arab

expressed optimism that Esfahak, progressing steadily towards global recognition, will soon achieve this status.

In 2020, Esfahak won a TO-DO Award that is annually presented by the German Institute for Tourism and Development.

The ancient village boasts a mild climate ideal for crop growth, presenting lush scenery nearly every-

where you look. Its houses typically feature domed roofs and small windows.

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

According to local tourism officials, the original essence of Es-

fahak was tragically altered by a 7.4 earthquake in 1978. Following the quake, a new village was constructed adjacent to the old one, which had been heavily affected. Today, with the active involvement of the locals, the refurbished village has been transformed into a tourist destination with plentiful eco-lodge units.

Tourists get to know Persepolis through a digital voyage

TEHRAN - Persepolis, Iran's crown jewel of ancient civilization, has opened its gates to the world with the launch of a comprehensive website and an immersive audio guide.

"With the launch of this website," Director of the World Heritage site brought to light on Saturday.

"Easy and comprehensive access to information, details, and event scheduling at this global site has been provided for the general public and enthusiasts."

Alireza Askari-Chavardi further elaborated that this website includes various sections such as "About Persepolis," "Achaemenid Artifacts," "Knowledge Base," and "Tourism," each providing a detailed introduction to this historical collection.

Unique features of the Persepolis World Heritage Site website include a three-dimensional virtual tour, live broadcasting from Persepolis, a rich image gallery, and informative tourism sections including visitation information, accommodations, restaurants, and access routes, aiding visitors in fully acquainting themselves with the Persepolis World Heritage Site and experiencing a memorable journey before their visit, according to Askari-Chavardi.

The purpose of including "Live Broadcasting from Persepolis" on this website, he continued.

"Is to present a live and accurate depiction of Persepolis, as Iran's most important World Heritage Site and one of the masterpieces of ancient archi-



ture, to the general enthusiasts.

The Persepolis website, serves as a reliable source of information in the field of Persepolis and the Achaemenid era, the director noted.

Unique features of the Persepolis World Heritage Site website include a three-dimensional virtual tour.

Askari-Chavardi further explained that users and visitors of this website can regularly stay informed about the latest news, events, visiting hours, light and sound programs, and information related to Persepolis, and stay up-to-date with the latest developments and related pro-

grams.

This website also provides direct communication with the management of the site and relevant experts, he highlighted.

"The Persepolis website is continuously being updated and expanded to make the experience of visiting Persepolis more useful and engaging for everyone," Askari-Chavardi elaborated.

According to the director, in the Suggestions section of the website, tourists can provide their feedback to improve services, and on the other hand, research proposals are provided for researchers interested in researching and studying Persepolis.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, situated in the Fars province of modern-day Iran, stands as a testament to the grandeur of the ancient Persian Empire.

Constructed primarily during the reign of Darius the Great in the 6th century BCE, Persepolis served as the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire,

one of the most powerful empires of the ancient world.

Its name, meaning "City of Persians," reflects its significance as a political and cultural center, where kings received tribute from subject nations and celebrated the annual festival of Nowruz, marking the Persian New Year and the onset of spring.

Persepolis was adorned with impressive palaces, grand staircases, and intricately carved reliefs depicting scenes of royal ceremonies, battles, and symbolic representations of power and authority.

Despite its splendor, Persepolis met its tragic fate in 330 BCE when it was sacked and looted by Alexander the Great during his conquest of the Persian Empire.

The city was subsequently abandoned and gradually fell into ruin, buried beneath centuries of sand and neglect.

Rediscovered in the 17th century, Persepolis has since been recognized as one of the world's most important archaeological sites, offering invaluable insights into the art, architecture, and history of the ancient world.

In 1979, it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, further underscoring its significance as a cultural treasure of humanity.

Today, Persepolis continues to captivate visitors from around the globe with its majestic ruins and enduring legacy, serving as a reminder of the rise and fall of empires and the enduring spirit of human civilization.

Push for cultural heritage education in Iran's curriculum

TEHRAN - Ali Darabi has advocated for the inclusion of "Cultural Heritage" courses in Iran's national curriculum, aiming to deepen students' connection to their heritage.

Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has proposed adding courses on "Cultural Heritage" and "Familiarity with Cultural Heritage" to the structure of the educational curriculum in a letter to the Secretary of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution.

Darabi suggested in the letter to Hojatoleslam Abdul-Hossein Khosro-Panah, that the course "Cultural Heritage" be added to the structure of the educational curriculum, with allocated hours for education in museums and historical-cultural sites.

He also called for the examination and planning to add the course "Familiarity

with Cultural Heritage" to the list of general courses in bachelor's degree programs at universities.

Darabi emphasized the importance of recognizing and introducing tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the country's formal education system.

"Cultural heritage, as the most important pillar of strengthening the cultural bonds of society and a rich source of indigenous knowledge and experiences," the deputy minister stated in part of the letter.

"Is an area that, if recognized, introduced, and properly utilized, especially in educational fields, can be an effective foundation and platform for the development and growth of the country."

The Cultural Heritage Ministry, he underscored in the letter, is fully prepared to col-



laborate with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology in planning the content of courses and programs, compiling educational resources, planning to provide teachers, and providing opportunities for students to visit museums and historical sites within the framework of cultural heritage educational programs.

Vacancy Notice



The Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in I.R.Iran, intends to recruit a Logistics and Operations Assistant (FTA) at GS5 level for its office in Tehran, Iran.

Details of the Advertised vacancy can be found on UNFPA website on the following link:

<https://iran.unfpa.org>

Please apply online by 19 June 2024, 12:00 PM Tehran Time.

This vacancy is open only for Iranian Nationals.

Important Note:

- ▶ There is no application, processing or other fees at any stage of the application process
- ▶ UNFPA does not solicit or screen for information in respect of HIV/AIDS or disabilities and does not discriminate on the basis of HIV/AIDS status or disabilities
- ▶ Women and people with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

Venice bans large tourist groups and loudspeakers

New rules banning loudspeakers and limiting tour group sizes to 25 people have come into force in Venice.

The measures have been introduced to limit the impact of over-tourism on the Italian city, officials say.

The canals of Venice's historic quarter make the city one of the most visited places in Europe.

Venice introduced a €5 (£4) daily entry fee earlier this year, after initially banning cruise ships from docking in the quarter in 2021.

Over-tourism is widely regarded as

one of the most urgent issues for Venice, which has a population of around 250,000 people and saw more than 13 million visitors in 2019.

Visitor numbers have fallen since, but they are expected to exceed pre-pandemic levels in the coming years.

Venice has seen an exodus of local residents over fears tourists could overwhelm the historic island city.

Ocio, a citizen's association tracking housing in the city, said in a recent update that the historic quarter had around 49,000 beds for tourists to rent - more

than the number available for residents.

The changes to tourism rules come after experts from UNESCO warned last year Venice could be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger, as the impact of climate change and mass tourism threaten to cause irreversible changes to it.

The UN cultural body did not add Venice to the list in the end, after recognizing attempts to address the island's problems via an anti-flooding system and measures to reduce the impact of mass tourism.

(Source: BBC)

Wildlife population grows by 35% in breeding centers

TEHRAN –Over the past two years, the populations of Persian yellow deer, Persian zebras, jeb-eer gazelle, and gazelle have experienced a 35 percent growth in breeding centers, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE) has said.

With a 65 percent increase, the number of gazelle species in breeding centers in South Khorasan, Khorasan Razavi, Kordestan, Khuzestan, and Bushehr has soared from 188 to 309, IRNA quoted Gholam-Reza Ebdali as saying.

The number of Persian yellow deer has increased from 288 to 344, a 19 percent increase, in eight breeding centers in Ardebil, Ilam, Fars, Yazd, Mazandaran, West Azarbaijan, and Khuzestan provinces.

The main habitat of fallow deer in the country includes western and southwestern areas, but the declining trend in the number of this valuable species in the 1330s (falling 1951- 1961) led to measures to save them since the late decade.

Since the past 60 years, the species have inhabited protected areas, and the most important center for the reproduction of fallow deer is the semi-natural breeding site of Dasht-e Naz in the city of Sari, where in the last two years the population of the species has grown significantly.

There has been a 22 percent increase in Persian zebras' number with currently 44 zebras up from 36 in the past two years, he noted.

The Persian onager, also called the Persian zebra, is a subspecies of onager native to Iran.

It is listed as 'Endangered',



with no more than 1,000 individuals left in the wild and only 30 individuals living within North American institutions.

Persian onagers are known to inhabit mountain steppes, semidesert, or desert plains. They are usually found in desert steppes. Their largest population is found in Khar Turan National Park.

Zebras have a weak reproduction ability and normally one foal is left out of every three foals of this species, he stated that the probability of survival of the male zebra foal is weak, because the male zebra does not accept the male foal and kills it, and this factor causes the population of zebras to decrease.

The long gestation period and the lack of twins are among the other effective factors in reducing the population of Persian onagers.

Currently, poaching for meat and hides, competition with livestock, and drought are the greatest threats to this species. Asiatic zebras are highly and legally protected; hunting them is forbidden.

One of the top priorities of the

breeding centers to prevent the loss of valuable animal genes by protecting the species, Ebdali further noted.

More than 8,000, 2,000, and 25,000 species of plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates, respectively, show Iran's rich biodiversity and the importance of its preservation.

Wildlife conservation, which includes protecting all living things on the planet, plant, and animal species, and microorganisms, means preserving the components of a large network, wherein all the components are interconnected and depend on each other in different ways.

People everywhere rely on wildlife and biodiversity-based resources to meet their needs - from food, to fuel, medicines, housing, and clothing. By saving wildlife we protect all forms of life on the planet, ourselves, and ultimately maintain the balance of life on the earth.

There are many threats to endangered wildlife species, including mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and birds.

Habitat destruction, fragmentation, and modification caused by human-led activities such as industrial and residential development, logging, crop farming, livestock grazing, mining, road and dam building, and pesticide use have taken an extreme toll on threatened and endangered wildlife populations at an alarming rate.

Currently, about 128 species of animals and vertebrates in the country are at risk of extinction, some of which are not in good condition, and amphibians are the most vulnerable in this area.

DOE is safeguarding wildlife species by placing strong emphasis on public participation, as well. Agreements signed with various private sectors have resulted in an increase in the population of these species, Ebdali mentioned.

Breeding endangered animals in captivity or breeding centers under the supervision of the DOE primarily aims to ensure population increase which will definitely impact the animals' population in wildlife once they are released in their habitats, he noted.

Currently, 105 breeding centers for valuable wildlife species including cheetahs, zebras, rams, and sheep are operating across the country. A total of 32 species are managed by the DOE and 73 are run by private sectors.

The main task of the DOE is to preserve species in nature and their original habitat, but factors such as development and land use change have destroyed and insularized their habitats and reduced the number of prey, the official stated.

Consequently, species such as cheetah, Persian yellow deer, and zebra are in danger of extinction, so the DOE has established

vulnerability in Iran, according to Mehdi Zare, a professor of engineering seismology.

Iran has entered a decade of earthquakes since the [Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), as the Iranian plateau is shrinking by 30 millimeters per year, Mehdi Zare, professor of engineering seismology at the International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES), has said.

The Strait of Hormuz region in the south of Iran has the highest seismic activity in the region and its formation is related to the continuation of the convergent movement between the Arabian plate and the central continental plate of Iran.

Tehran is also one of the most hazardous metropolises in the world in terms of the risk of different natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, subsidence, drought, landslides, fire following an earthquake, etc.

On the other hand, Tehran has a nighttime population of over 8,300,000 with a mixture of old non-resistant structures as well as modern high-rise buildings that affect the vulnerability of this city.

Almost 515 earthquakes occur in a month

TEHRAN – A total of 513 earthquakes have been recorded across the country over the past calendar month that ended on May 19, according to the seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

The epicenter of 26 earthquakes was in neighboring countries, namely Azerbaijan (5), Afghanistan (6), Turkey (2), and Turkmenistan (2), Iraq (7), and Armenia (2).

Of the total quakes, 1 had a magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter scale which occurred on May 11 with the epic center in Haftanin, Azerbaijan, but tremors were also felt in Gilan and Ardebil provinces.

Statistically, 238 earthquakes with magnitudes smaller than 2; 214 earthquakes with magnitudes between 2 and 3; 54 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3 and 4, and 6 earthquakes with magnitudes between 4 and 5 have occurred in the country.

Among the provinces of the country, Khorasan Razavi with 70, North Khorasan with 68, and Kerman with 39, respectively, recorded the highest number of earthquakes in the country.

A total of 6,949 earthquakes were recorded across the country over the past calendar year (March 2023 -March 2024) according to the Seismological networks of the Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran.

Most of the earthquakes happened respectively in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi, southeastern Kerman, northwestern West Azarbaijan, and eastern South Khorasan provinces, ISNA reported.

Statistically, 2, 268 earthquakes were less than 2 on the Richter scale, 3,685 were between 2 and 3, 796 were between 3 and 4, 181 were between 4 and 5, 22 were between 5 and 6, and 5 were between 6 and 7.

The Iranian plateau is located in a very seismically active region of the world and is known not only for its major catastrophic earthquakes but also for the disasters relating to natural hazards, especially earthquakes.

About 2 percent of the earthquakes in the world occur in Iran but more than 6% of the victims of the world earthquakes during the 20th century are reported from Iranian earthquakes. This shows the high level of

ENGLISH IN USE

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Water ambulances to join medical emergency fleet

Five water ambulances will be added to the current medical emergency fleet in provinces neighboring the Persian Gulf, southern coast of the country, head of Iran's Emergency Medical Services Organization Pir Hossein Koulivand, said on Wednesday.

Since air emergency fleet have been developed, the Organization is looking forward to develop the marine medical fleet, he said, adding that in recent years, there were only five helicopters in service of the Organization, which have already added to 40.

شناورهای دریایی به اورژانس کشور می پیوندند

رئیس سازمان اورژانس کشور با بیان اینکه در حال توسعه اورژانس دریایی هستیم، گفت: در حال حاضر اضافه کردن پنج شناور دریایی اورژانس به استان های همسایه خلیج فارس در دستور کارمان قرار دارد. دکتر پیرحسین کولیوند در گفت و گو با ایستا، گفت: همانطور که ناوگان هوایی اورژانس را توسعه دادیم، در حال حاضر هم به دنبال تکمیل و توسعه ناوگان دریایی اورژانس هستیم. باید توجه کرد که در گذشته فقط پنج بالگرد اورژانس داشتیم، اما در حال حاضر با اقداماتی که انجام شده ۴۰ بالگرد و پایگاه اورژانس هوایی تامین و ایجاد شده که واقعا افتخاری برای کشور است.

Iran boosts health diplomacy in Geneva

TEHRAN – Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has met some of his counterparts on the sidelines of the 77th World Health Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, exploring avenues to bolster collaborations in the health and medicine sector.

Einollahi met the health ministries of Cuba, Armenia, and Zimbabwe, from May 27 to June 1, IRNA reported.

While meeting Einollahi, the Cuban health minister, José Angel Portal Miranda, expressed interest in developing cooperation with Iran, particularly in the field of medicine and medical equipment.

"The Joint Economic Commission meeting in Havana in mid-June this year provides a valuable opportunity to learn about the capabilities of the Cuban health system," he added.

Einollahi, for his part, said, "The cooperation between Iran and Cuba during the Covid-19 outbreak led to the joint production of the Soberana vaccine."

Highlighting Iran's capabilities in the health sector, Einollahi invited the Cuban official to pay a visit to the country and gain more insight into Iran's capabilities in various fields of health.

The Zimbabwean health minister, Douglas Mombeshora, also met Einollahi.

"We have a keen interest in boosting cooperation with Iran in the field of medicine and medical equipment," the official said.

The export of Iranian medical equipment to Zimbabwe can lead to the creation of new markets in other countries, specifically African countries, Mombeshora added.

During the meeting, Einollahi, stressing that Iran's health system has rich capabilities in different fields of health, declared readiness for cooperation in various sectors such as education, treatment, medicine, and medical equipment.

The Iranian health minister also met his Armenian counterpart, Anahita Avanesyan.

The officials highlighted the importance of developing cooperation between the two countries.

Lauding Iranian-made products for their high quality, the Armenia minister expressed interest in fostering health ties.

She also extended an invitation to Iranian companies to participate in the upcoming medicine and medical equipment exhibition, which is slated to be held in Yerevan in August, to showcase their latest products and achievements in the health sector.

Einollahi, for his part, referring to the Armenian health minister's visit to the country in the Iranian year 1401 (March 2022-2023) stated, "We hope that the previous agreements will be expeditiously implemented through a time-bound action plan supported by the formation of a joint working group between the health ministries of the two countries."

Throughout the meetings, the officials agreed

Over 40 projects to be implemented to organize foreign nationals

TEHRAN –The National Organization for Migration is planning to implement an inclusive plan encompassing 40 projects to organize foreign nationals and refugees.

The projects include locating and returning unauthorized nationals; blocking borders; reforming passport issuance; intensifying deterrent fines; and seeking guarantees by employers, IRNA quoted Abdollah Mobini, the head of the National Organization for Migration, as saying.

Currently, the inclusive plan is being conducted in two provinces to identify the probable problems and the ways to deal with them.

Organizing nationals in other areas is also on the agenda.

Constructing border wall

A border wall is scheduled to be constructed along Iran-Afghanistan borders to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the country.

The proposed project is planned to be completed in Khorasan Razavi province within a three-year period with a budget of 1.8 trillion rials (about three million dollars).

The project includes the construction of a four-meter-wide concrete wall, equipped with barbed wire and fence, as well as a road, IRNA reported.

The initiative to secure borders started in the Iranian calendar year 1379 (March 1990 - March 1991), with the aim of intensifying the security of borders in eastern regions of the country. It has been implemented in parts of the Iran-Afghani-



to establish a working group comprised of each country's representative to monitor the timely and efficient implementation of the agreements.

Einollahi appointed Deputy Health Minister Mohammad Hossein Niknam as Iran's representative.

The 77th WHA

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

The strategic roundtables spanned 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 the 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 were 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 65 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.

stan border in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

The project was initially planned to be completed in the Iranian year 1399 (March 2020 - March 2021), but it was postponed due to inadequate funds. Now it is expected to be finished within the next two years.

No permission to stay

In October 2023, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said unauthorized foreigners have no permission to stay in the country and receive services, IRIB reported.

Paying a visit to a center for organizing immigrants in the city of Karaj, he added illegal foreign nationals would be identified and sent to specific camps and then returned to their homeland.

In November 2023, Mobini, said, "Iran has no longer the capacity to accept new immigrants, and if the international community does not bear the responsibility for supporting refugees in Iran, most of them will migrate to European countries."

The Islamic Republic of Iran is currently host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, the majority of whom are Afghan refugees.

The country is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children - including undocumented Afghans and those who have newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban takeover - are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.



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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430

Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

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JUNE 2, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

He who remembers the length of the journey, prepares himself for it.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:02 Evening: 19:37 Dawn: 3:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:49 (tomorrow)

Pro-Gaza protestors stage action at Brooklyn Museum

As afternoon dimmed into evening Friday, the Brooklyn Museum became the stage of one of the most fervent Gaza solidarity actions yet to descend on a New York City art institution.

Starting at 4:30 p.m. inside the lobby, a group of cultural workers, artists, and New York City community members brandished banners, beat drums, and blew whistles, calling for the museum to condemn the killing of Palestinians in Gaza, as well as disclose and divest its financial ties to Israel, Art News reported.

Outside the museum, a hundreds-strong march that began in downtown Brooklyn ended at its glass facade.

Barred from entering the museum, some protestors plastered posters to the doors; others climbed the steps to its exterior mezzanine and upward its glass ceiling, finally unfurling a banner across the museum's neoclassical cornice that read "Free Palestine From Genocide". Police followed the protestors to the roof, while a helicopter circled overhead.

In a statement provided to press ahead of the protest by Cultural Front for Free Palestine, the newly formed advocacy coalition decried the lack of public statements from major art institutions on Israel's eight-month long military campaign in Gaza, which has—as of publication—resulted in the death of more than 35,000 Palestinians.

The statement paid particular attention to Israel's ongoing offensive of the southern Gaza city of Rafah, where some one million Palestinian had been seeking refuge.

The statement calls for the museum to publicly recognize the war in Gaza as a genocide, citing evidence put forth by human rights entities such as the International Federation for Human Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur.

The Cultural Front said it is also demanding a full disclosure of investments linked to companies that "profit from the arming of Israel" and a subsequent divestment from corporations linked to Israel, in addition to "all arms and surveillance manufacturers."

"The Museum relies heavily on subsidies from the City of New York, along with the granting of the land it sits on, and so its financial doings should be publicly accountable. That process of accountability should also involve the disclosure of funds from donors and trustees who are heavily implicated in the Occupation," the statement added.

The Brooklyn Museum has previously been targeted by pro-Palestine demonstrations.

On December 8, around 20 protestors affiliated with the activist groups Decolonize This Place and Within Our Lifetime staged a guerilla action inside the lobby, echoing the calls of similar demonstrations to "disclose and divest." The next day, hundreds of protestors gathered at the museum as the starting point of a planned march that swept across the Brooklyn Bridge and ended at City Hall. Both protests called out the museum's corporate partnership with Bank of New York Mellon, which has investments in Israeli weapons manufacturer Elbit Systems and has supported the Friends of Israel Defense Force Donor Advised Fund.

Pro-Palestine protestors have also demonstrated at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Famous art schools, such as Cooper Union in New York and the Rhode Island School of Design, have experienced occupations and walkouts by students, faculty, and alumni dissatisfied with a presumed apathy to the war in Gaza.

On Friday at the Brooklyn Museum, police and museum security staff dispelled protestors inside the museum lobby—no protestors entered the galleries—around 5:20 p.m. By then, the floor was scattered with synthetic red poppy petals, which has been adopted as a symbol of resistance by protestors due to the flower's indigeneity to Palestine. The protestors, holding banners that read among other slogans, "Silence = Death," remained peaceful. Several tents had been erected in the lobby by protestors intending to transition into an overnight occupation.

Cartoon of Day



Rafah Carnage

Cartoonist: Ameen Alhabarah from Saudi Arabia

26th Shanghai International Film Festival to screen seven Iranian films

From Page 1 ▶ A 2024 production, "The Wasteman" is about a middle-aged wagon driver, of determined demeanor, who trundles a lifeless corpse towards the cemetery of a strange, silent village bereft of all apparent life.

Ali Bagheri is the sole actor playing in the 80-minute drama that will have its world premiere at this year's SIFF.

"3 Days, 3 Murders" by Masoud Amini Tirani is the only Iranian film in the Asian New Talent Competition section, competing with 10 movies from India, Japan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Italy, and China.

A production of 2023, it is an experimental film about a house in which three people were murdered years ago and their bodies were buried there for five years.

Shadi Karamroudi, Sonia Sanjari, Behnaz Jafari, Hamid Pourazari, Sahand Kabiri, and Milad Rahimi play in the film that will have its world premiere during the 26th SIFF.

In the Documentary section, "Requiem for a Tribe" by Marjan Khosravi will be screened along with four other movies.

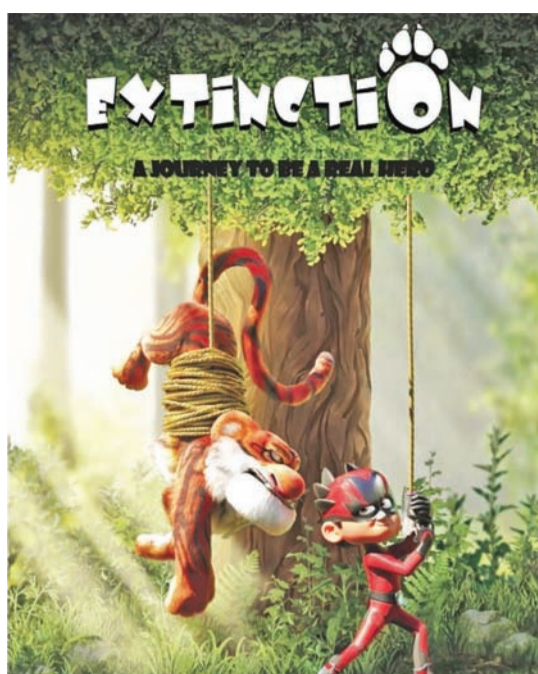
Having its world premiere at the festival, Khosravi's film is a joint production of Iran, Spain, and Qatar made in 2024.

The movie depicts Hajar who is betrayed by her family and forced to abandon her nomadic lifestyle.

Climate change, personal and political issues have drastically diminished the traditional migratory activities of the Bakhtiari tribe in Iran.

The animated short film "Aquatic" by Shiva Sadegh Asadi will have its Asian premiere in the Short Films section.

The 5-minute animation, made in 2024, is about a woman whose ability to give birth to marine creatures is exploited for commercial purposes.



"Extinction" by Behnoud Nekooei, a feature-length animation from Iran, will also be shown in the Animations section of the SIFF.

Also known as "Smart Kid," the 3D animation has been titled the best-selling animation and children's film in Iran, had its national premier at the 41st Fajr Film Festival in Tehran last February, where it won the Best Animation award.

Produced in 2023, it tells the story of Mohsen, a little boy who loves superheroes. He always tries to help anybody he comes across.

Once he encounters an extinct Iranian species and decides to help the animal to get back to his homeland.

However, a trip to the heart of the jungle, fighting the hunters and facing extinct creatures is the start of a complicated adventure for Mohsen.

In the section Global Village: Focus Germany, the Iranian-German film "Empty Nets" by Behrooz Karamzade will be shown.

It tells the story of Amir and



Narges, who have found genuine love in their coastal hometown near the Caspian Sea. However, to gain the approval of Narges' wealthy family, Amir requires a significant amount of money urgently.

Faced with limited options, he secures a job at a nearby fishery, embarking on a perilous yet profitable venture involving the illicit smuggling of black-market caviar.

Hamidreza Abbasi and Sadaf Asgari play the main roles in the film that won the special jury award at the 57th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in Czech in July.

An Iranian film will also be screened in the section SIFF Special: Asian New Talent 20 Collection. "I'm Not Angry" by Reza Dormishian represents Iran in this section.

The 2014 production is the story of Navid, an expelled university student, who - while trying to provide the least requirements of a normal life - tries not to get angry when he is faced with the immoralities prevalent in the society, and does all he can not to

lose his love, Setareh.

Navid Mohammadzadeh, Baran Kosari, Milad Rahimi, Bahram Afshari, Reza Behbudi, Marjan Ghamari, Zahra Meygoli, Amin Miri, and Mehran Mirzaei are in the cast among others.

Founded in 1993, Shanghai International Film Festival is the only competitive film festival in China approved by FIAPF.

SIFF focuses on awards, markets, forums and film exhibitions so as to build an international platform, and promote the development of the Chinese film industry.

In recent years, with the increasing growth of China's economic strength and the rise of its international status, Chinese films have attracted more and more attention from people around the world, and SIFF, held in June annually, has become a great event for filmmakers worldwide, whose universal industry appeal, international influence, and effect on the world's multicultural film culture and development of the film industry have also been praised by people inside and outside the industry.

Tehran cultural center reviews Alex Garland's "Civil War"

TEHRAN- "Civil War", a 2024 war drama by English director Alex Garland, was reviewed at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday.

Film critics Kurosh Jahed and Amir Qaderi attended a screening of the film followed by a review session.

The film takes place during a civil war in the United States, where the federal government is fighting against secessionist movements.

Veteran war photographer Lee Smith and journalist Joel team up with their mentor Sammy to interview the isolated president, despite the odds being against them. Along the way, they meet a young aspiring photojournalist named Jessie, who joins them on their journey.

As they travel through the war-torn country, they face numerous challenges and dangers, including violence, torture, and death. Lee mentors Jessie in photography, and she becomes desensitized to violence as she grows closer to Lee.

Meanwhile, Joel struggles with the moral implications of their actions and the death

of their friend Sammy. The group eventually reaches the White House, where they embed themselves with the Western Forces and prepare to capture the president.

In the final showdown, the group faces off against the remaining Secret Service agents and attempts to negotiate with the president.

However, things take a deadly turn when Lee is fatally shot while trying to protect Jessie. Jessie continues to take photos, capturing the brutal reality of war. In the end, Jessie and Joel are left alone, watching as the Western Forces execute the president and pose with his corpse.

The film ends with a haunting portrayal of the devastating effects of war on those who are caught in its midst.

Alex Garland is an English author, screenwriter, and director who has made a significant impact in the entertainment industry. He first gained recognition with his novel "The Beach" in 1996, which led to a string of critically acclaimed film adaptations, including "28 Days Later" and "Sunshine",



both directed by Danny Boyle. He also wrote the screenplay for "Never Let Me Go" and "Dredd", and collaborated on the video game "Enslaved: Odyssey to the West".

Garland's directorial debut came with the sci-fi thriller "Ex Machina" in 2014, which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay and won three British Independent Film Awards.

His sophomore effort, "Annihilation", a 2018 adaptation of the novel of the same name, was also a critical success.

In addition to his film work, Garland has also ventured into television, writing, directing, and executive producing the FX miniseries "Devs" in 2020.

"A Man at A Distance" published in Persian

TEHRAN- "Un homme à distance" ("A Man at A Distance"), a book by French journalist and novelist Katherine Pancol, has recently been published in Persian.

Farzaneh Fari is the translator of the book, which has been published by Qoqnus Publications in Tehran.

Originally published in 2001, the book revolves around Kay, a librarian living in Fécamp, France.

She is isolated and lives with a deep-seated pain from her past, which is hinted at but never explicitly mentioned.

One day, she receives a letter from Jonathan Shields, an Amer-

ican who is passing through France, requesting a book. As they exchange letters, their initial formal and literary tone gives way to a more personal and intimate tone.

Their conversations become increasingly tender and violent, revealing secrets and desires that they would not have been able to express otherwise. It becomes clear that there is a hidden truth between them, which they are afraid to confront lest they reveal too much and experience too much pain.

Throughout the book, Kay and Jonathan's correspondence becomes a dance of revelation

and concealment, as they navigate their feelings and emotions through the medium of books. But ultimately, the truth will explode, leaving the two protagonists face to face with themselves, without the protection of masks or books.

Katherine Pancol was born in Casablanca, Morocco.

At the age of five, she moved to France, where she pursued a career in literature, teaching French and Latin, and took on various odd jobs before becoming a journalist. She remembers her first published words in black ink, and was overjoyed to see her name printed in a newspa-

per. She went on to write for different publications, honing her skills and learning the "music" of words.

As she continued to write, Katherine discovered a new world within herself. She wrote novels such as "Moi d'abord", "La Barbare", and "Scarlett, si possible", and began to explore different genres and styles. She also wrote scenarios and articles for Elle and Paris-Match, and went on to interview famous personalities such as Meryl Streep, Johnny Depp, and Jacques Chirac. She believes that one can always learn and be surprised by life, and that this is what inspires her to write.