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The endgame: Why war with Hezbollah would spell doom for Israel

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Concerns over the potential for a full-scale war between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement have once again been pushed to the forefront of media debate amid escalating cross-border attacks between the two sides.

Hezbollah and Israel have been trading fire since October 8. That's a day after Israel declared war on Gaza following a surprise military operation conducted by Hamas in southern Israel.

Hezbollah carries out strikes against Israel in solidarity with Palestinian people in Gaza. The resistance movement has stressed that the attacks won't stop unless Israel ends its war of genocide on the besieged Palestinian territory. ▶ Page 5

U.S.-made bombs found in school massacre

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - Western arms experts have identified two bombs used by Israeli warplanes to strike a UN-funded school on Thursday that killed dozens of Palestinians, mostly women and children.

The bombardment of the school-turned-shelter for displaced Palestinians in central Gaza's Nuseirat town was analyzed by several experts as well as Western media investigations.

Verified and authenticated footage taken in the aftermath of the raid shows visible fragments of two American-made GBU-39 bombs.

In a statement on Thursday, the Gaza health ministry said at least 40 people had been killed at the school, including 14 children.

According to the ministry, a further 23 children were injured in the attack, with some in critical condition.

The death toll rose to 45 overnight, according to regional media. ▶ Page 5

The slightest shred of ethics in the Gaza war

By Parviz Rashidi

TEHRAN - Certain Western countries, particularly the United States, have been enabling Israel to go ahead with its vicious and brutal plans against Palestinians.

The enablers of the Israeli criminals and the West have so far escaped accountability due to the flawed international system.

Israel's insane comprehensive war against the Gazans that started after the Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, is a great shock to the international community. The people in the 21st century cannot comprehend so much brutality against a nation.

So much violence against civilians can only be committed ▶ Page 5

Europe wants Iran to commit to JCPOA despite Washington's withdrawal: Putin

TEHRAN - Russian President Vladimir Putin has strongly criticized the European trio (France, Germany, and the United Kingdom) for their hypocritical stance on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

Speaking at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Putin accused the European trio of double standards, as they demand that Iran fully complies with the JCPOA while conveniently ignoring the fact that the United States unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018.

"The United States unilaterally decided to withdraw from this agreement, and the Europeans continue ▶ Page 2



A poster for the documentary released on Friday, June 7, 2024, featuring Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and an edition of the Tehran Times.

Unpacking the new IAEA pressure campaign

By Xavier Villar

MADRID- The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, pointed out that the Agency lacks information regarding the production and inventory of centrifuges, rotors, heavy water, and uranium ore concentrate in Iran.

During a session with the Board of Governors of the IAEA, Grossi stated, "The public statements made in Iran regarding its technical capabilities to produce nuclear weapons and potential changes in its nuclear doctrine only heighten my concerns about the accuracy and integrity of Iran's safeguards declarations."

The Director General of the IAEA also noted that more than three years have passed since Iran ceased applying its Additional Protocol, which has limited the Agency's ability to conduct comprehensive inspections. "There has been no progress in resolving the outstanding safeguards issues," he stated, mentioning the unanswered questions about traces of uranium found at allegedly undeclared sites in Varamin and Turqezabad. ▶ Page 3

Candidates vetting nears end as minister warns of misconduct

TEHRAN— In a recent meeting of Iran's top government officials, Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib reiterated that the behavior of election candidates is being closely monitored, with warnings issued to those exhibiting destructive behavior.

The meeting, held on Wednesday, was aimed at preparing for the implementation of Article 131 of the Constitution and making crucial decisions to hold presidential elections within 50 days of the late President Ebrahim Raisi's martyrdom.

Interim President Mohammad Mokhber hosted the meeting, which included the participation of Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, IRIB Chief Peyman Jebeli, Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib, and other prominent figures.

The session began with a discussion on the central directives of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei. The heads of the branches underscored the importance of using these directives as guiding principles for the election.

During the meeting, Khatib presented a report on the current state of the election and instances of unethical behavior. He emphasized that the behavior of candidates and their supporters is being monitored impartially and continuously. Those engaging in destructive behavior will receive necessary warnings, Khatib said. ▶ Page 2



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Martyr Saeed Abiyar laid to rest in Karaj amidst emotional tributes

TEHRAN - The revered body of martyr Saeed Abiyar, a distinguished figure killed in an Israeli airstrike in Syria, was solemnly interred in Karaj, accompanied by a significant outpouring of public grief and respect.

On Thursday morning, the funeral procession for Saeed Abiyar took place, drawing a large crowd of mourners in Karaj. The event was marked by a palpable sense of reverence and sorrow as the community gathered to pay their final respects to the martyr.

During the ceremony, the attendees, united in their grief and solidarity, expressed their vehement opposition to Zionist actions. The air was filled with chants condemning the perceived oppressors, as slogans of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" echoed through the streets.

Who is Shanbezadeh and why was he arrested?

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN— Ardabil Province Prosecutor General Jalal Afaghi announced the arrest of a fugitive suspect, Hossein Shanbezadeh, in the northwestern city of Ardabil.

Shanbezadeh's background

Shanbezadeh, a notable figure among subversives in cyberspace, was apprehended while attempting to flee the country. After being released from prison, he resumed activities that included insulting Islamic holy figures and cooperating with the Israeli spy agency Mossad. He was in contact with high-ranking Mossad officers through social networks, ostensibly under the guise of editorial work, but was in fact gathering intelligence for the agency.

Opposition-affiliated media have downplayed his arrest. ▶ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

The game of Europe and Agency

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

In an analysis, Kayhan discussed the approval of the resolution against our country's peaceful nuclear program in the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and wrote: This is the fourth time that Western countries, with the lobbying of the Zionist regime, have submitted a resolution against Iran.

Three European countries, along with the United States, who were accused of violating the agreement, accuse Iran of not fulfilling its obligations.

The game of England, France, Germany and America in the International Atomic Energy Agency is a repeated one. They have discredited the technical nature of the Agency and used it as a basis for their interests.

This time, as in some cases in the past, false claims of the Zionist regime against Iran have been cited in the draft resolution of the European troika. It seems that now they intend to put pressure on Iran through the approval of the resolution of the Board of Governors to take revenge for the defeat in the Gaza war and the resulting isolation and hatred in the public opinion of the world. Perhaps, in this way, they would force Iran to change its behavior in support of the Palestinian nation and resistance groups.

Donya-e-Eqtasad: The three islands belong to Iran

In a note, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with the recent position of China regarding the three islands of Iran and said: One of the important developments in China's relations with the Middle East is the support that this country gives to the UAE's position regarding the three islands.

The noticeable point in this matter is that the UAE has found a more prominent position among the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and has become a commercial hub. So, now the UAE can be considered the most important partner of China in the region in many ways. In general, it should be said that having bargaining tools can provide the necessary conditions to influence the policies of other countries. The Arab countries, including the UAE, which vainly claims the three islands and tries to internationalize this issue, have more diplomatic space.

Although this will not mean the success of this country, if the issue is looked at from the point of view of preserving dignity, it reminds us of the need to adopt an active approach, especially in adopting a balanced foreign policy.

Therefore, other countries, including China, will not think that the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tehran urges end to Western backing of Israel to halt tragedy in Palestine

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has condemned the steadfast support of the United States and Europe for Israel, asserting that ending this support is the only way to stop the ongoing tragedy in the occupied Palestinian territories.

"Reports from Gaza repeatedly indicate that violence and suffering remain the harsh reality for hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians. This distressing news must be independently investigated, following the latest International Court of Justice order," Nasser Kanaani stated on the social platform X on Friday.

He emphasized that the Israeli regime's crimes against Palestinian civilians, especially women and children, are evident to the world and are both harrowing and deadly.

"Only a complete and practical cessation of U.S. and European support for the racist Israeli regime can end the tragic violence against the people in Palestine," Kanaani concluded.

Palestinian sources reported that at least 15 people were killed in Israeli bombings targeting central Gaza early on Friday.

On Thursday, an Israeli military strike on a UNRWA school in the Nuseirat refugee camp killed at least 40 Palestinians and injured dozens more. The UN stated that 6,000 displaced people were sheltering in the

does not have the tools to deal with it.

Iran: An unprecedented action with clear messages

The Iran newspaper pointed out the trilateral action of Iran, China and Russia against the Western resolution and wrote: By publishing a joint statement at the meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors, Beijing, Moscow and Tehran united against the trilateral alliance of the European troika and condemned all the obstructions of the Western front from re-imposing the nuclear sanctions to the implementation of the sanctions beyond JCPOA.

This statement shows that any possible resolution that the Westerners put forward against Iran in the Security Council will face the strong opposition of China and Russia. The joint position of Iran, China and Russia in the form of a joint statement has taken place for the first time in the meeting of the Board of Governors, but previously Tehran's peaceful approach of understanding with Rafael Grossi to resume a new level of cooperation had a special importance for reflecting in the meeting of the Board of Governors. The trilateral alliance showed that Iran is no longer a passive actor that falls victim to the political game of great powers in fulfilling their ambitious goals.

Jam-e-Jam: A joint project between America and Israel

The anti-Iranian actions of the Westerners against our country's nuclear activity and their one-sided report were not limited to the recent meeting and are a precedent. The issue of provoking it was first raised by the Prime Minister of the Zionist regime and followed up by the Western negotiators in the later stages and gradually brought to the media, so that they put the necessary bases for using the media to press the Iranian delegation. This case was a part of the joint project of the Zionist regime and the Trump administration, under which maximum pressure was formed against the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the next step it was taken to the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, a movement whose traces could be seen in the issuance of other anti-Iranian resolutions at the Agency.

By adopting dual positions, the Western parties claim that the remaining safeguards issues are not related to the JCPOA, but their operational actions indicate that the nature of this case is fundamentally political, especially since the Western parties show no will to preserve the JCPOA and refer to it only in necessary cases such as elections.

building at the time of the attack.

"This is state terrorism," said Naiem Khalil, a displaced Palestinian. "Israel is targeting UN institutions, violating international laws, and crossing all red lines. For 76 years, Palestinians have appealed to the world without response. UN resolutions are enforced everywhere except against Israel. This is hypocrisy."

The UN's human right office has said that the Israeli military's failure to ensure "distinction, proportionality and precaution" in its attacks that have killed Palestinian civilians would amount to violations of international humanitarian law.

Israel launched the current offensive against Gaza, targeting hospitals, homes, and places of worship, following a surprise attack by Palestinian resistance movements, named Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, on October 7.

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

The conflict has resulted in at least 36,654 Palestinian deaths, most of them women and children, with another 83,309 injured. Over 1.7 million people have been internally displaced during the war.

Iran acting FM heads to Istanbul to attend D-8 meeting on Gaza crisis

TEHRAN – Iran's interim foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, has departed from Tehran to Istanbul to attend an urgent meeting of the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation.

This emergency session will focus on addressing the escalating military actions by Israel in Gaza.

In a statement released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, it was announced that Bagheri Kani will not only participate in the meeting scheduled for Saturday but will also deliver a keynote address. This gathering is seen as a pivotal moment for Iran to bolster its active diplomacy in support of the Palestinian cause and the ongoing resistance against the Zionist regime.

During the Istanbul meeting, Bagheri Kani is expected to engage in high-level discussions with other foreign ministers. The agenda includes formulating coordinated actions among Islamic countries to halt Israeli aggressions and ensuring the delivery of urgent humanitarian aid to Palestinians living under



siege. This aligns with Iran's broader strategy to unify Islamic nations in response to Israeli atrocities.

The list of notable attendees underscores the international significance of the meeting. Besides Bagheri Kani, the assembly will include Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, and Bangladeshi Social Welfare Minister Dipu Moni. Senior officials from Egypt and Nigeria are also expected to be present, highlighting the broad geographical representation within the D-8.

A key outcome of the meeting

is expected to be the adoption of a robust joint declaration condemning Israel's military actions in Gaza. This response comes in light of alarming statistics indicating that over the past eight months, Israeli attacks have resulted in the deaths of at least 36,654 Palestinians, most of whom were women and children.

The extraordinary meeting in Istanbul carries significant weight for the D-8 member countries as they strive to present a united front against Israel's actions in Gaza. Under the leadership of Turkey, this session aims to demonstrate unwavering solidarity and support for the Palestinian cause, especially

in the face of relentless Israeli assaults that have continued since October 7 of the previous year.

The D-8 organization, comprising Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Pakistan, was established on June 15, 1997. It was formed following a proposal by Turkey's then-Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, who envisioned an economic group composed of eight emerging economies from the Muslim world. Since its inception, the D-8 has sought to enhance economic cooperation among its members while also addressing pressing political and humanitarian issues affecting the Muslim community globally.

As the Istanbul meeting unfolds, the international community will be watching closely to see how the D-8 countries navigate this complex and urgent crisis. The outcomes of this meeting could significantly impact the geopolitical landscape and the humanitarian situation in Gaza, making it a crucial moment for diplomacy and collective action.

Tehran condemns anti-Iran IAEA resolution, warns of detrimental effects

TEHRAN – Iran has reacted strongly to a resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors on Wednesday, which censures the West Asian country for its alleged "non-cooperation" with the UN nuclear watchdog.

The resolution asks Iran to fully commit to limitations set by the JCPOA, a deal on Iran's nuclear program scrapped by Washington in 2018 and shunned by the European trio in the following years. The rebuke was passed with 20 represented countries in favor, two against, and 12 abstentions.

"Beyond a shadow of a doubt, this resolution will severely impact the positive atmosphere needed to work on further measures that must be mutually agreed upon by Iran and the agency," Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations office in Vienna said at the Monday session of the Board of Governors.

"Now, the troika must take responsibility for any consequences because Iran may act accordingly and in full compliance with its rights and obligations," Mohsen Naziri Asl warned. The resolution was proposed by Germany, Britain, and France. Despite initial reports suggesting that the U.S. was averse to escalating tensions with Iran, Washington rallied behind the E3 by voting in favor of the resolution.

The West picked up a new confrontation with Tehran only a month after IAEA Secretary General Rafael Grossi met with high-ranking Iranian

officials on his trip to the country. Grossi had spoken positively of his meetings, announcing that the IAEA and Iran have entered a new phase in their relations.

Iran's foreign ministry also reacted to the unexpected turn of events on Thursday. "Passage of the resolution will have no effect on the Islamic Republic's resolve to continue its peaceful application of nuclear energy and operationalize its developmental nuclear plans in line with the rights that are accorded to the country under the relevant international agreements," the ministry's statement read.

Also on Thursday, Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations emphasized that his country only scaled back on its commitments under the JCPOA, after the U.S. ditched the deal.

"Iran's decision to take remedial measures was in full accordance with its inherent right under paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, in reaction to the United States' unlawful unilateral withdrawal from the agreement on 8 May 2018, and the subsequent failure of the E3 to uphold their commitments. The objective behind Iran's decision, which was made a full year after the U.S.'s unlawful withdrawal and the E3/EU's failure to fulfill their sanctions-lifting obligations, was crystal clear: to restore a balance in reciprocal commitments and benefits under the JCPOA," Amir Saeed Iravani wrote in a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the rotating president of the UN Security Council

Joonkook Hwang

"The claim that the E3 has consistently upheld its JCPOA commitments is simply untrue. On the contrary, the E3 has constantly failed to honor its obligations under paragraph 20 of Annex V of the JCPOA. This significant non-compliance is still ongoing. The E3's failure to implement its sanctions-lifting commitments specified in paragraph 20 of Annex V of the JCPOA on Transition Day (18 October 2023) as an unjustifiable unilateral is a clear example of substantial non-performance of their obligations, thereby violating both the JCPOA and UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015)," he added.

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed by Iran and the 5+1 group of countries (the U.S., the UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China) in 2015. The pact limits Tehran's nuclear program in return for the termination of sanctions. The sanctions, however, were re-imposed against the West Asian nation when Washington unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018. The European Trio, while still officially part of the deal, has also ceased all trade with Iran.

Analysts believe there is no reason for Iran to comply with the JCPOA, while the pact has mostly not been implemented by the West since its inking.

Nevertheless, despite the fallout of the JCPOA, Iran's nuclear facilities remain the most heavily inspected by the IAEA globally.

Candidates vetting nears end as minister warns of misconduct

From page 1 ▶ He also highlighted the ministry's efforts to counter foreign plots aimed at disrupting societal peace, ensuring that the electorate can make informed decisions in a stable environment, free from external interference.

Additionally, IRIB Chief Peyman Jebeli provided an update on the preparations for candidates' advertising programs, including debates and roundtables. He emphasized that the full capacity of television networks will be utilized to facilitate comprehensive coverage of the election.

This vigilant monitoring and the extensive preparations underscore the government's commitment to conducting a fair and secure election process, ensuring that all candidates adhere to ethical standards while safeguarding the public's right to a transparent and peaceful electoral environment.

With the registration period for candidates having concluded on Monday, Iran is gearing up for the 14th presidential election. As the nation prepares for this critical event, various bodies are now sharing the

latest information and updates.

Following the closure of candidacy registration, the Constitutional Council, responsible for vetting candidates, now has to announce vetting results.

Iran's electoral countdown: registration closes, vetting begins

According to Hadi Tahan Nazif, the Council's spokesperson, the vetting process is thorough and time-consuming. He urged the media and online activists to refrain from speculating about the candidates' qualifications until the process is

complete. Tahan Nazif emphasized that the Interior Ministry is tasked with executing the election, while the Constitutional Council oversees the process. Highlighting the significance of the presidency in Iran's political system, Tahan Nazif referred to Article 113 of the Constitution.

He underscored that the president is the second-highest-ranking official after the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and heads the executive branch, managing the relationship among the country's three branches of government.

Europe wants Iran to commit to JCPOA despite Washington's withdrawal: Putin

From page 1 ▶ to demand that Iran fulfills its obligations. Forgive me, but that's nonsense. It wasn't Iran that withdrew from the agreement. The U.S. withdrew; former President Trump decided to withdraw from the agreement. And the Europeans say: yes, it's not good that the Americans withdrew, but you Iranians should comply with everything. What does Iran have to do with it? Excuse my language, it sounds a bit harsh in Russian. But if the key player withdrew from the agreement, why should Iran bear the burden of compliance?" Putin explained.

The Russian president was responding to a question regarding a recent anti-Iran resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors on Wednesday. The resolution censures Iran for scaling back on its commitments under the JCPOA.

Raisi "reliable partner" for Russia

Elsewhere in his comments, Putin lauded the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's role in strengthening Russia-Iran ties.

Responding to a question from IRNA's Managing Director, Ali Naderi, Putin highlighted Raisi's instrumental role in expanding bilateral ties, stating

that the two countries are "on the right track" and committed to further developing their partnership.

"We are pursuing the agreements reached during Raisi's term, and we are on the right track and are expanding our relations. Mr. Raisi played a significant role in this regard. We had very reliable, good, and business-like relations with him. He was a very interesting person, and he was a serious politician, a reliable partner," the Russian leader explained.

"He had a little bit ironic attitude toward life, and he had a sense of humor. It was interesting to maintain relations with him right away. It was interesting and useful, because I repeat once again, if we agreed on something with him, we could be confident for a long time that this topic that we are talking about will not be forgotten," Putin continued.

The president also praised Raisi's efforts in raising Iran's international profile, particularly its accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the BRICS group.

"This is still a sign that we were moving in the right direction, first and foremost in terms of the rise of a multipolar world, and Iran played and continues to play a very important role in this."

Despite facing sanctions, the president emphasized the robust growth of economic ties between the two nations, expressing a desire for further collaboration, particularly in the high-tech sector.

"But, the fact remains, we have a whole plan for joint work. Our trade and economic ties are growing. Of course, in general, we would like to see additional efforts to develop cooperation in the high-tech field," he stated.

President Raisi lost his life during a helicopter crash in northwestern Iran on May 19. Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian and six other officials also perished alongside the late president.

Putin concluded by advocating for a multipolar world order based on cooperation, citing the strong ties between Russia, China, and Iran as a prime example.

"The world is being formed based on the cooperation we are witnessing between Russia, China, Iran, and other countries. Iran is a powerful country and no one is supposed to be a slave or under the western flag. Iran and Russia are two emerging countries in the economic field, and this is what worries Western leaders," he added.

Scoop on Bibi featured in documentary

The Tehran Times' scoop on Netanyahu's mental health is featured in a documentary aired on national TV

TEHRAN – On Friday, Iran Channel 3 released a highly anticipated documentary focusing on the influential Tehran Times newspaper and its groundbreaking exclusive article published on September 24, 2023.

The article, titled "Nuclear Dementia," delves into the mental health of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, based on secret documents that the newspaper obtained following his threats to strike Iran with nuclear weapons.

Directed by Mojtaba Minavand and produced by Mohsen Karimiyan, the documentary focused on the secret documents disclosing that Netanyahu and his wife Sara suffer from a relapsed psychiatric disease, which prompted a member of Yair Lapid's party to take to the Judiciary to call into question Netanyahu's fitness for the top job in Israel. These findings were deeply troubling, implying that Netanyahu's mental instability has compromised his decision-making capabilities, posing

a severe risk to international security.

The documentary highlighted the profound political and security ramifications of the Tehran Times' revelations. The article has sparked political turmoil around the world, with people questioning Netanyahu's ability to govern.

These revelations also point to a broader issue: the potential fragility of Israel's security infrastructure.



The leakage of Israel's judicial archive is indication of how vulnerable Israel has become, especially at a time when Israeli officials, notably the Mossad chief David Barnea, have ramped up their rhetoric against Iran.

It is noteworthy that just less than a month after the article's publication, Israel launched a full-scale war on Gaza resulting in the deaths of 36,654 Palestinians,

most of them women and children. This conflict has worsened the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and raised significant ethical and legal questions about Israel's military conduct. Netanyahu's conscious decision to start and continue a full-throated genocide further raises questions about the dangerous intersection of personal political survival and national security decisions, leading to catastrophic consequences for civilians in Gaza.

The documentary not only sheds light on the content of the Tehran Times' article but also highlights its significant impact.

As more details emerge, the world will continue to watch closely, considering the implications for regional stability and the future of Israeli governance. The tragic outcome in Gaza serves as a stark reminder of the potential dangers when personal instability intersects with national and international politics.

Unpacking the new IAEA pressure campaign

From Page 1 ▶ Rafael Grossi's statements were followed by the approval of a resolution, proposed by Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, which strongly criticized the Islamic Republic for "deviating from its commitments to the JCPOA." Furthermore, this resolution urges Iran to "immediately cease its nuclear escalation and comply with the limits established by the JCPOA."

In this regard, it is important to remember that the previous nuclear agreement, known as the JCPOA and signed in 2015, was unilaterally abandoned by the United States under the Trump administration, thus violating the terms of the agreement itself. This pact was ratified by Iran, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, and the European Union.

This unilateral rupture was perceived by the Iranian government, led by the late President Raisi, as a political confirmation of the lack of honesty and commitment from the Western countries. Distrust towards the West and the belief that it never acts in good faith in its relations with the Islamic Republic are fundamental elements of their ideological vision. The unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement not only reinforced that political perspective but also held the Rouhani administration, responsible for reaching the agreement in 2015, accountable for allowing such rupture by not taking a firmer stance during the negotiations and failing to include clauses in the agreement that would sanction such possibility.

The Raisi administration considered one of Rouhani's mistakes to be allowing the U.S. government to violate the agreement from the outset. Since its inception, the Obama administration made every effort to not fulfill its part of the agreement, particularly the obligation to facilitate and assist the Iranian

banking sector in reconnecting with the global financial system. There were also mentions of pressures on financial organizations, insurers, oil companies, among others, by the Obama administration, to refrain from signing contracts with Iran.

If we analyze the language used by the West to emphasize the differences between the Rouhani and Raisi administrations, there is a clear iteration between the concepts of "good" and "bad" Muslim. This language is employed to sanction certain forms of Muslim identity, or what we could call "Muslimness," as acceptable, while rejecting those considered a threat. In general terms, the "good Muslim," associated with Rouhani and his negotiating team, is one who follows the logic of liberalism, modernity, and views the West as a universal paradigm. Conversely, the Raisi administration would be labeled as "bad Muslim," given its rejection of the liberal project and belief that Western influence poses a political threat to the Islamic Republic.

On the other hand, it is important to note that for the Islamic Republic, the nuclear issue is constrained by a fatwa, or Islamic decree, issued in 2003 by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. This fatwa explicitly prohibits the production and use of nuclear and biological weapons.

Several representatives of the Islamic Republic have made it clear that if the country has not developed nuclear weapons, it is not due to a lack of technical-scientific competence, but rather because of the explicit prohibition of the fatwa. Its importance is such that in 2021, the then Minister of Intelligence, Mahmoud Alavi, faced harsh criticism from prominent Islamic jurists after suggesting that, if cornered, the country should have nuclear weapons to defend itself. From a legal-political standpoint, therefore, the nuclear issue is limited to a civilian

nuclear program. This does not mean that there is not a growing public opinion advocating for the country to possess nuclear weapons as a protective measure against Western threats.

The negotiating team, led by the current Acting Foreign Minister, Ali Bagheri, made efforts to avoid repeating past mistakes when engaging with the West, particularly the United States. The unilateral withdrawal from the agreement by the U.S., as mentioned earlier, is politically perceived as an act of oppression, or "zulm" in Quranic terms, where the U.S. does not respect the boundaries of negotiation. This political narrative of the U.S. as the oppressive party resonates with the traditional representation of the United States in revolutionary Iran as the "Great Satan." However, it is important to understand this label in terms of a lack of political justice, rather than from a theological perspective. It is this absence of political justice that has prompted the current Iranian negotiating team to articulate their conditions clearly in these negotiations.

It's worth noting that the Leader, during the negotiations of the 2015 nuclear agreement, made it clear in a public appearance that if the agreement were to be fully implemented and with good faith from the United States, it would be possible to discuss and reach agreements on other issues. However, the repeated lack of political goodwill from the United States underscores that the West, as an ideology, remains an oppressive force, one that transgresses the boundaries of justice through dominance and oppression of others. Therefore, the Islamic Republic has demanded from the outset a set of essential conditions to ensure the presence of justice within the nuclear agreement.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Who is Shanbezadeh and why was he arrested?

From Page 1 ▶ as merely due to his anti-revolutionary statements. However, Shanbezadeh's writings on social media frequently included insults directed at the Ahl ul-Bayt, particularly Imam Ali. Previously, in 2022, he served 3.5 years in prison for insulting Islamic sanctities. He was released after one year under a standard amnesty proposed by the judiciary, but resumed his offensive activities and espionage upon release.

Details of the arrest

Prosecutor General Afaghi detailed that Shanbezadeh, originally from one of Iran's southern provinces, was captured in Ardabil thanks to the coordinated efforts of the provincial prosecutor's office and the intelligence operatives known as the "unknown soldiers of Imam Zaman." Utilizing social networks, he had maintained contact with Mossad officers and was clandestinely

collecting information needed by the Israeli spy agency.

Afaghi explained that Shanbezadeh had been moving between various provinces with the intent of evading capture and eventually fleeing the country. However, upon his arrival in Ardabil, a surprise operation led by the prosecutor's office and intelligence authorities resulted in his arrest. The authorities meticulously tracked his movements, ensuring that his

capture was swift and decisive.

This arrest underscores the ongoing vigilance and effectiveness of Iranian intelligence operations in countering espionage and protecting national security. The rapid dissemination of the news by foreign media outlets further highlights the international implications of such espionage activities and Iran's robust response to external threats.

Iran Army committed to addressing threats by leveraging domestic capabilities: commander

TEHRAN - The commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force has highlighted the Army's commitment to leveraging domestic capabilities to address challenges to the country and the nation's territorial integrity.

Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari outlined the Army's proactive measures to counter threats.

He noted that the Army Ground Forces, as a crucial component of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, continuously strives to invest in internal capabilities. This effort is in alignment with the directives and wise guidance of the Leader of Islamic Revolution,

aiming to advance organizational programs and fulfill both inherent and assigned missions effectively.

Addressing the evolving regional and global landscape, Heydari reiterated that new threats necessitate new responses. He emphasized that the Army Ground Forces, by relying on domestic resources, have consistently demonstrated relentless effort and dedication in providing comprehensive solutions to threats against the Islamic regime and the country's territorial integrity.

Concluding his remarks, Heydari

pointed to the enthusiasm of the Army personnel for participating in the upcoming presidential elections. He stressed that the country's independence and pride are not limited to defense and security matters alone. Active participation in elections, he noted, can propel the country towards greater dynamism and activity, helping to achieve the goals and ideals of the Islamic Revolution. This engagement promises a bright and innovative future for the vigilant and honorable people of Iran, offering hope for overcoming challenges. In recent years, Iranian military specialists and engineers have made 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.

Hassan Yazdani seizes gold at Budapest Ranking Series

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani defeated his American rival Trent Hilday 12-2 in the final match of Budapest Ranking Series on Friday.

He started the campaign with a Puerto Rican Ethan Adrian Ramos 13-2 in 86kg and then beat Japan's Hayato Ishiguro 12-2 in the quarterfinals.

Yazdani advanced to final after beating Azamat Dautletbekov of Kazakhstan 10-0.

Yazdani, who competed for the first time since his surgery, emerged victorious over Hilday in the final.

as Iran stayed unbeaten, moving to 13 points with a match against Uzbekistan to come on Tuesday that will decide the group winners.

Taremi opened the scoring for Team Melli in the 13th minute. 20-year-old debutant Ma Hei Wai equalized the match but Taremi was on target once again from the spot in the 34th minute. Taremi completed his hat trick in the 56th minute. Pinto pulled a goal back in the hour mark but Sardar Azmoun made it 4-2 five minutes later.

Iran, meanwhile, top the group with four wins and a draw.

The top two teams from the group move on to the third round of World Cup qualifiers in Asia while the bottom two head to the third round of Asian Cup qualifiers.

Iran suffer defeat to Bulgaria: 2024 VNL

TEHRAN – Bulgaria defeated Iran 3-2 (20-25, 25-22, 25-23, 20-25, 15-11) in Week 2 of 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) underway in Fukuoka, Japan Friday morning.

Iliya Petkov led Bulgarian team with 20 points, while Amin Esmaeilnezhad scored 16 points for Iran.

Iran had lost to Japan and Brazil in their first two matches in Week 2.

Team Melli will meet Turkey on Saturday in their last match.

The VNL Preliminary Phase features three competition weeks per gender, with each of the 16 teams playing 12 matches. The seven best-ranked national teams in the Preliminary Phase will join hosts Poland for the Finals, which will be held in Lodz from June 27 to 30.

Shakiba takes gold at WTT Youth Contender 2024

TEHRAN – Faraz Shakiba of Iran won the title of the WTT Youth Contender Helsingborg 2024.

He defeated Lo Yun-Cheng from Chinese Taipei 3-2 in the final match of the U-13 Boys Singles.

Shakiba had defeated Sweden's Emil Ellerman and Peadar Sheridan from Ireland on his way to final match.

Also, Benyamin Faraji of Iran claimed a bronze medal in the U-17 Boys Singles after losing to Chinese Taipei's Kuo Guan-Hong 3-1.

Alipour leaves Portuguese side Gil Vicente

TEHRAN – Iranian international forward Ali Alipour left Portuguese club Gil Vicente.

The 28-year-old striker joined Gil Vicente from Maritimo on a two-year deal in May 2022.

Now, the player has parted company with Gil Vicente.

Local media reports suggest that Alipour has been linked with a move to Persepolis.

He was a member of Persepolis from 2015 to 2020 and scored 56 goals in 153 matches for the Iranian football team.

Iran's women's youth handball to play Belarus

TEHRAN – Belarus women's handball team arrived in Tehran on Thursday to play two friendly matches with Iran's youth team.

The matches will be held as part of preparation for the 2024 World Women's Youth Handball Championship.

The Iranian women's youth handball team have been placed in Pool A along with Romania, the Netherlands, and Brazil.

The tournament is set to take place in North Macedonia on June 19-30, 2024, and will feature 32 teams from around the world.

Farzad wins gold at 2024 Asian Para-cycling Road C'ships

TEHRAN – Behrouz Farzad of Iran claimed a gold medal in the 12th Asian Para-cycling Road Championships 2024.

He crossed the line in the Individual Time Trial C4 with a time of 0:23:49.527 minutes.

Kazakhstan's Pavel Babenko and Uzbekistan's Abror Ibrayimov won silver and bronze medals with a time of 0:24:20.181 and 0:24:25.390, respectively.

The Asian Cycling Championship commenced in Almaty on June 6 and will run until June 12.

Iran volleyball federation sacks Mauricio Motta Paes

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) sacked Brazilian coach Mauricio Motta Paes on Friday.

The 61-year-old coach had been named as head coach of Iran in late February but was sacked following a run of poor results in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) that saw Team Melli sit at the bottom of the table.

Under his leadership, Iran have lost seven defeats so far and have no chance of qualifying of the 2024 Olympic Games.

His Iranian assistant Peyman Akbari has been appointed as interim coach until the end of the 2024 VNL.

Iran are scheduled to meet the U.S., the Netherlands, France and Germany in mid-June.

Kheybar promoted to PGPL

TEHRAN – Kheybar have secured promotion to 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) on Wednesday.

The Khoramabad based team defeated Ario Eslamshahr 4-1 and were crowned champions of Azadegan League.

They have secured promotion to the PGL for the first time.

Fajr Sepasi and Chadormalu will also vie to secure another place in PGPL.

Sanat Naft Abadan and Paykan had been already relegated from PGPL.

Iran beat Hong Kong in 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran survived a stiff test from Hong Kong, China to walk away with a 4-2 win in their Preliminary Joint Qualification – Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Group E tie on Thursday.

Mehdi Taremi led by example with a hat-trick

Annual aquatics exports reach \$650 million

TEHRAN - The director general of the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture's Office of Quality Improvement, Processing, and Aquatic Market said \$650 million of aquatics was exported from the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2023, to March 19, 2024).

Abbas Mokhtari said 139,000 tons of fishery products, valued at \$528 million, were exported from the country between March 21, 2020 and March 20, 2021.

Regarding the trade of aquatics and fishery products during President Ebrahim Raisi administration's term, he said that 210,000 tons of the fishery products, valued at \$650 million, were exported from the country in the previous Persian calendar year (ended March 19, 2024), Mehr news agency reported.

Mokhtari further pointed out that effective steps were taken in the administration of the late President Raisi to spur the production and export of aquatics.

CPTA provides Iran, other member states with new capacities for trade

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Center for e-Commerce Development Amin Kolahdouzan has said that the Islamic Republic and other member states of the Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) enjoy the proper capacity to expand trade ties.

Addressing the third Session of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA), which is held in Bangkok, Thailand, on June 6-7, the Iranian official noted that Tehran is ready to expand cooperation with other member states of the CPTA.

He argued that the usage of modern technologies along with international collaborations can pave the way for a brilliant future in terms of electronic trade, adding that electronic signatures saw a 100% growth in Iran last year.

The third Session of the Paperless Trade Council of the Framework Agreement on Fa-



ilitation of CPTA is scheduled to review the progress of implementing the Framework Agreement and make strategic decisions on further implementation.

The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA) was approved by the Iranian Parliament in 2019.

Several countries, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the Philippines, South Korea, Russia, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, and Turkmenistan, are members of this agreement.

Iran's agricultural exports up \$1 billion in one year

TEHRAN - Iran has produced \$1.0 billion more agricultural products over the past calendar year to late March than that produced a year earlier, according to Minister of Agriculture Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht.

The minister said on Wednesday that Iran's agricultural sector registered negative growth for nearly four years while it posted a 0.5 percent growth late last year.

He expressed hope that Iranian agriculture would continue to grow this year.

Iran's overall inflation was reported at 2.8 percent last month whereas the inflation of food and essential goods stood at 1.8 percent, the minister said, noting that the infla-



tion of the agriculture sector has been lower than the country's overall inflation.

He added that Iran's reserves of agricultural inputs and essential goods are much better this year than that of the preceding year.

Major gas projects inaugurated in southeastern Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji inaugurated several major gas supply projects in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan on Thursday, Shana reported.

The projects include gas supply to nine cities of the province, a gas transmission line from Iranshahr to Chabahar, and a gas transmission line from Dashtak to Nehbandan.

As reported, over 250 trillion rials (about \$500 million) has been invested in the mentioned projects.

There are several other gas projects underway in the province including providing natural gas to 140 villages and 13 towns through pipeline, some of them have made 90 percent progress, Oji said in the inauguration ceremony.

He added that the gas pipeline from Iranshahr to Chabahar is going to supply Chabahar power plant's gas needs and the other gas pipeline, the Dashtak to Nehbandan pipeline, links 160 industrial units including two cement factories, to the cross-country gas network, ending burning oil products in the area as feed.

Before this, the province's access to the natural gas network was limited, but the Na-



tional Iranian Oil Company (NIGC) efforts to expand the gas supply network have changed the situation very positively which will result in rising welfare and employment in the province, according to Oji.

Oji also inaugurated a number of social responsibility projects in the southeastern province.

The Oil Ministry commitments to implement social responsibility projects in the province include millions of dollars, of which a fraction has been implemented so far, the minister concluded.

According to Oji, there are several other gas projects underway in the province including providing natural gas to 140 villages and 13 towns through pipeline, some of them have made 90 percent progress.

Iran's economy to grow 3.2% in 2024: WB

TEHRAN - The World Bank (WB), in its latest report, predicted that Iran's economy will grow 3.2 percent in 2024 and the inflation rate will decrease to 35 percent.

According to the estimate of the international body, Iran's economy experienced a five percent growth and a 40.8 percent inflation in 2023.

The bank has forecast that the industrial sector in Iran will take the lead in 2024, experiencing a 4.9 percent growth, followed by the services and agricultural sectors with a 2.7 and 0.9 percent growth.

In addition, the World Bank has predicted that Iran's export of goods and services will exceed 71 percent in 2024 compared to the preceding year.

Also, the bank expects that import of products into the country will experience a 1.8 percent growth in 2024 compared to a year earlier.

The balance of Iran's current accounts will also experience positive growth and reach 2.7 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024.



In late February, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported the Iranian economic growth in 2023 to be 5.4 percent.

The head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) said the country's 5.4 percent economic growth in 2023 was the second-highest rate in the world.

IMF also increased its estimate of Iran's economic growth in 2024, citing a higher-than-expected surge in the country's oil production.

The IMF, in its report published on February 22, forecast a 3.7 percent economic growth for Iran in 2024 while the figure in its October prediction was 2.5 percent.

The IMF data showed that Iran's economic growth reached 5.4% in 2023 while the international agency had predicted a three percent growth for the country in the previous year.

Iran's oil and gas industry's development has a direct impact on the country's economic growth, as the effect was felt during the previous administration's term, when the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and reimposition of sanctions reduced Iran's oil production and exports and even led to negative gross domestic product (GDP) for a couple of years.

Taking office in August 2021, the 13th administration put the increase in oil production and exports on the top of the agenda and stressed the need to neutralize the sanctions and avoid tying people's livelihoods to the revival of the JCPOA.

Although the sanctions on Iran's oil industry and exports were ramped up by the U.S., the country witnessed a 40 percent increase in its oil exports at the end of the Iranian calendar year of 1400, which ended on March 20, 2022.

After 30 months, the oil industry ranked first among other sectors, including the agricultural and service sectors, in terms of economic growth, making the largest contribution to the country's economic growth.

Iran's oil sector achieved strong growth in the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (starting March 21, 2023), registering a 292 percent rise year-on-year.

The sector's growth soared to 22.4 percent from 5.7 percent, making Iran's economic cake bigger.

Annual pistachio exports reach \$1.0b

TEHRAN- Iran exported 120,000 tons of pistachios worth about \$1.0 billion to various countries during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), an official with the Iran Pistachio Association said.

Jalil Karbakhsh said last year over 200,000 tons of pistachio were produced in the country of which about 120,000 tons were exported.

Iran exported €92 million worth of pistachios to the European Union members in 2023, according to the data released by the European Union's statistics agency (Eurostat).

Based on the mentioned data, Iran's pistachio exports to Europe declined 17 percent compared to 2022 when the country had exported €111 million worth of the mentioned product to the union.

Iran was the second biggest exporter of pistachios to Europe in 2023 after the U.S.

Last year, Iran exported €65 million of pistachio nuts and €27 million of shelled pistachios to Europe. Iran's pistachio nut exports also decreased by only four percent, however, the export of shelled pistachios decreased by 37 percent compared to 2022.

Germany was the top importer of Iranian pistachios in Europe during 2023; €49 million of Iran's pistachio exports to Europe in 2023 were destined for Germany. Italy with €7.0 million and Spain with €5.0 million were also among the buyers of Iranian pistachios last year.

The U.S. was the largest exporter of pistachios to Europe in 2023, exporting €640 million of the product to the union. American pistachio exports to Europe decreased by 15 percent this year.

The U.S. had exported €756 million of pistachios to Europe in the previous year.

Turkey has been the third exporter of pista-

chios to Europe in 2023 with an export of €51 million. Turkish pistachio exports to Europe have decreased by 28 percent this year.

Although Iran is mostly known for its vast hydrocarbon resources, there are some other precious products that people all around the world put the Iranian brand on and appreciate greatly, one such product is Iranian "green gold" or pistachio.

Pistachios production in Iran, however, has decreased in recent years, mainly due to due to water shortage.

Over the past decade, climate change has caused severe drought in Iran, leading to 85 percent of the country being classified as arid or semi-arid. The decline in annual average rainfall and shortage of surface water has forced farmers to dig more wells to pump water from underground reserves.

Iran's quarterly export of fresh fruits to India doubles yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iran's export of fresh fruits to India doubled in the first three months of 2024 compared to the same period last year, according to the Indian Ministry of Trade and Commerce.

In this period, Iran's import of rice from India registered a 20 percent decline compared to the same period last year while Iran's export of fresh fruits to India in-

creased twofold.

The ministry put the total value of the trade exchanges between Iran and India in the first three months of 2024 at \$520 million, showing a two percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period.

The value of the trade exchanges between Iran and India in the first three months of 2023

stood at over \$510 million.

India exported \$356 million of products to Iran from January to March 2024, showing an 11 percent hike.

India had exported \$322 million of products to Iran from January to March 2023.

According to the report, India imported \$164 million of prod-

ucts from Iran from January to March 2024, showing a 12 percent decline, according to IRNA.

The ministry added that India exported \$161 million of rice to Iran in the first three months of 2024 (January to March), showing a 20 percent decline.

India exported \$202 million of rice to Iran from January to March 2023, the report added.

Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan region to expand trade, economic ties

TEHRAN - The governor general of Iran's West Azarbaijan province said trade and economic relations will be expanded between the province and Iraq's Kurdistan region.

Speaking in a meeting between the governor general of Iran's border provinces and the Iraqi Kurdistan region in Irbil, Mohammad Sadeq Motamedian emphasized the serious resolve of Iran to develop relations with the Iraqi Kurdistan region, adding that the rela-

tions between the two sides are 'inseparable'.

The United States and the Zionist regime along with the terrorist groups in the region are against the friendship of the two sides because it would jeopardize their interests, he added.

The official further noted that the volume of the border trade exchanges with the Iraqi Kurdistan region through the Tamarchin Border Terminal increased by \$1 billion last year

(ended March 19, 2024), Mehr news agency reported.

The governor of Iraq's Irbil province also stressed expanding relations with Iran in all areas, especially in the fields of trade and economy.

Omid Khoshnav added that high-ranking Iranian and Iraqi officials have always emphasized the expansion of relations in all fields.

Iran-U.S. trade rises 72% in 4 months

TEHRAN - The official data of the United States show that the country's trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran has increased by 72 percent in the first four months of this year.

According to IRNA, the U.S. Bureau of Statistics announced in its latest report that the trade exchange with Iran reached

\$30.6 million in the first four months of 2024, registering an increase of 72 percent compared to the same period last year.

Based on the mentioned data, the trade between the two countries stood at \$17.8 million during January-April 2023.

In the mentioned period, Iran's exports to the U.S. grew 13 times

and reached \$4.1 million from \$300,000 in the previous year's corresponding period.

The U.S. exports to Iran also increased by 51 percent and reached \$26.5 million.

The growth in Iran-U.S. trade in the first four months of 2024 followed a steady rise in trade exchanged between the two

sides in the previous year which saw eight percent growth and reached \$61.2 million.

The amount of trade between Iran and the U.S. is not significant compared to the total trade of the two countries with the rest of the world. Iran ranks 152 among the export destinations of the United States.

The endgame: Why war with Hezbollah would spell doom for Israel

From page 1 ► But, clashes have grown in number and scale over the past days.

Hezbollah said this week that it had launched a “swarm of drones” at Israeli military sites.

The resistance movement noted that it had hit Israel's Iron Dome defense system in the northern village of Ramot Naftali, using a guided missile.

Israeli warmongering

Israel has also intensified attacks against Lebanon. Human Rights Watch said on Wednesday Israel used white phosphorus incendiary shells on residential buildings in at least five towns and villages in southern Lebanon. The prominent rights group added that the move harms civilians and violates international law.

Israeli officials, meanwhile, began to beat the drum of a full-scale conflict with Hezbollah. With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying “we are prepared for a very intense operation in the north. One way or another, we will restore security to the north.”

Netanyahu's comments came after his far-right ministers made similar threats.

“They burn us here, all Hezbollah strongholds should also burn and be destroyed. WARI!” National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said on Tuesday in a Telegram post.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also said on Monday, “We must move the security strip from inside Israeli territory in the Galilee to southern Lebanon, including a ground invasion, occupation of the territory and distancing Hezbollah terrorists and hundreds of thousands of Lebanese among whom Hezbollah hides to the other side of the Litani River.”

Military officials also tried not to fall behind. Israeli Chief of the General Staff Herzi Halevi said on Tuesday that the regime's army was ready to move to an offensive in Lebanon.

Israel's hostility towards Hezbollah



lah dates back to the early 1980s when the resistance group was established to fight the regime's invasion of Lebanon.

Rising resistance

Israel launched an offensive in Lebanon in 1982, sending its tanks all the way to the capital Beirut. Israel occupied southern Lebanon for nearly 20 years until it was driven out by Hezbollah in 2000.

Israel carried out the assault after coming under attack from Palestinians in Lebanon.

Sporadic clashes between Israel and Hezbollah continued even after the regime was forced to leave southern Lebanon.

July War

Tensions boiled over in 2006 when the regime went to war with Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

The war started on July 12, 2006 – days after the Lebanese resistance movement captured two Israeli soldiers.

The conflict ended on August 14 after Israel failed to defeat Hezbollah.

Israel killed more than 1,000 Lebanese, mostly civilians in the 34-day conflict. More than 120 Israeli soldiers were also killed.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has said on multiple occasions that the 2006 war, known as the July War, was a success for the resistance movement.

“This is the historic and strategic accomplishment that the resistance achieved for Lebanon in the July War: security and safety over the past 15 years,” Nasrallah said in August 2021.

In mid-August 2021, an Israeli inquiry acknowledged the regime's failure to achieve its goal in the 2006 war describing the conflict as “unsuccessful” and “missed opportunity”.

“Israel initiated a long war, which ended without its clear military victory,” the inquiry said.

Hezbollah military capabilities

The military capability of the Lebanese resistance movement has grown since then.

Nasrallah has already said that the resistance group has 100,000 fighters.

Hezbollah has also increased its stockpile of missiles from 14,000 in 2006 to about 150,000 and has developed precision-guided missiles and its drone programs.

Presently Lebanon will have the upper hand in case of a full-scale war. But, the movement has reiterated it does not seek to expand the war.

“Either way, we have decided not to widen the battle and we do not want an all-out war. But if it is imposed on us, we are ready and we won't retreat,” Sheikh Naim Qassem, deputy chief of Lebanon's resistance movement, said a few days

ago.

In early March he also issued a stern warning to Israel saying, “We, hereby, declare that if they commit a foolish act and attack our territories, there would then be a new version of the 2006 July war.”

Israel's recent threat of military action against Hezbollah comes as the regime is under global and domestic pressure to reach a ceasefire deal with Hamas.

But the only way that can help Netanyahu remain in power is a permanent state of war. This is because if the war ends, he will be held to account for his failure to prevent the October 7 attack by Hamas that dealt severe blows to the regime's military and intelligence.

The Israeli premier is currently walking a tightrope.

On the one hand, Netanyahu will lose power if he puts a halt to his regime's warmongering policy.

On the other hand, if the Netanyahu regime chooses to go to war with Hezbollah, it will have to face a doomsday scenario.

The Hamas' October 7 attack highlighted Israel's extreme vulnerabilities.

Israel's serious weakness further came to light in April when Iran launched a salvo of more than 300 drones and missiles at the regime's military bases. The operation dubbed True Promise was in retaliation for the Israeli killing of seven Iranian military advisors in Syria.

Just hundreds of Iranian missiles shook Israel to the core and proved that without the US support the regime would be wiped off the map in a short period of time.

In case of an all-war with Hezbollah, tens of thousands of missiles could be fired toward Israel and turn it into complete ruins.

The US involvement in such a scenario would turn West Asia into a hell on earth for American forces. This is because anti-US sentiment has already been high over Washington's unwavering support for Israel's war on Gaza.

WORLD HEADLINES

Yemenis condemn Israeli crimes in Gaza



Millions of Yemenis took to the streets across the country on Friday to express solidarity with Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip who have been subjected to Israel's war of genocide since October 7.

People from all walks of life attended rallies in the capital Sana'a and other cities condemning Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

Protesters denounced the US for supporting Israel as the regime turns a blind eye to growing international calls to stop the onslaught.

They hailed anti-Israeli military operations carried out by the Ansarullah movement.

Poll: Germans support recognition of Palestinian state

More Germans are in favor than in opposition of recognizing Palestine as an independent state, a new survey revealed on Friday, Anadolu reported.

Some 40% of respondents said Germany should recognize Palestine as an independent state, while 27% said they were against such a move. About 33% indicated that they were not sure.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz's center-left liberal coalition government has repeatedly turned down calls for the recognition of Palestinian state, arguing that current conditions were not suitable to take such a step.

Last month, Spain, Norway and Ireland recognized a Palestinian state and urged other European states to follow their lead. This week Slovenia also recognized Palestinian statehood.

UK MP slams possible use of British weapons in Gaza

A Labour Party candidate in the UK's upcoming general election has condemned the potential use of British-made weapons in war crimes in Gaza after an Israeli air strike on a UN-run school killed dozens of people.

“It is a disgrace that British-made weapons could be being used to commit crimes like this,” Zarah Sultana, who is running to retain her seat of Coventry South on July 4, said in a post on X.

Labour leader Keir Starmer, who is widely tipped to be the next prime minister, has come under growing pressure to halt arms sales to Israel.

Last month, senior Labour MP Jonathan Ashworth said he did not want to see British weapons being used in Israel's assault on the city of Rafah.

Labour has not committed to halting arms sales to Israel if it wins the election but has pledged to review the exports and make a decision based on the most up-to-date legal advice.

Poll: Most young Brits think Israel should not exist

A majority of young people in the UK do not

believe that Israel should exist, a poll conducted by UnHerd has revealed, providing further evidence that support for the apartheid state has reached a record low, Middle East Monitor reported.

According to a recent YouGov survey, a mere 16 percent of the British public expressed solidarity with Israel.

The UnHerd survey polled 1,012 voters about foreign policy. One of the most striking findings was that a majority of Britain's young people do not believe Israel should exist. A staggering 54 percent of respondents aged 18-24 have this opinion, while only 21 percent disagreed.

This sentiment is reflected further in another question from the poll, which asked who was more to blame for Israel's military onslaught on the 2.2 million Palestinians in Gaza. Half of the respondents blamed the Israeli regime, while only a quarter held Hamas responsible. A mere 19 percent responded with the view that all parties were equally to blame.

UN adds Israel to 'list of shame'

Israel has been added to the United Nations' “list of shame,” which is attached to an annual report submitted by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's office that documents rights violations against children in armed conflict.

This is the first time that Israel has been included on this list.

The Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education and Higher Education said this week that more than 15,000 children have been killed since Israel declared war on Gaza on October 7.

They are among more than 36,000 Palestinians who have killed by Israel in Gaza over the past eight months.

UN agency: Unemployment nears 80% in Gaza

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip has reached nearly 80% since Israel declared war on the Palestinian territory last October, the United Nations labor agency said on Friday, bringing the average unemployment rate across Palestinian territories to more than 50%.

Unemployment in the Gaza Strip has reached 79.1%, while the West Bank has seen joblessness hit nearly 32%, the International Labour Organization (ILO) said in its fourth assessment of the impact of the war on employment. The figures give a combined unemployment rate of 50.8%, Reuters reported.

“This excludes Palestinians who have given up on finding a job,” said Ruba Jaradat, ILO Regional Director for Arab States.

Russia blames US for civilian deaths, Macron for rising tensions

Russia has lashed out at the West, blaming the United States for Ukraine's alleged use of US-supplied weapons against civilians on its soil and accusing France of fueling tensions across Europe, Al Jazeera reported.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Friday that the US's decision last week to greenlight Ukraine's firing of US-supplied weapons into Russia amounted to “a confession ... for the murder of children and women in the Belgorod region”.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed on May 31 that President Joe Biden had agreed for the first time to let Ukraine use the weapons so it could defend its north-eastern Kharkiv region, which lies adjacent to Belgorod. The US still bars Ukraine from firing US-made weapons deeper into Russia.

In her comments, Zakharova said the alleged strikes had taken place last week in the Belgorod region.

“Fragments of HIMARS [rockets] will serve as direct proof,” she told reporters.

U.S.-made bombs found in school massacre

America's role in the slaughter of Gazan women and children under the spotlight again

From page 1 ► CNN alluded to the latest massacre as being the second time in two weeks that it has been able to verify the use of U.S.-manufactured munitions in deadly Israeli attacks on displaced Palestinians.

The news broadcaster identified the GBU-39 small diameter bombs (SDB) in a video filmed at the scene by a journalist working for CNN.

The U.S.-made GBU-39 SDB has been the subject of much controversy recently.

It was identified by many news outlets as the munition used in an Israeli strike two weeks ago that burned dozens of civilians to death at a displacement tent camp in Rafah, including a mutilated infant with his head blown off.

As was reported at the time, the GBU-39 is manufactured in the United States.

According to arms transfer data by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), America shipped 1,000 GBU-39 bombs to the Israeli occupation forces at the end of 2023.

According to a Bloomberg report, the delivery was made quicker than expected by the U.S. arms manufacturer Boeing after October 7, and the bombs were flown from an unidentified American airbase to Tel Aviv.

The Israeli occupation has renewed its air and ground assault in central Gaza, months after declaring victory over Hamas in the same area.

Following the massacre of women and children in Nuseirat, the UN agency UNRWA, which runs shelters across the enclave said “in previous conflicts, single incidents like this would cause shock and outrage and would be remembered forever, whereas in the war in Gaza horror is nearly normalized”.

Addressing a question on the Israeli attack on the school, U.S. Department of State spokesperson Matthew Miller attempted to downplay Israeli war crimes by alleging that Hamas members were present at the site.

The UN says there were no Hamas members at the scene, and international law experts say that even if Hamas members were present, an attack on civilians would be in violation of international humanitarian law.

Many experts have pointed out that Israeli warplanes would have never bombed a school in Tel Aviv if Hamas members were present there and the mass killing of civilians is a tactic to pressure Hamas to agree to Israeli terms at the negotiating table.

Hamas has insisted on its demand for a permanent end to the killing of civilians, and Israeli

forces withdraw from the enclave, while the Israeli government says it is prepared to discuss only temporary pauses.

“We have shown all the flexibility needed to reach a deal but the Israeli occupation continues to refuse any commitment to end the aggression and pull its forces from the Gaza Strip,” a Hamas official told Reuters.

“The (Israeli) occupation and the Americans are to blame for the absence of a deal so far because they don't want this war on our people to end,” the official added.

As the greatest supporter of the Israeli war on Gaza, the U.S. has failed to pressure Tel Aviv to cease fire and allow talks for a permanent solution to end the genocide unfolding in the enclave.

Analysts argue the reality is that America has more Palestinian blood on its hands than the Israelis.

The U.S. has regularly sent arms to Tel Aviv (many of them unguided bombs), drawing global outrage. It has also been using its veto power at the UN to shield Israeli war crimes and threatening the highest international courts from taking any punitive action against Israeli officials.

The people usually talk fervently about World War II and the crimes committed by the Adolf Hitler of Germany.

However, the crimes that Hitler committed pale in comparison to the brutality being committed against 2.3 million Gazans in just 365 square kilometers. Wherever they flee or hide Israel tracks them down to exterminate them.

In terms of time, geography, and population, the scope of violence that Gazans have been subjected to may be unprecedented in living memory.

According to Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, Israel has dropped more than 70,000 tons of bombs on the Gaza Strip since last October, far surpassing those dropped on Dresden, Hamburg,

and London combined during World War II.

The question is how much crime can a country do against civilians of another, and which countries have been enabling Israel to commit such horrific crimes?

The West has spared no effort to enable criminals in Israel to steal Palestinian lands and commit one crime after another. It has both provided weapons and diplomatic protection for Israel.

Jan Eliasson, the UN Special Envoy for Darfur, had noted, “The quest for peace will always be obstructed when there is an abundance of arms.”

Regrettably, the West's support for Israel has lacked the slightest shred of ethics.

From page 1 ► by the cruelest terrorist groups such as Daesh.

It is surprising that how can a country that is accepted as a member of the United Nations commit this degree of crime against civilians of another nation?

Reportedly, even al-Qaeda, which was considered the most violent group before the emergence of Daesh, was critical of Daesh for its indiscriminate killing of people. However, Israel slaughters civilians while they are asleep and cuts water and food to them.

It was argued that terrorist groups are driven by distorted ideology but what about Israel which claims its ruling system is secular and democratic?

Iran's inbound tourism thrives by 36%

TEHRAN – Iran's tourism sector has witnessed a 36% surge in terms of overseas arrivals in the course of the very first two months of the current Persian year (started on March 20).

During a Tourism and Related Businesses Commission, held on Wednesday, an official in charge of tourism development brought to light that since the beginning of this [Iranian] year, foreign tourist arrivals have experienced a 36% rise, in comparison to the corresponding time a year earlier.

Moslem Shojaei stressed the necessity of identifying the primary tourism priorities, noting that the selected development capacities in each province must be competitive with other provinces in attracting foreign tourists.

"To achieve this, leveraging the capabilities of major travel agencies, foreign journalists based in Iran," he further elaborated. "And familiarization tours can be helpful."

Moreover, the official emphasized that the tourism sector cannot advance without private sector participation.

In his final remarks, Shojaei pinpointed that the Marketing and Tourism Development Headquarters of the Ministry is ready to provide media content produced in various provinces to foreign tourists.

As mentioned by Iran's tourism ministry, more than six million foreign tourists arrived by air, road, and sea in Iran during the past Iranian calendar year, which came to an end on March 19.

Last year, Iran set the stage for the unilateral abolition of visa requirements for citizens of 32 countries, which took effect on February 4. The scheme was part of an initiative aimed at promoting tourism and easing travel re-



strictions for visitors from selected nations, according to Alireza Bigdeli, the deputy foreign minister for Consular, Parliamentary, and Iranian Expatriates Affairs.

The visa-waiver program was approved for India, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Indonesia, Brunei, Japan, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brazil, Peru, Cuba, Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia, Belarus, Lebanon, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

Besides, the Islamic Republic has previously had visited cancellations with some countries like Turkey, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Oman, China, Armenia, Lebanon, and Syria, in various forms - unilateral, bilateral, and group visa cancellations, including airport visas, which were implemented in some cases. The privilege has been granted to tourist groups from Russia based on a mutual agreement inked between Tehran and Moscow.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 27 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

'Jackpot' of 2,000 early-medieval coins discovered by hiker in Czech Republic

A woman who was hiking in the Czech Republic discovered a "jackpot": a hoard of more than 2,000 medieval silver coins that experts describe as one of the greatest finds of the past decade.

The coins were discovered near the town of Kutná Hora, about 35 miles (60 kilometers) east of Prague. They were originally buried in a pottery jar, but only the bottom has survived plowing, according to a translated statement from the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The coins are medieval denarii — medieval versions of the denarius, the standard silver coin minted during the Roman Empire.

Lenka Mazaová, director of the Czech Museum of Silver in Kutná Hora, said in the statement that the coins were probably made at a mint in Prague, from silver that had been imported into the region, then known as Bohemia.

The medieval silver coins also contain small amounts of copper, lead and other metals, and experts hope they can use the coins' composition to determine the origin of the silver.

"It [the hoard] was probably placed during the first quarter of the 12th century, at a time of internal political instability," Filip Velimský, an archaeologist with the Institute of Archaeology, said in the statement. "At that time, there were disputes in the country between members of the Pemslyd dynasty over the princely throne in Prague."

The new find consists of more than 2,150 silver coins minted during the reigns of three Pemslyd rulers.

"Unfortunately, for the turn of the 11th and 12th centuries, we lack data on the purchasing power of contemporary coins," Velimský said. "But it was a huge, unimaginable and at the same time unaffordable amount for an ordinary person. It can be compared to winning a million in the jackpot."

The coins will now be examined at the Czech Museum of Silver in Kutná Hora, which was the site of several early silver mines and a center of silver production in medieval times.

(Source: Live Science)

Iran in frames



Pigeons gracefully flutter inside the main courtyard of the Jameh Mosque of Isfahan, a UNESCO World Heritage site, blending the serenity of nature with the grandeur of centuries-old Persian architecture.

Scaffolding removed from Imam Mosque after 14-year restoration

TEHRAN - The scaffolding surrounding the magnificent dome of the 17th-century Imam Mosque in Isfahan has finally been removed after 14 years of meticulous restoration work.

On Thursday, Isfahan province's tourism chief, Amir Karamzadeh announced the completion of the restoration of Imam Mosque's intricate tilework.

Speaking to reporters, the official said the mosque's dome underwent restoration after distortions in its southeastern section were detected.

"This restoration project began after a thorough damage assessment and commenced in 1389 (2010), continuing until this year," he said.

The main part of the restoration was completed in 1401 (2022), leading to the partial removal of the scaffolding. However, subsequent expert evaluations identified further distortions at the end of the dome's sixteenth section, necessitating additional work.

"In the last few days, the restoration of the decorations and the correction of distortions in the sixteenth section have been complet-



ed," the official said.

"As a result, this magnificent historical dome has been freed from the scaffolding after 14 long years."

The ongoing restoration work will now focus on the dome's belt.

The Imam Mosque dome, adorned with over 500,000 tiles, is recognized as the largest tiled dome among historic mosques worldwide, the official added.

Cultural heritage enthusiasts say the removal of the scaffolding marks a significant milestone in preserving and showcasing the architectural splendor of the Imam Mosque, a jewel of Persian Islamic architecture.

The Spice Route revival: a new chapter in Iran-India relations

TEHRAN - In today's interconnected world, nations seek innovative strategies to secure national interests while fulfilling global responsibilities.

Projections suggest that in the next 50 years, a new pyramid of major economies will emerge, with powerful economies arising from today's developing nations. The 21st century's transformations clearly indicate this trend.

According to Mohammad Jahanshahi, a member of the Association of Tourism Experts of Iran, the revival of the Spice Route, as a joint project, can elevate regional and international interactions, promoting linear tourism development in southeastern and southern Iran and western India. The natural, historical, and cultural advantages, including numerous World Heritage sites and diverse cultural and handicraft industries in both countries, create a fascinating route. Existing infrastructure like airports, railways, ports, highways, and free zones provide the initial requirements to redefine this idea, rapidly enhancing and globalizing the Spice Route brand.

Jahanshahi believes that modern approaches like networked and chain communications have led to the emergence of countries of shared concerns" instead of merely "commonwealths."

Below are excerpts from Jahanshahi's perspectives on the revival of Spice Route:

India exemplifies these changes, rising from the 8th to the 4th largest economy in terms of GDP, following China's significant leap to become the world's second-largest economy.

Creative strategies fostering interaction and shared concerns play a crucial role in this economic evolution.

China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, based on the historic Silk Road, has become a platform for multilateral activities, enhancing interactions, reducing conflicts, promoting tourism, and improving infrastructural and economic sectors.

Iran, with its strategic geopolitical position as a junction of Asia, Africa, and Europe and its proximity to major global population centers, including India, holds significant historical importance. Given the current dynamics and powerful trends, the revival and redefinition of the "Spice Route" can strengthen strategic programs for both India and Iran.

Historical evidence shows that over 2000 years ago, combined sea and land transport existed between Iran and key economic hubs like India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). This relationship expanded, becoming one of the significant trade routes in regional history, particularly after the Industrial Revolution.

Iran's southern ports, including Chabahar, Hormuz, and later Bandar Abbas, were major entry and exit points for goods, connecting to historic land routes. The Spice Route, also known as the Pepper Route, formed due to the trade of significant commodities, especially spices from Southeast Asia, and has a distinct history from the Silk Road. This route, used since the Achaemenid era, gained importance in the Middle Ages as the use of spices in Europe increased. During the Renaissance, spices like black pepper became so valuable that they gen-

erated wealth and power for empires like the Netherlands and Spain, leading to significant events such as the discovery of the Americas and the establishment of major companies like the East India Company.

The Spice Route's importance in Iran varied with the rulers' policies, such as serious attention to maritime activities and southern ports during the Achaemenid and Seljuk eras. Historical sites like caravanserais and temples in Kerman, Hormozgan, and records of Indian traders in cities like Jiroft, Bam, Sirjan, and Rafsanjan, noted by Marco Polo in the 13th century, highlight the route's authenticity. Evidence of ancient inter-civilizational connections in Jiroft and Shahr-e Sukhteh also underscores this.

Implementing the North-South Corridor (India-Iran-Russia) agreement, and favorable diplomatic relations including eased tourist entry, and cultural and trade relations, can lay the groundwork for this initiative. India, with over 1.3 billion people and the world's fourth-largest and fastest-growing economy in 2023, offers immense potential for this project.

Iran and India can inaugurate a new chapter of "countries of shared concerns," with the Spice Route being the visionary path for future cooperation.

tile revetment above a continuous marble dado. Many believe each of the mosque's parts is a work of genius that leaves a lasting impression. This place of devotion owes its splendor mostly to being covered with seven-color mosaic tiles and symmetrical calligraphic inscriptions. Imam Square is hemmed on four sides by magnificent buildings: to the east, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque; to the west, the palace of Ali Qapu; to the north, the portico of Qeysarieh; and to the south, the eminent Imam Mosque.

"The square was at the heart of the Safavid capital's culture, economy, religion, social power, government, and politics. Its vast sandy esplanade was used for celebrations, promenades, and public executions, for playing polo and for assembling troops," according to the UNESCO website.

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which translates into "half the world", meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. The city is home to many versatile artisans who underpin its reputation as a living museum of traditional culture.

Woodwork is another significant handicraft in Gilan, with artisans producing a variety of items from local wood, such as furniture, kitchen utensils, and decorative objects. The craftsmanship involves traditional techniques that highlight the natural beauty of the wood and the skill of the maker. Pottery and ceramics are also prevalent in Gilan, where artisans create functional and decorative items using locally sourced clay. The designs often reflect the natural environment and cultural motifs of the region. Additionally, Gilan's handicrafts include basket weaving, with artisans using reeds and other natural materials to create baskets, mats, and other woven products. These items are both practical and decorative. Overall, the handicrafts of Gilan province are a testament to the region's rich cultural history and the creativity of its people.

Pointing out the presence of numerous museums in Gilan, Jahani stated that visiting the Rudbar Handicrafts Exhibition and the Tea Museum is on the agenda for the week.

"Organizing a special photography competition for handicrafts," the director-general added. "And holding a festival showcasing the talents of handicraft artists are among the other programs for this week."

Gilan province, located in northern Iran along the Caspian Sea, is renowned for its rich

Gilan to honor artistry, craft skills with loads of programs

TEHRAN - Gilan province in northern Iran gears up for a national handicrafts week coinciding with World Handicrafts Day (June 10), boasting over 50 special programs.

On Thursday, the provincial director-general of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts highlighted that Gilan is embarking on handicrafts week with over 50 special programs celebrating the region's rich heritage and skilled artisans.

Vali Jahani detailed some of the arranged programs provincially, mentioning the establishment of handicraft exhibitions in Rasht, and the ceremony of reviving traditional weaving in Gilan.

The programs include exhibitions of the oldest handicrafts in Gilan, and related tools discovered from the Darband Rashi cave dating back to 240,000 years ago along with the inauguration of handicrafts stores, the official said.

Honoring pioneers, artists,

and outstanding entrepreneurs in the handicrafts sector, he underscored, are other parts of the handicrafts programs across the province.

"Exquisite embroidery pieces will be showcased along the Rasht Cultural Walkway," the director-general outlined.

"Gilan's embroidery artists," he added. "Will visit the Someh Sara silk factory during a one-day excursion."

Pointing out the presence of numerous museums in Gilan, Jahani stated that visiting the Rudbar Handicrafts Exhibition and the Tea Museum is on the agenda for the week.

"Organizing a special photography competition for handicrafts," the director-general added. "And holding a festival showcasing the talents of handicraft artists are among the other programs for this week."

Gilan province, located in northern Iran along the Caspian Sea, is renowned for its rich

cultural heritage and diverse array of handicrafts, as well as its unique geographical features, including lush forests, mountains, and coastal areas.

Gilan's handicrafts reflect the traditions, lifestyle, and natural resources of the area, making them an integral part of the local identity and economy. Among the most notable handicrafts of Gilan are its woven textiles, particularly the "Rashti-Duzi" or Rashti embroidery. This intricate form of needlework involves colorful silk threads creating elaborate floral and geometric patterns on wool or felt. Traditionally used to decorate garments, tablecloths, and curtains, Rashti-Duzi showcases the artistry and precision of Gilani craftspeople. Another prominent craft is "Chadorshab," a type of traditional silk and cotton fabric known for its fine quality and vibrant designs. This textile is often used for making shawls, scarves, and other garments. The weaving techniques and patterns have been passed

down through generations, preserving the cultural heritage of the region.

Woodwork is another significant handicraft in Gilan, with artisans producing a variety of items from local wood, such as furniture, kitchen utensils, and decorative objects. The craftsmanship involves traditional techniques that highlight the natural beauty of the wood and the skill of the maker. Pottery and ceramics are also prevalent in Gilan, where artisans create functional and decorative items using locally sourced clay. The designs often reflect the natural environment and cultural motifs of the region. Additionally, Gilan's handicrafts include basket weaving, with artisans using reeds and other natural materials to create baskets, mats, and other woven products. These items are both practical and decorative. Overall, the handicrafts of Gilan province are a testament to the region's rich cultural history and the creativity of its people.

Iran at forefront of war on drugs for over four decades

TEHRAN –Iran has been the only country on the front line of the war against narcotics for over 45 years despite oppressive sanctions of the U.S., the economic problems ahead, and the limited contribution of other countries.

With 4,000 martyrs in the fight against drugs, Iran is now self-sufficient in preventing addictions and has changed the balance of power in favor of the youth in the region, IRNA reported.

Their sacrifice has not only safeguarded the borders of the country but also the countries that claim democracy and human rights.

According to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC), about 35-40 percent of the drugs produced in Afghanistan are smuggled through Iran to enter Europe and west of Asia.

However, with the bravery and perseverance of anti-narcotics police, more than 75 percent of the drugs are discovered and destroyed.

If it weren't for necessary actions taken by Iran, this amount of illicit drugs would have caused disasters in European and American countries.

Logistical, equipment, and financial sanctions under the pretext of political sanctions, in practice, have left Iran alone in dealing with



the world's largest drug trafficking axis.

According to official reports, Western countries have so far withheld even the slightest aid to Iran.

"The increase in sanctions has also cast a shadow on the fight against narcotics, but we warn them that sanctions on narcotics are the most unintelligent sanctions since it will lead to a decrease in world security," IRNA quoted Iran's Police Chief, Brigadier General Ahmad Reza Radan as saying.

Relying on the expertise of Iranian elites and researchers, as well as using up-to-date equipment and modern inventions of knowledge-based companies, the anti-narcotics police has been able to achieve good results in drug discoveries and arresting drug dealers.

Considering that drug-related crimes are considered transnational organized crimes, no single country can effectively tackle the fight against drugs alone.

On April 17, Alireza Kazemi, an official with anti-narcotics headquarters, said, "Iran is now self-sufficient in preventing addiction, treating addicts, and combating narcotics."

Despite unfair sanctions, knowledge-based companies have achieved significant scientific progress in dealing with the harms of addiction and drugs which has made the country independent from foreign aid.

Domestically-made products that are used to treat drug addiction can be exported to other countries, even advanced countries, he added.

The affordability and the minimal side effects of these products have made them competitive compared to foreign counterparts. In some cases, they have proved to be even much more effective.

Effective implementation of anti-narcotics programs

In March, the secretary general of the anti-narcotics headquarters stressed the need for effective implementation of anti-narcotics programs in the region free from political considerations.

"One of the most important challenges of the present era is the narcotic drugs, industrial substances and new psychedelics and the sufferings that I would like to refer to as the quiet war against humanity," IRIB quoted Eskandar Momeni as saying.

He made the remarks in the 67th UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, urging all countries to be committed to the sustainable and effective implementation of international drug control conventions.

"In the past five years, adopting a balanced strategy in the fight against drugs, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken effective measures to promote security and public health in alignment with the implementation of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration, international treaties, and conventions," Momeni added.

Food safety enhances public health, lowers healthcare costs

TEHRAN – Food and beverage safety plays a key role in improving public health as unhealthy and contaminated products pose a threat to the health of individuals, and impose heavy burdens on the healthcare system of the country.

The healthier and safer consumed foods are; the healthier the society and the lower the healthcare costs will be, Mehr News Agency reported.

Abdolazim Behfar, an official with Iran Food and Drug Administration (FDA), referring to the legal measures of the FDA in observing the safety of food products, highlighted food production units and imported shipments, containing raw materials and products, are precisely monitored.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Food Safety Day which is annually celebrated on June 7.

The Day aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development.

The official went on to say that over the past Iranian year (March 2023 – March 2024), 4,884 cases of complaints about food products were handled. Out of the total number of supervisions, about 5,100 violating units were identified and referred to the judicial authorities.

Based on Iran FDA supervision, 266 unauthorized production units were identified, and more than 170,000 items of contraband were discovered, Behfar stated.

"Additionally, 148,000 illegal and counterfeit products were discovered, and about 3.8 million

kilograms of food and beverage shipments that did not comply with regulations were destroyed over the past year," he further noted.

The universities of medical sciences across the country are the executive arms of Iran FDA, which inspects major distribution centers of health-oriented products, Behfar said.

Food safety: prepare for the unexpected

Food safety is a collective responsibility – everyone from producers to consumers needs to play their part.

However, there are exceptional situations where even if we have all played our part, the unexpected intervenes and food safety is compromised.

Even then, there is always something we can do to avoid illness.

Food safety incidents can range from minor events to major international crises, whether it is a power outage at home, a food poisoning at a local restaurant, a voluntary recall of contaminated products by a manufacturer, an outbreak from imported products, or a natural disaster.

Food safety hazards do not recognize borders, so in an increasingly interconnected global food supply, risks posed by unsafe food can rapidly evolve from a local problem to an international emergency.

This year's theme, 'Food safety: prepare for the unexpected', underlines the importance of being prepared for food safety incidents, no matter how mild or severe they can be.

Food safety incidents are situations where there is a potential or confirmed health risk associated with food consumption. A food incident can happen, for example, due to accidents, inad-

equated controls, food fraud, or natural events.

While being ready to manage food safety incidents requires dedicated efforts from policymakers, food safety authorities, farmers, and food business operators, consumers also can play an active role.

Why improving food safety is important

Access to sufficient amounts of safe food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health.

Foodborne illnesses are usually infectious or toxic in nature and often invisible to the plain eye, caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, or chemical substances entering the body through contaminated food or water.

Food safety has a critical role in assuring that food stays safe at every stage of the food chain – from production to harvest, processing, storage, distribution, all the way to preparation and consumption.

With an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses annually, unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies, disproportionately affecting vulnerable and marginalized people, especially women and children, populations affected by conflict, and migrants.

An estimated 420,000 people around the world die every year after eating contaminated food and children under 5 years of age carry 40 percent of the foodborne disease burden, with 125,000 deaths every year.

This international day is an opportunity to strengthen efforts to ensure that the food we eat is safe, mainstream food safety in the public agenda, and reduce the burden of foodborne diseases globally.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Special plan prepared to attract overseas Iranian researchers

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has prepared a special plan to attract scientists and researchers living abroad, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The project aims to promote "supporting technological activities and startups", "postdoctoral facilities", "supporting employment in innovation centers and accelerators as a trainer and consultant", "providing facilities for opportunity studies", "providing housing facilities", "supporting employment in reputable domestic companies", "support for lectures and specialized workshops" and "support for cooperation as invited and appointed professors".

طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

جذب محققان و پژوهشگران خارج از کشور یکی از اولویتهای کشور محسوب می‌شود و در این راستا معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری طرحی ویژه پیشنهاد کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیت‌های فناورانه و ایجاد شرکت‌های نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهنده‌ها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکت‌های معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاه‌های تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین» است.

Iranian Universities move up in QS WUR 2025

TEHRAN –The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) has placed nine Iranian universities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

This year's ranking features over 1,500 institutions across 105 higher education systems.

Sharif University of Technology (with a rank of 342), University of Tehran (368), Amirkabir University of Technology (403), Iran University of Science and Technology (436), and Isfahan University of Technology (489) are ranked first to fifth, respectively.

Tabriz University (552), Shiraz University (691-700), Shahid Beheshti University (851-900), and Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (951- 1000) are other top Iranian universities included in the ranking.

The results draw on the analysis of 17.5 million academic papers and the expert opinions of over 240,000 academic faculty and employers.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology celebrates thirteen years at the top, while Imperial College London has climbed to second place.

Since the 2024 edition, three new indicators including sustainability, employment outcome, and international research network into the QS World University Ranking.

The QS World University Rankings is an annual ranking of universities published by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a British international education market consultancy.

The data on research and citations looks at a five-year period for research papers and a six-year period for citations.

The QS World University Rankings 2025 is based on 6 key ranking indicators including Academic reputation (30 percent); Employer Reputation (15 percent); Faculty-Student Ratio (10 percent); Citations Per Faculty Ratio (20 percent); International Faculty Ratio (5 percent); International Student Ratio (5 percent); International Research Network Index (5 percent); Employment Outcomes (5 percent); and Sustainability (5 percent).

A total of 29 Islamic countries with 270 universities are included in this ranking.

Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkey rank first to third respectively in terms of the number of universities. Iran ranks 11th among Islamic nations in this year's QS ranking.

Recent ranking

SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR) 2024 has placed 197 Iranian universities among the top institutions in the world compared to 194 universities in 2023.

The SIR is a classification of academic and research-related institutions ranked by a composite indicator that combines three different sets of indicators based on research performance, innovation outputs, and societal impact measured by their web visibility.

In the latest ranking, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (5) and the University of Tehran (10) are among the top 10 institutions in West Asia. They were ranked 6th and 11th, respectively, in the 2023 ranking.

The Research rankings of Tehran University of Medical Sciences and the University of Tehran are 175 and 290, respectively, in the world.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences ranking has improved from 486, in 2023, to 452 in 2024 marking it the top university in Iran.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences holds first position in Medicine, 2nd in Dentistry, 5th in pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics in West Asia. It is also ranked 34th in Dentistry globally.

The University of Tehran is ranked 2nd in the country and 827th worldwide.

The University of Tehran is placed 1st in Business, Management, and Accounting (38th in the world), 3rd in Economics, Econometrics, and Finance, and 4th in Engineering in West Asia.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences; Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, and Tabriz University of Medical Sciences; are placed third to fifth in the country respectively.

These institutions' rankings in West Asia are as follows.

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences ranks 3rd in Medicine, and 6th in Dentistry.

Mashhad University of Medical Sciences ranks 4th in pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics.

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences ranks 2nd in pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutics (47th worldwide), and 5th in Energy.

The 14th edition of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject 2024 included 17 Iranian universities in 17 subject entries, compared with 16 universities in 2023.

University of Tehran (346), Sharif University of Technology (401- 450) in Engineering and Technology; Tehran University of Medical Sciences (358), Mashhad University of Medical Sciences (451- 500), University of Tehran (451- 500), and Shiraz university of medical sciences (501 – 550) in Life sciences and Medicine; and University of Tehran (401-450), and Sharif University of Technology (501-550) in Natural Science are the top universities.

A total of 435 Iranian institutions were among 11,989 institutions ranked in Webometrics world ranking 2024.

Tehran University was the top among Iranian institutions. Its ranking had improved from 305 in 2023 to 285 in 2024, Mehr news agency reported.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (445), Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science (606), Sharif University of Technology (639), Amirkabir University of Technology (792), Iran Science and Technology (890), Isfahan University of Medical Sciences (920), Iran Medical Sciences University (940), Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (940), and Shahid Beheshti University (967) ranked second to tenth, respectively, in the country.

According to this year's ranking, 338 other institutions have been ranked between 4,000 to 31,000.

According to the results of the 2023-2024 edition of the University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP), 71 Iranian institutions were included in the ranking compared to 64 institutions in the 2022-2023 edition.

URAP World Ranking is based on six academic performance indicators including number of articles, citations, total document, scientific productivity, research impact, and international collaboration.

In the academic performance ranking of 71 universities in Iran, Tehran University was ranked first nationally with a global rank of 231, IRNA reported.

Tehran University of Medical Science (277), and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science (436) were ranked second and third, respectively.

In the 2023 edition of URAP, the University of Tehran was ranked first nationally with a global rank of 231.

Golestan University of Medical Science (1307), University of Hormozgan, Amol University of Special Modern Technologies, Vali-e-Asr University of Rafsanjan, Ilam University, University of Science and Technology of Mazandaran are institutions that had recently been ranked among the best in the world in the 2023-2024 edition.

In December 2023, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) released a report, ranking 115 governmental and 17 non-governmental universities according to six indices.

Education counts for 30 percent, Research counts for 25 percent, Technology and Innovation counts for 20 percent, International Outlook counts for 10 percent, and Social Services, Infrastructure, and Facilities counts for 5 percent, ISNA quoted the ISC head Ahmad Fazl-zadeh as saying.

The universities of Tehran, Ferdowsi of Mashhad, Tarbiat Modarres, Shahid Beheshti, and Shiraz were placed first to fifth in the ranking.

The Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2024 has listed 36 Iranian universities among the world's top 1,000 institutions, compared with 29 universities in 2023.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024 include 1,904 universities across 108 countries and regions.

The ranking is based on 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook.

Sharif University of Technology ranked first among Iranian universities with a rank in the range of 301-350.

Amirkabir University came next with a rank in the range of 351-400.

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JUNE 8, 2024

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Harmonize your request for livelihood with your giving alms.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:03 Evening: 19:40 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Paintings by Hamideh Azimi are on display in an exhibition at Doost Gallery.

Entitled "Reflection", the exhibit will be running until July 2 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 4, 4th St. off Eshqyar St., Khorramshahr Ave.

HAMIDE AZIMI
SOLO EXHIBITION
REFLECTION

* Paintings by Maryam Abedi are currently on view in an exhibition at Etemad Gallery 1.

The exhibition named "The Sonnet of Bistoon" will be running until June 18 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

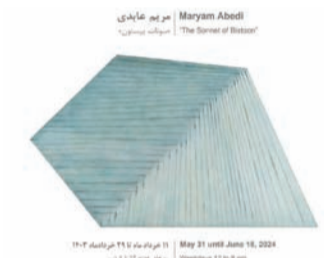


* Paintings by a group of artists including Mohammad Ebrahimi, Pourang Piratai, Soheil Kheirabadi, and Touraj Nabi are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit named "Subaltern" will continue until June 14 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.

* An exhibition of paintings by Azadeh Yaqubpur is underway at Shokuh Gallery.

The exhibition named "Gems of The Earth" will run until June 16 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzu Blvd.



* Ech Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Cyrus Valizadeh.

The exhibit entitled "Save the Greens" will run until June 21 at the gallery located at 10 Mirza Taraj opposite Dowlat St., Shariati Ave.



* A collection of paintings by a large number of artists including Ali Ganjavi, Mitra Kaviani, Farshid Maleki, Nikzad Nojumi, and Masoud Keshmiri is on view in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit named "View" will be running until June 14 at the gallery, which can be found at 54 near Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Blvd.



* Bashgah Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by a group of artists including Fereshteh Hemmati, Diba Samadi, Nazanin Behzadi, Amir Ahmadi, Neda Jalili and several others.

Entitled "Hamoun", the exhibition will be running until June 21 at the gallery located at No.13, Hosseini St., Karim Khan Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Mirza Hamid is on display in an exhibition at Dastan Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until June 14 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.



* A collection of paintings by Saeideh Hatami is on view in an exhibition at Homa Gallery.

The exhibition will be running until June 9 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

Calligraphic painting

* Atbin Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of calligraphic paintings by a group of artists.

Entitled "In Line", the exhibit will continue until June 11 at the gallery located at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.



"The Book of Ramallah" by Palestinian writers published in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian translation of "The Book of Ramallah: A City in Short Fiction" edited by the Palestinian author Maya Abu Al-Hayat has been released in the Iranian book market.

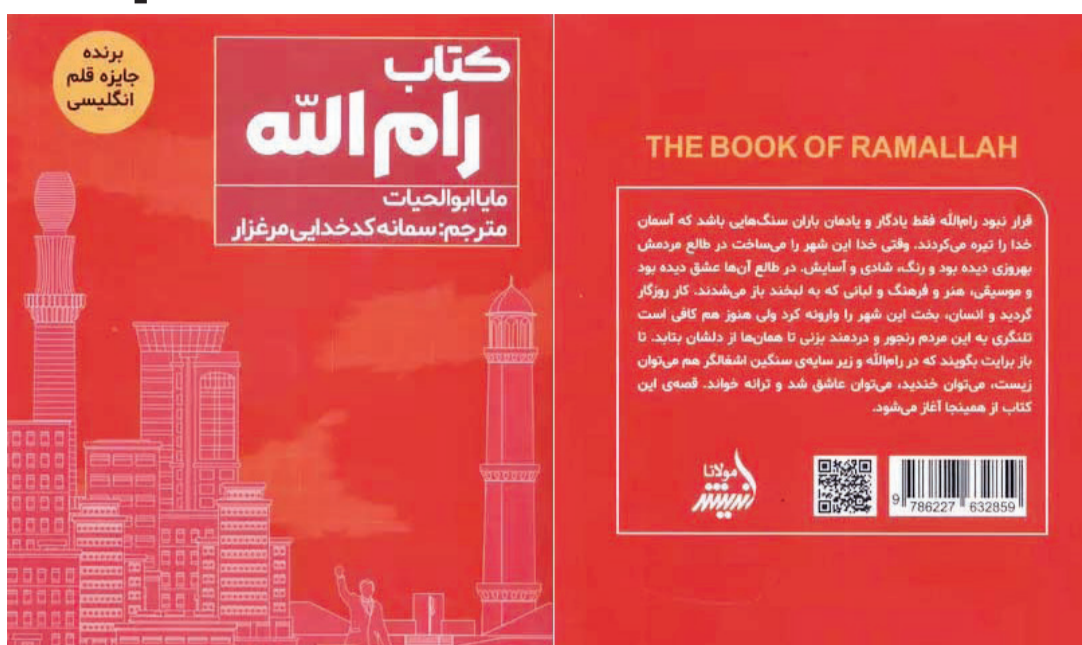
Samaneh Kadkhodaei Marghzar has translated the book and Andisheh Molana Publishing House has brought it out, Mehr reported.

The book collects ten short stories by ten Palestinian authors, who range from emerging to globally acclaimed, and their overlapping portraits show a mirage of an independent Palestinian city, surrounded by checkpoints that are all too real. It is a place where the characters' sanity and autonomy are always under threat, where their stories are constantly in question. The authors come from different backgrounds and generations, whose fictions are crafted in diverse styles, from romantic realism to satire to the surreal.

The collection, which was the winner of English PEN Translates Award in 2020, features writings by Maya Abu Al-Hayat, Anas Abu Rahma, Liana Badr, Ahlam Bsharat, Ameer Hamad, Khaled Hourani, Ahmad Jaber, Ziad Khadash, Ibrahim Nasrallah, and Mahmoud Shukair.

The collection opens with an introduction that gives us a short history of the city. Unlike nearby Jerusalem or Bethlehem, Ramallah doesn't have an iconic history. Editor Maya Abu al-Hayat writes that, for a long time, Ramallah was a small Christian village. Founded as early as the 16th century, it stayed largely under the radar until it rose to sudden importance during the Oslo Accords, when it was declared "Area A" and placed under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

After the accords were signed in 1993 and 1995, several writers in exile, including Mahmoud Darwish, returned to the city. Mourid Barghouti came for the visit he chronicled in his lyrical memoir "I Saw Ramallah". But the promised autonomy did not materialize. To many writers, Abu



al-Hayat notes, Ramallah has come to represent the "glimmer of hope that isn't real".

Ramallah is a relatively new town, a de facto capital of the West Bank allowed to thrive after the Oslo Peace Accords, but just as quickly hemmed in and suffocated by the Occupation as the Accords have failed.

Perched along the top of a mountainous ridge, it plays host to many contradictions: traditional Palestinian architecture jostling against aspirational developments and cultural initiatives, a thriving nightlife in one district, with much more conservative, religious attitudes in the next.

Most striking however--as these stories show--is the quiet dignity, resilience, and humor of its people; citizens who take their lives into their hands every time they travel from one place to the next, who continue to live through countless sieges, and yet still find the time, and resourcefulness, to create.

In their quiet way, the characters in this collection struggle for control over their lives and the world around them. They fight against social conventions, the vagaries of memory, and the restrictions of Covid-19. But most of all, they fight for autonomy within the Israeli occupation.

Many of the writers in the anthology play with this earlier

period of hope and compare it to the reality of living close to Jerusalem and the power the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have over the region. In the opening story, "Love in Ramallah," the drama focuses on a checkpoint outside the city and a soldier coercing a young girl to kiss a strange man. Unless she does so, the bus transporting Palestinians is not allowed to leave. Though Ibrahim Nasrallah's story ends on a line of humorous dialogue, the tension in the story is real and dangerous.

Similar situations exploring the power dynamic between the Palestinians and Israelis occur throughout the book. In Liana Badr's "A Garden That Drinks Only from the Sky," a woman recounts in dreamlike prose the closing of a checkpoint, seemingly dooming her relationship with her lover. Such heartbreaking scenes are often reinforced by the violence of the IDF, making life in Ramallah sometimes feel hopeless and broken.

Yet this is only part of the story. The collection is more than just instances of desperation and despair. Several of the stories are tender and humorous and full of breathtaking moments of wonder in everyday life. Others like Ahlam Bsharat's "The Horse's Wife" offer a dose of surrealism, whereas Maya Abu Al-Hayat's "Badia's Magic Water" explores heartbreaking

situations of unmarried pregnant women in Ramallah.

Ramallah is a small city, but as home to many of Palestine's cultural and educational resources, it attracts people from all over Palestine and beyond. The Ramallah of this collection feels something like a big bus terminal, with people coming and going, confused about whose seat is whose, and where often travel is shut down entirely. And yet there are also moments of wicked humor, tender love, and elevating grace.

Taken as a whole, the cultural richness of the city and its environs brim in every description and utterance. All ten stories inform and entertain: they have something to say.

Born in Beirut, Maya Abu Al-Hayat is a Palestinian novelist and poet living in Jerusalem, but working in Ramallah. She has published two poetry books, numerous children's stories and three novels.

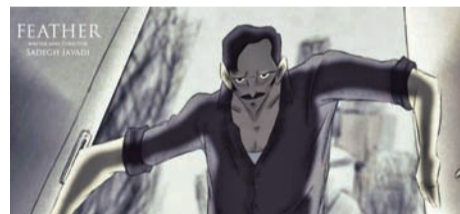
Her books have gained worldwide recognition, and some of her stories have been translated into different languages. Abu Al-Hayat also worked as an actress and ran the Palestine Writing Workshop. Abu Al-Hayat played a prominent role in children's literature, writing, and presenting television programs for children and was distinguished by her writing of children's stories.

Iranian short flick "Feather" wins best animated film award at Russian festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short animation "Feather" written and directed by Sadegh Javadi won the best animated film for adults award at the second Voronezh International Animation Film Festival "AniMakers," held from May 30 to June 2 in Voronezh, Russia.

A production of the Documentary, Experimental and Animated Film Center, "Feather" tells the story of a father and a son who bet on a rooster; however, an unusual old man enters their lives and changes everything, ILNA reported.

In this year's edition of the festival, Iranian filmmaker and screenwriter Farnush Abedi was on the jury. She was one of the winners of the first edition of the AniMakers.



The Voronezh International Animation Festival "AniMakers" is a review of modern professional domestic and world animation films for children, teenagers and families. A feature of the festival is its workshop format, which includes not only screenings and discussions of animated films, but also master classes, round tables and creative

meetings for a wide audience from leading specialists of the Voronezh Animation Studio and recognized professionals of the international animation industry. The workshop program will present animation as one of the fastest growing arts and creative industries.

The festival was supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the Government of Voronezh region.

Within the framework of the international animation festival there were about 55 events of competitive, educational and business programs, which were attended by more than 6500 people.

Arasbaran Cultural Center shows "The Fall Guy"

TEHRAN- American filmmaker David Leitch's 2024 movie "The Fall Guy" was reviewed during a session at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday.

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

The film tells the story of Colt Seavers, a Hollywood stunt performer, who is severely injured during a stunt gone wrong and abandons his career and girlfriend Jody. Eighteen months later, Colt receives a call from Tom's film producer, Gail, who wants him to join the production of Jody's directorial debut, Metalstorm. However, Colt soon learns that Jody never

asked for him and is still angry about their breakup. Meanwhile, Tom has gone missing, and Gail wants Colt to find him before his absence causes the film's cancellation.

As Colt searches for Tom, he uncovers a web of deceit and conspiracy involving Tom's former stuntman, Henry's death, and a deepfake video that frames him for the crime. Along the way, Colt and Jody rekindle their romance, but Gail abruptly informs him that he must return to the United States. Determined to clear his name and find Tom, Colt continues his search, tracking down Tom's PA Alma and uncovering a shocking truth about Tom's past.

As the story unfolds, Colt faces numerous challenges, including a series of dangerous stunts and encounters with drug dealers and goons. With the help of his friend Dan, the stunt coordinator on Metalstorm, Colt finally uncovers the truth about Tom's disappearance and the conspiracy to frame him. In a thrilling finale, Colt exposes Tom's deceit and helps Jody complete the film. In the end, Colt is exonerated, and he and Jody get back together.

"The Fall Guy" received positive reviews from critics, with 81 percent of 339 critics' reviews on Rotten Tomatoes being positive, with an average rating of 7.1/10. The consensus states that the

film is a "rare mainstream movie with something to entertain everyone."

On Metacritic, the film received a score of 73 out of 100, indicating "generally favorable" reviews. Audiences also gave the film high praise, with an average grade of "A-" from CinemaScore and a 90 percent overall positive score from PostTrak. Critics praised the film's blend of action, comedy, and romance, as well as the performances and chemistry between Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt. However, some critics noted that the film's self-reflexive approach to Hollywood stunt work may also echo some of the industry's worst tendencies.