

# TEHRAN TIMES

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# Presidential Race Kicks Off

## Iran's 6 Presidential Hopefuls: A closer look



## Iran a leading voice in condemning Israel's crimes in Gaza: acting FM

TEHRAN - In a recent statement, Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, declared that Iran has been among the most vocal nations in condemning Israel's genocidal war crimes in Gaza.

Baqeri Kani's remarks were published on Saturday in Turkey's Milliyet newspaper. His comments come amid an ongoing Israeli military campaign in Gaza that has resulted in a high death toll and severe humanitarian crises, including famine, over the past eight months.

The Iranian diplomat emphasized that the Islamic Republic has persistently voiced its strong opposition to the Zionist regime's brutal actions against the Palestinians.

"For the past eight months, Iran has been one of the most outspoken critics of the Zionist regime's bloodshed against the oppressed people of Palestine," Baqeri Kani asserted, urging for an end to the ongoing invasion and genocide.

Baqeri Kani further accused Israel of having no reservations about committing grave international crimes against Palestinians, describing the situation as a "full-scale Gaza genocide." ▶ Page 3

## Major wind power plant opens in eastern Iran

TEHRAN - A large wind farm, with the capacity of generating 50-megawatt electricity, was inaugurated in the east of Iran by the country's Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehraian.

Mil Nader power plant is equipped with twenty 2.5-megawatt turbines.

The mentioned power plant, which is the biggest wind farm in the eastern part of the country, was put into operation during the visit of the energy minister to the southern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

With the capacity of generating 50-megawatt electricity, Mil Nader Wind Farm is equipped with twenty 2.5-megawatt wind turbines of Type II. The construction operation of the wind power plant started in 2020.

As large as about 1,000 hectares, Mil Nader Wind Farm is located in Nimruz County, Northwest of Zabol in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Upon the construction operation of this power plant, more than 250 million liters of water and 30 million liters of diesel will be saved annually with the generation of every 100 megawatts of the renewable energy.

According to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SAT-BA), it is envisioned that up to 700 megawatts of electricity will be generated in Mil Nader region in the coming years. ▶ Page 4

## The lingering suffering of children in Gaza

By Narges Pakdel

Children are the most vulnerable victims of Israel's war on Gaza. They are being starved, maimed, orphaned, and massacred.

The unspeakable horrors of bombs that Israel is dropping on Gaza will live with those children who escape death.

A generation of traumatized amputees has been created. They have lost one or more limbs. Their limbs are amputated without anesthesia. So far, as many as 3,000 children in Gaza have lost limbs in the war.

"Sham was standing near the door, and a piece of shrapnel hit her hand. I ran outside and found her hand, hanging by a thread," her mother said.

Children are not only starved but also have no access to water. They drink water in puddles or dirty water from the sea. According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), nine out of 10 children in Gaza are experiencing severe food poverty.

Save the Children says children's worlds have been destroyed. Save the Children and UNICEF also say in the early weeks of the war, which has exceeded eight months, about 1,000 children were killed in a week.

## "Horror Movie" scenes in Israeli massacre

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) killed 274 Palestinians and injured almost 700 others, including women and children to retrieve 4 captives in central Gaza on Saturday.

Before retrieving the captives, warplanes rained down bombs overnight at residential zones in the Nuseirat refugee camp, razing much of the camp to rubble and clearing the way for Israeli ground forces to invade it.

In a broader context, the IOF has waged more than eight months of genocide in Gaza, killing nearly 40,000 Palestinians, (including 16,000 children) and injuring more than 80,000 others to recover four captives.

Gazan paramedics and residents told news outlets on Sunday that the air and ground assault left a huge number of mangled bodies of men, women and children around a marketplace and a mosque at the Nuseirat camp.

"It was like a horror movie but this was a real massacre," said Ziad, 45, a paramedic and resident of Nuseirat, who gave only his first name to keep his own security from the IOF.

## US-backed Trojan Horse

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The United States' complicity in Israel's cold-blooded savagery against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip once again came to light following the regime's latest brutal strikes in the besieged territory.

The Israeli army perpetrated another heinous massacre in central Gaza on Saturday as it carried out a massive air and ground raid to rescue four captives held in the Nuseirat refugee camp.

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, more than 270 Palestinians were killed and around 700 others wounded in the Israeli air which led to the release of the captives.

According to American media, the US intelligence helped Israel carry out the assaults.

CNN cited a US official as saying that an American cell in Israel supported the Israeli raid.

The US has denied reports that its military participated in the Israeli deadly military operation in Nuseirat.

However, the implementation of the brutal raid has turned the spotlight on Washington's direct role.

Israeli ground troops hid inside a truck used for the delivery of humanitarian aid to infiltrate the Nuseirat refugee camp, that is according to footage obtained by the Doha-based news network, Al Jazeera. It shows Israeli armored tanks accompanying the truck.

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## Iran's True Promise artistic event to welcome resistance artists worldwide

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The True Promise artistic event, set to take place in Tehran in September, will bring together resistance artists from around the world to showcase their talents and creativity in a unique celebration of art and culture, the organizers have announced.

Although this is the first edition of this event, it is planned to be held internationally and will involve more countries from the resistance zone, Abolfazl Hamrah, the secretary of the festival announced during a press conference held in Tehran on Sunday.

However, artists from other countries can also submit their work he said. ▶ Page 8



Pro-Palestinian demonstrators rally outside the White House in Washington, D.C., on Saturday to protest against Israel's actions in Gaza.

## Protesters in U.S. demand arms embargo against Israel

People from cities across the United States gathered outside the White House on Saturday to protest the Biden administration's pro-Israel policies.

Protesters dressed in keffiyehs and red clothes to symbolize what they said was a red line that Israel crossed, NBC news reported. Hundreds of demonstrators held a red banner that stretched around the White House, urging President Biden to change his approach to the war in Gaza.

"Biden, Biden you can't hide, we are your red line," protesters chanted.

"The intention is to draw a red line where Biden won't draw one when it comes to Israel's genocide in Gaza, and say we as the people are drawing the red line today to say enough is enough," said Nas Issa, a protester from the Palestinian Youth Movement. "It's time for an arms embargo, and it's time to end this."

## Over 126,000 women heads of household become self-sufficient

TEHRAN - The empowerment programs of the late President Raisi's administration have resulted in the self-sufficiency of more than 126,000 women heads of household.

Female entrepreneurs have expanded business, resulting in the creation of sustainable employment for women, as well as the support for job-creating skills, IRNA quoted Ensieh Khazali, the vice president for women and family affairs, as saying.

The empowerment programs covered women with abusive husbands, women breadwinners, single girls aged over 45, women suffering from social harm, and women who are heads of household.

Also, the national sustainable family-oriented business plan, with the assistance of women entrepreneurs managed to empower women seeking employment. ▶ Page 7

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Consensus against Iran has no value

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

In a note, Kayhan addressed the failure of the West's consensus policy against Iran's nuclear issue and wrote: In more than two decades, the West's challenge to Iran over the peaceful nuclear program of our country intended to create maximum consensus in the world to pressure Iran. But recently, after the European countries issued a resolution, the countries of Russia and China openly stated their opposition to the West. The behavior of China, Russia and other emerging superpowers towards our country shows that with the pursuit of smart diplomacy and purposeful foreign policy by the 13th government in developing relations with emerging powers, Western consensus in the UN Security Council and the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency and other Organizations, mechanisms and international institutions faced failure. The foreign policy of the 13th government, without any false trust in the West and without JCPOA and FATF, destroyed the path of pressure on our country in the international arena and established Iran's position as a great power in the world.

#### Iran: Iran's initiative to solve the Gaza crisis

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper dealt with Ali Bagheri's participation in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the developing Islamic countries known as the D-8 Group. The paper said: The Group of D-8 has held a meeting for the first time to discuss a political issue such as the Palestinian issue. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has always been an active and influential member of the D-8 organization and the source of various activities and collaborations in this organization, participated in this meeting at the level of the foreign minister, which shows the importance of the Palestinian issue in the country's foreign policy. In line with the demands of Muslim public opinion regarding the practical action of Muslim governments against the Zionist regime, 9 proposals from Iran were presented in this meeting. Iran's proposals can help stabilize the victory and raise the status of Palestine in the international arena. Presenting these practical suggestions shows that supporting the Palestinian ideal and practical support for the Islamic resistance are still among the main priorities of the country's foreign policy.

#### Shargh: 2 scenarios for Tehran

In a conversation with political analyst Ahmad Nasr, Shargh discussed the ways forward for Tehran after the issuance of the resolution of the Board of Governors

against Iran and wrote: After this resolution, Tehran now has two solutions ahead of it; take a reciprocal reaction or act based on the demands and expectations contained in the provisions of the resolution and take steps towards greater cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. If, like in the past, Tehran, in response to the resolution puts the reduction of cooperation with the IAEA or the increase of nuclear activities on the agenda, it can provide a basis for the issuance of a strong resolution by the West in the upcoming meeting and even the possibility of referring the case to the Security Council. If cooperation with the agency is the focus of Tehran's activity, in addition to de-escalation, it can bring the current Tehran-Washington negotiations in Muscat to a conclusion. Of course, whatever the outcome of the two upcoming elections in Iran and the United States, it does not mean that the current negotiations between Muscat and the future governments of Tehran and Washington can end in the revival of the JCPOA because currently the troika of Europeans, as well as the Americans, do not consider the 2015 nuclear agreement to be revised.

#### Jam-e-Jam: The approval of the anti-Iranian resolution aimed to divert opinions from Zionist crimes

The 13th government's reliance on neighborhood diplomacy and the punitive response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the terrorist attack of the fake Israeli regime created the conditions for the deterrence power of our country to be represented to the Western countries, and therefore with various tricks, they are trying to make complicated the field for the dynamism and growth of the Islamic Republic. The recent issuance of resolution is one of the examples of this pressure to divert people's minds from Israel's crimes and focus on Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

Western countries have ignored and forgotten the illegal withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA, despite numerous meetings and agreements, these members have delayed in fulfilling their JCPOA obligations. They have launched widespread economic terrorism against our country, and they want Iran to adhere to its JCPOA commitments. Iran's action is the most natural reaction to the neglect of the members to the provisions of the JCPOA, and not only it is not a violation of the JCPOA, but it is a step to protect the country's national interests.

## Late President Raisi was dedicated to serving nation: Mokhber



TEHRAN – In a tribute to the late President Ebrahim Raisi, the acting President of Iran reminisced about his unwavering dedication to serving the people, portraying it as his defining characteristic.

During a visit to the family of late President Raisi on Saturday, Mohammad Mokhber conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family while delving into the qualities and personal dimensions of the late President.

Reflecting on moments of active engagement with the public and witnessing the realization of projects aimed at fostering community well-being, the tribute highlighted Raisi's profound impact on society.

Mokhber underscored Raisi's passionate commitment to public service as his most notable trait, emphasizing how his presence during the funeral procession resonated deeply with the populace, symbolizing the widespread

reverence for Raisi's leadership within the Islamic Revolution.

The acting President emphasized that Raisi's dedication knew no bounds, as he tirelessly worked to address the nation's challenges and serve its citizens, even during the darkest hours.

Recounting instances of Raisi's direct engagement with the public and the implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing societal welfare and prosperity, the tribute painted a vivid picture of Raisi's tireless efforts for the betterment of the nation.

Moreover, Mokhber lauded Raisi's proactive approach to identifying and tackling issues firsthand, often embarking on extensive journeys across the country, with a particular focus on marginalized regions.

President Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and six other officials perished during a helicopter crash in Iran's mountainous northwestern region on May 19.

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

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

# Iran's 6 presidential hopefuls: A closer look

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – Analysts experienced both surprise and a moment of anxiety when the list of eligible candidates for Iran's 2024 presidential elections emerged on Sunday.

The list, vetted by the country's Guardian Council and released by the interior ministry, includes several unexpected figures, as well as individuals who had been considered potential contenders since the demise of President Ebrahim Raisi on May 19th. Among the disqualified nominees were Ali Larijani, former parliament speaker, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former president, both of whom also failed to be deemed qualified by the Guardian Council to run for president in 2021.

The Ex-Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Abdonnaser Hemmati and Iran's sixth Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri were also disqualified.

Among those who were not expected to pass muster are Mostafa Pourmohammadi and Masoud Pezeshkian. The two figures are believed to hold moderate and reformist views. In this article, we will take a look at the 6 individuals that will be vying for the presidency on June 28.

#### Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf Devoted functionary with renewed presidential hopes

Qalibaf is a well-known figure in both Iranian and international circles. His career began in the military, where he fought in the Iran-Iraq War. At the age of 21, Qalibaf rose to the rank of commander of the 5th Nasr Division, which executed a few of Iran's most successful military operations during the conflict.

Qalibaf continued to serve as a military commander in various capacities before being appointed as Iran's police chief in 1999. His entry into politics began with his election as mayor of Tehran, a position he held from 2005 to 2017. Qalibaf's highest-ranking position to date is as speaker of the Iranian parliament, which he has held since 2020.

The parliament speaker's supporters tout him as a skilled administrator and a pragmatic politician, which he seemed to highlight in his first remarks after registering as a candidate.

"In the field of managing the country, it is the president who must finish the job with skill and experience and bring the efforts of others to fruition with responsibility and proper leadership," he wrote on his X account, adding that "the decision of the president changes today and the future of a nation."

Qalibaf is believed to have the largest number of supporters among the six official candidates.

Saeed Jalili

Principalist par excellence

Another foreseen figure on the list



of qualified candidates is the Iranian Leader's Representative to the Supreme National Security Council's Secretariat: Saeed Jalili

Jalili was the director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Inspection Office in 1995. He entered the ministry after becoming a lecturer at the Imam Sadeq University, where he did his PhD. Jalili's academic career followed his military service in the Iran-Iraq war, where he lost a leg.

The political scientist's next positions included being a member of Iran's National Security Council, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, and the secretary of Iran's National Security Council. Jalili rose to prominence in 2007 when he became Tehran's chief nuclear negotiator. He is currently a member of the Expediency Discernment Council.

Jalili is believed to have a strong base of loyal supporters. Despite that, he has never enjoyed the level of popularity needed to end up in the presidential office. He ranked third in the 2013 presidential elections and withdrew his candidacy in 2021 in favor of the late Raisi.

Jalili's latest post on social media talks about the necessity of increasing women's participation in the workforce, which could be seen as an attempt to rectify his reputation as an ultra-conservative.

Alireza Zakani

Well-known "revolutionary juggernaut"

Zakani, the current mayor of Tehran holding the position since 2021, is another name that many expected to see on the list.

Zakani's career as a conservative politician is not as long and impressive as his opponents. He served as a member of the Iranian parliament from 2004 to 2016 and again from 2020 to 2021. His tenure as Tehran's mayor has also failed to garner him impactful recognition, as it has been plagued with various controversies since his first days on the job.

Despite declaring his candidacy for the presidency in both 2013 and 2017, he was disqualified by the Guardian Council on both occasions. He later became a candidate for the 2021 presidential election, but ultimately withdrew in favor of the late Raisi.

After being announced as an official candidate, Zakani took to

social media to declare that he won't be withdrawing his candidacy this time. "For the sake of continuing the path of Martyr Raisi and completing his services, I will stay till the end of the 2024 elections," he wrote on X.

Despite his candidacy, the likelihood of Zakani being elected as Iran's next president appears to be relatively low. Compared to figures like Qalibaf and Jalili, Zakani is a relatively new face in the country's political scene and he has so far failed to establish a reliable base of supporters.

Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi

Quiet politician with limited fame

Another candidate on the list who many believe is unlikely to become Iran's next president is Ghazizadeh Hashemi. He currently serves as the head of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs. Prior to that, he represented the Mashhad and Kalat electoral district in the Iranian Parliament from 2008 to 2021. He is an ear, nose, and throat surgeon by profession.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi holds conservative views. He was the spokesperson of the "Front of Islamic Revolution Stability" which is a well-known principlist political group. He is currently a member of the Qanoon Islamic Party, another conservative faction.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi has announced that his administration would be a government dedicated to family. "The future development of the country hinges on the all-round growth of the family. I hold myself responsible for solving the concerns of mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons of the Iranian family," he stated adding that different politicians should refrain from engaging in disputes, and instead focus on bringing an end to the woes of the Iranian people.

Similar to Zakani, Ghazizadeh Hashemi lacks a long and well-known political career. However, unlike Zakani, he has not been embroiled in any controversies or suffered reputational damage. Analysts believe he most probably is not the future Iranian president.

Mostafa Pourmohammadi

Back into political life

Pourmohammadi is a figure, not many people expected would become an official candidate. Before the announcement of his candidacy,

Iranians had probably not thought about him for a few years.

Pourmohammadi began his career as a prosecutor in the Revolutionary Court, rising to become deputy intelligence minister under President Rafsanjani. He also served as acting deputy minister of intelligence and head of the political and social department of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's office.

In 2005, Pourmohammadi was appointed interior minister by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He held his position until 2008.

Pourmohammadi later became head of Iran's general inspectorate office. He ran for president in 2013 but withdrew. In the same year, he was appointed minister of justice by President Hassan Rouhani, a position he held until 2017.

In his first public statement on Sunday, Pourmohammadi warned that "the current condition of the country leaves no room for trial and error" while quoting a verse from Persian Poet Saadi Shirazi which advises employing experienced and distinguished figures to get important matters done.

Masoud Pezeshkian

A Cardiologist with a reform agenda

A heart surgeon by profession, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian stands out as the only reformist candidate on the ballot. He boasts a decades-long history of public service within the Reformist faction, including his tenure as health minister under President Mohammad Khatami.

Pezeshkian is currently a parliament member, representing Tabriz, Osku, and Azarshahr. Besides being a lawmaker, he served as the Iranian parliament's first deputy speaker from May 29, 2016, to May 26, 2020.

Throughout his political career, Pezeshkian has consistently called for unity among different political groups. He believes that "Iran's strength is in unity" and that it is essential to "accept the existence of differences of opinion and tastes" in order to achieve the goals and policies of the system and leadership, such as leadership in science, development, and regional progress.

The approval of his presidential bid by the Guardian Council came as a surprise, considering his outspoken mode of criticism of public malaise.

Some believe that Pezeshkian has the potential to pose a serious challenge to his five conservative rivals. Analysts believe that a duel between Pezeshkian and Qalibaf might be on the way.

Upon the announcement of his candidacy, the reformist met with some prominent figures of his political factions.

## Presidential race kicks off

The list included six political heavyweights-Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani, Representative of the Leader in the Supreme National Security Council Saeed Jalili, Former Justice Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi, Head of the Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs Amirhossein Ghazizadeh, and Lawmaker Masoud Pezeshkian.

These candidates are now allowed to officially launch their election campaigns across Iran in preparation for the election day on June 28.

Over the last six days, the whole country has

held its breath to see the final presidential lineup after more than 80 politicians appeared at the Interior Ministry to announce their bids. Over the last six days, the whole country has held its breath to see the final presidential lineup after more than 80 politicians appeared at the Interior Ministry to announce their bids. The Guardian Council approved six candidates, rejecting the bids of prominent figures such as Ali Larijani, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad along with several ministers from the Raisi administration.

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

## Iran unveils flight models of homegrown

### Kowsar, Hodhod satellites

TEHRAN – Iran has revealed the flight models of its domestically developed satellites, Kowsar and Hodhod, marking a significant stride in the nation's space endeavors.

The unveiling took place at a ceremony attended by prominent figures from the private sector, gathering to commemorate the late President Ebrahim Raisi's contributions to the country's space program.

The Kowsar satellite, slated for deployment this autumn, is set to orbit approximately 500 kilometers above the Earth's surface aboard the Russian rocket Soyuz. Designed for multifaceted applications, including agricultural monitoring, mapping, and demarcation, Kowsar is equipped with dual cameras capable of capturing images with remarkable detail, boasting a resolution of 3.45 meters.

This unveiling follows Iran's recent

successes in space exploration, including the February launch of the domestically constructed Pars 1 remote-sensing satellite via a Soyuz rocket from Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome. Iran also simultaneously deployed the Mahda research satellite, along with the Keyhan-2 and Hatef-1 nanosatellites, using the Simorgh (Phoenix) carrier.

Despite facing sanctions from Western nations, Iran has consistently

made significant advancements in its civilian space program, positioning itself as one of the top 10 countries globally capable of developing and launching satellites. The unveiling of Kowsar and Hodhod underscores Iran's commitment to expanding its presence in space exploration and satellite technology, showcasing its prowess in scientific innovation and engineering excellence on the international stage.

# U.S. government 'major loser' of Gaza war: Spox.

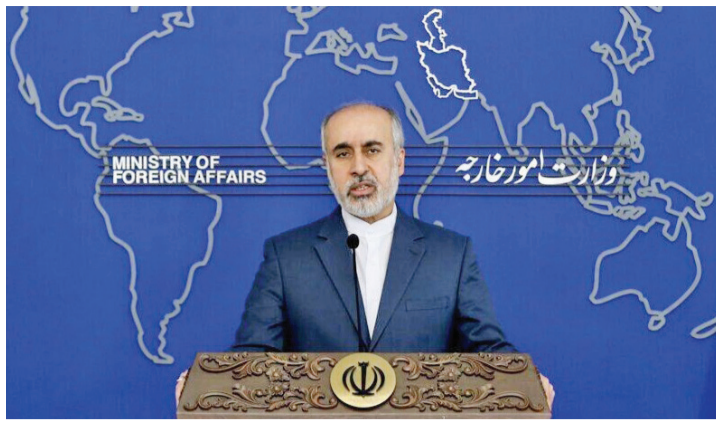
TEHRAN – The spokesman for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nasser Kanaani, has stated that in addition to the Zionist regime with its significant military and political influence, the United States government is also a major loser in the Gaza conflict.

Speaking on Sunday during a ceremony honoring winner of a media campaign and commemorating martyred journalists of Gaza, Kanaani highlighted the role of the United States in perpetuating the crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza.

He remarked, "The Zionist regime, despite its military and political power, has lost the battle against the Palestinian nation. The United States government, as an unconditional supporter of this regime, is also a significant loser in this conflict."

Kanaani stressed the need for nations and governments to hold both the Zionist regime and the United States accountable internationally, urging for broader condemnation and action.

He praised resistance media for uniting global voices in support of the oppressed Palestinian people, saying, "Supporters of the Zionist regime must answer to the awakened consciences of the global community and international legal authorities for their backing of an



oppressive regime and the massacre of thousands of Palestinians in the past eight months."

Kanaani acknowledged the crucial role of independent media, stating, "Independent and regional media, along with resistance media, have played a fundamental and decisive role in broadcasting the plight of the Palestinian people and narrating the harsh realities in Palestine and Gaza. They have effectively unified global voices with the Palestinian cause."

He highlighted that in supporting Gaza, the world's populations have acted ahead of their governments, asserting, "What can hold the oppressive regime accountable is the will and desire of the people, and the continued pivotal role of the media."

Kanaani expressed gratitude for the media's efforts, particularly

those involved in the Phoenix Media campaign, emphasizing the importance of their responsible and committed actions in the narrative battle.

Finally, Kanaani affirmed the unwavering stance of the resistance movement, stating, "Supporting the oppressed Palestinian people is a global responsibility. The resistance axis and movements in the region have shown a serious determination and iron will in their support. They will not yield to the pressures of the oppressive system."

He concluded by noting the lasting and decisive impacts of regional support for the Palestinian people, emphasizing that this support is crucial in bolstering the resilience and perseverance of the Palestinian nation.

The conflicts saw a sharp escalation on October 7 when Palestinian

Resistance group Hamas launched a major operation against Israel in response to heightened aggression against Palestinians. Since then, Israeli military actions in Gaza have led to the deaths of at least 37,000 Palestinians, mainly women and children, and injured 84,500 others, as reported by the enclave's Health Ministry.

On Saturday, Israeli strikes on the Nuseirat refugee camp resulted in the deaths of at least 270 Palestinians and injuries to 700 more. The Israeli military claimed the attack was part of an effort to rescue four Israeli captives.

The Al-Aqsa and Nasser hospitals are treating an "overwhelming number of severely injured patients", the aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which has staff at the hospitals in central Gaza, said.

Following an attack on Thursday that killed approximately 40 people at a United Nations-run school in the Nuseirat camp, where around 6,000 displaced Palestinians were seeking shelter, Israel has only intensified its military campaign.

Israel faces accusations of genocide at the International Court of Justice, which recently ordered Tel Aviv to cease its operations in Rafah immediately. Over a million Palestinians had taken refuge in Rafah before the city was invaded on May 6.

## Iran a leading voice in condemning Israel's crimes in Gaza: acting FM

TEHRAN – In a recent statement, Iran's acting Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani, declared that Iran has been among the most vocal nations in condemning Israel's genocidal war crimes in Gaza.

Baqeri Kani's remarks were published on Saturday in Turkey's Milliyet newspaper. His comments come amid an ongoing Israeli military campaign in Gaza that has resulted in a high death toll and severe humanitarian crises, including famine, over the past eight months.

The Iranian diplomat emphasized that the Islamic Republic has persistently voiced its strong opposition to the Zionist regime's brutal actions against the Palestinians.

"For the past eight months, Iran has been one of the most outspoken critics of the Zionist regime's bloodshed against the oppressed people of Palestine," Baqeri Kani asserted, urging for an end to the ongoing invasion and genocide.

Baqeri Kani further accused Israel of having no reservations about committing grave international crimes against Palestinians, describing the situation as a "full-scale Gaza genocide."

He lamented the international community's failure to take decisive action against Israel's actions, which are supported by Western nations, particularly the United States.

Recognizing Iran's role in the global community, Baqeri Kani stated, "We are aware of our responsibility as a member of the international community, the United Nations, and the Islamic world. We have used and will continue to use every opportunity to assist Gaza."

He identified the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands by Israel as the root cause of the crisis, arguing that sustainable peace can only be achieved by respecting Palestinian rights.

**Iran calls for Islamic boycott of Israel over Gaza genocide**

In an interview with CNN TÜRK, Iran's acting foreign minister condemned the "crimes and genocide committed by the Zionists in Gaza" and called on Islamic countries to take immediate action.

## Air Force commander announces success in drone production

TEHRAN – The commander of the Iranian Army's Air Force says Iran has reached a significant milestone in producing different kinds of drones.

Brigadier General Hamid Vahedi announced on Sunday that the Army Air Force, in collaboration with other branches of the armed forces, has successfully developed a range of drones with varying capabilities, attracting interest from numerous countries seeking to purchase these advanced unmanned aerial vehicles.

During a visit to Shahid Yasini Air Base, Vahedi toured the facility and inspected various units, including

the drone squadron.

In his address to the squadron's personnel, he highlighted Iran's strategic geographical significance, which has historically exposed the nation to numerous threats.

He emphasized the substantial progress made by the Army Air Force in terms of modernizing equipment and enhancing internal cohesion.

Vahedi also urged the young personnel to continue their diligent efforts to further bolster their military capabilities.

Highlighting Iran's leadership in drone technology, Vahedi remarked, "Iran is a leader in the drone sector."

He elaborated on the achievements of the Army Air Force, stating that the production of various drones with different operational ranges has been a significant accomplishment.

"This technological advancement has garnered international interest, with many countries expressing a desire to purchase Iranian drones," he noted.

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

armed forces.

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

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

The Army Air Force's advancements in drone technology are seen as a crucial element in maintaining and enhancing national security.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iran volleyball president Taghavi talks Paes firing

TEHRAN – Milad Taghavi, president of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF), has voiced his frustration over the dismal performance of Team Melli in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) and also explained the reasons behind firing Mauricio Motta Paes as Iran coach.

Iran volleyball team have suffered eight losses in the 2024 VNL so far.

"We could have won matches against Turkey, Bulgaria, Argentina, or even Serbia," Taghavi stated. "We didn't sack Paes to find a scapegoat. We hired him to implement changes, but with eight losses in eight games, it's obvious that no change happened. This shake-up was necessary, even if it doesn't yield immediate results in Week 3."

Taghavi explained the rationale for sacking Paes, saying, "We had to respond because Paes didn't bring about any changes within the team. While we have dismissed Paes, I don't believe the new generation of Iranian volleyball players should work under a local coach. We are currently negotiating with three top-tier international coaches, but since they are all committed to their Olympic teams, we must wait until the Olympics conclude. We will eventually reach an agreement with one of them."

The IRIVF dismissed the Brazilian coach following a series of poor results. The 61-year-old coach, who was appointed as head coach in late February, was dismissed after team's lackluster showing in the VNL. Under his leadership, Iran suffered seven consecutive defeats, falling to the bottom of the standings and losing their chance to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games.

In response to these setbacks, Peyman Akbari, Iranian assistant of Paes, has been appointed as interim coach until the end of the VNL. However, Akbari's tenure also began poorly with an additional loss against Turkey, marking the team's eighth consecutive defeat.

Taghavi also addressed the issue of players who declined national team invitations. "We have sent letters to those players, asking them to submit their reasons for withdrawing to the disciplinary committee. Players who cannot provide valid documentation for their absence will face punishment."

The IRIVF's decisive actions reflect a determination to revive the fortunes of Iran's national volleyball team and establish a foundation for future success on the international stage.

### Belarus beat Iran's youth women handball team

TEHRAN – Belarus women's handball defeated Iran's youth team in two friendly matches.

The European team edged Iran 25-24 on Friday.

The Iranian team had lost their first match 31-26 on Friday.

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

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

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

### Hedayati takes gold at Budapest Ranking Series

TEHRAN – Iranian heavyweight Greco-Roman wrestler Fardin Hedayati won a gold medal at the Budapest Ranking Series Saturday night.

The 130kg wrestler defeated Georgian Iakobi Kajaia 5-0 in the final bout.

The bronze medals went to Hungarian Dariusz Attila Vitek and Romania's Alin Alexuc Ciurariu in the weight class.

Earlier in the day, Mehdi Mohsennejhad and Amir Reza Dehbozorgi won a silver and bronze

medal in 60kg, while Meysam Dalkhani seized a bronze in 63kg.

This is the last UWW Ranking Series event of the season, giving athletes a final chance to up their ranking prior to the Olympic Games. For a complete breakdown of how the ranking points are awarded.

### Iran champions of 2024 Badminton Asia Central Asia Regional Junior

TEHRAN – Iran claimed the title of the 2024 Badminton Asia Central Asia Regional Junior Championships held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan.

The Iranian players won seven gold medals, three silvers and one bronze in the competition.

Amirhossein Behjati Ardakani and Amirali Hatami defeated Uzbekistan to win mixed U15 gold medal.

Amirali Ahmadloo defeated Uzbekistan's Islombek Qochqarov in the men's U17 final and bronze medal went to his compatriot Amirali Mohammadpour Shadmehri.

Ahmadloo and Shadmehri also won a gold medal in the men's U17, defeating Kazakhstan team in the final.

Bahar Gharibi and Mobina Salari Kor seized a gold medal in the women's U15 after beating a team from Kazakhstan.

Amirhossein Behjati Ardakani and Amir Ali Hatami also took a gold and a silver medal in the men's U15.

Zahra Robati defeated her compatriot Aysan Zarei in the women's U17 final.

Zahra Robati and Aysan Zarei also collected a gold medal in the women's mixed U17 team.

Mobina Salari Kor lost to Uzbekistan's Sofiya Zakirova in the final of women's U15.

### Shahrdari start BCL Asia campaign on high note

TEHRAN – Shahrdari Gorgan began their BCL Asia campaign in Group B with noteworthy win at the Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum Sports Hall.

Iran champions Gorgan followed up the stellar performance by handling Korea Basketball League (KBL) champions KCC Egis a 102-79 loss.

It was virtually a wire-to-wire win for Gorgan, even though KCC put an effort to keep the deficit within striking distance. Gorgan built their lead with a 14-2 run in the second quarter and continued to build on to the cushion.

Gorgan forced 20 turnovers out of KCC Egis (including 8 during their second quarter run), making it easy to control momentum of the game for the Iranian squad.

Both sides came into the game with a lot of uncertainty as they both featured players who had only recently joined the team.

That did not seem to matter much for Gorgan's Joseph Young (33 points, 13-20 shooting, 4 steals) - who was actually an opponent at the recent West Asia Super League (WASL) Final 8 with Kuwait Club - or Johnathan Hamilton (16 points).

KCC's newer recruits, Alfonso McKinnie and Deon Thompson, combined for 24 points and the team were led by KBL Finals MVP Heo Ung who scored 18 points.

### Roberto Torres leaves Gol Gohar

TEHRAN – Gol Gohar football team midfielder Roberto Torres Morales has left the Iranian team. The Spaniard is more likely absent in the match against Sepahan in Iran's Hazfi Cup semifinals.

Roberto Torres had been linked with a move to Esteghlal football team but it's not clear yet he wants to continue his career in Iran.

Torres joined Foolad football team in January 2023 and penned a one-year deal with Gol Gohar in September 2023.

He scored six goals for the Sirjan-based football team and helped the team reach semifinals in Hazfi Cup.

## Major wind power plant opens in eastern Iran



TEHRAN – A large wind farm, with the capacity of generating 50-megawatt electricity, was inaugurated in the east of Iran by the country's Minister of Energy Ali Akbar Mehrabian.

Mil Nader power plant is equipped with twenty 2.5-megawatt turbines.

The mentioned power plant, which is the biggest wind farm in the eastern part of the country, was put into operation during the visit of the energy minister to the southern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

With the capacity of generating 50-megawatt electricity, Mil Nader Wind Farm is equipped with twenty 2.5-megawatt wind turbines of Type II. The construction operation of the wind power plant started in 2020.

As large as about 1,000 hectares, Mil Nader Wind Farm is located in Nimruz County, Northwest of Zabol in Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Upon the construction operation of this power plant, more than 250 million liters of water and 30 million liters of diesel will be saved annually with the generation of every 100 megawatts of the renewable energy.

According to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization of Iran (SATBA), it is envisioned that up to 700 megawatts of electricity will be generated in Mil Nader region in the coming years.

The development of renewable power plants in Iran has accelerated since the current government administration took office in August 2021.

The Energy Ministry in the 13th government has defined new investment packages and strategies to attract more capital to fund new renewable projects across the country.

According to energy experts, such investment models in the 13th government

have been a good incentive for investing in this sector.

The mentioned measures led to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants reaching 1,085 MW, which is a very good figure.

Last July, SATBA Head Mahmoud Kamani said the capacity of renewable power plants is increasing regularly and daily in the country.

Putting the under-construction power plants into operation will further increase this capacity, Kamani said.

In mid-November 2023, the spokesperson of the Iranian Energy Ministry's electricity sector said that the necessary preparations have been made for the construction of renewable power plants with a total capacity of 6,900 megawatts (MW) across the country.

Mostafa Rajabi-Mashhadi put the current nominal capacity of the country's renewable power plants at 1,090 MW, saying that the ministry plans to add 5,400 MW to the capacity of the mentioned power plants across the country over the current Iranian calendar year (started in late March 2024).

Rajabi-Mashhadi, who is the head of Iran Grid Management Company, expressed hope that with the increase in the share of renewable power plants in the country's electricity network, the use of fossil fuels will decrease in thermal power plants.

In mid-December 2023, the head of SATBA called on the country's private investors to participate in the construction of 4,500 megawatts (MW) of solar power plants over seven months.

"The construction of 4,500 megawatts of solar power plants can be carried out by investors within seven months because the necessary infrastructure has been provided and the government supports the plan," Kamani said in a meeting with the private companies active in the energy sector.

Emphasizing that the construction of 11,000 MW of renewable power plants has been put on the agenda for the next two years to solve the problem of fuel and electricity imbalance in the country, he continued: "A special work is being done and the top authorities of the country are collaborating to facilitate the construction of renewable power plants in the country."

## Turkiye stresses Iran's right to share Sarisu River: Iranian official

TEHRAN – A spokesman for Iran's Water Resources Management Company has said that Turkiye has stressed Iran's right to continue to use water from the border river of Sarisu.

Technical teams from Iran and Turkiye paid a visit to Sarisu River, Firouz Ghasemzadeh said on Sunday without specifying the date.

He added that the visit took place within an agreement the two countries signed in 1955 that set protocols for them to use the waters

of the shared rivers of Sarisu and Karasu.

The Iranian and Turkish teams, visiting Sarisu River along with their border guards of the two countries, carried out required measurements in points set under the joint protocol, the official said, adding that the Turkish side emphasized Iran's rights to the river.

Ghasemzadeh said that Iran regularly conducts technical coordination with the neighboring countries on shared waters, based on joint protocols.

## CIPCC holds lecture on China democracy

By Mahnaz Abdi

BEIJING- China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC) held a lecture titled "China Development Studies and Media Exchange: Whole-Process People's Democracy and China's Practice", for journalists from all around the world.

The lecture was given by Professor Han Donglin from School of International Studies, Renmin University of China (RUC), who holds PhD in Social Science from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

During his lecture, Professor Han mentioned the achievements of China's democracy as follows.

- \* Rapid economic development and the improvement of modernization level
- \* Significant improvement of material conditions and elimination of poverty
- \* The promotion of national status and national dignity
- \* High public satisfaction with the government
- \* The government is very responsive to the people
- \* The politics of the country is very stable and the operation of the political system is very effective

The lecturer also answered the questions raised by some journalists from Asian, African, European, Eurasian, and Oceanic countries.

Professor Han's research focuses on Chinese public attitudes. He is the author of *Image of the world: Chinese public attitudes towards International affairs* (Social Sciences Academic Press, 2012, in Chinese). He has also published articles in the China quarterly, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Asian Survey*, and the *Chinese Journal of International politics*.

China International Press Communication Center (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.

During their stay in China, the journalists have attended many lectures and press conferences arranged by the CIPCC.

# Iran produces diesel, black carbon from wastewater for 1st time

TEHRAN – The head of the Tehran Sewage Company announced the production of diesel and black carbon from de-watered sludge in the process of wastewater treatment plants in the Iranian capital.

It is hoped that production of diesel and black carbon will be operationalized in the current year (started March 20, 2024), Abbasali Mesrzadeh stated.

As black carbon is used as the raw material in industries, especially in the tire manufacturing industry, he noted that its production in the process of wastewater treatment can both create added value and



prevent environmental pollution.

Converting 120 tons of sludge daily to diesel and black carbon is the main program of the company

in the current year, he said.

It can be used in the heating system of the wastewater treatment plants and facilities

related to it, he emphasized.

At first glance, sewage and wastewater are considered a source of pollution and threat to human communities, he said, noting that what happened in the hygienic sewage collection project is that the threat is turned into an opportunity, Mesrzadeh added.

Iran is one of the leading countries in West Asia in generation of electricity from sewage. In addition to generating electricity at the wastewater power plants, the heat caused by the gas-burning engines is used to replace fossil fuels for providing warmwater, he added.

## CBI provides over \$13.6b in subsidized foreign currency to import basic goods

TEHRAN – The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has provided \$13.635 billion in foreign currency for importing basic goods and commodities, medicines, and commercial goods since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2024).

Spokesman of Iran Center for Exchange (ICE) Asghar Balsini said of the mentioned figure \$3.329 billion was supplied for importing medicines and essential goods, and the rest was for trade-commercial products.

In addition, \$295 million was provided for importing technical and engineering services during this period, he stated, IRNA reported.

Balsini further said that \$2.810 billion was supplied for importing basic agricultural goods including wheat, oily seeds, and animal feedstock, noting that \$519 million was also provided for importing raw materials needed

in the pharmaceutical industry and medical equipment.

Back in March, Iran's Expediency Discernment Council authorized the government and the state management apparatuses, including the CBI, to spend 13.6 billion euros at a preferential exchange rate for the import of basic items such as agricultural products, medicine, and its raw materials as well as medical equipment.

Council members took the decision on the import fund allocation while meeting under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Amoli Larijani to discuss and review the budget for the current financial year.

They stressed that the government would offer preferential rates for clearing or exchanging foreign resources resulting from the export of oil, gas, and gas condensates

for the import of "only basic agricultural goods and medicine", the list of which was approved by the Council of Ministers at the end of April.

The imports are overseen by a working group consisting of the first vice president, the head of the central bank, the head of the country's planning and budget organization, the minister of economic affairs and finance, the minister of agriculture as well as the minister of industry, mining, and trade.

The Minister of Health along with other relevant bodies are also required to implement and monitor the allocation, distribution, and use of currency for medicine and equipment.

In addition, the central bank is obliged to prepare monthly reports on the implementation of Clause 4(A) of the Budget Law.

## Fly Dubai considering direct flights to Iran's Kerman Province

TEHRAN – The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Fly Dubai is considering the launch of a direct flight to Iran's Southern Kerman Province, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

In a meeting between the Head of Fly Dubai Hamad Obaidullah, Deputy Head of ICCIMA, Payam Bagheri, and the Head of the

Kerman Chamber of Commerce Mehdi Tayebzadeh on the sidelines of an investment and development conference titled "Kerman IDEX 2024 the officials reached a primary agreement on the matter.

In this meeting, Bagheri noted that the UAE is a serious business partner of Iran, especially in the years when Iran is facing sanctions, and emphasized that

strengthening relations with this country is one of Iran's priorities.

"Currently, most Iranian companies and enterprises have representatives in the UAE, and this is a growing trend. Iran Chamber is ready to facilitate platforms in this direction and has put this important issue on its agenda," he said.

Tabibzadeh also talked about the economic justification for

launching the Kerman-Dubai direct flight. Saying that the existence of various tourism and commercial capacities is a good incentive for Fly Dubai.

Kerman city airport is an international airport and four other airports are active in this province. Therefore, there is a suitable capacity and infrastructure to establish this flight to Kerman, he added.

## Foreign media visit Chinese Medicine Culture related to "Belt & Road" exhibit

By Mahnaz Abdi

BEIJING- A number of journalists from some Asian, African, and Oceanic countries visited the Exhibition on Chinese Medicine Culture related to the "Belt and Road" held at Beijing International Club.

The visit to the exhibition was arranged by the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC).

During their visit, the journalists got familiar with the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and tasted some medicinal plants and drinks.

They also experienced TCM massage performed by a massage master.

A conference on the traditional Chinese medicine was also held on the sidelines of the exhibition, during which the journalists got acquainted with the TCM, and their questions in this field were answered by a Chinese professor who presented a lecture in this regard.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is an alternative medical practice drawn from traditional medicine in China. It has been described as pseudoscientific, with the majority of its treatments having no known mechanism of action.

Medicine in traditional China encompassed a range of sometimes competing health and healing practices, folk beliefs, literati theory and Confucian philosophy, herbal remedies, food, diet, exercise, medical specializations, and schools of thought.

In the early twentieth century, Chinese cultural and political modernizers worked to eliminate traditional practices as backward and unscientific. Traditional practitioners then selected elements of philosophy and practice and organized them into what they called



"Chinese medicine"

In the 1950s, the Chinese government sponsored the integration of Chinese and Western medicine, and in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, promoted Chinese medicine as inexpensive and popular. After the opening of relations between the United States and China after 1972, there was great interest in the West for what is now called traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

TCM is widely used in the Sinosphere. One of the basic tenets is that the body's qi is circulating through channels called meridians having branches connected to bodily organs and functions. There is no evidence that meridians or vital energy exist. Concepts of the body and of disease used in TCM reflect its ancient origins and its emphasis on dynamic processes over material structure, similar to the humoral theory of ancient Greece and ancient Rome.

The doctrines of Chinese medicine are rooted in books such as the *Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon* and the *Treatise on Cold Damage*, as well as in cosmological notions such as yin-yang and the five phases.

The "Documentation of Chinese materia medica" (CMM) dates back to around 1,100 BCE when only a few dozen drugs were

described. By the end of the 16th century, the number of drugs documented had reached close to 1,900. And by the end of the last century, published records of CMM had reached 12,800 drugs." Starting in the 1950s, these precepts were standardized in the People's Republic of China, including attempts to integrate them with modern notions of anatomy and pathology. In the 1950s, the Chinese government promoted a systematized form of TCM.

Traditional Chinese Medicine has become a new option for patients in countries along the Belt and Road, amid China's promotion of TCM overseas and endeavors at TCM development and cooperation in recent years.

The growing popularity of TCM treatment technologies and the expanding trade in services of TCM indicate that people in Belt and Road countries have confidence in TCM.

As earlier mentioned, the visit to the Exhibition on Chinese Medicine Culture related to the "Belt and Road" 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.

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# US-backed Trojan Horse

## Israeli forces hidden in aid truck massacre Palestinians in Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The United States' complicity in Israel's cold-blooded savagery against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip once again came to light following the regime's latest brutal strikes in the besieged territory.

The Israeli army perpetrated another heinous massacre in central Gaza on Saturday as it carried out a massive air and ground raid to rescue four captives held in the Nuseirat refugee camp.

According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, more than 270 Palestinians were killed and around 700 others wounded in the Israeli air which led to the release of the captives.

According to American media, the US intelligence helped Israel carry out the assaults.

CNN cited a US official as saying that an American cell in Israel supported the Israeli raid.

The US has denied reports that its military participated in the Israeli deadly military operation in Nuseirat.

However, the implementation of the brutal raid has turned the spotlight on Washington's direct role.

Israeli ground troops hid inside a truck used for the delivery of humanitarian aid to infiltrate the Nuseirat refugee camp, that is according to footage obtained by the Doha-based news network, Al Jazeera. It shows Israeli armored tanks accompanying the truck.

Israeli media have also acknowledged that the regime committed the appalling atrocity in Nuseirat via using an aid truck.

"Israeli forces, including Shin Bet and the Israel Police special counterterrorism unit, Yamam, utilized a furniture delivery



truck as cover to infiltrate the area near Al-Awda Hospital," Israel Hayom reported.

A Palestinian man who survived the Israeli carnage in the refugee camp has explained that Israeli forces indiscriminately opened fire on people in disguise of humanitarian relief workers.

"A truck arrived carrying humanitarian aid and clothes, and suddenly 10 soldiers got out and shot me, once in the chest and twice in the feet. The artillery shelling started, and I saw dozens of citizens on the ground, including people with their heads cut off," he said.

The Palestinian man added, "The truck came from the American port that the occupation established in the Gaza Sea."

### Port ploy

Israel has largely restricted the entry of food, water, medicines and other supplies since declaring war on Gaza on October 7 which was followed by Hamas' surprise military operation in southern Israel dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.

Israel has also killed Palestinians who seek aid in Gaza. On February 29, Israeli forces massacred more than 100 Pal-

estinians in a Gaza City neighborhood who were waiting for deliveries of food from a limited number of aid trucks that had been allowed to enter the territory.

The US, which was under growing pressure over its unswerving support for Israel, tried to launch a charm offensive with Palestinians by beginning to airdrop food into Gaza.

But aid organizations described the US move as inefficient and a publicity stunt.

In March, Biden also announced the construction of a temporary pier on Gaza's coastline to allow humanitarian aid to enter the territory.

The building of the port raised suspicions about Washington's ulterior motives.

This is because it is crystal clear that transporting aid by sea and airdrops are a poor substitute for deliveries by land.

In March, the Tehran Times revealed that the US wants to use the Gaza port as a military base. The newspaper also said at that time that Washington wanted to provide increasing military support for Israel under the disguise of involvement in humanitarian aid operations.

The Saturday massacre in Nuseirat exposed the US hypocrisy. The Biden administration tried to pull the wool over the eyes of those who accused the US of inaction in the face of Israel's policy to starve Palestinians. But, Israel's use of the port to perpetrate the massacre in Nuseirat showed that the US is working hand in glove with Israel and does not hesitate to feed the regime's war machine.

In fact, the aid truck that left the US-built port, acted as a Trojan Horse for Israel to massacre Palestinians.

### US lying through its teeth

Unsurprisingly, the US tried to play the victim and spoke with a forked tongue.

The US Central Command, which is responsible for American troops in West Asia, said the Gaza aid pier played no role in Israel's strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp.

"The humanitarian pier facility, including its equipment, personnel, and assets were not used in the operation to rescue hostages today in Gaza," CENTCOM said.

It added, "Any such claim to the contrary is false. The temporary pier on the coast of Gaza was put in place for one purpose only, to help move additional, urgently needed lifesaving assistance into Gaza."

US media have recently revealed that Israel has used American bombs in strikes on residential areas in Gaza which has sparked a global backlash.

The death toll from Israel's onslaught on Gaza has surpassed 37,000. Undoubtedly, the US is complicit for Israel's war of genocide as it continues to provide the regime with unswerving political and military support.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Pope Francis urges ceasefire in Gaza

Pope Francis called Sunday for humanitarian aid to urgently reach Palestinians in Gaza and for Israel and Hamas to immediately accept proposals for a ceasefire and release of captives.

During his Sunday noon blessing, Francis also thanked Jordan, which this week will host an international humanitarian aid conference for Palestinians.

"I encourage the international community to act urgently, with all means, to come to the aid of the people of Gaza, worn out by the war," he said. "Humanitarian aid must be allowed to reach those in need, and no one can impede it."

### Narendra Modi sworn in for third term

Narendra Modi, leader of the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has taken oath as India's prime minister for a third time.

The ceremony took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the Indian president, the BBC reported.

Modi's BJP-led National Democratic Alliance won the general election with 293 seats, a lower margin than predicted by exit polls.

The election saw a resurgence of India's opposition, which won 234 seats.

The 73-year old is only the second Indian leader to win for a third consecutive term after the country's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Exit polls had projected outright victory for his BJP party which ruled India for a decade, but it lost its parliamentary majority in the election.

### Hungarian PM: Peace in Ukraine depends on EU, US elections

The settlement of the Ukrainian conflict can be expected if peace-loving forces win the elections to the European Parliament and the US, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban told reporters after voting in the European Parliament elections.

Answering the question of a TASS correspondent when peace in Ukraine can be expected, Orban said: "It can be achieved in two steps." He explained that the main topic of the ongoing European Parliament elections in all EU countries is the issue of war and peace. In November, the prime

minister recalled, the US presidential election will take place. "This is the second step," Orban pointed out. He emphasized that if the elections in Europe and the US "are won by peace-loving people," then peace can be established in Ukraine.

### Spaniards condemn Israeli genocide

Hundreds of Spanish protesters lay on the ground at the Guggenheim Bilbao in a demonstration to draw attention to the growing civilian casualties in Gaza.

"I have come here to show my support for the Palestinian people and my disapproval of Netanyahu's government," one protester, Rober Diaz Letamendi, told Al Jazeera. "He has no right. It's a genocide."

Spain is among several European countries that have recently recognized Palestine as a state.

### Israeli protesters: End Gaza war

Israeli protesters in Tel Aviv and other cities on Saturday night called for new elections and the return of the captives held in Gaza, hours after the military announced that four captives were rescued from central Gaza's Nuseirat camp.

In Tel Aviv, police said dozens of protesters were arrested.

The protesters called for a deal with Hamas to stop the war in Gaza and secure the release of remaining captives.

Anti-war protests in Israel have become a regular occurrence over the past months.

They have regularly demanded Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu step down accusing him of continuing the Gaza war to remain in power.

### Qassam Brigades: Israel killed captives during 'rescue operation' in Nuseirat

The armed wing of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas announced that three Israeli captives, including a US citizen, had been killed as Israeli soldiers launched a ground and air raid on Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp on Saturday.

Qassam Brigades made the announcement on its Telegram channel.

More than 270 Palestinians were killed in the Israeli attack which has sparked international outrage.

### Indonesia rally: Israel is the real terrorist



Indonesians have rallied to express support for Palestinians in Gaza as Israel presses ahead with its brutal onslaught against the besieged territory.

Demonstrators in Jakarta called for ending the Israeli genocide of Gazans.

They described Israel as the "real terrorist".

The demonstrators denounced the regime for killing civilians in Gaza, in particular children.

Health officials in Gaza say Israel has killed more than 15,500 children in Gaza since October 7.

## "Horror Movie" scenes in Israeli massacre 274 Palestinians killed to retrieve 4 captives

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The Israeli occupation forces (IOF) killed 274 Palestinians and injured almost 700 others, including women and children to retrieve 4 captives in central Gaza on Saturday.

Before retrieving the captives, warplanes rained down bombs overnight at residential zones in the Nuseirat refugee camp, razing much of the camp to rubble and clearing the way for Israeli ground forces to invade it.

In a broader context, the IOF has waged more than eight months of genocide in Gaza, killing nearly 40,000 Palestinians, (including 16,000 children) and injuring more than 80,000 others to recover four captives.

Gazan paramedics and residents told news outlets on Sunday that the air and ground assault left a huge number of mangled bodies of men, women and children around a marketplace and a mosque at the Nuseirat camp.

"It was like a horror movie but this was a real massacre," said Ziad, 45, a paramedic and resident of Nuseirat, who gave only his first

name to keep his own security from the IOF.

"Israeli drones and warplanes fired all night randomly at people's houses and at people

"The enemy succeeded, through committing horrific massacres, in releasing some of its captives, but at the same time killed some of them during the operation."

who tried to flee the area," he added.

Graphic footage at two nearby hospitals, which are barely functioning, shows dead and severely injured Palestinian children lying on beds and the ground.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital is believed to have received the highest number of casualties.

On Sunday, the Palestinian health ministry put the number of people killed to at least 274 with at least 698 injured.

Tel Aviv has used captives to legitimize killing, injuring, and starving Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, said on Saturday.

The irony is that the IOF could only recover four captives from Gaza, after more than eight months of a genocidal war, and with all the military and intelligence capabilities and superiority, which Western media failed to address.

A senior Hamas official, Sami Abu Zuhri, told Reuters after that "regaining four captives after nine months of fighting is a sign of failure not an achievement".

Experts say the U.S.-backed Israeli operation does not change anything strategically but does put any potential ceasefire deal and exchange of Israeli captives for Palestinian prisoners in jeopardy.

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

## The lingering suffering of children in Gaza

Children are the most vulnerable victims of Israel's war on Gaza. They are being starved, maimed, orphaned, and massacred.

The unspeakable horrors of bombs that Israel is dropping on Gaza will live with those children who escape death.

A generation of traumatized amputees has been created. They have lost one or more limbs. Their limbs are amputated without anesthesia. So far, as many as 3,000 children in Gaza have lost limbs in the war.

"Sham was standing near the door, and a piece of shrapnel hit her hand. I ran outside and found her hand, hanging by a thread," her mother said.

Children are not only starved but also have no access to water. They drink water in puddles or

dirty water from the sea. According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), nine out of 10 children in Gaza are experiencing severe food poverty.

Save the Children says children's worlds have been destroyed. Save the Children and UNICEF also say in the early weeks of the war, which has exceeded eight months, about 1,000 children were killed in a week.

Again, Israel has intensified its attacks in the small open-air prison with 2.3 million inmates.

"The Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child," UNICEF spokesperson James Elder says. "And day after day, that brutal reality is reinforced."

The brutal attacks in Gaza have made parents speechless in the face of reasonable questions by children.

"My children look into my eyes every day, they are searching for answers. I have no answers for them," says Yousef, father of three.

UNICEF says one out of every 10 children killed in Gaza did not make their first birthday.

The number of children killed are not close to the figures given so far. The real death toll may emerge once bloodthirsty rulers in Israel stop their butchery in the tiny strip as thousands of children are missing under rubble.

Elder has recounted the story of a 13-year-old girl called Dina. Dina was injured and one leg was amputated. She also lost both of her parents and two brothers.

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

## Tehran to hold symposium on tourism and green investment

TEHRAN - Iran is set to host the 3rd National Symposium on Tourism and Green Investment, focusing on green economy and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation in tourism.

The event, organized by the University of Science and Culture in collaboration with the Tourism Ministry and the tourism commission of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, will take place on June 18-19.

Previously, green economy and investments in tourism were often seen as mere slogans to attract attention or remained within the realm of scientific hypotheses. However, the increased focus on this topic by the UN Tourism and its designation as the theme for World Tourism Day in 2023 has prompted greater attention, particularly in developing countries.

Arranged to take place at the Iran Chamber of Commerce in Tehran, the symposium, aims to fulfill the educational and promotional missions of universities with the support of the Iranian scientific tourism association.

It seeks to help facilitate the exchange of ideas among scholars and entrepreneurs, foster connections among tourism industry professionals, and collaborate with government bodies on policy-making.

Given Iran's rich history and potential in green tourism investments, the symposium seeks to develop supportive policies, network stakeholders, and back innovative ideas, paving the way for the growth of green tourism and increased investments.

Home to diverse natural landscapes and cultural heritage gems, Iran has already taken steps to promote green tourism, focusing on minimizing the negative impact of conventional tourism on the environment through sustainable practices.

Iran's tourism industry can benefit from green



tourism in several ways. Firstly, it can help diversify the country's tourism offerings beyond its historical and cultural attractions. By highlighting its natural beauty and wildlife, Iran can attract a new segment of travelers interested in eco-tourism experiences.

Secondly, green tourism can boost local economies. Eco-tourism activities such as hiking and camping require local guides, porters, and other support staff, providing employment opportunities for people in rural areas. Additionally, eco-tourism can encourage the development of small businesses such as eco-lodges, organic farms, and handicraft shops, generating income for local communities.

Thirdly, green tourism promotes environmental conservation and sustainable development. By encouraging responsible tourism practices, such as reducing waste, conserving water, and protecting wildlife, Iran can help preserve its natural resources for future generations. Moreover, eco-tourism can raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable development practices within local communities.

Green tourism, also known as sustainable tourism, is a growing trend in the global tourism industry. It involves promoting environmentally friendly practices and supporting local communities to ensure tourism has a positive impact on the environment and society.

# Exploring more of Persepolis: Southern Barzan to welcome visitors

TEHRAN - In a move to enhance the tourist experience at the UNESCO-listed site of Persepolis, authorities are set to open the Southern Barzan, believed to have been the main residential area for Achaemenid kings, to visitors.

By integrating the Southern Barzan into the main tourist route, authorities hope to highlight the comprehensive history of Persepolis and provide a more immersive experience for visitors.

According to Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, the tourism chief of Fars province, Southern Barzan has not been a major focus for visitors despite its historical significance.

The official noted that many visitors overlook this part of Persepolis. "There are artifacts in the southern section that few have seen."

"We plan to open a broader access to this area to allow tourists to explore more of Persepolis," Sabet-Eqlidi told Mehr news agency earlier this month.

He emphasized that the Southern Barzan has been unfairly neglected, despite its significance.

This addition aims to increase the duration of tourist stays at



A general view of the UNESCO-listed Persepolis, once the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire (c. 550-330 BC).

the ancient site and in the Marvdasht plain in general.

"Enhancements such as improved lighting and the re-opening of an old road are also planned. These improvements are expected to extend tourists' visits by an hour and a half to two hours, enriching their experience of Persepolis and the Marvdasht Plain," Sabet-Eqlidi explained.

Southern Barzan, aka Barzan-e Zonoubi, was once a royal zone southward of what we call at the main platform of Persepolis. Southern Barzan has been the focus of archaeological research for approximately 80 years. Researchers have uncovered

remains of palaces and other structures from the Achaemenid era in this area. Scholars believe that while the main platform of Persepolis served ceremonial purposes, the kings resided in the Southern Barzan.

Notably, Ali-Akbar Tajvidi, in his book "New Insights into the Art and Archaeology of the Achaemenid Era," documented extensive construction activities in the Southern Barzan under the orders of Xerxes I.

Available evidence suggests that during the reign of Xerxes, significant expansions were made to the site, indicating its importance as a residential area.

However, after Xerxes, construction slowed until Artaxerxes II resumed restoration and expansion efforts. However, the Southern Barzan was later looted and burned by Macedonians and their allies.

Persepolis (Greek word for Old Persian Parsa) is located in the Fars province, southern Iran, about 57 km northeast of the city of Shiraz. The Persepolis Terrace, an artificial platform of 125,000 m<sup>2</sup>, houses the most celebrated buildings of the Achaemenid period. The construction work of the Terrace started under the reign of the Achaemenid emperor Darius I (c. 518 BC) and since then, several royal buildings have been built on this platform and its vicinity.

On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

The terrace is a grandiose architectural creation, with its double flight of access stairs, walls covered by sculpted friezes at various levels, monumental gateways, gigantic sculpted winged bulls, and remains of large halls.

## National Carpet Day: celebration of a rich cultural heritage

TEHRAN - National Carpet Day in Iran, celebrated on June 9 this year, is a tribute to the country's long-standing tradition of carpet weaving, an art form that has been an integral part of Persian culture for millennia.

Persian carpets, also known as Iranian rugs, have a history that dates back to ancient Persia, around 2,500 years ago. They have been mentioned in historical texts and admired by historians and travelers from all over the world.

Moreover, they are integral to many

aspects of Iranian lives, from everyday use to special occasions such as weddings and religious ceremonies. They are also featured in Persian literature and poetry, symbolizing beauty, artistry, and cultural pride.

On National Carpet Day, various events and activities are organized across the country to celebrate this cherished art form. Exhibitions showcase the finest examples of Persian carpets, highlighting the unique characteristics of different regional styles such as Tabriz, Isfahan, Kashan, Kerman, and Qom, to name a few. In addition, regional workshops and

seminars are held to provide insights into such meticulous craftsmanship.

The occasion also underscores the economic importance of the industry that provides employment to hundreds of thousands of people, particularly in rural villages.

Beyond their visual appeal, Persian carpets represent the cultural, social, and economic fabric of Iranian society. In fact, every corner of the Iranian soil has its own distinctive style, patterns, and techniques passed down through generations.

## 8,000 artisans light up Mazandaran's craft industry

TEHRAN - Mazandaran province, a sought-after destination known for its captivating nature in northern Iran, is home to over 8,000 craftspeople, who enrich the travel experience for tourists.

In a ceremony held on Sunday in commemoration of World Handicrafts Day, a local official in charge of handicrafts lifted the curtains on the number of active craftspeople, elaborating that more

than 8,000 artisans have been counted across the province.

"Although the numbers are believed to be more than this," Hossein Izadi added.

The official further highlighted that crafts are an inseparable part of every home in Mazandaran. "Archaeological explorations testify that the rich handicrafts' history lies within the region," he continued.

The region's lush landscapes and diverse ethnic communities, he pinpointed, have fostered a variety of crafts, each with distinctive styles and techniques passed down through generations.

Prioritizing the issues in handicrafts industry, Izadi mentioned creating crafts fairs and facilitating the lending funds to some local artisans.

He also outlined that paving the way to provide raw materials for craftspeople is another priority that is high on the agenda.

In his concluding remarks, Izadi pointed to the World Handicrafts Day as a great opportunity to honor the hardworking artisans across the province, who play a crucial role in preserving culture and boosting tourism economy.

Mazandaran province, located in the northern part of Iran along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and diverse handicrafts. The region's unique geographical features, which include lush forests, fertile plains, and highland areas, significantly influence its traditional crafts.

One of the most notable handicrafts in Mazandaran is wood carving. The province's abundant forests provide high-quality wood, which local artisans skillfully transform into intricate and artistic pieces. These woodworks often feature traditional designs and motifs, reflecting the cultural and historical narratives of the region.

## Golestan launches first-ever HOHO sightseeing tours in northern Iran

TEHRAN - The very first Hop-on, Hop-off sightseeing tour in northern Iran has been launched in Gorgan, the capital of Golestan province.

Speaking on Saturday, Gorgan's mayor announced that the first-ever HOHO bus in northern Iran has commenced catering visitors, coinciding with the national Marriage Day.

"Golestan's first tourist bus started its operations today," Seyyed Mohammad Seyyedlangi noted. "By transporting 12 newlywed couples to their homes."

He highlighted Gorgan's rich tourism potential,

emphasizing its valuable recreational, natural, and historical sites.

The mayor explained that the double-decker tourist bus, equipped with a retractable roof, features a lounge area and various amenities.

Every Thursday, The HOHO bus offers free rides to showcase Gorgan's historical district, parks, and tourist spots, he wended up.

On May 28, a local official in charge of tourism announced the launch of the first electric double-decker tourist bus in northern Iran.

Ali-Akbar Basirinia detailed Gorgan's significant tourism assets, including its historical fabric, which is one of the country's most valuable, encompassing old houses, Tekyehs, madrasas, and mosques, along with natural attractions like Alangdareh and Naharkhoran forest parks.

He noted that one of Gorgan's urban management plans for this year is implementing "Tourism Thursdays," aimed at facilitating visits for citizens, tourists, and investors to explore the city's tourism capacities and investment opportunities.

Golestan province, locat-

ed in northern Iran, boasts a diverse array of tourism attractions, making it a prime destination for both sightseers and nature lovers. The provincial capital, Gorgan, features a rich historical fabric, including the well-preserved Esterabad district, which is renowned for its ancient houses, Tekyehs, madrasas, and mosques. Beyond its historical significance, Golestan offers breathtaking natural landscapes, such as the lush Alangdareh and Naharkhoran forest parks, which provide visitors with opportunities for hiking, picnicking, and wildlife observation.

First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER

No.: 484400

**KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE REFRACTORY MATERIALS FOR STEEL-MAKING**

This Company Intends To Purchase The Refractory Items Required for Its Other Areas Except Steel-Making Shop By Holding a Public International Tender By selecting One Or More Companies From Tope Domestic Or Foreign Manufacturing Companies That Have The Appropriate And Acceptable Abilities In Terms Of Records And Experience.

Therefore, The Applicant Companies Are Invited to Send the Official Declaration of Their Readiness to Participate in The Tender to The Following Site Address: [Pim.ksc.ir](http://Pim.ksc.ir)

**Note 1:** The Closing Date For Declaration Of Readiness To Participate In The Tender Is **21.June.2024**. Deadline For Receipt The Tender Documents Is **26.June.2024**. All Financial And Technical Bids Must Be Delivered To The Address: RAW MATERIAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT- KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)- KM10 AHVAZ & BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD- AHWAZ - IRAN P.O.BOX: 1378 - POST CODE: 61788-13111 On Before The Closing Date **12.July.2024**. The Opening Date Of Technical Offer Envelopes Will Be At **11:00 AM On The 14.July.2024**

**Note 2:** THE OFFERED PRICE SHOULD BE VALID UP TO **4 MONTH AFTER OPPENING DATE**

**Note 3: Terms of The Guarantee of Participating in The Tender:**

- 1-The Foreign Companies That Participate Directly in The Tender Must Provide a Corporate Guarantee.
- 2- Foreign Companies That Participate by The Domestic Agent in The Tender Must Provide a Bank Guarantee.
- 3- The Domestic Companies That Participate Directly in The Tender Must Provide a Bank Guarantee.

❖ In order to participate in the tender, Companies must deposit 2% of the amount of their financial offer in the tender as a bank guarantee, financial block or cash deposit to the accounts of Khouzestan Steel Company (in the following account numbers):

- Siba account number: 0102513186002 (Siba number: **IR54017000000102513186002**)
- Sepehr account number: 0100304453001 (Sepehr number: **IR43019000000100304453001**)

**Note 3:** FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT TO BELOW CHANALE:

Tel No.: +98-61-32136123

EMAIL: [Sh.Nami@ksc.ir](mailto:Sh.Nami@ksc.ir)

WEBSITE: [WWW.KSC.IR](http://WWW.KSC.IR)

# Tehran to host 2nd exhibition on innovation for prosperity

TEHRAN –The second national exhibition on 'Innovation for Prosperity' will kick off in Tehran on Tuesday.

This year the exhibition aims to introduce the capabilities of universities and the national foundations for the elite and science for the participation of people in development plans.

The four-day event will focus on connecting knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies, as well as professors and elites to the issue of less-developed areas.

Expanding the market and facilitating the purchase of goods and services from knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies by introducing projects being implemented by government institutions aimed at removing deprivation, and utilizing the capabilities of companies, professors, elites, and the country's scientific, creative, and technological ecosystem to address the challenges of less-developed areas to create sustainable job opportunities are among other objectives of the exhibition.

And finally, increasing public participation in interaction with knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies, as well as promoting a knowledge-based economy based on public participation are the main goals of the second national exhibition on 'Innovation for Prosperity'.

The exhibition covers five main sectors including housing; rural development infrastructure; agriculture; animal husbandry and fisheries; health and rehabilitation; small-scale employment, and soft and educational industries, IRNA reported.

The event serves as a platform for knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies active in the development and progress of less privileged areas to showcase their achievements and capabilities.

## First exhibition

The first exhibition was held from June 13-15 last year to introduce the capacities of knowledge-based



and innovative companies for creating job opportunities in underdeveloped regions.

The country's progressing process of development has accelerated with the emphasis on the formation of the technology and innovation ecosystem and the approval of laws for supporting knowledge-based companies and boosting Iran-made products.

Today, we are witnessing the positive effects of adopting the approach in the economy, culture, and daily life of people.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Improving the scientific level of society, achieving high global rankings in the number of scientific articles, references, and patenting, reducing the illiteracy rate, and increasing the number of university courses and students are only a part of the achievements after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

A total of 38,248 rural administration offices have been established since 2003, offering services to villagers across the country, IRNA reported.

tainable development.

Villagers and nomads take the lead in providing food, food security, and healthy food production.

They have a major role in the tourism and handicraft industry and they are sources of many cultures and traditions in the country playing an important role in ensuring the country's security, especially in borders and remote areas.

Some 25 percent of the country's population lives in villages, producing around 70 percent of food for the domestic market.

Currently, more than 90 percent of agricultural and food products are produced in villages. Some 25 percent of the country's meat products and 35 percent of handicrafts, as well as a major part of organic dairy products, including vegetable oil, milk, curd, and other materials, are produced by nomads.

In fact, the economy of the rural areas is not limited to agriculture; it includes various industries such as handicrafts, creative industries, clothing, processing industries, food, medicinal plants, carpentry, furniture, tourism, ecotourism, fisheries, carpets and rugs, and dried fruits.

Products of villagers and nomads are being presented in an exhibition named "Rusta Abad" (Developed Village), ISNA reported.

The Majlis (the Iranian Parliament) approved a total of 31 trillion rials (nearly \$62 million) for rural development in the budget bill for the previous Iranian calendar year (March 2022-March 2023), IRIB reported.

By allocating this amount of budget, the whole credit of comprehensive development plans will reach 42 trillion rials, Akbar Nikzad, head of the Housing Foundation, said in June 2022.

The comprehensive development plans aim to develop rural areas in line with cultural, economic, and social conditions, as well as housing provision for the rural residents and improving environmental service.

## Over 126,000 women heads of household become self-sufficient

TEHRAN – The empowerment programs of the late President Raisi's administration have resulted in the self-sufficiency of more than 126,000 women heads of household.

Female entrepreneurs have expanded business, resulting in the creation of sustainable employment for women, as well as the support for job-creating skills, IRNA quoted Ensieh Khazali, the vice president for women and family affairs, as saying.

The empowerment programs covered women with abusive husbands, women breadwinners, single girls aged over 45, women suffering from social harm, and women who are heads of household.

Also, the national sustainable family-oriented business plan, with the assistance of women entrepreneurs managed to empower women seeking employment.

In this project, women entrepreneurs support the employment of women for four years from the raw material preparation stage to the end product sales stage to ensure their sustainable employment.

In addition, the late president's administration for the first time established an entrepreneurship fund for supporting women heads of household.

Providing online sales platforms, and establishing sales markets across the country were among other empowerment programs for women heads of households which led to the self-sufficiency of many Iranian women.

### Women empowered after Islamic Revolution

The status of women in various fields was improved after the Islamic Revolution and women, as half of the country's population, have been leading in many fields.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in February 1979 by toppling the Pahlavi regime [the last Iranian royal dynasty, ruling for almost 54 years between 1925 and 1979], women were given equal rights to shape their futures. The Islamic Revolution provided them a chance to build their distinct identity and they have been tremendously successful in doing that.

There were extensive changes in the fields of science, education, economy, employment, and presence in management positions for women. Now a large part of activists in various fields of



academia, business, and management are made up of capable Iranian women.

Education as a social value for women is seen as real freedom for them. Illiteracy among women and girls has been nearly eradicated as the literacy rate reached 99.3 percent and the ratio of female to male students has increased by 28 percent.

According to the latest data, nearly 60 percent of all university students are females today. The percentage of women in higher education has increased nearly 21 times since the Revolution.

The notable presence of women in the education sector has had a remarkable impact on the job market of the country as well, with women taking more jobs in both the public and private sectors.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in one of his speeches said, "It is wrong to assume, we should prevent women from partaking in economic and social activities with reference to Islam.

Islam has not prescribed such a thing. However, Islam has not recommended imposing hard work, tough businesses, or social and political tasks on women, either.

Islam has adopted a moderate viewpoint; that is to say, if women have the opportunity and the time, and if it does not prevent them from bringing up their children, if they are enthusiastic and eager and have the physical strength and energy, and if they are willing to take part in social, political and economic activities, they should not be prevented.

But if they are forced to take a job and work certain hours per day so that they can have a share in covering the household expenses, this is not what Islam has asked women. Islam considers this as a form of imposition on women." (September 18, 1996)

## Blood donation rises by 12%

TEHRAN –In the first two months of the current Iranian year which started on March 20, a total of 435,000 blood units have been donated which indicates a 12 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Tehran province accounted for more than 17 percent of the total donation by receiving over 74,600 units of blood from donors, followed by Khorasan Razavi and Fars provinces, each with almost seven percent share, IRNA quoted Bashir Haji-Beigi, the Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman, as saying.

He went on to say that the highest blood donation growth was recorded in Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Markazi provinces with 52 percent, 32 percent, and 28 percent rise, respectively, IRNA reported.

Continuous and regular blood donation was 55 percent in the first five months of the year was 55 percent; Semnan (66 percent), Yazd (65 percent), and Qom (almost 65 percent) provinces ranked first to third, respectively, the official noted.

Blood donation by women has also experienced a 16 percent increase compared to the same period last year as they donated 19,088 units of blood.

Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad with 229 units of blood donated had the highest increase in blood donation by women which shows a 127 percent increase compared to 101 units last year.

Yazd with around 430,000 units of blood and Kermanshah with 740,000 units of blood recorded 97 percent and 86 percent rise in women's blood donation respectively.

### Blood donation in Iran

The average blood donation rate in Iran is 26 per thousand people which places the country in a good situation among other countries.

According to the World Health Organization, the median blood donation rate in high-income

countries is 31.5 donations per 1000 people. This compares with 16.4 donations per 1000 people in upper-middle-income countries, 6.6 donations per 1000 people in lower-middle-income countries, and 5.0 donations per 1000 people in low-income countries.

Of the 118.5 million blood donations collected globally, 40% of these are collected in high-income countries, home to 16% of the world's population.

In low-income countries, up to 54 % of blood transfusions are given to children under 5 years of age; whereas in high-income countries, the most frequently transfused patient group is over 60 years of age, accounting for up to 76% of all transfusions.

Based on samples of 1000 people, the blood donation rate is 31.5 donations in high-income countries, 16.4 donations in upper-middle-income countries, 6.6 donations in lower-middle-income countries, and 5.0 donations in low-income countries.

In the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 19, some 2.223 million blood donations were registered across the country, an increase of 9.3 percent compared to the year before.

Last year, the blood donation rate reached 27 per thousand people. The highest rate was recorded in Mazandaran province with over 40,000 people donating blood. Semnan province, over 39,000, and Yazd province ranked second and third.

Women's share of blood donation was equal to four percent. A total of 102,907 women donated blood which had increased compared to the previous year. However, women are expected to get more involved in blood donation.

The overall blood donation rate was over 54 percent in the country last year with Semnan (69 percent), Yazd (64 percent), and Qom (63 percent) provinces ranking the highest.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system

Health Minister Saeed Namaki inaugurated 23 health centers, including 201 hospital beds, in Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces on Tuesday.

Built on 26,935 square meters area, the centers were constructed with a budget of 2.9 trillion rials (nearly \$70 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The Ministry of Health is scheduled to add 10,600 hospital beds to the capacity of the country's medical system within the next 7 months.

## افزایش ظرفیت تخت های بیمارستانی

سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت امروز به صورت مجازی ۲۳ مرکز بهداشتی و درمانی را شامل ۲۰۱ تخت بیمارستانی در استان های لرستان، کرمانشاه و خوزستان افتتاح کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، این مراکز در زیربنای ۲۶ هزار و ۹۳۵ مترمربع و با اعتباری بالغ بر ۲۹۸۰ میلیارد ریال ساخته شده است.

وزارت بهداشت قرار است تا ۱۲ فروردین سال ۱۴۰۰، ۱۰ هزار و ۶۰۰ تخت بیمارستانی به ظرفیت بیمارستان های کشور اضافه کند.



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JUNE 10, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Practice makes knowledge perfect.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:04 Evening: 19:41 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

## Ariel Dorfman's "Voices from Beyond the Dark" on stage at Molavi Theater Hall

TEHRAN-The play "Voices from Beyond the Dark" written by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Ariel Dorfman is being performed at Molavi Theater Hall in Tehran.

The Persian performance of the play under the title "Voices Beyond the Dark" has Reza Samadpur, Mehdi Eskandari, Bita Jamali, Mojgan Radfar, Sadaf Asadollahi, Hossein Firouzi, Sara Zoghi, Samaneh Sadeghi, Mobina Kazemi, and Shima Bakhtiari in the cast among others, Honaronline reported.

The 65-minute performance is based on interviews with human rights activists around the world and tells their stories of courage and determination to fight gross human rights violations.

In the play, eight voices chronicle the stories of 42 human rights advocates from places as diverse as Mexico, Burma, India, and the United States, while two characters representing repressive powers and apathetic onlookers dramatize their opposition.

The play was first presented at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in 2000 and has since been performed around the world, both by the best actors of the national and international scene, as well as by college and university students.

Ariel Dorfman, 82, is an Argentine-Chilean-American novelist, playwright, essayist, academic, and human rights activist. He has been a professor of literature and Latin American Studies at Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina, since 1985.

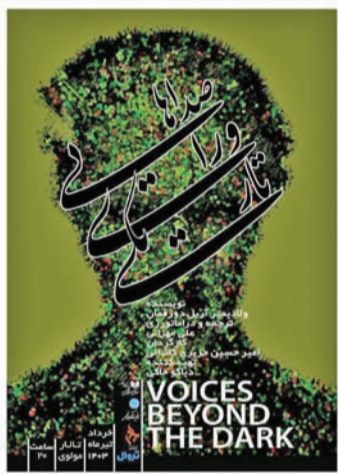
His plays and novels engage with the vibrant politically engaged Latin American literary tradition of Pablo Neruda and Gabriel García Márquez.

Dorfman's 1990 play "Death and the Maiden," perhaps his best-known work, was completed in Chile as he observed his country's painful transition from authoritarianism to democracy. In 1994 the play was adapted for film by the famous filmmaker Roman Polanski.

Dorfman wrote extensively on issues related to Latin American politics, American cultural hegemony, war, and human rights, publishing essays in both English and Spanish.

He also worked with organizations such as Amnesty International, Index on Censorship, and Human Rights Watch.

"Voices from Beyond the Dark" will remain on stage till July 8 at Molavi Theater Hall located at No. 16, 16th Azar St., Enqelab St.



## Artibition Auction presenting works of prominent contemporary Iranian artists

TEHRAN-The Artibition Auction is underway at the Artibition Gallery in Tehran, presenting the works of prominent contemporary Iranian artists.

The artists whose works are present at the auction include Nasrollah Afjei, Shideh Tami, Mohammadali Taraghijah, Parviz Tanavoli, Ghasem Hajizadeh, Sohrab Sepehri, Manouchehr Safarzadeh, Mohammadhossein Emad, Hoda Kashiha, Marcos Grigorian, Arsia

Moghaddam, Roghayeh Najdi, and Hamid Hadinejad, Mehr reported.

Organized by Artibition Gallery, the auction will continue until June 11.

Established in 2014, Arthibition Gallery aims at connecting talented artists, art collectors and galleries to the art lovers and buyers all across the world who value Iranian arts and artworks.

## Cartoon of Day



The Red Line!  
Cartoonist: Emad Hajjaj from Jordan

# Iran's True Promise artistic event to welcome resistance artists worldwide

By Samaneh Aboutaleb

TEHRAN- The True Promise artistic event, set to take place in Tehran in September, will bring together resistance artists from around the world to showcase their talents and creativity in a unique celebration of art and culture, the organizers have announced.

Although this is the first edition of this event, it is planned to be held internationally and will involve more countries from the resistance zone, Abolfazl Hamrah, the secretary of the festival announced during a press conference held in Tehran on Sunday.

However, artists from other countries can also submit their work he said.

"We are trying to utilize our capacities in this regard," he added.

Such events are important for promoting Iranian culture and values globally, as well as creating a platform for artists to share their work and inspire others, he emphasized.

Organized by the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization and the Cultural Affairs Department of the Aerospace Force of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the True Promise artistic event will cover various art fields, including literature, animation, visual arts, music, as well as podcasting and stand-up comedy.

"We want to create a database of artists from various fields who are committed to promoting Iranian culture," Hamrah said. "We will use this platform to



showcase Iranian art and culture to the world."

The call for submissions will be announced soon, and works will be collected through the website and social media platforms until July 21. The selection process will involve judging and choosing the best works, followed by a final ceremony in September, he mentioned.

For his part, Ali Naderi, a cultural official with the IRGC, stated that the speed of events is so fast that even media outlets and analysts are struggling to convey an accurate and true account of the events.

"The Operation Al-Aqsa Storm inflicted such a catastrophic blow to the Zionist regime that they broke all their red lines, and they have not yet regained composure. They have dropped as many bombs on Gaza as were

dropped during World War II," he said.

Despite all these efforts, the Zionists have not been able to draw a picture of victory for themselves, and today, many countries are lining up to recognize Palestine, he mentioned.

This event is organized to highlight the Operation True Promise, which was a punishment for Israel's lies, he noted.

During the operation, global media outlets were inundated with news about Iran's involvement, which put Israel on high alert, he noted.

We believe that this operation warrants a thorough explanation through accurate media coverage, he explained.

As a result, we are following up on this artistic initiative

to harness the collective capabilities of the people and invite artists to contribute to a narrative that sheds light on this significant achievement from multiple angles and brings it to the public's attention, he added.

On April 1, the Israeli regime carried out terrorist airstrikes on the consular section of Iran's embassy in the Syrian capital Damascus, which killed two IRGC generals, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and General Mohammad Hadi Haji Rahimi, as well as five of their accompanying officers.

In retaliation, the IRGC targeted the Occupied Territories on April 13 with a barrage of drones and missiles. The retaliatory strikes, dubbed Operation True Promise, inflicted damage on Israeli military bases across the occupied Palestinian territories.

## Tehran museum hosting Flying Carpet installation

TEHRAN- The Carpet Museum of Iran in Tehran is currently hosting a unique artistic installation to commemorate the National Carpet Day.

The event, organized in collaboration with the Contemporary Visual Arts Institute, aims to bring together people from all walks of life and artists from various disciplines to create a collaborative and interactive installation titled "Flying Carpet" today and tomorrow.

The installation features valuable and historic rug images from the Carpet Museum of Iran's collection.

Additionally, the event includes an art workshop where participating artists, including graphic designers, will work together to create a unique and immersive experience.

Persian carpets are renowned for their intricate designs and patterns, which are



often reminiscent of the serene beauty of Persian gardens. Weavers dedicate months of meticulous labor to create these masterpieces, stringing and knotting thousands of threads on a loom.

While some adhere to traditional established patterns, others push the boundaries of creativity, crafting their own unique designs.

Each Persian carpet is a testament to the

craftsmanship and patience of the weavers, with a single piece taking up to a year to complete.

This labor-intensive process has earned Iranian carpets a reputation as one of the most complex and intricate handicrafts in the world.

The final stages of the process involve cutting, washing, and drying the carpet in the sun, leaving it with a soft, luxurious texture.

Throughout history, Persian carpets have been shaped by the influences of invaders, politicians, and even enemies.

Despite the passage of time, little is known about the early days of Persian carpet-making before the 15th century, when art was already flourishing.

Today, these exquisite pieces continue to captivate audiences around the world with their timeless beauty and craftsmanship.

## Artist breaks her sculpture in protest at San Francisco Jewish Museum

Early on Thursday evening, June 6, right before the Contemporary Jewish Museum's first-ever open-call exhibition opened to the public, dozens of anti-Zionist Jewish artists and supporters crowded the plaza in front of the institution in an action that included art-making, speeches, and the live destruction of a sculpture inside the museum.

The group's 15 organizers, known as California Jewish Artists for Palestine (CJAFP), include 11 who originally submitted their work to the museum's open call with a plan to flood the exhibition with anti-Zionist art. While four of the group's applicants were rejected, the seven who were accepted all chose to withdraw their work, citing disagreement over the context of the term "anti-Zionist" and a contract that artists felt left them with little to no autonomy over how their work was presented.

The night's actions were sobered by a grim statistic: In the eight months since the start of Hamas-Israel war on October 7, Israel has killed more than 37,000

Palestinians in Gaza, Hyperallergic reported.

In response to the absence of the seven artists' work, the Contemporary Jewish Museum left a large wall of the exhibition blank, with a placard explaining that to "authentically reflect the struggle for dialogue that is illustrated by the artists' decisions to withdraw, the spaces where each of these works were planned to be displayed have been intentionally left empty."

"It's an empty gesture," said artist and protest co-organizer Steph Kudisch of the blank wall. "It felt like a way of flipping the blame onto us to make us seem unreasonable."

In a public statement, Executive Director Kerry King and board Chair Tom Kasten wrote that the institution maintained its stance that "to call for the swift return of all Israeli hostages and an end to the ongoing violence against Palestinian civilians is not a political stance but an essential moral position."

"As an institution, we have before, and will continue to

present works that may be critical of Israel and show support for Palestinians," King had previously told two artists in an email.

A spokesperson for the Contemporary Jewish Museum told Hyperallergic that they supported the protest outside and would not move to end it if it remained peaceful, which it did.

By 6 pm, the space was filled with tables offering printmaking, chalk drawing, live painting, and a brass band; speakers in the plaza took turns at a microphone, some with traditional Jewish chanting and singing. As dusk fell, museum-goers joined a line of over 80 people trickling inside.

CJAFP organizer and Jewish artist Kate Laster was unfazed. "We owe Gaza our endurance," she told Hyperallergic. "This is urgent. There is a genocide happening in Palestine, and we need to normalize how we talk about these things."

Open call artist Vanessa Thill emphasized that the group was there to protest the institution, not the show's participants. Artists were asked to submit to

the open call around the theme of "connection," and at first, Thill had felt encouraged by curator Heidi Rabin's assurances that pro-Palestine views would be accepted.

But as the opening neared, Thill felt less and less supported in her anti-Zionist views. There was little dialogue among artists even after she reached out to the group to discuss Israel's ongoing attacks on Gaza — and that dialogue didn't seem to be encouraged.

Upstairs, as hundreds of attendees passed through, Thill stood next to her sculpture "Cleave-To (His Cheeks Were Beds of Spices)" (2023), consisting of two large crescent shapes cast in various spices, graphite, and fake blood. Thill read the traditional Kaddish prayer followed by the names of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces. She then read the names of Israeli hostages who were recently confirmed dead. And in a final act violating her museum's artist contract, Thill broke off a piece of her sculpture and held the fragment to the crowd.