

The UN adds Israel to 'list of shame' after slaughtering more than 15,000 Palestinian children in Gaza

# Child Killers: Israel Side by Side with ISIL



A woman holds the hand of a boy killed in an Israeli airstrike at a UN school housing displaced Palestinians in Nuseirat, at a hospital ground in Deir el-Balah, June 6, 2024.

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## Israel kills over 200 Palestinians in central Gaza

Israel has carried out another cold-blooded massacre in the Gaza Strip killing more than 200 Palestinians in airstrikes in central Gaza.

The airstrikes targeted the Nuseirat refugee camp and other parts of central Gaza.

Hundreds of other people have also been wounded. Most of the victims are women and children.

The Ministry of Health in Gaza said "large numbers" of killed and wounded were arriving at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, the majority of whom are children and women.

"Dozens of injured people are lying on the ground, and medical teams are trying to save them with the basic medical capabilities they have available," it said, Al Jazeera reported.

The ministry said it is short on medicine and food, and that its main generator has stopped functioning due to lack of fuel.

In a short statement, the Israeli military said its forces hit Hamas infrastructure in the area of Nuseirat. The military later announced its forces rescued four captives during the operation in Nuseirat.

## Ex-Mossad official: Hezbollah missiles could paralyze entire Israel

The former head of Mossad's Intelligence division has warned Israel against the consequences of a full-scale war with Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement.

In an interview with the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, Haim Tomer, discussed the implications of continuing the fight in Gaza and expanding the campaign in the north.

According to Tomer, "entering a broad campaign in Lebanon now, after eight months of fighting in Gaza, significantly risks Israel's ability to function as a state with an economy, society, and international presence."

"The public must understand that an all-out war threatens Israel's Zionist vision," he said.

Tomer said that Hezbollah could paralyze the entire country by launching thousands of missiles.

The Lebanese Resistance movement poses "an unprecedented threat" that the Israeli army cannot counter, the former official said.

"They have precision missiles that can destroy Israel's gas fields in seconds.

## U.S. silencing pro-Palestine voices

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN - In the so-called land of the free, it appears that freedom of speech has its limits in America when TV presenters criticize the Israeli war on Gaza.

The United States has been fueling the Israeli air and ground assault on Gaza's 2.2 million population through many different measures.

Apart from arms shipments to Tel Aviv that are being dropped on civilians in Gaza as well as diplomatic and political backing, news coverage of the war in the mainstream media has been accused of being very one-sided in support of the Israeli occupation regime.

It may therefore not have come as a surprise when the Washington-based news outlet, The Hill, fired Briahna Joy Gray, the co-host of a daily morning show.

The presenter has been a vocal critic of the Israeli narrative surrounding the events on October 7, and has repeatedly condemned the mass slaughter of women and children in Gaza.

The headlines say she was fired for rolling her eyes on air when speaking to a sister of a captive taken on October 7.

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## Iran proposes enhanced transit cooperation among BRICS members

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehrdad Bazrpash has offered some new suggestions for improving transportation and transit cooperation among BRICS member states, IRNA reported.

He made the remarks during a video conference speech at the BRICS transport ministers meeting held on the sidelines of the 27th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum on Friday.

Pointing to Iran's potential and actual capacities in the fields of transportation and transit, including international North-South and East-West corridors, the minister announced Iran's readiness for digitalization of transportation and logistics supply chains, training of human resources, and supporting innovations in line with BRICS goals.

"The International North-South Transit Corridor, as one of the important corridors linking the BRICS members, with suitable and effective transportation advantages, can bring synergy among the BRICS member countries in the field of transportation and transit," he said. ► Page 4

## Tehran conference celebrates World Handicrafts Day

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - On Saturday, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts hosted a grand event commemorating World Handicrafts Day.

Addressing the event, the Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami honored the memory of the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, saying "He truly valued handicrafts and, whenever necessary, he would pursue the issues ahead of us and issue the necessary orders.

Zarghami added, "Formerly, the missions of this ministry were considered secondary. But now, the missions of this ministry are regarded as a top priority, and this is due to the valuable perspective of that wise and capable President."

"I once told Ayatollah Raisi in a Cabinet meeting that if we want to boost handicrafts, we must facilitate exports so that everyone can easily transport and export their handicraft products across the border."

The conference was a vibrant assembly of relevant officials, veterans, artisans, and reporters. Among the attendees were the Deputy Minister for Handicrafts and Traditional Arts, Maryam Jalali Dehkordi; Deputy Minister for Development, Management, and Resources, Ali Taloui; and Deputy Minister for Tourism, Ali-Asghar Shalbafian. Also, several members of Parliament, senior managers, veterans, and investors, ► Page 6

## Iranians call this 'linking Gudarz to Shaqayeq'

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN- There are few things in the world that seem to have no end. One of them is the tenacity of Israeli-affiliated media outlets in putting together baseless, false, and irrelevant information to undermine the regime's enemies, no matter how desperate and unprofessional it may sound.

After asking the world to "let Israel be Israel" and turn a blind eye to the genocide of Palestinians, or suggesting that people should not "blame Israel first" despite its repeated crimes against humanity, the Wall Street Journal published an opinion piece on Thursday in what appeared to be an attempt to celebrate what the newspaper perceived as Iran's latest setbacks. ► Page 3



## Iran calls on D-8 nations to sever ties with Israel

TEHRAN - Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has called on member states of the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation to sever all economic and political ties with Israel to pressure it to cease its aggression in the Gaza Strip.

His remarks were made during an extraordinary meeting of D-8 foreign ministers held in Istanbul, Turkey, on Saturday.

During his address, Bagheri Kani condemned the ongoing atrocities committed by Israel against the Palestinian people. He urged Islamic countries to take decisive action, including cutting off all relations with Israel, to end the violence in Gaza.

Bagheri Kani emphasized that Israel will only acknowledge the gravity of the situation when confronted. ► Page 3

## Who is the Iranian journalist arrested in France?

TEHRAN - The French government arrested an Iranian journalist on Tuesday, under charges still unknown to his family and the public.

Biazar was summoned by French police without explanation and subsequently arrested upon his arrival at the police station. He was then transported to a detention facility located three hours away from his residence.

Police and officials of France have not commented on the Iranian national's detention despite calls from his spouse, Iran's foreign ministry, and the country's top rights official.

Biazar was an independent journalist whose coverage of the latest Israeli war on Gaza had garnered ► Page 2



## TEHRAN PAPERS

## The enemy's political resolutions do not affect Iran's economy

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

In an analysis, Kayhan discussed the approval of a new resolution against Iran by the Europeans and quoted Zahir Esfahani, an economic analyst, as saying: According to economic experts, America has no more excuses to use against Iran, and the enemy is unable in any kind of new pressure and sanctions against Iran. Unlike the previous periods, it seems that America does not agree with the policies of issuing a resolution against Iran.

The purpose of this resolution is to increase political pressure on Iran because Iran is on the verge of elections and anti-Iranian resolutions will not cause the markets to be inflamed. In this situation where the most important issue of Iran's foreign policy is the nuclear issue, the West wants to put pressure on Iran and give signs to both the Iranian people and the elected president in order to change the political, economic, and social approach towards the goals of the West in the next four years. In the last three years, Iran has shown that it will not pay any ransom to foreign governments.

## Arman-e-Melli: killing the JCPOA or the "birth of the new JCPOA"?

In a note, Arman-e-Melli investigated the aims of the West in issuing a resolution against Iran in the IAEA and wrote: It seems that the Europeans and the Americans are looking for a multifaceted project in a joint action against Iran by playing games with American think tanks. Upon political pressure, they want to call Iran a JCPOA violator and make the snapback mechanism ineffective in October 2025 so that they can implement the sanctions against our country.

It seems that the Westerners are trying to manage multifaceted pressure against Iran by using the snapback mechanism and by threatening our country to be placed under Chapter 7 of Article 42 of the Security Council, to persuade Tehran to think about a new JCPOA. Of course, Iran will only think of its interests, and the indirect negotiations that Iran had with the Americans in Doha in the past indicate that Iran's hand will not be closed in this American and European scenario against our country.

## Iran: Globalization of resistance discourse

In an interview with political sociologist Dr. Ali Entezari, the Iran newspaper addressed the Leader's recent letter to American students supporting Palestine. It wrote: In this letter, the Leader introduces the "resistance front" as transnational. This means that the resis-

tance front is not only limited to West Asia and Islamic countries but covers the whole world. The world order is an order based on oppression and injustice, and the Western world uses political, military, and even intellectual tools for domination and repression in order to establish its order over the world. That is why this letter is a "hopeful letter".

He promises the pro-Palestinian students that the discourse based on "world order" is declining and will be replaced by "resistance discourse".

This is a true promise given by the Leader because this discourse is not for a specific territory. It is integrated and manifested in the whole world. With the focus on religion and the Quran, it will become the basis for the collapse of the oppressive system. Therefore, according to the existing world order that dominates the world, due to the resistance it creates, it also causes the revival of competing poles.

## Sobh-e-No: The evil of the West against Iran has an internal strategy

In a commentary, Sobh-e-No discussed the recent anti-Iranian resolution. The paper said: Despite all the developments, some believe that this resolution follows another strategy apart from diplomatic issues, and that is an internal strategy to express the interference of the countries behind this resolution in Iran's elections.

The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency issued its anti-Iranian resolution on the eve of the presidential elections in order to prevent participation in the elections by instilling fear in the society and scaring people from the shadow of war and sanctions.

It can be said that this resolution has an internal usage and an electoral signal to the Western-oriented faction, and its issuers are looking for the end of the path of honorable diplomacy that was formed by martyr Raisi and Amir Abdollahian in the 13th government.

This claim is not far from the truth, and we have seen the efforts of the ambassadors and statesmen of these European countries to interfere in the country's issues in the past years. The activities of the German and English ambassadors were evident in 1401 (2022), and now they are considering the opportunity for a new action and a hybrid operation against the participation and electoral unity of the people.

## Diplomat denounces UAE's continued false claims on Persian Gulf Islands



TEHRAN – In a resolute letter to the United Nations Security Council, Iran has categorically dismissed the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) unfounded assertions regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf.

Iranian Ambassador to the UN, Saeed Iravani, denounced the allegations as a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and a blatant attempt to interfere in Iran's internal affairs.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally rejects and condemns all allegations in the letter and considers the contents of the letter as a flagrant and unjustified interference in its internal affairs, in direct contradiction to the spirit of good neighborliness, and a blatant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, particularly the principles of political sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity," the Iranian envoy wrote.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Abu

Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf and emphasizes that all decisions and actions taken by its authorities in these Iranian islands have always been, and will continue to be, based on the principle of national sovereignty," Iravani added.

The Iranian envoy implored the UAE to cease its irresponsible and provocative actions. He urged the UAE, as a member of the United Nations, to adhere to the fundamental principles of international law.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the United Arab Emirates to refrain from such irresponsible and provocative actions and, as a member of the United Nations, respect the principles of independent sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states that are foundational tenets upon which the United Nations was established.

All member states are required to uphold and observe these principles. Furthermore, these principles are recognized as essential for fostering peaceful relations and cooperation among states," he stated.

Iran is one of the oldest civilizations in the region and the world. Its sovereignty over the Iranian islands dates back to the 6th century BCE when the UAE was still hundreds of years away from emerging as a political entity.

The Islands were shortly occupied by British forces in the 1960s, a period that seems to be Abu Dhabi's excuse for arguing sovereignty over the Iranian territories.

## Who is the Iranian journalist arrested in France?

*Bashir Biazar was a familiar face at anti-Israel protests rocking the European country*

From page 1 ► significant attention on social media. Shortly after the beginning of the regime's onslaughts against Palestinians in the besieged enclave, Biazar's account was removed by X without prior warnings. The journalist opened up a new account, where he shared videos of anti-Israel demonstrations in France and also raised awareness about the plight of Palestinians at the hands of the regime's cruel military.

"The arrest of an Iranian national by the French police over his support for the oppressed people of Palestine is another disgrace for France in the field of human rights," Kazem Gharibabadi, the secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, wrote on X on Wednesday.

"Yesterday, I spoke with his spouse and the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; we're determined to defend our compatriots. This Iranian national must be freed as soon as possible," he said. Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani also commented on Biazar's arrest.

"Right after finding out [about the Iranian national's arrest], the Ministry of Foreign Affairs put pursuing and



[ensuring] respect for the rights of this citizen and his most immediate release on its agenda," the official said in a statement.

Biazar's pinned post on his X account displays him during a United Nations session where he was given the chance to detail the impact of Western sanctions on Iranian society, UN inaction in regards to the sanctions, as well as the humanitarian situation in Gaza based on his findings. The journalist's statements about Israeli crimes against humanity were met with multiple rounds of applause from other speakers and widely shared on different social media platforms.

## Silencing dissent against Israel

Washington and European states have worked in tandem in the past 8 months to muzzle any form of criticism against Israel.

The regime has killed over 36,000 civilians and razed the majority of Gaza to the ground, since a successful Palestinian operation deep inside the occupied territories on October 7th. It has targeted hospitals, schools, homes, mosques, and churches all across the enclave, and built mass graves in some areas to conceal its killing of civilians.

The situation in Gaza is being characterized as the world's worst humanitarian crisis by different bodies. Almost half of Gaza's population

is comprised of children, making the situation one of the most harrowing in modern history.

The scope of Israeli crimes has been spurring mass protests across the world, particularly in Western countries where people think their politicians are also to blame for the catastrophe due to their funding of the regime.

Western states have so far reacted to the protests with unprecedented violence. They have unleashed riot police against peaceful demonstrators in streets as well as schools, using teasers, batons, and pepper spray to disperse crowds. Thousands of people have also been arrested across Europe and the United States under accusations of "antisemitism."

Leaders have also reacted strongly to any criticism of the regime in the media. Several well-established journalists and editors have lost their lives in the past months for simply advocating for the rights of Palestinians as human beings.

The arrest of Biazar comes as a new move by Western politicians who have been unable to exert pressure on him through his workplace, as he is an independent journalist.

## Tehran urges boycotting Zionist goods, companies to end Gaza crisis



TEHRAN – In a recent statement, the spokesman for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted the urgent need for global action against the ongoing war crimes committed by the Zionist regime against Palestinians.

Nasser Kanaani suggested that boycotting Israeli goods and companies is an easy yet highly effective form of protest.

He emphasized that the inaction of international governments and the United Nations Security Council has exacerbated the situation, thereby increasing the responsibility of nations and non-governmental organizations to support the oppressed Palestinian people.

Kanaani shared his concerns in a note posted on his official social media account on Saturday. He pointed out that it has been 245 days since the Zionist regime began its relentless and deadly attacks on the besieged residents of the Gaza

Strip, resulting in the ongoing and painful killing of women and children.

Kanaani elaborated on the severity of the situation, stating, "The most heinous international crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide, have been perpetrated through the widespread killing of civilians, women, and children."

In his post, the spokesman reiterated the urgency of the situation, criticizing the international community's failure to act.

He stated, "Due to the inaction of governments and the United Nations Security Council in stopping the war crimes of the Zionist regime against Palestinians, the responsibility of nations and non-governmental organizations to support the oppressed Palestinian people increases. Boycotting Zionist goods and companies is the easiest, yet very effective action."

Kanaani's statement calls for immediate and tangible actions from the global community to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and support the Palestinian cause.

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 UN-RWA school in the Nuseirat refugee camp killed at least 40 Palestinians and injured dozens more.

## Iran acting FM urges U.S. to release Afghanistan's frozen assets

occupying forces and criticized the continued blockade of Afghanistan's assets as a significant hindrance to the country's development.

Reaffirming Iran's commitment, Bagheri Kani highlighted the importance of supporting initiatives for peace, stability, and development in Afghanistan. He cited Iran's active participation in forums such as the Afghanistan Neighboring Countries' Foreign Ministers' Meetings and the Moscow Format, which underscore the collective responsibility of the region to foster a stable Afghan government.

Bagheri Kani emphasized the necessity of regional collaboration, noting that aligning regional values is crucial for forging bilateral and multilateral agreements with Afghanistan. He called on the international community to move beyond merely discussing Afghanistan's problems and to actively propose and implement viable solutions.

Reflecting on the historical context, Bagheri Kani remarked that the current economic hardships and underdevelopment in Afghanistan are largely the result of the occupiers' actions, which destroyed the country's infrastructure and left it in ruins. He asserted that these forces must shoulder their humanitarian responsibilities and contribute to

Afghanistan's economic recovery without political interference.

The acting Foreign Minister also addressed the significant challenge posed by Afghan migration, which exerts pressure on neighboring countries like Iran and Pakistan while depriving Afghanistan of its workforce. He advocated for a responsible mechanism under UN supervision to facilitate the return of Afghan refugees and ensure their dignified reintegration into Afghan society.

Bagheri Kani recognized the interim Afghan government's efforts to form an inclusive government that represents all ethnic groups. He stressed that such inclusivity is vital for Afghanistan's political stability and economic development, a sentiment echoed in declarations from regional and neighboring meetings.

In his concluding remarks, Bagheri Kani highlighted Afghanistan's strategic geographical position, which could make it a key hub for East-West and North-South connectivity. He called for enhanced regional cooperation to develop Afghanistan's infrastructure, benefiting the entire region.

The acting Foreign Minister expressed concern over attempts by some external countries to influ-

The UN stated that 6,000 displaced people were sheltering in the 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.

ence developments in Afghanistan in ways that undermine its sovereignty. He called for regional unity and collaboration with international organizations and Afghanistan's interim government to prevent further foreign interference.

Reiterating Iran's stance, Bagheri Kani affirmed Iran's full support for constructive initiatives that ensure Afghanistan's peace, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. He urged the United Nations to pay closer attention to the humanitarian conditions in the country, emphasizing the need for a coordinated international effort to address Afghanistan's challenges.

On Saturday, Iran hosted the second meeting of the Regional Contact Group on Afghanistan, a forum established by the Islamic Republic in January to address concerns about the Central Asian country.

Special representatives from Iran, Pakistan, China, and Russia attended the session.

Rasoul Mousavi, an assistant to Iran's acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani, outlined the meeting's agenda, stating, "The meeting will include consultations among Iranian, Pakistani, Chinese, and Russian representatives on Afghanistan's future."

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



# Iran calls on D-8 nations to sever ties with Israel

From Page 1 ▶ with force, citing Iran's Operation True Promise, a significant retaliatory strike on April 13, as evidence.

Bagheri Kani highlighted the prolonged conflict, noting that more than eight months of Israeli attacks on Gaza have passed without any concrete action from the international community to halt what he described as "unprecedented crimes."

He accused Israel of using collective punishment policies to achieve a "sinister and dangerous goal" of making Gaza uninhabitable, labeling these actions as clear war crimes and genocide.

Representatives from Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Nigeria attended the D-8 summit to discuss the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Bagheri Kani called for a unified and strong response from Muslim countries to prevent the continuation of these crimes.

In the statement he issued for the meeting, Bagheri Kani stressed the importance of solidarity among Muslim countries and the utilization of their collective capacities to focus on this issue. He proposed several measures, including cutting political and economic ties with Israel, embargoing Israeli oil and goods, and recognizing the Israeli regime as a terrorist entity. Additionally, he suggested establishing a special international mission to bring Israel's crimes before international courts and called for the revival of UN General Assembly Resolution 3379, which previously equated Zionism with racism.

Bagheri Kani also touched upon the economic and humanitarian crisis in Gaza, urging the international community to adopt practical measures to support the Palestinian people. He proposed the establishment of a 'D-8 Advocacy Programme for Palestine,' an international conference on Gaza's reconstruction, and the creation of an Islamic fund to raise financial assistance.

He further called for the suspension of Israel's membership in international organizations and a ban



on its participation in international events, including the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris. Bagheri Kani advocated for the designation of Israel's military and security forces as terrorist organizations due to their actions in Gaza.

In conclusion, Bagheri Kani reiterated Iran's commitment to supporting initiatives that ensure peace, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity for Afghanistan. He urged the United Nations to pay closer attention to the humanitarian conditions in the country and to take concrete steps to alleviate the suffering of the people of Gaza.

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.

## Iran, Turkey to keep enhancing ties for regional stability

On the sideline of the meeting, Ali Bagheri Kani met with Turkey's Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan.

Bagheri expressed gratitude for Turkey's initiative in hosting the Istanbul meeting, highlighting Iran's strong interest in the Palestinian issue and commending Turkey's role in addressing it.

Highlighting the emphasis placed by Iran's late President and Foreign Minister on strengthening ties, Bagheri reaffirmed Iran's commitment to enhancing bilateral relations with Turkey, particularly in economic and trade aspects.

He stressed the importance of bolstering Iran-Turkey relations for regional stability, especially given their shared challenge posed by the Zionist regime and the escalating situation in Palestine, calling for closer diplomatic consultations among Islamic nations to support the Palestinians.

In response, Fidan appreciated Iran's participation in the Istanbul meeting during this sensitive period following the tragic incident on May 19 that resulted in the death of Iranian President and Foreign Minister. He mentioned discussions with the late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian regarding this initiative and the organization of the meeting.

Fidan also highlighted the diverse dimensions of Ankara-Tehran relations, emphasizing the need for continued cooperation in economic, energy, and counter-terrorism fields, building on positive agreements reached during presidential visits.

## 'Iran-Pakistan relation roots in a shared history'

The acting Foreign Minister of Iran continued his meetings and consultations in Istanbul on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers from the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation and met with

Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, to discuss the strengthening of relations between Tehran and Islamabad and their mutual interests in the region, particularly regarding Palestine.

During the meeting, Bagheri said that the relationship between the two countries is "not only rooted in a shared history but also in a common destiny," necessitating strategic planning for further strengthening and development of bilateral relations. He stressed the importance of wisdom and foresight to counter efforts aimed at creating discord and division between the two nations.

Mohammad Ishaq Dar, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, honored the memory of Iran's late President and Foreign Minister, expressing the profound sorrow and condolences of the Pakistani government and people.

He reiterated the serious commitment of Pakistan's officials to following through on the agreements made during President Raisi's significant visit to Pakistan.

## 'Bolstering ties with Indonesia was on late Raisi's agenda'

Continuing his diplomatic meetings, Bagheri Kani also met with Retno Marsudi, the Indonesian Foreign Minister.

During the meeting, Bagheri emphasized that one of the main agenda items of the late President of Iran was to focus on developing and expanding relations with Islamic countries, including Indonesia, as one of the important countries in Asia.

Retno Marsudi, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, also commemorated the memory of President Raisi, reiterating her condolences on behalf of the government and people of Indonesia to the Iranian government and people.

Marsudi also expressed readiness to strengthen cooperation between Tehran and Jakarta in international arenas, particularly in defending and supporting the rights of the Palestinian people.

## Iranians call this 'linking Gudarz to Shaqayeq'

From Page 1 ▶ In an article titled "Two Censures for the Regime in Iran" WSJ's editorial board hails the International Atomic Energy Organization's Wednesday anti-Iran resolution as a step that could facilitate the implementation of "snapback," a mechanism that would reinstate terminated UN resolutions against Iran and effectively nullify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The Wall Street Journal's article fails to mention that the IAEA resolution is non-binding and, therefore, will not impact Iran's nuclear program. What it could influence is the talking points of Western-aligned presidential candidates in Iran's upcoming snap elections, who have lost their bases among the Iranian populace long ago.

The article also omits the fact that the economic impact of "snapback" would likely not align with Western expectations. The United States has already withdrawn from the JCPOA and imposed significant sanctions on Iran, some of which are more severe and damaging than those outlined in the resolutions passed prior to the nuclear deal.

In other sections, the article discusses Biden's perceived reluctance to confront Iran. The Wall Street Journal's writers accuse Biden of providing Iran with billions of dollars by permitting it to sell oil (despite the fact that

the U.S. has attempted to halt Iran's oil sales by seizing its tankers, a strategy it was forced to abandon after Iranian armed forces retaliated in the Persian Gulf) and of defending Tehran following its attacks against Israel (as if Israel and the U.S. chose to de-escalate tensions because of Biden's sympathy for Iran, rather than because they were unable to effectively counter Iran's limited attack, which was likely to be followed by a more devastating one in the event of another Israeli error).

After employing these assertions to argue that Iran is being weakened on the international stage and that its achievements in recent months were not the result of its own capabilities but rather due to Biden's avoidable failures, the article cites a recent incident to inform its readers that Iran is also losing influence domestically.

The second "censure" mentioned by the newspaper could be regarded as a new low in propaganda, even for a publication like the Wall Street Journal, which has shamelessly defended every untenable Israeli action over the past eight months.

The article talks about the recent arrest of a Mossad spy that it introduces as an editor and translator known for his "clever critique" of the Iranian government. According to the op-ed, Hossein Shanbezhadeh was arrested because he

commented a dot under a Twitter post by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. It argues that the charges of espionage against the figure are false and that his detention happened because he had become a popular dissident of the Islamic Republic among the Iranian people.

Once again, the WSJ tells some lies and also omits some very important facts. The lie is that Shanbezhadeh was not a well-known figure. He had gained some notoriety among anti-Iran Twitter users for insulting religious figures, but he in no way possessed widespread recognition within Iran.

What the WSJ doesn't talk about is even more significant than its lies. If Shanbezhadeh was merely an ordinary citizen exercising his right to criticize the government, why was he arrested while attempting to illegally cross Iran's border? Why was his Twitter account suspended immediately following his detention? And what did his Telegram messages reveal about his receipt of funds from Israel?

The Thursday op-ed by WSJ may evoke a well-known Persian idiom among Iranian readers. Some are going to read the article and question how the world-renowned newspaper managed to "link Gudarz to Shaqayeq"? that's an expression used to describe the illogical and irrelevant combination of random facts to support a conclusion that lacks a logical basis.

## Acting president congratulates Indian PM Modi on election victory

TEHRAN – Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhber has extended his congratulations to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his victory in the recent parliamentary elections.

In a message sent on Friday, Mokhber praised the strengthening of the partnership between Iran

and India under Modi's leadership. He expressed hope that the strong determination from both nations would lead to further enhancement of bilateral relations.

Responding to Mokhber's message, Prime Minister Modi expressed gratitude and affirmed that Tehran and New Delhi would

continue to collaborate to expand their bilateral relations and promote regional peace, security, and prosperity. Despite Modi's declaration of victory on Tuesday, his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did not secure a majority in several key states, reflecting a notable shift in the political landscape after a decade of BJP dominance.

The Hindu nationalist party, along with its allies, has agreed to form a new government, positioning Modi for a likely third consecutive term as Prime Minister. The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) coalition holds 293 seats in parliament, ensuring its control over the legislature.

## Mehrzad fatal weapon of Iran sitting volleyball

TEHRAN – In their quest for perfection, and to counter the integration of increasingly tall players into their opponents' line-up, the Iranian team can count on a major asset.

At two meters 46 (yes, you read that right, 2m46), Morteza Mehrzad has taken the team to a new level, olympics.com reported.

Officially the second tallest living man in the world, Morteza suffers from acromegaly (a rare hormonal disorder characterized by excessive secretion of growth hormone).

An accident at the age of 15 also slowed the growth of his right leg, which is now 15 centimeters shorter than his left. Spotted by the sharp eye of coach Hadi Rezaei, Morteza was integrated and trained by the Iranian federation, giving him his international debut in 2013.

Since then, he has enjoyed a string of victories and personal awards (golden ball for the world's best player in 2019, 2021 and 2022, double gold medalist at the Rio and Tokyo Games).

Defending Paralympic champions Iran will face Brazil, Germany and Ukraine in Pool B for a place in the semifinals in Paris.

Hosts France have joined Tokyo 2020 bronze medalists Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt and Kazakhstan in Pool A.

## Ghalenoei happy to defeat Hong Kong in 2026 World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Amir Ghalenoei expressed his satisfaction with Iran's performance in the 4-2 win over Hong Kong in Group E of the Preliminary Joint Qualification – Round 2 for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 on Thursday.

Having already booked its spot in the third round of the FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers and AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 Finals, Iran faced stiff resistance from a Hong Kong side who was already out of the running.

However, a Mehdi Taremi hat-trick powered the team to a 4-2 win with the clash against Uzbekistan on Tuesday to decide the group winners.

Ghalenoei said he couldn't have asked for more from his players, given the tough conditions.

"I am satisfied with the performance and quality of the game, as well as with the result obtained. We had two opponents. One was a good Hong Kong team and the other was the high humidity. Hong Kong played a good game and the weather also made it very challenging," said Ghalenoei to the-ffiri.com.

The Iran head coach said overall, it had been a satisfactory performance as he had given several young talents the chance to gain exposure.

"We scored four goals and had other chances to score more but in general, due to the presence of a number of young players who have recently joined the national team, I am satisfied with the performance and quality of the game, as well as the result.

"Football in Asia has become closer and the results recorded in the AFC Asian Cup (Qatar 2023) prove this. It showed that every game can be difficult for teams," Ghalenoei concluded.

## Iran suffer eighth successive loss in 2024 VNL

TEHRAN – Iran suffered their eighth consecutive loss in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Saturday morning.

Team Melli lost to Turkey 3-1 (22-25, 25-23, 25-23, 27-25) in Fukuoka, Japan.

Turkey's Kaan Gurbuz collected with 34 points, while Amin Esmaeilnezhad grabbed 18 points for Iran.

Iran, headed by interim coach Peyman Akbari, moved down to 17th place in the ranking table.

Iran will travel to Manila, the Philippines to meet the U.S., the Netherlands, France and Germany in Week 3 from June 19 to 23.

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.

## Shahrdari American center Stone joins Indios de Mayaguez

TEHRAN – Shahrdari Gorgan American power forward Diamond Stone joined Puerto Rican side Indios de Mayaguez.

The 27-year-old played last season at in Iranian Superleague.

Stone replaced Nick Perkins and should be available by next game of Indios de Mayaguez.

Shahrdari Gorgan will have to compete at the 2024 Basketball Champions League Asia.

The inaugural edition of the tournament will take place from June 9-15 in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

## Osmar Vieira linked with Thailand's Buriram United

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team head coach Osmar Vieira has been reportedly linked with a move to Thailand's Buriram United.

The 49-year-old Brazilian coach, who led Persepolis to title in the 2023-24 Iran Professional League, has not extended his deal with the Iranian club.

Media reports suggest that Vieira has negotiated with Buriram.

Buriram United have played at the top level of Thai football for the majority of their existence and competes in the Thai League 1.

The club were founded in 1970 as PEA FC (Provincial Electricity Authority Football Club) before being reformed as Buriram PEA and Buriram United in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

## IFBB president Rafael Santonja travels to Tehran

TEHRAN – President of International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB), Rafael Santonja, has traveled to Tehran, capital of Iran.

The Spaniard was welcomed by Abdolmehdi Nasirzadeh, head of Iran's Bodybuilding Federation, at the Imam Khomeini International Airport, located southwest of Tehran.

Santonja has traveled to Tehran to attend Mr Universe event at the Espinas International Hotel.

## Iranian top football officials arrested in corruption probe

TEHRAN – Several senior officials in Iranian football have been arrested over alleged corruption and bribery.

Khodadad Afsharian, head of Iran Football League Referees' Committee, has been jailed for bribery as well as Soheil Mahdi, head of Iran Football League Organization, and Fariborz Mahmoudzadeh, former head of Iran's First Division League.

The investigation began with the National Iranian Copper Industries' complaint against the Mes Rafsanjan club, which catalyzed the initial probe during the 2019 and 2020 seasons.

According to local media, several officials have been investigated so far in this case.

Domestic football is very popular in Iran but the corruption scandal has shocked the fans.



## Russia to export coal to India through Iran

TEHRAN – Russia plans to transit coal to India via the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC) passing through Iran, IRNA reported.

The announcement regarding the plan was made during the 27th Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum held in the city on Friday.

As reported, the export cargo of Russian coal is going to be shipped to India through Iran via the southern Bandar Abbas port.

The North-South Corridor consists of three route sections, namely East, West, and Middle.

Iran and Russia are also cooperating in the maritime sector to use the Caspian Sea to shorten the transit route from Russia to India.

Last year, the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) announced that it has assigned 300 containers to transport goods between Russia and India.

The mentioned containers have been allocated to execute the first phase of a program for transiting Russian commodities to India via the North-South Corridor using the Caspian Sea.

“According to the plans made by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, in the first phase, 300 containers have been considered for transporting cargos to Russia, and if the demand increases, the number of these containers will increase continuously,” an IRISL statement said.

## IRISL to overhaul 50 vessels by March 2025

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) is going to overhaul 50 vessels in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2025), an official with the company said.

According to the managing director of the IRISL overhaul bureau, the company is currently overhauling 13 vessels at its yards, IRNA reported.

The official noted that the IRISL repairs all its ships inside the country using the expertise of local engineers and experts.

According to him, seven of the vessels that are being overhauled by IRISL belong to the company and the rest are owned by the private sector.

Last year, IRISL Managing Director Mohammadreza Modares-Khiabani underlined the significance of self-sufficiency in the development of the country's maritime fleet and said IRISL is going to seriously pursue building new vessels and overhauling the existing ones.

Speaking in a meeting with IRISL's senior managers, Modares-Khiabani underlined supporting the construction of vessels and container ships by domestic manufacturers as one of the main strategies that the IRISL is going to pursue.

“IRISL has begun a serious movement in the field of vessel construction and overhaul using domestic capabilities, which will continue in the current year with more strength and vigor,” he said.

Emphasizing the need to provide opportunities for growth and prosperity during the sanctions and international crisis, the official said: “Although sanctions have created difficult conditions for various sectors of the Iranian economy the coun-



try has been able to overcome the pressures by relying on domestic capabilities.”

Modares-Khiabani further underlined the importance of human resources and asset management by the IRISL, saying: “Historical records have been achieved by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines; however, the continuation of this trend must be accompanied by great strides in the development of the fleet so that new records can be set in this area as well.”

“Special attention to the north-south corridor and the strong presence of the shipping fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the port of Chabahar is also among the IRISL's main strategies in the current year,” he added.

The IRISL head also mentioned his organization's special efforts for repairing the vessels of the IRISL fleet inside the country and said: “There is a serious approach to conduct the periodic repairs of ships inside the country and so far, effective steps have been taken in this area.”

“At the same time, there is a serious emphasis on supplying all the items and parts needed by the vessels by domestic manufacturers,” the official added.

## Over 900 companies participating in Iran Agrofood Intl. exhibition

TEHRAN- The 31st International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology and Agriculture (Iran Agrofood 2024) is running at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds from Saturday until Monday.

The opening ceremony of the international event was attended by senior officials including the Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mehdi Zeyghami.

The exhibit is participated by 800 Iranian

companies and 136 foreign exhibitors from Austria, Spain, Türkiye, China, Italy, Germany, Denmark and India.

Commodity groups of this exhibition include food products, processing and related industries, equipment and technology of the food industry, packaging equipment, machinery and related industries, agricultural machinery, and related industries including irrigation machinery and equipment.

# Iran proposes enhanced transit cooperation among BRICS members

From page 1 ▶ Bazrpash noted that transit of goods through Iran has increased more than 60 percent to 17.6 million tons over the past 12 months which he believed is indicative of the security and affordability of Iran's transit route for regional countries.

The official noted that by joining BRICS, Iran took a fundamental step towards expanding its relations with the group's member states in the areas of transportation, trade, and economy.

He stressed that the BRICS policies and programs, which were reflected in the mechanism's statements and documents, demonstrated its capac-



ity to address a wide range of issues relevant to the concerns of developing countries.

Noting that BRICS is a lead-

ing institution comprising major emerging economies, the Iranian minister said that with their complementary economies and cultural diversity, the BRICS

members could meet each other's needs and exchange development experiences, thereby enhancing global prosperity and peace.

Bazrpash also highlighted Iran's geographical advantages, noting its strategic location at the intersection of transit corridors in the region.

With 11 trade ports capable of handling 273 million tons of goods along its northern and southern coasts, a 15,000-km rail network, and over 250,000 km of high-quality roads, the minister said Iran was positioned to facilitate rapid connectivity within regional and global trade networks at minimal expenses.

## Foreign journalists experience tea culture at Beijing Tea Museum

By Mahnaz Abdi

BEIJING- A number of journalists from some Asian, Pacific, and Latin American countries experienced tea culture at Beijing Tea Museum in Maliandao Tea Street, Xicheng District, Beijing on Wednesday (June 5).

The visit to the museum was organized by the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC).

During their visit, the journalists tested the taste of different types of Chinese tea, and also enjoyed watching some Chinese performances, mostly relate to the tea culture.

Maliandao Tea Street is located in Guang'anmenwai Sub-district of Xicheng District, Beijing. As the largest tea distribution center in northern China, it has been playing a major role in China's tea trade. In 2000, it was recognized by Beijing Municipal Commerce Commission as Beijing's Characteristic Commercial Street, and was honored as the Top Tea Street in Beijing. In 2006, it was certified as a national characteristic commercial street by China Pedestrian Street Working Committee.

The history of Maliandao Tea Street dates back to the mid-1990s. With the support of Xicheng district government and Beijing municipality, profound changes have taken place over the past 20 years. Maliandao has turned from a declining, dirty storage area to a characteristic commercial district with a modern touch and a global reputation.

Maliandao is home to 11 tea trade markets, with more than 1,700 tea merchants and over 4,000 employees. The tea market covers an area of 128,000 m2 and its sales volume in 2021 reached 423.6 million yuan.

There are 1330 comprehensive tea shops, accounting for 78 percent of the total in Maliandao. The remaining 22 percent are specialized tea shops, among which 162 mainly sell white tea in Fujian, 30 sell Da Hong Pao (or Big Red Robe) in Fujian, 21 sell Tie Guan Yin (or Iron Goddess of Mercy) in Fujian, 8 sell Pu'er Tea in Yunnan, 3 sell Zhu Ye Qing (or Bamboo Leaf Green) in Sichuan, 26 sell dark tea in Anhua, while the rest 50 tea shops specialize in other types of tea.

There are about ten major tea brands in Maliandao, including some time-honored ones such as TAETEA, Chen Sheng Hao, Wu Yu Tai, Zhang Yiyuan, Xiangyuan, PINPINTEA, Jinghua Tea, China Tea (Anhua Dark Tea) and Chen Sheng Hao Fu Yuan Chang.

Maliandao currently houses two tea industry associations.

One is Beijing Tea Industry Association, which is affiliated to China Tea Marketing Association. Its members are mostly time-honored tea enterprises in Beijing, and it is run by the retirees of Beijing Capital Agribusiness & Foods Group, a state-owned enterprise.

The other is Beijing Tea Enterprise Chamber of Commerce. Composed of tea enterprises established in the early stage of Maliandao's history, it is an independent legal person. Currently, it has 300 members, most of them are Fujian tea companies.

### Tea industry in Maliandao

Maliandao is a commercial district with both wholesale and retail tea business. There are 11 tea markets and over 1,700 tea-related enterprises. Some representative tea markets are Maliandao Tea Market, Jingmin Tea Market, Jinghua Tea World, Jinghuayuan Tea Market, Tianfuyuan Tea Market, Style Tea Market, International Tea Market, Huangshan Tea Market, Jingdinglong Tea Market, Tanyang Kungfu Black Tea Promotion Center and Tea Trade Lifestyle Store. Here tea lovers can find various types of tea from over ten major tea-producing regions in China, such as Fujian, Yunnan, Anhui, Zhejiang, Guizhou, Jiangxi, Sichuan and Taiwan. There are all six major types of tea, namely, black tea, green tea, green tea, yellow tea, dark tea and white tea, and hundreds of varieties from across China.

The significant growth of the tea industry strikes a perfect balance between business and culture in Maliandao, making it a new type of business, a characteristic brand and a great example for China's tea culture. Built on the tea culture and the tea industry, Maliandao plays a leading role in attracting investment and developing regional economy. In just ten years, tea has revitalized Maliandao, making it a household name in the do-

mestic tea industry. Maliandao has become the top tea street of Beijing and a cluster of famous tea brands in China.

### Two exhibitions and one festival

In order to boost the economy in Maliandao, the district government launched the “Maliandao International Tea Culture Festival” in 2001. Since then, this event has been held on a yearly basis, which gave a tremendous boost to the regional economy, as well as to the popularity and influence of Maliandao in general. In 2005, Maliandao was officially recognized by Beijing Municipal Commerce Bureau as a “China Characteristic Commercial Street”, making it the only national level characteristic commercial street in Beijing at that time. In 2010, it was certified as the “Top Tea Street in China” by China Tea Marketing Association.

Since 2012, China Tea Marketing Association, Xicheng District People's Government and governments of major tea-producing regions in China have been jointly hosting the “International Tea Culture Exhibition & Tea Culture Festival (Promotion)”.

Known as “Two Exhibitions and One Festival” for short, this event is themed on “Enjoy the Taste of Tea in Beijing With Friends From Across the World”, and is a large-scale celebration approved by the Ministry of Commerce.

As earlier mentioned, the visit to Beijing Tea Museum was organized by the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC).

CIPCC, under the China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA), has initiated a program to build a platform for the media from countries around the world, especially developing countries, to observe China and study development in this country.

In each edition of the program, journalists from all around the world gather together to get familiar with the modern China and exchange their experiences in the field of journalism.

In 2024 edition of the program, started in late February, over 100 journalists from more than 90 countries are participating.



### Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of Plate & Sections for Farzad B Project, Tender No. 965980

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of Plate & Sections for Farzad B Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 10 days after the date of 1<sup>st</sup> publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

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



### Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of WELDED & SEAMLESS PIPES for Farzad B Project, Tender No. 958817

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to Purchase of WELDED & SEAMLESS PIPES for Farzad B Project through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1<sup>st</sup> publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

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



# Child killers: Israel side by side with ISIL

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - Israel has been dealt another major international blow as it is set to join a UN blacklist that has already included terror groups such as ISIL, al-Qaeda and Boko Haram.

On Friday, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman of United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, announced that his boss has added the Israeli military to the annual "list of shame", which is a global list of offenders that have committed violations against children.

Israel's inclusion on the list comes more than eight months after the regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war on Gaza.

## Israeli savagery

Israel has slaughtered more than 36,800 Palestinians since the war erupted on October 7 following a surprise military operation by Hamas in southern Israel.

According to the Health Ministry in the Gaza Strip, more than 15,500 Palestinian children are among those who have been butchered by Israel.

Doctors in Gaza have reported that an alarming number of Palestinian children have lost limbs due to Israel's genocidal war on the besieged Palestinian territory. They say up to 3,000 children have lost one or two limbs over the past eight months.

Many children are undergoing amputations without anaesthetic as Israel has largely restricted the entry of medicines to the Gaza Strip.

The World Food Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization warned in a joint report on Wednesday that over one million Palestinians in Gaza could experience the highest level of starvation by the middle of next month if Israel continues the Gaza onslaught. They added that hunger is worsening because of heavy restrictions on humanitarian access and the collapse of the local food system in Gaza.

## Important step

The Palestinian ambassador to the United Nations said the inclusion of Israel on the "list of shame" does not restore the lives of children who were killed or left permanently disabled in the regime's military strikes.

Riyad Mansour, however, hoped the UN move would help end Israel's impunity in the face of its crimes against Palestinians.

"But it is an important step in



the right direction towards ending the double standards and the culture of impunity Israel has enjoyed for far too long and that left our children vulnerable," Mansour said on X.

## Long overdue

The UN's expert on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory welcomed the UN move but said it is long overdue.

Francesca Albanese said in a post on X, "It should have not taken 15,000 children killed, many more mutilated [and] 20,000 orphaned, to list Israel among the states who commit heinous violations of [international] law against children."

The UN rapporteur called for imposing heavy sanctions on Israel.

## UN blasts Israeli envoy

Nonetheless, Israeli officials came down hard on the United Nations.

"The only one who is blacklisted today is the secretary-general, whose decisions since the war started, and even before, are rewarding terrorists and incentivizing them to use children for terror acts... Shame on him!" Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan said on X.

The comments are part of a video Erdan recorded of himself making a phone call from his office to a UN official and leaked it to news organizations.

The UN chief's spokesman condemned the Israel envoy's move.

Dujarric said, "The call was a courtesy afforded to countries that are newly listed on the annex of the report."

He added, "The partial release of that recording on Twitter is shocking and unacceptable and frankly, something I've never seen in my 24 years serving this organization."

Israel calls itself the only democracy in West Asia but Erdan uses offensive words against Guterres in an attempt to distract global attention away from the

horrific crimes of the child-killing regime.

Erdan also calls Hamas fighters terrorists, while they are only defending their people against Israel's decades-long occupation and oppression.

Israel has hit hospitals and residential buildings under the pretext of targeting Hamas fighters. The regime has claimed that Hamas members use hospitals as command centers and use Palestinian children as human shields without providing any evidence to back up its claims.

## Growing desperation

Such allegations clearly show that Israel is playing the blame game and attempting to demonize Hamas.

However, reports by the Israel military's intelligence and the US intelligence community have revealed that despite Israel's propaganda against Hamas, the resistance movement remains popular among Palestinians.

Israel is killing Palestinian civilians in retaliation for its military defeats on the battlefield. The Israeli army has not only failed to destroy Hamas over the past eight months, but it has recently been struck by crushing blows at the hands of resistance fighters.

## US obstructionism

Guterres will send the "list of shame" which is attached to an annual report that documents rights violations against children in armed conflict to the Security Council on June 14. The official report will be published days later on June 18.

The Security Council will discuss it on June 26 and it

can then decide whether to take action against Israel.

But, it is as clear as day that the United States will block any moves against Israel at the council.

Since the start of the Gaza war, the US has used its veto power at the Security Council in support of

Israel.

The US has also turned a blind eye to growing calls to attach conditions to military support for the regime.

## Hand in glove with terrorists

The inclusion of Israel on the "list of shame" along with ISIL and al-Qaeda is reminiscent of its support for such terror groups.

Israel stands accused of supporting these terror groups when they occupied parts of Syria.

Whenever Syria's military gained victory against the terrorists, Israel pounded the positions of the country's army to impede their progress.

ISIL overran large swathes of Syria in 2014, but the Arab nation's army and its allies defeated the terror group in late 2019.

The Syrian army also drove out al-Qaeda-affiliated groups that had seized parts of the country.

The United States has also been accused of abetting ISIL.

In August 2016, Donald Trump who was the Republican presidential nominee, accused then president Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton of founding ISIL also known as ISIS or Daesh.

"ISIS is honoring President Obama. He is the founder of ISIS. He is the founder of ISIS, OK? He's the founder. He founded ISIS. And I would say the co-founder would be crooked Hillary Clinton," Trump said at that time.

Now, Israel will join the rank of ISIL in the UN blacklist. ISIL was defeated in West Asia but its remnants still carry out sporadic terror operations.

## Sinister similarities

Israel and ISIL bear close similarities. They have no scruples about massacring civilians, including women and children. Likewise, both of them have been supported by the United States. Furthermore, ISIL displaced a large number of civilians and Israel is doing the same. Moreover, they occupied lands that did not belong to them.

Presently, Israel's inclusion on the UN blacklist has deepened the regime's international isolation as it is accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. The International Criminal Court has also requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his war minister Yoav Gallat over war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Nonetheless, it seems that the strong and close alliance between Israel and ISIL has been reborn!

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Al-Aqsa Hospital 'looks like a slaughterhouse'

A pediatric intensive care doctor with Doctors Without Borders, known by its French initials MSF, told Al Jazeera that the emergency department at Al-Aqsa Hospital "is a complete bloodbath ... it looks like a slaughterhouse".

"The images and videos that I've received show patients lying everywhere in pools of blood ... their limbs have been blown off," Dr Tanya Haj-Hassa added.

"That is what a massacre looks like.

It means parents running around caring for their children who have blood running from their head trying to find a medic to treat them. But it's so chaotic and there's so many patients that is vastly outnumbering the healthcare ability to care for them."

### Israeli forces launch 'unprecedented brutal attack' on Nuseirat

Gaza's Government Media Office said the Israeli forces have launched "an unprecedented brutal attack on the Nuseirat refugee camp", leaving dozens of people dead and wounded in the streets.

"[It] continues its aggression against all areas of the Central Governorate [Deir el-Balah], and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital is in a catastrophic situation," it said.

Israeli forces launched "a barbaric and brutal aggression" in the camp, directly targeting civilians, the office said, adding that ambulances and civil defense cannot reach the area due to the intensity of the bombing.

The office warned that Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital is the only hospital in Deir el-Balah currently working on only one electric generator; if the sole generator stops, "a real disaster" will ensue.

"This hospital provides health services to a million people and displaced persons, and it cannot accommodate this large number of martyrs and injuries," it said.

It called on the international community, the UN and all international organizations "to intervene immediately and urgently save the hospital and save the health situation in the Central Governorate".

### Ex-Mossad official: Hezbollah missiles could paralyze entire Israel

"The public must understand that an all-out war threatens Israel's Zionist vision"

From page 1 ► The Lebanese Resistance movement poses "an unprecedented threat" that the Israeli army cannot counter, the former official said.

"They (Hezbollah) have precision missiles that can destroy Israel's gas fields in seconds."

"They have precision missiles that can destroy Israel's gas fields in seconds.

Israel cannot counter both Hamas and Hezbollah, especially with Hezbollah's large number of drones and advanced detection systems," he stated.

Tomer warned against underestimating Hezbollah's capabilities, saying that their

"We hold the [Israeli] occupation and the American administration fully responsible for this catastrophic crime in which the blood of dozens of innocent civilians was shed," it said.

"We call on the international community and all international organizations to stop this brutal aggression continued by the 'Israeli' occupation, and we demand that they stop the genocidal war immediately and urgently."

### Poll: Israelis will not vote for Netanyahu

An opinion poll in Israel showed the majority of Israelis will not vote for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or any party that backs him in upcoming elections, Israeli media reported.

The poll conducted by Channel 12 found that 62% of voters will not cast their ballots for a party that supports Netanyahu to continue as the leader of Israel, Anadolu reported.

The poll showed just 19% would vote for a party that supports Netanyahu, while 19% of other respondents said they do not know.

The results also indicated that 30% of those who currently classify themselves as voters within Netanyahu's bloc said they will not vote for a party that supports Netanyahu to continue as prime minister.

### Brits calls for ending Gaza war



Pro-Palestine activists have marched through the British capital to express solidarity with Palestinian people in Gaza.

Chants of "Free, free Palestine" and "Palestine will live forever!" echoed as the activists set off for the 18th pro-Palestine march in London this year.

Protesters called for an end to Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

They also urged the British government to stop arming Israel.

### U.S. silencing pro-Palestine voices Popular news host fired after criticizing Israel

From page 1 ► The presenter has been a vocal critic of the Israeli narrative surrounding the events on October 7, and has repeatedly condemned the mass slaughter of women and children in Gaza.

The headlines say she was fired for rolling her eyes on air when speaking to a sister of a captive taken on October 7.

Gray had joined the chorus of critics who have long accused the Israeli regime of fabricating the events of October 7 to justify the mass killing of Palestinian women and children following extraordinary intelligence and security failures on October 7 that shook the Israeli security apparatus and its regional image of a superpower.

In December she said "Zionists are asking that we believe the uncorroborated eyewitness account of men who describe alleged rape victims in odd, fetishistic terms. Shame on Israel for not seriously investigating claims of rape and collecting rape kits."

Following her dismissal, Gray wrote on social media: "It finally happened. The Hill has fired me. There should be no doubt that The

Hill has a clear pattern of suppressing speech -- particularly when it's critical of the state of Israel."

The dismissed TV host added, "This is why they fired Halper and it was only a matter of time before they fired me."

Last year, The Hill also fired the political commentator Katie Halper after she branded the Israeli occupation as an apartheid state.

Many TV presenters and newspaper columnists have been fired or removed from their jobs in mysterious circumstances after voicing criticism of the Israeli regime or defending the Palestinian cause since October 7.

Some have had extreme Israeli animosity towards them and Briahna Gray is no exception.

Gray has spoken about the hostility of Israeli rulers towards the younger American student generation that has led the huge pro-Palestine movement in the United States.

In March, amid government efforts to ban the social media app TikTok for allegedly al-

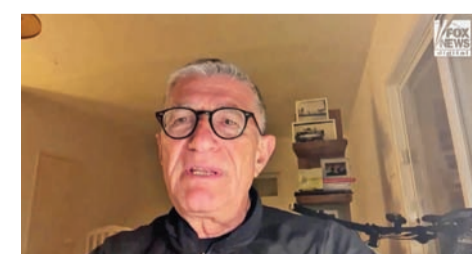
lowing China to influence the U.S. election through the phone app, Gray wrote on her social media accounts that "a foreign government is influencing the 2024 election. I'm not talking about China, but Israel!"

"In a leaked recording, ADL head Jonathan Greenblatt admitted that Israel had a 'TikTok problem.' Suddenly, a divided Congress agrees on one thing: A social media ban," she added.

It was during this time that speculation rose about the Israelis increasing their attempts to take Gray off the airwaves and silence her voice.

Experts say many Americans have been fired from their jobs for criticizing the Israeli government on social media, but dropping a bombshell revelation would not even keep the most prominent figures in their jobs.

Over the past months, reports have circulated that suggest the Israeli lobby in Washington DC, AIPAC, is spending a huge amount of money to damage the reputation of pro-Palestine American lawmakers seeking reelection in November.



"tactical intelligence" is "at least as good as Israel's".

According to the Israeli official, Tel Aviv is "at a historical crossroads."

Israel, in Tomer's opinion, should accept US President Joe Biden's proposal for a ceasefire before starting a large-scale war, which he considers disastrous.

"Hezbollah is much stronger than Hamas, with better intelligence and higher containment capabilities," he said.

"Recent weeks have shown their precise intelligence and real-time capabilities."



## Iran's places of interest charm Russians through a book

TEHRAN – In an effort to familiarize Russians with Iran's touristic capacities and culture, a guidebook has been published in Russian.

Speaking to IRNA, the director of the Ibn Sina Islamic Culture Research Foundation, highlighted that this book is the only Russian-language publication dedicated to Iran's tourist attractions.

The guidebook, Hamid Hadavi outlined, features a foreword by Kazem Jalali, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Moscow.

The book is published by Sadra Publications with the support of the Ibn Sina Foundation and the collaboration of the Iranian Embassy in Moscow, according to Hadavi.

The director noted that this new edition is based on a book previously published by the Iranian Embassy in Moscow. "However, the new version has undergone extensive revisions and updates," he further brought to light. "Both in terms of content and imagery."

Hadavi in his concluding remarks, pinpointed that this full-color book spans 192 pages and includes images of Iran's significant landmarks and influential figures, accompanied by detailed explanations.

The cover design and the first-page feature artwork by renowned Iranian artist Reza Badrossama.

Each section of the book is adorned with vibrant and related images.

The guidebook's content is divided into several sections, featuring the history and geography of Iran, cities and attractions, historical villages and traditions, and travel information with an eye toward familiarizing possible visitors with the country's tourism capacities.

In a bid to position itself as a top tour-



ist spot for Russians, Iran has been implementing several measures to ease travel and enhance accessibility.

Last year, the two countries implemented a visa-free exchange program, allowing travelers as part of tour groups to arrive without the hassle of obtaining a visa.

This move has notably sparked more interest among Iranian tourists compared to their Russian counterparts.

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

By the end of 2023, around 29.5 thousand travelers from Iran had journeyed to Russia, while the reverse route saw only about 10.7 thousand people heading to Iran.

To further stimulate tourism from Russia, relevant authorities from the two countries are actively working on enabling payments with "Mir" cards within the Islamic Republic. This initiative aims to streamline financial transactions for Russian travelers, enhancing their overall experience in Iran.

While these efforts are expected to bolster tourism, representatives from Russian tour operators remain cautious about the country's potential to become a mainstream destination for Russians in the near future.

Darya Domostroyeva from "Intourist" highlights that despite growing demand, Russian tourists still lack substantial knowledge about Iran and its recreational opportunities.

## Handicrafts creative house opens doors in Qazvin

TEHRAN – The historical Raoufi House in Qazvin has reopened as a creative house dedicated to handicrafts, aiming to promote local craftsmanship, help create jobs, and attract tourists.

In a ceremony held on Saturday, a local official in charge of handicrafts announced the opening of the center, which coincided with the celebration of World Handicrafts Day and was attended online by the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

The Raoufi House was restored and equipped by a private investor, Alireza Kha-zaeli said.

"This project has generated employment for more than ten people," he continued. "And is focused on providing education, production, commerce, and fostering innovative ideas in the field of handicrafts."



Khazaeli also brought to light that the center features live workshops in various crafts, including pottery and ceramics, marquetry, traditional jewelry making, traditional design, embroidery, and mosaic painting.

Khazaeli wound up by mentioning the presence of a permanent shop within the center, which sells the crafts made by artisans.

## Tourist numbers in Italy hit record in 2023, foreigners a majority

Tourism in Italy hit a record high last year and foreigners made up the majority for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, national statistic bureau ISTAT said on Tuesday.

Registered arrivals in accommodation such as hotels rose a yearly 13.4% to more than 134 million in 2023, the highest ever figure. The total number of nights spent in hotels and other similar facilities increased almost 10% to 451 million.

After a period when domestic tourism predominated, starting from the pandemic in 2020, foreign stays again accounted for the majority.

Italy, long a favoured destination for tourists from around the world, is seeking

to regulate the number of visitors to some of its main attractions at peak times.

Venice is charging an entry fee of 5 euros (\$5.43) for day trippers during the busiest periods and a number of other destinations have taken steps to avoid being overrun by tourists.

Lazio and Lombardy were the regions which registered the strongest year-on-year growth in tourism, due to a sustained rise of numbers in Rome and Milan, ISTAT said.

The foreign presence was stronger in the north-east of Italy, home to cities such as Venice, and weaker in the south of the country.

(Source: Reuters)

# Tehran conference celebrates World Handicrafts Day

From Page 1 ► gathered in the ministry's conference hall.

Jalali Dehkordi, for her part, said during the current administration, handicrafts found a voice, became fruitful, and approached business development.

She stated: "Concerning handicrafts, facilitating the temporary export of goods, adjusting the base price of export goods, creating incentives and providing facilities for the handicrafts sector, tax exemptions, special attention to the private sector and the Chamber of Commerce, providing insurance coverage for 10,000 handicraft artists, creating some 150,000 jobs, training 65,000 people through various programs, and \$825 million in exports are among the actions taken by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts over the past three years."

Speaking at the event, Perham Janfeshan, who presides over Tehran province's department for cultural heritage and tourism, emphasized the intersection of art and industry represented by handicrafts. He highlighted Tehran's significant contribu-



Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami addresses a conference held in the ministry's headquarters to celebrate World Handicrafts Day, June 8, 2024.

tion to the national handicrafts market, noting that one-third of the country's handicraft exports originate from the capital.

Moreover, a heartfelt video message from World Crafts Council Director Saad Hani Al-Qaddumi was a highlight of the event. In his address, Al-Qaddumi first extended his condolences for a tragic helicopter crash that claimed the lives of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and his companions. He then cel-

ebrated World Handicrafts Day, acknowledging Iran's unwavering commitment to safeguarding its cultural heritage and passing down handicraft skills through generations.

A significant part of the event was the online inauguration of handicraft projects in five provinces: East Azarbaijan, Semnan, Yazd, Tehran, and Qazvin. Those projects were launched online during video conferences Zarghami held with provincial tourism chiefs who provided brief explanations for each

initiative. The projects are expected to bolster the local handicrafts industry, preserving traditional skills while fostering economic growth.

The conference also marked the 60th anniversary of the World Crafts Council, celebrating with the recognition of eight master artisans selected by the council's Asia-Pacific Region jury in Dongyang, China.

The esteemed artisans were Fatemeh Seyyedi for Pateh embroidery, Behrouz Seifollahi for leather painting, Dadash Mehravari for glass painting, Saeed Pouzesh for wood inlay, Sarou Meghrachian for silver engraving, Mohammad Binava for Zari weaving, Amin Soltankhah for wood burning, and Mansour Hafezparast for metal engraving.

At present, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts".

World Handicrafts Day, held annually on June 10, honors the artistry and splendor of handicrafts worldwide.

## Restoration to put some spark into Sassanid palace

TEHRAN – Fars province's cultural heritage directorate is embarking on a project to restore and preserve the ruins of Sarvestan palace, which dates from the Sassanid era (224 CE to 651).

On Friday, the provincial tourism chief Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, during his visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site emphasized the importance of preserving this magnificent monument.

Sabet-Eqlidi highlighted that the historical site is set to undergo significant restoration and protective measures, backed by an allocation from provincial and national funds.

He further elaborated that with funding from both provincial and national sources, the restoration project will commence, and new welfare amenities will be constructed for the convenience of visitors.

Sabet-Eqlidi highlighted that promoting employment in Sarvestan is feasible through investment in tourism, underscoring the necessity of implementing innovative plans for the development of tourism in the county.

The Sarvestan Palace, located in Sarvestan country of Fars province, is a remarkable testament to Sassanid architecture and Persian heritage. The palace serves as an architectural marvel showcasing the grandeur and sophistication of

the ancient Persian civilization.

The Sarvestan Sassanid Palace consists of a central hall flanked by two symmetrical chambers and surrounded by a perimeter wall. The main hall, adorned with elaborate stucco decorations and inscriptions, is a testament to the Sassanid artisans' mastery of craftsmanship.

Part of a UNESCO-registered ensemble, the palace has long fascinated archaeologists, architects, and historians of art for its extraordinary architectural elements.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region" -- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and



Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians. Rock-carved sculptures and bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam, and Naqsh-e Rujab in southern Iran.

Experts believe that efforts to preserve and restore the Sarvestan Sassanid Palace are crucial for safeguarding this invaluable piece of Persian history and ensuring that future generations can continue to marvel at its beauty and architectural ingenuity.

## \$72 million investment in 51 tourism projects underway in Taft

TEHRAN – Taft, an ancient city in Yazd province, is currently witnessing a significant boost in its tourism sector with the implementation of 51 tourism projects.

"51 tourism projects worth 43 trillion rials (\$72 million) are currently underway in Taft," Yazd province's tourism chief said on Thursday.

Seyyed Mohammad Rastgari detailed that the projects

encompass a range of facilities such as hotels, traditional accommodations, ecotourism sites, and dining spaces, all of which are at various stages of completion, with progress ranging from 10 to 90 percent.

"To support these tourism initiatives in Taft, a total of 540 billion rials in loans has been provided."

Rastgari noted that several of these projects are expected to

be completed and operational within this year.

Highlighting Taft's rich cultural heritage, Rastgari mentioned that to date, 120 tangible and intangible cultural heritage items from the city have been registered at the national level.

Taft is surrounded by the Zagros Mountains and gifted with pleasant and clean weather, and lots of pomegranate gardens and that's why they named it

Taft!

Taft is situated in the west of Yazd province and there are a lot of pomegranates, peaches, almonds, walnuts, berries, apricots, cherries, apples, and grape gardens all over the city.

Most of the locals are farmers and gardeners, and Taft is a good region for breeding silkworms and honey production.

## From palaces to shrines: the brilliance of Iranian mirror work

TEHRAN – In the heart of Iran's architectural history lies a shimmering tradition which not only decorates but also enlightens the spaces it adorns. It is the ancient art of mirror work, which is known for its dazzling display of light and intricate mosaics.

That remarkable skill is widely known as a testament to Iran's innovative spirit in interior decoration. It is an art form involving the arrangement of small or large pieces of mirror mosaics, which helps transform interiors into luminous wonders.

By reflecting and multiplying light, these decorations elevate the aesthetic appeal of architectural spaces, creating an interplay of light and form that is both mesmerizing and practical.

As mentioned by Visit Iran, evidence of Iran's longstanding relationship with glasswork dates back to the Parthian and Sassanid eras, where numerous glass artifacts have been uncovered. This deep-rooted tradition suggests that the intricate mirror work seen today is a continuation of ancient practices, refined over centuries to achieve its current form.

In Iranian culture, mirrors and water symbolize purity, fortune, honesty, and light. This symbolism is possibly why mirrors became a favored medium in Iranian decorative arts.

Initially, mirror work involved installing large, one-piece mirror panels in buildings. A prominent example is the Chehel Sotoun (Forty Columns) palace in Isfahan, where a large mirror once reflected the image of those entering the palace.

Over time, however, the size of the mirror pieces diminished, giving rise to more complex designs composed of smaller fragments.

The 19th century marked a significant period for mirror work's popularity in the country. In that period, fine mirror pieces were cut into desired shapes and assembled into intricate mosaics, allowing artists to blend those materials with local craft skills.

The Qajar era saw a renaissance in Iranian architecture, despite an overall decline in architectural innovation. During the reign of Naser al-Din Shah of Qajar, Western artistic influences merged

with traditional Iranian styles, leading to a resurgence in the arts, including stucco, mirror work, and mosaics. Royal buildings and shrines were adorned with elaborate mirror work, enhancing their grandeur and spiritual ambiance.

By the late 19th century, mirror pieces were often cut into small triangles, diamonds, or hexagons. Convex glasses, turned into mirrors, also became popular, adding depth and dimension to the designs.

Mirror work in the Qajar epoch reached its zenith with the creation of ornate patterns such as muqarnas, arabesques, and calligraphic inscriptions on mirrors. The Mirror Hall of Golestan Palace and Shams-ol-Emarat stand as iconic examples of this artistic pinnacle. These structures, along with many others in Shiraz, Isfahan, and Tehran, highlight the enduring legacy and unmatched artistry of Iranian mirror work.

Today, sightseers visiting historical mosques, palaces, and mansions may enjoy a dance of eternal brilliance through shimmering reflections of mirror work.



# IRCS distributes aid to flood victims in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society has distributed packages of aid to people affected by recent floods in Afghanistan's Baghlan province.

On May 10, devastating floods and torrents of water swept through multiple cities and villages in northern Afghanistan.

The flood victims welcomed Iran's humanitarian assistance, asking the caretaker government and other donor institutions to help them with the construction of shelters and access to drinking water.

On May 23, the IRCS sent a second consignment of relief items to flood victims in Afghanistan.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that at least 60,000 people have been affected by recent floods in the provinces of Baghlan, Badakhshan, and Takhar.

Citing the Taliban-run refugee ministry, OCHA revealed that nearly 350 people have died in these floods while over 1,500 others have been injured.

The first plane carrying humanitarian cargo to those affected by the recent flood in Afghanistan landed in Mazar-e-Sharif on May 23. IRCS website quoted Razieh Al-ishvandi, the IRCS director for international affairs, as saying,

The donated goods included tents, blankets, and foodstuff.

**Afghanistan commends Iran's aid**

In a tweet on May 13, Rahmatullah Faizan, the deputy representa-



tive of the Taliban Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Herat, lauded Iran's swift response following natural disasters in Afghanistan.

Faizan highlighted Iran's immediate assistance and deployment of rescue teams to Herat following the earthquake.

He also noted Tehran's support in the aftermath of flooding in northern Afghanistan.

Expressing optimism, Faizan voiced hope for the continued strengthening of friendly relations between Tehran and Kabul.

On May 12, Iran extended its heartfelt condolences to Afghanistan following the devastating flash floods that have swept through the country's northern areas.

In a statement issued by Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani, Iran expressed profound sadness over the natural disaster, which has claimed the lives of at least 300 Afghans and displaced thousands more in recent days.

According to Afghanistan's de-

fense ministry, emergency personnel had been deployed to the affected areas and were rushed to rescue injured and stranded people.

Iran's Special Envoy for Afghanistan also announced that Iran is prepared to send relief forces, medical teams, and essential aid supplies requested by Afghan authorities.

Hassan Kazemi-Qomi shared on his personal social media account: "The recent floods in northern Afghanistan, which resulted in the loss of many lives, have deeply saddened me. While expressing solidarity with the Afghan people, Iran stands ready to send relief forces, medical teams, and necessary aid supplies, which are sincere gifts from the Iranian people to the people of Afghanistan. These will be delivered through organizations like the Red Crescent and the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee to the affected regions as swiftly as possible."

He added that it's important that transparent procedures are in place

for accepting humanitarian assistance to ensure fairness. The challenging decision-making process, highlighted by the life-saving efforts during the Herat earthquake, underscores the need for coordinated and transparent approaches in crisis response."

The World Food Program has reported that over 1,000 houses have been destroyed, leaving countless families homeless and vulnerable. The toll on human life and infrastructure continues to rise as emergency responders struggle to reach remote and inaccessible areas.

More than half of the 600,000 people affected by the floods are children, Save the Children reported in a statement, adding that it is sending a 'clinic on wheels' with mobile health and child protection teams to support children and their families."

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid has also expressed sorrow over the catastrophic floods, acknowledging the significant loss of life and widespread devastation. The Taliban has mobilized resources to assist in rescue and relief efforts, but the scale of the disaster presents significant challenges.

The international community has rallied to support Afghanistan in its time of need, with humanitarian organizations and neighboring countries offering assistance. However, the road to recovery will be long and arduous for a nation already grappling with the aftermath of decades of conflict and instability.

## Iraq welcomes branches of Iranian universities

TEHRAN – Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Naem Al-Aboudi, has welcomed Iranian universities to open branches in Iraq.

"We are interested in boosting collaborations in areas such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology. We also support sisterhood agreements between universities of the two countries," Al-Aboudi said.

The official made the remarks in a meeting with the head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO), Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour, on Friday.

Al-Aboudi also expressed willingness to admit Iranian students to Iraqi universities, IRNA reported.

Imanipour, for his part, highlighted the significance of enhancing educational ties and conducting joint scientific research calling it essential for making a shared future.

Supporting knowledge-based centers is one of the ways to develop science and technology in Iraq, he stressed.

The official went on to suggest boosting cooperation between the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and the Iranian Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

### Iran-Iraq science week

The second Iran-Iraq science week, which was supposed to be held in Karbala, is currently postponed due to the martyrdom of late President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, alongside other officials.

The first Iran-Iraq Science Week was hosted by the Iranian city of Mashhad from October 9 to 12, 2023.

Representatives of over 60 universities and educational institutions attended the event.

Hosted by Ferdowsi University, this scientific event aimed to develop diplomatic interactions, academic relations, and cultural exchange.

"The development of academic cooperation and the exchange of scientific knowledge and modern technologies is one of the main goals of holding this 5-day conference," IRNA quoted Vahid Haddadi-Asl, the Iranian deputy science minister for international affairs, as saying.

He stressed the importance of exchanging experiences and expertise and formulating scientific understandings in many files, some of which relate to the environmental aspect and joint educational programs.

Mohammad Kafi, chancellor of Ferdowsi University, for his part, explained that the universities of the two countries are keen to take successful steps of joint talks and reach a vision that serves the scientific and research side between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Undersecretary for Scientific Research Affairs, Haider Abed Dahud, who headed the delegation of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, said that the science week between the two countries summarizes the level of understanding and coordination resulting from the agreement between the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education

and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in the Islamic Republic of Iran and completes the dialogues that took place in Baghdad, the University of Baghdad's website reported.

To expand and promote scientific and technological relations implement joint research projects and develop joint cooperation between the scientific and research centers of the two countries, memorandums of understanding are signed, the Iraqi news agency (INA) reported.

"The memorandums of understanding included a number of cooperation files, including research opportunities for graduates, joint supervision and development of the post-doctoral path, as well as the exchange of students between universities and mutual fellowship in various specializations, cultural, artistic and sports programs, and joint research projects, in addition to benefiting from laboratory services and logistical equipment at the universities of the two countries," INA quoted the website of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as saying.

"The memorandums also included scientific cooperation in the field of training, and the exchange of scientific consultations related to curricula and academic courses, while it was agreed to form a committee from both parties to coordinate, follow up, and facilitate implementation procedures."

The scientific and academic centers of the two countries would hold meetings and webinars to trace, examine, and resolve the existing challenges by exchanging views.

Also, joint academic committees would be formed to follow up on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding.

### Boosting educational co-op

In May 2023, Al-Aboudi said many Iraqi youths are interested in continuing their higher education in Iran.

Now the demand for studying in Iran is very high and a large number of Iraqi students are interested in continuing their higher education in Iran as a friendly and neighboring country, he added.

The Iraqi official made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Iran's Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol, IRNA reported.

He pointed out that some 75,000 Iraqi nationals are currently studying in Iranian universities.

"The scientific abilities and capacities of the two countries require that we boost cooperation in the field of science and research, and in this field, we need detailed planning and the formation of special working groups," Al-Aboudi highlighted.

Zolfigol, for his part, while emphasizing the need to increase joint scientific exchanges between Iran and Iraq and holding joint seminars, said holding a joint meeting between heads of universities and research and technology centers of the two countries can help increase cooperation.

## Marriage rate declines in two months yr/yr

TEHRAN –In the first two months of the current Iranian year which started on March 20, a total of 81,428 marriages were registered in the country, indicating a 9 percent decline compared to 89,088 marriages in the same period last year.

According to the Civil Registration Organization, 28,834 divorces were registered in the same two-month period, showing a two percent increase in comparison to 28,355 last year, ISNA reported.

### Wedding, childbearing loans

From the beginning of the current year until April 29, the Central Bank paid 56.38 trillion rials (almost \$94 million) in wedding and childbearing loans.

Some 40.84 trillion rials (about \$68 million) were granted to the applicants for wedding loans, an increase of 28 percent compared to the same period last year, IRNA quoted Mehdi Sahabi, an official with the Central Bank, as saying.

The Central Bank also paid a total of 15.54 trillion rials (roughly \$26 million) to families in childbearing loans, showing a 23 percent rise year on year.

### Protecting the youth

On January 28, late President Ebrahim Raisi urged relevant bodies to take action to protect the youth of the country.

The official told organizations that they can use their facilities and capacities to implement the law to protect the youth.

He pointed to the important role of cultural development in encouraging people to have children, saying that the wrong cultural development in recent decades has been one of the most important reasons for the decrease in the country's population growth.

To address this issue, he called on national media, print and digital media, education, and higher education centers, and advertising agencies to work together to promote positive cultural messages about family planning.

The late president also outlined several other measures that should be taken to protect the youth, including eliminating obstacles to infertility treatment, facilitating marriage by providing timely marriage loans, and providing employment and housing.

### Population growth policies

According to the national center for monitoring population policies, from 2001 to 2015, the number of births has been increasing in the country, but after 2015, the number of births started to decrease with an almost steep slope.

In 2020, the number of births in the country (1,114,000) decreased by more than 29 percent



compared to 2015 (1,570,000), a decrease of more than 450,000 births, which was unprecedented in the last few decades.

The number of births in the year 2021 (1,116,000) also shows an increase of about 2,000 compared to the year 2020.

Also, the rate of births from about 20 per thousand population in 2015 has reached its lowest level in the last 50 years with a significant decrease to 13.24 per thousand population in 2021.

The population growth rate reached 0.73 percent in 2020 and 0.68 percent in 2021 despite an increase of 2,000 births compared to 2020.

In Iran, about 10.5 percent of the population was over 60 years old in 2020. In 2050, the population over 60 years is forecast to increase to 33 percent.

In 2030, the population over 65 years is forecast to increase to about 10 percent.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$7b to be allocated to retrofit, rebuild flood-devastated houses

A budget of 290 trillion rials (nearly \$7 billion) will be allotted to reconstruct and repair housing units destroyed by flood in 18 provinces across the country, Mehdi Jamalnejad, deputy interior minister for urban and rural development has announced.

Flood has devastated some 169,377 housing units, 68,333 of which are beyond repair and must be reconstructed, he stated.

Moreover, household appliances of 109,832 families also have suffered damages, he further regretted.

He went on to say that 20,000 housing units, undergone devastation by recent flooding in Aq-Oala county in northern Golestan province, are under construction.

## اختصاص بیش از ۲۹ هزار میلیارد تومان برای بازسازی خانه های سیل زده

معاون عمران و توسعه امور شهری و روستایی وزیر کشور گفت: براساس مصوبه اخیر هیات وزیران مبلغ ۲۹ هزار و ۱۳۰ میلیارد ریال برای بازسازی و جبران خسارات ناشی از سیل در بخشهای مختلف ۱۸ استان پرداخت می شود.

بر اساس ارزیابی های انجام شده در ۲۱ استان کشور، بیش از ۱۶۹ هزار و ۳۷۷ واحد مسکونی شهری و روستایی در سیل های اخیر در کشور آسیب دیده اند که باید دوباره احداث شوند.

جمالی نژاد بیان داشت: در اثر سیل به ۱۰۹ هزار و ۸۳۲ واحد مسکونی نیز خسارت معیشتی وارد شده است.

وی اضافه کرد: امروز ساخت ۲۰ هزار دستگاه واحد مسکونی که در سیل آسیب دیده بودند نیز در آق قلا شروع شد.



## Bazangan, the largest lake in Khorasan Razavi

Bazangan, measuring around 80 hectares, is the largest natural lake in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province.

Recent heavy rainfall over the past month has helped revive the lake.





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

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

Email: info@tehrantimes.com

Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

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

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

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

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JUNE 9, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Honesty is Divine language.

Imam Ali (AS)

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

## Violin player, instructor Minoo Oftadeh passes away



TEHRAN—Renowned Iranian violin player and instructor Minoo Oftadeh passed away in Tehran on June 6 at the age of 66 after enduring a long period of illness.

Born in May 1958, she entered the National Music Conservatory at the age of 10. She specialized in the violin. During her high school years, she also learned to play the piano and the tombak. Afterwards, she joined the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran, ISNA reported.

From the age of 16, she actively participated in the Culture and Arts Orchestra, the Women's Orchestra, and the tombak group under the supervision of maestro Mohammad Esmail. She performed extensively in various cities across Iran and also taught violin and kamancheh (spike fiddle) at the Center for Preservation and Promotion of Music at the IRIB.

Following the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Oftadeh continued her musical endeavors, participating in several musical groups and recording soundtracks. She also held concerts both within and outside the country. Recently, she focused more on teaching at the Music Faculty and the Roudaki Foundation, as well as conducting classes at reputable institutions.

The funeral procession for Oftadeh took place on Friday at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery in south of Tehran and she was buried in the Artists' Section.

## Director Maryam Kazemi to stage adaptation of "Arash the Archer" in Tehran

TEHRAN—Iranian director Maryam Kazemi is set to bring the legendary Persian mythical character Arash the Archer to life on stage at the Tehran Theater Complex.

The production, which is currently in its final rehearsals, will feature a cast of 64 actors, including Nasser Avijeh, Arezou Afshar, Nazanin Safa, Hesam Kalantari, Mehrdad Zamani, Farbod Tajvidi, and Erfan Meidanlou.

The cast also includes several child actors who will be making their debut on stage, including Diana Ilchi, Avina Ilchi, Rayan Rezai, Tiara Hesamzadeh, Ailin Sadat Hosseini, Barsam Rafiei, and Yashar Shojai.

The production is expected to premiere at the main stage of the Tehran Theater Complex in the near future.

Arash the Archer, a legendary figure in Iranian mythology, is a heroic archer who is said to have set the boundary between Iran and Turan with his arrow. According to folklore, Arash launched an arrow from the top of a mountain, putting his own life in its launch. The arrow traveled for days,

eventually landing on the other side of the Oxus River, hundreds of miles away from the original launch site.

The story of Arash's origins is complex, with various sources suggesting that the name "Arash" may be derived from the Parthian dynasty's name "Arsaces". However, one mythological account suggests that Arash descends from Kai Kobad, a king of the Parthian dynasty.

In the myth, Arash is tasked with firing an arrow to mark the boundary between Iran and Turan. He is given a special bow and arrow by an angel, and at dawn, he fires the arrow, which travels a great distance before landing and marking the future border between the two nations. The distance the arrow travels varies depending on the source, with some accounts suggesting it traveled over 1,000 leagues or 40 days' walk.

Despite the variations in the story, Arash remains a popular figure in Iranian mythology and culture. His name is still commonly used among Iranians, and his legend has been retold and reinterpreted in various forms of Iranian literature and art.

## Cartoon of Day



Free Palestine

Cartoonist: Mahmoud Rifai from Jordan

# Iran Cinema Festival underway in Paris

TEHRAN—The 11th Iran Cinema Festival is underway in Paris, France, where 20 Iranian films are shown at the Nouvel Odéon cinema.

The lineup includes feature, short, animated and documentary films by veteran and young directors, ISNA reported.

Among the feature films, there is "A Minor," the last film by the late filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui (1949-2023).

"A Minor" revolves around a young girl named Nadi who is interested in playing, but her father strongly opposes music, and this is where her problems begin.

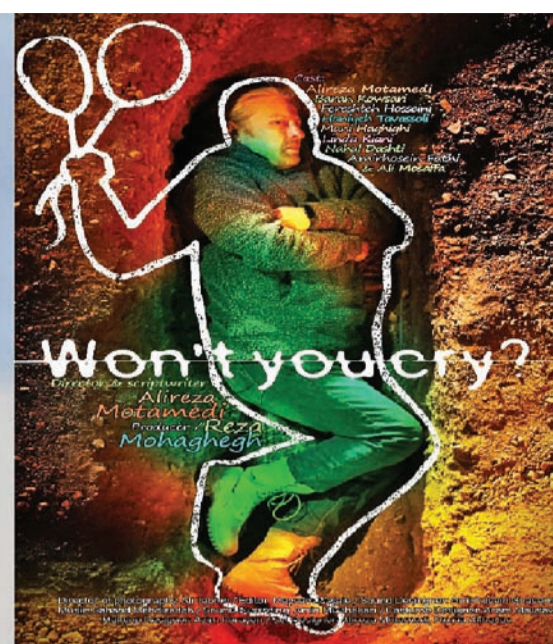
The movie delves into the depths of human emotions and societal dynamics. Set against the backdrop of Iranian society, it explores the intricacies of human relationships and the challenges faced by its diverse characters. Pardis Ahmadiye and Ali Nasirian star in the lead roles.

There are also movies, participating in the event, that have had a strong presence in international festivals including "Achilles" directed by Farhad Delaram and "Endless Borders" by Abbas Amini.

A joint production of Iran, Germany, and the Czech Republic, "Endless Borders" is a political thriller that happens at the time when the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan reignited the fire of ethnic and tribal wars.

In the movie, the Hazara Afghans, who are under immediate threat from the Taliban, enter Iran illegally. Ahmad is an exiled Iranian teacher in a poor village of Iran close to the Afghan border. When he gets acquainted with a Hazara family, he sees the real face of prejudice and dogmatism in the region. He decides to save a young forbidden love but that decision can have dire consequences for everyone.

The film won the VPRO Big Screen Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam in the Netherlands last February.



The 2023 drama "Achilles" tells the story of a young filmmaker who currently works in a hospital and takes a mental patient out for a short ride to find out who she really is. Now he has to decide whether to run away with her or take her back to the hospital.

A joint production of Iran, France, and Germany, Delaram's feature debut has been shot on various locations; it takes the audience from the capital Tehran to the dried-up Lake Urmia in the northwest of the country, to the Caspian Sea in the north, and to Maku, near Turkey's border. Mirsaeed Molavian, Behdokht Valian, Roya Afshar, and Neda Aghighi play in "Achilles".

"Won't You Cry" by Alireza Motamedi is another film that had its premiere at the 41st edition of the Fajr Film Festival, Iran's most important film event.

With a cast of prominent actors, it tells the story of a man who has lost the ability to cry, and the effect it has on his life.

Baran Kosari, Fereshteh Hosseini, Hanieh Tavasoli, Mani Haghighi, Linda Kiani, Nahal Dashti, Amir-Hossein Fathi, and Ali Mosaffa are in the cast among others.

Moreover, the festival hosts two animations from Iran: "Our

Uniform" by Yeganeh Moghaddam and "Anita, Lost in the News" written, directed, and produced by Behzad Nalbandi.

"Our Uniform" depicts an Iranian girl who recalls school-age memories through the wrinkles and fabrics of her old uniform, quite literally.

Rather than using paper, canvas, or a digital medium, the director has painted directly on the cloth used for making school uniforms to tell the story of a character who dreams of a better future.

A production of 2023, the 17-minute animation "Anita, Lost in the News" has been created using puppets made from newspaper clippings. It is about a Kurdish-Iranian family of four who died in the sinking of a migrant boat in the English Channel in 2020.

At the time of the tragedy, there were ten more people on board than the vessel could hold. One of the victims was nine-year-old Anita, from whose perspective we follow the story.

The documentary "A Band of Dreamers and a Judge" by Hesam Eslami and the short film "It Turns Blue" by Shadi Karamroudi are also among the Iranian productions at this year's edition

of the festival.

"A Band of Dreamers and a Judge" is a co-production between Iran and France, this film delves into the legend surrounding the mountains of Savadkoo in northern Iran.

Rumored to be filled with buried treasure, ancient pottery, and gold, the area has become a hotspot for illegal excavations by treasure hunters hoping to strike it rich.

"It Turns Blue" tells the story of Raha, a 3-year-old girl, who is beaten by her father during one of her weekly visits and her aunt, Pari, tries to cover up the violence and manipulate the child's mind so she remembers the whole incident as a simple game with her father.

Created in 2013, Iran Cinema Festival takes place every year during the month of June at Nouvel Odéon cinema, in Paris. Its goal is to introduce independent long, and short narrative and documentary features directed by Iranian or non-Iranian filmmakers whose work has close ties with Iran. Every year, the festival presents a topic or a retrospective which conveys the diversity of the Iranian cinema through its directors and main actors.

## Book on Palestine published in Persian for young readers

TEHRAN— A Persian translation of Palestinian writer and poet Ahlam Bsharat's "Code Name: Butterfly" has recently been published by Michka Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Azim Tahmasebi.

"Code Name: Butterfly" is a poignant and thought-provoking novel that delves into the complexities of life under occupation. The story revolves around the protagonist, Butterfly, a young Palestinian girl who struggles to navigate the treacherous landscape of her community. As she grapples with her own identity, she begins to question everything around her, including her father's alleged collaboration with the occupiers and her own unrequited love for Nizar.

Butterfly's journey is marked by intense sibling rivalries, girlfriends' power plays, and friendships that are put to the test by the unpredictable storms of life. Throughout the



book, she must confront the harsh realities of occupation, including the dangers of speaking out against the oppressive regime and the ever-present threat of violence.

As Butterfly searches for answers and a sense of purpose, she finds solace in her own resilience and creativity. Through her journal entries, she pours out her emotions and thoughts, using her imagination to transform herself into a butterfly – a symbol of hope and transformation.

is a powerful and moving coming-of-

age story that explores themes of identity, resistance, and the human spirit.

Ahlam Bsharat is a renowned Palestinian writer and poet, born in 1975 in the village of Tamoun in the Jordan Valley. With a passion for creative writing, she has honed her skills as a trainer and has authored numerous works for young readers, including short stories, picture books, novels, and memoirs.

As one of the most prominent figures in Palestinian young people's literature, Bsharat has written four novels for young adults, dozens of children's stories, and two short story collections.

Her breakthrough novel, "Code Name: Butterfly", has garnered widespread recognition and acclaim. Published in 2012, it was included in the list of the 100 most important books for young people worldwide and has been reprinted in both Arabic and English.

## A writing for Gaza that defies censorship

CHEAP – the public art project born in Bologna in 2013 – returns to the streets with a powerful and provocative initiative. This time, the collective is collaborating with Johanna Toruño, an artist originally from El Salvador and creator of "The Unapologetic Street Series," to bring a series of posters to the city's walls. But the most incisive part of the initiative are eight posters, the result of a synergy between CHEAP and Toruño, which compose the words "FREE GAZA".

According to the Collateral Magazine, the clear and direct message does not go unnoticed. Shortly after posting, the words "GAZA" are erased by an anonymous person, who also attempts to erase "FREE." The violent and intimidating gesture is

not slow to elicit reactions.

Many citizens turn to CHEAP to report the act of vandalism, sharing a sense of outrage and aggression over the incident. Determined not to be intimidated, CHEAP members reprint the posters with the intention of restoring the original writing. However, when they arrive at the site to put up the new posters, they find a surprise: someone has rewritten "GAZA" in white, over the black with which it had been covered.

In the face of this gesture of resistance and solidarity, CHEAP decides not to put up the new posters. The anonymous rewriting represents a form of conflict and care that perfectly reflects the spirit of the city and the community.

It is a demonstration of the power of public art to provoke dialogue and action, turning an act of censorship into a symbol of hope and resilience.

It has been eight months since the start of the 2023 Israel-Hamas war, which began Oct. 7. The enclave of more than 2 million people has largely been sealed off since the war began; so too has critical access to water, electricity, food and medicine, leaving most of the population displaced and more than half facing catastrophic hunger, according to a U.N.-backed report. More than 37,000 Palestinians have been reported killed in Gaza, about half of them women and children.

On top of the human toll in

Gaza, Israeli forces have leveled more than 360,000 structures – homes, schools, mosques and other buildings. An ongoing satellite analysis by two academic researchers that started shortly after the war began, shows how quickly and widespread the destruction of buildings has been in Gaza, particularly in the north, where more than 70% of the buildings have been damaged or destroyed.

The Committee to Protect Journalists has reported that at least 95 journalists and media workers have been killed in the war. Ninety were Palestinian. At least 16 journalists were reported injured and four were reported missing.