

What are the ulterior motives behind the top US diplomat's trip to West Asia?

# Blinken Mission: Saving Israel from Gaza Quagmire



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Israeli War Minister Yoav Gallant in Tel Aviv on June 10, 2024.

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## Sinwar: "There may be a new Karbala"

TEHRAN - Israel has committed the most heinous crimes in the Gaza Strip since declaring war on the besieged Palestinian territory on October 7.

The Israel army has slaughtered more than 37,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said that he will continue the war until "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group.

However, the Netanyahu regime has not only failed to eliminate Hamas but it has recently been dealt crushing blows at the hands of resistance fighters.

Since early October, the Israeli military chief has generally spoken of "dismantling" rather than eliminating or eradicating Hamas.

Herzi Halevi's comments implicitly indicate that even a protracted war will not be able to destroy the resistance group.

Assessments by Israel's military intelligence also showed in mid-February that even if the regime dismantles Hamas's organized military capabilities, the movement will continue to operate in the Gaza Strip. The revelations also indicated that "authentic support remains" for Hamas among Gazans.

## NY police attack pro-Palestine protesters

Protesters gathered Monday at Union Square in New York City to demonstrate against Israel's ongoing war in the Gaza Strip and express solidarity with Palestinians.

Waving Palestinian flags, they chanted slogans such as "Free, free Palestine" and "Gaza is watching us," Anadolu reported. The demonstration later moved into the metro station.

"Gaza! Gaza!" protesters chanted as they flooded the subway station. New York Police violently clashed with the protesters. Officers also made several arrests.

Pro-Palestine protesters have regularly rallied in US cities to vent their anger at Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza.

They are opposed to Washington's military support for the Tel Aviv regime. They have demanded that the administration of President Joe Biden cut military support for Israel.

Jeffery Sachs, a world-renowned economist and professor at Columbia University, told the Tehran Times last month that students are protesting the murderous brutality of Israel in Gaza, the complicity of the United States in that brutality, and the urgent need for a sovereign State of Palestine alongside the state of Israel.

More than 37,000 Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched war on Gaza on October 7.

## Palestinians are portrayed as 'less human'

By Xavier Villar

MADRID - More than 200 Palestinians were killed and at least 400 were wounded during a Zionist incursion in central Gaza, according to data from the Gaza Government Media Office. The military attacks, some of the deadliest since October, targeted the Nuseirat and Deir el-Balah refugee camps in central Gaza. Doctors describe the scenes inside Al-Aqsa Hospital as a "complete massacre."

In a brief statement, the Zionist occupation army stated that its forces were "targeting terrorist infrastructure in the Nuseirat area." Subsequently, they announced that their forces had rescued four captives during the operation in Nuseirat. According to the colonial occupation army, the four individuals, who were taken to Gaza after the Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on October 7, were in "good health."

At this point, we know through Western media the names, ages, photos, and stories of each of the four Israelis who were rescued from Gaza, but no one knows the name, let alone the story, of any of the more than 200 Palestinians whom Israel massacred in the process. This is part of the dehumanization process that Palestinians have been experiencing since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948.

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## Presidential hopefuls face praise and criticism on first campaign days

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - Schedules of the six candidates running for president in the June 28 elections were abuzz with activities and interviews, as they faced conflicting views on their announced policies.

Each of the six candidates has selected a campaign manager. Notably, Ali Nikzad, the former Iranian minister of housing and urban development, has been chosen by Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf to lead the candidate's promotional efforts. Nikzad was unable to secure approval from the Guardian Council to run as a candidate.

The candidate who garnered the most attention on Tuesday was Masoud Pezeshkian, seen as the reformists' sole chance to reclaim influence. Pezeshkian's earlier statements on national television drew backlash from conservatives, who argued that the candidates appear to lack concrete strategies for crucial matters such as the economy, housing, and foreign policy. ► Page 3

## Moscow committed to finalizing cooperation agreement with Iran: Lavrov

TEHRAN - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov says Moscow is steadfast in its commitment to finalize a comprehensive long-term cooperation agreement with Iran.

During a press conference on Tuesday at the conclusion of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, Lavrov confirmed that the process is progressing as planned.

"Despite the draft text of the state cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia being fully agreed upon, it cannot yet be signed," Lavrov noted.

The agreement still requires approval from the presidents of both countries, he explained. "The signing on the Iranian side necessitates completing certain legal procedures related to the contract's contents."

Lavrov emphasized that these procedures are currently pending but assured that Moscow reaffirmed its commitment to the agreement during a meeting with Iran's interim Foreign Minister, Ali Baqeri Kani.

"Signing this agreement will elevate Tehran-Moscow relations to a significantly new level," Lavrov stated.

The BRICS Foreign Ministers' Council meeting, held on Monday and Tuesday, included participation from senior diplomats of member countries.

Earlier, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov addressed the ongoing work on the comprehensive strategic agreement, acknowledging ► Page 3

## Iranian interim FM engages in high-level talks with counterparts at BRICS summit

TEHRAN - Ali Baqeri Kani, the interim Foreign Minister of Iran, met with Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan on the second day of his visit to Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' conference and focused on bilateral, regional, and international issues, as well as ways to enhance cooperation.

Both ministers discussed the progress of relations between their countries under the tenure of the late President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, describing it as positive and forward-moving.

Baqeri Kani emphasized Iran and Saudi Arabia's commitment to ► Page 2



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## Exhibition on innovation for prosperity kicks off

TEHRAN - The second national exhibition on innovation for prosperity commenced in Tehran on Tuesday and will wrap up on Friday.

A total of 346 companies including 281 knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies, 20 NGOs, and 45 executive bodies are attending the event, ISNA reported.

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 ► Page 7

## Amir Abdollahian's passing a huge loss for Palestine: South Africa FM

TEHRAN - South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation has hailed the late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian as a staunch supporter of the oppressed Palestinian people, noting that Abdollahian's passing is a significant loss for freedom fighters worldwide.

Naledi Pandor made the remarks on Tuesday while speaking to Iranian reporters on the sidelines of the BRICS Ministerial Meeting in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod.

"My dear colleague Minister Abdollahian, I regarded him as a brother. We would speak often on world issues and we shared many perspectives particularly our support for the just cause of freedom ► Page 3



TEHRAN PAPERS

The world's positive view toward Tehran's principled positions

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

In a commentary, the government-run Iran newspaper highlighted the participation of Ali Bagheri, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the BRICS meeting in Russia. It wrote: The first meeting of foreign ministers of the BRICS group was held after Iran became a member of this international economic bloc, and Ali Bagheri expressed Iran's strategic will to develop and consolidate constructive relations with the union based on common interests. The approval of Iran's principled positions at the big Russian political gathering happened only a few days after the European troika (Britain, France and Germany) presented a censure resolution against Iran at the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, BRICS is proving the world community is receptive to Iran. Repairing and strengthening the relationship between Tehran and the Arab capitals and improving ties with the great Asian powers - which could greatly help and strengthen Iran's regional and international position - were on the agenda of the "balanced" foreign policy of the Raisi administration. The feedback of this achievement was shown in the inattention of the big and small BRICS members to the anti-Iran scenarios of the West and paying attention to Iran's principled policy in the foreign policy area.

Vatan-e-Emrooz: A transcontinental coalition

In an analysis, Vatan-e-Emrooz analyzed the importance of BRICS. It said: One of the most important reasons for joining the BRICS group is that it has a high potential to influence the world economy because it accounts for 25-28% of the global economy. The bloc is making rapid economic growth and is an influential player in global affairs. It is considered a transcontinental alliance. It was formed without the participation of Europe and America but can challenge the current world order. One of the achievements of Iran in joining BRICS is realizing the importance of global structure to circumvent sanctions and improve its economy. Iran was able to create political balance by joining BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This would enable Iran to sign agreements with Western countries in the future. Now Iran is not waiting for the West or the East. It is seeking to impose itself as a trans-regional power on the world. Therefore, joining BRICS

is very important.

Etemad: China and the three Iranian islands

Etemad analyzed Beijing's renewed support for the UAE's ownership claims over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb in the Persian Gulf. It wrote: China's recent support to the UAE over Iran's three islands is an important issue that first of all goes back to China's bilateral relations with the UAE and Iran.

It is also related to China's regional policy in the changing world. Abu Dhabi is considered an important partner for China. It can play a prominent role in strengthening energy cooperation with China and facilitate the path for Beijing to play a greater role in regional developments. On the other hand, the relations between Tehran and Beijing have not followed the path expected by both sides. If we look at the relations between the two countries, especially in the economic and technological fields, we can see although China is currently the most important buyer of Iran's oil, the relations are still limited both in terms of quantity and dimensions. It can be said that China is pursuing the traditional policy of "equal distance or closeness" with all sides.

Sobh-e-No: The right side of history

In an article, Sobh-e-No analyzed the Leader of the Revolution's letter to American students opposed to the Israeli brutal war on Gaza. The paper said: Ayatollah Khamenei's letter addressed to "students at American universities" is actually a letter from a spiritual father. In the letter, the supporters of Palestine are assured by the leader of Muslims and the free people of the world that although they have been oppressed by the American government and police, they are strongly standing on the right side of history. The Leader of the revolution accurately explained the truth and reason for resistance against the occupying regime of Palestine. It is a truth that has been kept out of the reach of Americans for eight decades through media propaganda. However, eight months of legendary resistance by the patient and oppressed Palestinians cast light on this truth. The fact is that the youth in the West, even their elites, have been kept in darkness by the Zionist-owned media in such a way that they can hardly understand the facts or distinguish right from wrong. This letter makes them pay attention to the contradiction between the slogans by the West and its performance.

Tehran hails BRICS as pathway to counter global unilateralism

TEHRAN - Ali Baqeri Kani, the Interim Foreign Minister of Iran has affirmed that BRICS is a pathway towards countering unilateralism as the body holds a clear vision for navigating a transition and reforming global governance through multilateralism, aiming to shape a new, fairer, more transparent, and democratic order.

He made the remarks during his address at the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod on Tuesday.

Baqeri Kani thanked Russia for hosting the summit and expressed gratitude to countries that sent condolences for the recent loss of Iran's president and foreign minister. He highlighted BRICS's role in navigating global transitions towards a fairer and more democratic world order, countering Western unilateralism.

He emphasized the increasing interest of countries in joining



BRICS and the need to finalize the criteria for new members by the next summit. Baqeri Kani criticized the global economic infrastructure's dependence on the US dollar, advocating for de-dollarization to protect independent economies.

"Dependence on a single currency for trade and reserves has entrapped many economies in the grip of the dollar. Without swift action, this dependency will further ensnare economies," Baqeri stated. "No

independent and developing country in the world has been unscathed by the dominance of the dollar; hence, the pursuit of de-dollarization in global trade is a shared desire among all independent nations."

Discussing Iran's experience with sanctions, he underscored the importance of developing independent financial, banking, and monetary systems among BRICS members.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing its readiness to offer

the model of a resistant economy, declares that the time has come for BRICS and friendly countries to seriously consider a practical model for financial, monetary, and banking independence from unilateral mechanisms," the interim Foreign Minister added.

Baqeri Kani also condemned the actions in Gaza, calling for an end to occupation and a UN-led referendum for Palestinian self-determination.

"Gaza today stands as the largest exhibition of unilateralism's achievements," he commented, referring to the crimes that the Zionist regime has been conducting in the battered enclave including the massacre of tens of thousands of innocent people, the slaughter of children and women, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of defenseless people among many others.

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

Iranian interim FM engages in high-level talks with counterparts at BRICS summit

From page 1 ► strengthening their comprehensive relations, which is crucial for regional stability and security.

Baqeri Kani also highlighted the atrocities committed by Zionists against Palestinians, including a recent horrific crime in Rafah, stressing the need for coordinated action among Islamic countries to show their vigilance and sensitivity. He called for a serious and effective response from Islamic nations to every Israeli aggression and crime.

Additionally, Baqeri Kani thanked Saudi Arabia for hosting Iranian Hajj pilgrims and called for enhanced facilities for them during the Hajj pilgrimage. Faisal bin Farhan highlighted the significant role played by President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian in transforming bilateral relations. He stated that the resumption of Iran and Saudi Arabia relations had led to strong cooperation and interaction between the two countries and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's determination to continue dialogue and cooperation with Iran.

The Saudi Foreign Minister also expressed satisfaction with the presence of Iranian pilgrims at this year's Hajj and wished them a peaceful and healthy pilgrimage, assuring that Saudi Arabia would utilize all its resources to ensure the event's success.

Iran, Thailand explore ways to enhance cooperation

On the same day, Baqeri Kani also met with Maris Sangiampongsa, the Thai Foreign Minister, on the sidelines of the BRICS meeting. The two officials discussed bilateral and international issues and explored ways to enhance cooperation in various areas encompassing politics, economics, trade, and regional and international affairs.

Back in January, the Ambassador of Thailand in Tehran Pichit Boonsud said his country is eager to increase the level of trade relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Venezuela reaffirms commitment to enhancing ties with Iran

Baqeri Kani also met with Yván Gil Pinto,

the Venezuelan Foreign Minister, during the BRICS summit. They reviewed bilateral and international matters and discussed ways to boost cooperation. Venezuela, a friendly country to BRICS, is keen to increase collaboration with member states.

Iran's relations with Venezuela have significantly developed under the current administration.

Kazakhstan keen to continue its path of developing bilateral relations with Iran

In another meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Baqeri Kani spoke with Murat Nurtleu, the Kazakh Foreign Minister.

They exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. Baqeri Kani stressed the importance President Raisi places on foreign policy and engagement with different countries to ensure stability and lasting peace. He emphasized that regional solidarity is crucial for security and stability.

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

Baqeri congratulates Jaishankar's reappointment as Indian FM

TEHRAN - Iran's Acting Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has extended his congratulations to Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on his reappointment as India's Minister of External Affairs.

Bagheri Kani wrote a congratulatory message on his X account, formerly Twitter, late on Monday.

"I am confident that his continued presence in the important position of the Minister of External Affairs will strengthen and expand the relations between Iran and India in all fields," he wrote.

Jaishankar resumed his role as India's minister of external affairs in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term, which commenced on June 10. He was among the first 10 ministers sworn in after Modi's inauguration on June 9.

Over the past five years, Jaishankar has emerged as a central figure in Indian diplomacy. His supporters tout him for skillfully navigating a rapidly evolving global landscape. The top diplomat visited Iran early this year and held extensive meetings with the late Iranian Foreign

Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Iran and India have made several moves to strengthen their ties in the past years. New Delhi entered an agreement to develop Iran's strategic Chabahar port in 2016. It signed a 10-year deal with Tehran in May to develop the port further.

When met with U.S. pressure to drop the deal, Jaishankar urged Washington to abandon its "narrow view" of the partnership and try to understand that the development of Chabahar would be to "everyone's benefit".

Canadian court finds Ukrainian airlines negligence caused downing of Flight PS752



Flight PS752 crashed after being hit by two missiles fired by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) on January 8, 2020, shortly after it took off to head to Kyiv.

The incident happened only hours after Iran launched a series of missiles at an American base in Iraq in response to Washington's assassination of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani on January 3.

All the 176 people onboard lost their lives.

Western states have poured significant efforts into capitalizing on the tragedy, accusing Iran of intentionally shooting down the Ukrainian plane.

They have so far failed to find any evidence to support their claims and have consistently refused to address questions about why Iran would undermine its earlier successful attack on a key U.S. base in Iraq by harming its own citizens.

The Western accusations have been used to justify sanctions against Iran and to isolate the country diplomatically, which ultimately hurts ordinary citizens in the country.

Tehran has said the Ukrainian plane was downed accidentally by the operator of a surface-to-air-missile system soon after Iran's retaliatory missile strikes, which put the country's military on the highest state of defensive alert as well as preparedness for a full-fledged war.

The country has so far issued sentences for 10 people involved in the incident and set compensation of \$150,000 for each of the families of the victims. Reports show the payments began in 2022.

TEHRAN - The Ontario Superior Court of Justice has ruled that Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) was negligent in its operation of Flight PS752 and is solely responsible for compensating the families of the victims killed when the flight was accidentally downed by Iran's military.

The court found that UIA failed to properly assess the risks of operating the flight out of Tehran at a time when tensions between Iran and the United States were rapidly escalating.

The court heard evidence that UIA had been aware of the heightened tensions, including the fact that Iran had previously shot down a U.S. drone and that U.S. forces had assassinated a top Iranian general just days before the downing of Flight PS752.

Despite being aware of these risks, the court found that UIA failed to take reasonable steps to mitigate them.

The court heard evidence that UIA had considered rerouting or canceling the flight but ultimately decided to operate it as scheduled.

**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

**INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER**  
**Second Announcement**  
**55/03/6892**  
**12/06/2023**

**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, affiliated to Ministry of Agriculture-Jihad of I.R of Iran, is considering the purchase of the below item of technical, through renewal of one step international tender.

	Name	PACKING	Quantity/ KG
1	<b>Deltamethrin Tech Min 98.5 pct.</b>	50 kg drums	<b>1800</b>

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Tuesday** dated **11/6/2024** until **Wednesday** dated **19/6/2024** (6 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9th floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of IRI. Rials 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30-character identification code of 33903978226350065000000000000008.

The bidders are requested to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Saturday** dated **20/7/2024** (to the end of official working hours) to our security office located on the 8th floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelopes will be held on **Sunday** dated **21/7/2024** at **10:00 AM** with the presence of bidder's representatives at our purchasing committee (9th floor, no. 1, Fourth Alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

We would like to emphasize that the value of the bid bond amount must be only submitted by the bidders in bank guarantee as follows:

The value of the bid bond: **€4860** is equivalent to Iranian Rials **2218935060**.

- The bid bond value should be in Euro or in equal value of any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on the exchange rate of Telegraphic Transfer of the basic and essential commodities on CBI's ETS website, [www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir](http://www.fxmarketrate.cbi.ir), on **28/5/2024**.

-The bidders are also permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial.

- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

**For more information, you may refer to our website [www.assc.ir](http://www.assc.ir), and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.**

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# Presidential hopefuls face praise and criticism on first campaign days

From Page 1 ▶ Pezeshkian's supporters and prominent figures holding moderate and reformist views were quick to come to his defense. The secretary-general of the Servants of Construction Party argued that even though Pezeshkian has outlined no plans, he would never do something "detrimental" to the general public as he is "close to the masses".

Notably, former Vice President Is'haq Jahangiri, another face among the 74 failing to run for president this year, announced his full support for Pezeshkian. "He is the epitome of sincerity, assertiveness, courage, and moral living," Jahangiri wrote in a post on X.

Jahangiri was the vice president under Hassan Rouhani, who won the presidential elections twice



with high votes. While the former vice president is undoubtedly considered to be a valuable source of support for Pezeshkian, analysts argue that the collapse of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has caused many voters to decouple from Rouhani and his

allies, potentially limiting Jahangiri's influence in helping Pezeshkian collect votes.

Remarks by conservatives on national television did not seem to stir much debate on Tuesday. Reformists and moderates mostly drew on previous assumptions to

portray some of them as politicians with no flexibility.

However, a prominent analyst suggested that none of the four conservatives stand a chance of winning the presidency unless some of them withdraw in support of others. Similar cautionary signals suggest that Pezeshkian may still present a significant challenge to his conservative rivals, despite uncertainties surrounding his popularity.

Mostafa Pourmohammadi, who is believed to hold somewhat moderate views, also spoke to the people on Tuesday. In his remarks, he had a vague emphasis on "happiness", stating that the government should prepare means of becoming and staying happy for the citizens.

## Amir Abdollahian's passing a huge loss for Palestine: South Africa FM



From Page 1 ▶ and justice for the people of Palestine. So, this is a great loss to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to those countries in the world that wish to see a more inclusive world order and also to the people of Palestine who are struggling for freedom today," she stated.

Amir Abdollahian took charge as Iran's foreign minister in August of 2021 and held the position until his passing on May 19, 2024. He and President Ebrahim Raisi along with six other

officials lost their lives during a helicopter crash in the mountainous region of the country's East Azerbaijan Province.

Amir Abdollahian embarked on a whirlwind of diplomatic efforts, including numerous trips and phone calls, since the early days of Israel's latest war on Gaza in a bid to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people and bring an end to the conflict.

The late diplomat launched several regional tours and communicated with world leaders on a regular basis, urging them to ramp up pressure on the Zionist regime if they wanted to see a meaningful change in its savage conduct.

His passing was mourned by Palestinians in Gaza and across the occupied territories, who believed that they had lost a dear friend and a genuine supporter.

Besides Iran, South Africa has been the biggest

vocal and practical supporter of Palestinians in the past eight months. South Africa also filed a genocide case against the Zionist regime at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which has been backed by dozens of countries so far.

Pandor also talked to reporters about President Raisi's endeavors and policies. "I was very fortunate and privileged to have the opportunity to meet our early departed leader, President Raisi.

He was always very constructive in his views on Africa and always supported a strong partnership between the Islamic Republic of Iran and my country South Africa," she pointed out.

President Raisi was a huge advocate of fostering relations with neighboring and extra-regional countries. During his time in office, Iran became a member of BRICS, as well as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

## Judiciary confirms probe into Raisi helicopter crash

TEHRAN - In a press conference on Tuesday, Iran's judiciary spokesman confirmed a case has been filed regarding the chopper crash that took the lives of President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, and six others on May 19.

"Immediately after the incident, a team was assigned by the Judiciary Organization of Armed Forces to follow up on the matter, and a case was formed in this regard," Asqar Jahangir told reporters. "Officers are currently collecting evidence

and final reports, and as soon as the investigation is completed and presented to the judiciary, the case will be pursued with all its dimensions and necessary information will be provided at the scheduled time," he added.

After attending the official launch of a joint dam project with Azerbaijan, President Raisi departed from the Iran-Azerbaijan border with a Bell 212 helicopter. The aircraft embarked on an approximately 145-kilometer (90-mile) flight southwest to a

newly constructed oil pipeline close to the city of Tabriz. Before reaching the destination, it crashed into a cloud-covered mountainside.

While the probe into the incident is still ongoing, preliminary investigations show no sign of foul play. According to a report released by Iran's Armed Forces a week after the tragedy, the helicopter crashed while flying along its pre-planned route and the remainder of the wreckage did not bear any bullet holes or signs of similar impact. Communications that took

place before the incident between the aircraft and the ground control contained no "suspicious" content either.

While the cause of the tragedy has so far been blamed on severe weather conditions, military investigators say more time is needed to finish all investigations.

As the Iranian nation continues to grieve the passing of the late Raisi and his companions, it is also gearing up to head to the polls on June 28 to choose a new president.

## Defense chief highlights the late Raisi's push for arms export

TEHRAN - Defense Minister Mohammad Reza Ashtiani has highlighted the significant role played by the late President Ebrahim Raisi in enhancing the Ministry of Defense's international reach.

"During his foreign trips, President Raisi facilitated the presentation of the ministry's achievements to independent nations, paving the way for export opportunities," Brigadier General Ashtiani said on Tuesday.

Emphasizing President Raisi's belief in supporting universities and knowledge-based companies, Ashtiani stated that research budgets were increased under Raisi's guidance to drive more projects in the defense industry. "With the President's backing, these budgets

saw substantial growth, resulting in numerous achievements," Ashtiani noted.

The defense minister also highlighted the country's robust defense system that ensures national security at various altitudes. He clarified that while the ministry produces these products, their proliferation is managed by the government, a process well-supported by Raisi during his three-year presidency. Reflecting on the past three years, Ashtiani praised the collective efforts within the Ministry of Defense as a significant leap forward. He emphasized the importance of continuing this path driven by the intelligence and talent of young forces for the benefit of the government and the people.

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

Officials from Iran continuously affirm their commitment to enhancing the nation's military capabilities, emphasizing their defensive nature. In May the Defense Ministry announced that Iran has increased arms exports four to five times in the past two years.

Experts believe Iranian weapons have gained recognition in the international market due to their high efficiency and low costs. Iranian-made UAVs and missiles are believed to be among the most sought-after weapons in the world.

## Moscow committed to finalizing cooperation agreement with Iran: Lavrov

From page 1 ▶ that domestic elections and governmental processes in Iran might cause delays but would not alter the fundamental direction of the agreement. "Overall, the process is ongoing. However, given the current situation in Tehran and preparations for the presidential elections, the timeline will be slightly delayed," Peskov stated.

"We intend to further develop our relations with Iran and enhance the legal framework between the two countries," Peskov emphasized.

Zamir Kabulov, the Russian presidential envoy for Afghanistan, also commented on the strategic cooperation agreement, highlighting that it remains a priority for the

leaders of both countries despite recent events.

"The Iran-Russia strategic agreement is not related to recent events as it is a strategic decision by the leaders of both countries," Kabulov stated, referring to the passing of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter incident on May 19.

Kabulov noted that the work on the agreement had been temporarily suspended due to challenges faced by Iranian partners but expressed confidence in its eventual completion.

**Iran-Russia agreement is in progress: envoy**

The Iranian Ambassador to Moscow, Kazem Jalali, also confirmed that

the finalization of the Iran-Russia strategic agreement is progressing smoothly and according to the plan.

He denied claims that Iran had suspended the agreement, clarifying that the process is on track and unfolding as expected. "The reports about the suspension of the bilateral cooperation agreement are incorrect and stem from inaccurate translations of Russian officials' statements," Jalali wrote on the social media platform X on Tuesday.

Jalali further said efforts to finalize the agreement have been ongoing for two years. The ambassador explained that the draft needs to be reviewed and coordinated with various institutions within Iran, a process that naturally

requires time. "Our aim has been, and continues to be, to have this agreement signed by the officials of both countries in 2024," Jalali added that the text of the agreement is currently under review in Iran, expressing hope that the relevant institutions will respond promptly to ensure that the agreement is ready for signing.

He referred to the recent meeting between Foreign Minister Lavrov and interim Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri Kani on the sidelines of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting. "Yesterday, Lavrov, in his meeting with Baqeri Kani, emphasized the need for both countries to sign this agreement as soon as possible," Jalali concluded. (See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

### Mehrzad fit for 2024 Paralympics: coach

TEHRAN - Iran sitting volleyball iconic player Morteza Mehrzad is fit for the 2024 Paralympic Games.

Iran head coach Hadi Rezaei said that Mehrzad, who had suffered a shoulder injury, has recovered and will be part of Iran team in Paris.

Rezaei also said Team Melli libero Ramezan Salehi is fit for the Games.

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

Iran men's sitting volleyball team have won seven gold medal in the Paralympic Games and looking forward for the eighth gold.

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

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

### Chadormalu secure promotion to Iran's PGPL

TEHRAN - Chadormalu football club won promotion to the 2024/25 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) on Monday.

Chadormalu edged past Darya Babol 1-0 and finished in second place in the Azadegan league table.

Kheybar Khoramabad had secured their place in PGPL last week.

Sanat Naft Abadan and Paykan had been already relegated from PGPL and Persepolis defended their title.

Chadormalu are a Yazd based football club and were founded in 2022.

### Iran volleyball expert hits out at federation for lack of foresight

TEHRAN - Iranian volleyball expert Javad Mohtashamian believes that lack of foresight caused the crisis in the 2024 Volleyball Nations League (VNL).

Team Melli have suffered eight consecutive losses in the first two weeks.

"What goes around, comes around. We used to have experienced players like Saeid Marouf and Mohammad Mousavi, but how many young players were injected into the national team alongside them?" Mohtashamian said in an interview with Tehran Times.

Mohtashamian criticized former Team Melli coach Igor Kolakovic's approach, particularly his reliance on a limited group of players. (Kolakovic led Iran from 2017 to 2020.)

"Kolakovic started the VNL with eight players and finished with the same eight," he noted. "Except for Russia and Poland, there were weaker teams in the tournament and Kolakovic could have given young players opportunities against these teams. Mehdi Mahdavi was the second setter on the national team but never played a full match in 10 years."

The volleyball expert believes Iranian volleyball, especially at the national team level, lacks a long-term vision. "If we had thought about the future of volleyball, we wouldn't have ended up in this situation," he stated. "We had great players like Marouf, Mousavi, Ghafour, and Mahmoudi, but we didn't allow new players to play alongside them," he added.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) recently sacked Brazilian coach Mauricio Motta Paes, a decision Mohtashamian questioned. "We hired a coach two weeks ahead of the 2024 VNL to qualify for the Olympics, even though everyone knew it was a difficult task," he said. "Another coach had selected and trained the team and knew the players, but the responsibility was given to

a new coach who didn't trust anyone but his own staff. The coach should have come earlier. Our team lost eight matches in the VNL because the coach didn't know his players. The federation made a mistake by contracting a foreign coach and now blames him for all the losses," he concluded.

### Shahrdari Gorgan into BCL Asia semis

TEHRAN - Shahrdari Gorgan of Iran rebound from a tough loss to deal Japan's Hiroshima Dragonflies their first defeat in BCL Asia 2024, 94-81, at the Sheikh Saeed Bin Maktoum Sports Hall on Tuesday.

Moreover, the margin of victory clinches Gorgan the top spot in the group standings heading into the Semi-Finals. The Hiroshima Dragonflies also clinch qualification to the Semi-Finals as the second-placed team in the group.

Joseph Young mustered a herculean performance of 34 points coming off the bench, including important points down the stretch to get the team the important win and margin of victory.

The Dragonflies themselves got a great scoring game from Dwayne Evans who had 29 points, but lost some energy towards the end while trying to mount a comeback, fiba. basketball reported.

Shahrdari Gorgan were already ahead in the final minute by 11 points, but knew that they needed a bit more to clinch the top seed. Young drove hard to the basket for a tough layup to give them exactly what they needed.

The two teams headed into this game in different three-point shooting forms. Gorgan were only shooting 30 percent. Hiroshima were scorching hot, shooting 50 percent. The Dragonflies came back to earth a bit and shot 25.8 percent, while Gorgan turned around to knock down 12 threes on 44.4 percent shooting.

### Arne Slot helped me become better player: Jahanbakhsh

TEHRAN - Former Brighton star Alireza Jahanbakhsh has heaped praise on Feyenoord's manager Arne Slot, crediting him for his development during their time together at AZ.

Arne Slot has been officially announced as the new manager of Liverpool. With an impressive run at Feyenoord under his belt which saw him guide them to the Eredivisie championship in 2023, Slot is already a proven winner in the game.

"During my time at AZ, as assistant coach, Arne Slot, was one of the people who helped me to become a better player," Jahanbakhsh said after his move to Feyenoord.

"So, when he called and asked if I wanted to come to Feyenoord, I told him I was going to do everything I could to make this transfer. I had no doubts," he added.

The Iranian forward went on to describe Slot as "the best" in the Netherlands, saying: "He is one of the best managers I've ever seen. In football terms, even the best. At the moment, he is the best in the Netherlands."

### Taftian crowned at French international tournament

TEHRAN - The Iranian sprinter, Hassan Taftian, has ranked first at the international tournament held in France.

Taftian won first place in the 100-meter race at the sporting event with a time of 10.10 seconds, earning the championship title.

Two athletes from France, the host country, took second and third places at 10.16 and 10.19 seconds, respectively.

In July 2017, Taftian made history by becoming the first Iranian to win a gold medal in the 100-meter race, achieving a time of 10.25 seconds at the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships held in India.



## NIGC official outlines achievements

TEHRAN - The National Iranian Gas Company's (NIGC) Directorate for Dispatching manager, Saeed Aghli, says that the company has managed to distribute 815 billion cubic meters of gas over the past 1000 days of the 13th administration in office, without allowing imbalances to grow.

Speaking with the Shana reporter, Aghli added that the volume is 4 percent higher when compared with the corresponding period of the previous administration's performance.

The manager of the Dispatching Center said: "When the 13th administration took office about three years ago, the country's energy sector faced imbalances so that natural gas consumption surpassed its production and to contain the problem, NIGC decided to control consumption in the first place and then wait for an opportunity to increase natural gas production."

While in 2019, the volume of daily gas distribution stood at 713 million cubic meters, it reached 754 million cubic meters per day last year which was the result of NIGC's policies pertaining to gas production, transfer, and consumption management; he said, adding "taking these initiatives helped NIGC to increase the volume of natural gas transfer to the consumption destinations

by 40 million cubic meters per day."

According to him, concurrent with containing imbalances, NIGC committed to boost the volume of natural gas exports by 9 percent when compared with three years ago when the 13th administration took office. During the past 3 years of the 13th administration in office, NIGC also managed to raise the volume of gas delivery to not only power plants but to large industries as well.

Aghli told Shana that while in 2019 about 180 million cubic meters of gas per day were delivered to power plants on average, the figure rose to 216 million cubic meters per day last year.

He continued that the same process happened in view of gas delivery to large industries so that the volume of gas delivery to them rose to 139 million cubic meters per day last year from 124 mcm/d 4 years ago. "Boosting gas storage volume was the other initiative NIGC took during the period so that during the last Iranian calendar year of 1402, which ended on 20 March 2024, the company could increase the volume of gas storage at two gas storage facilities of Shorijeh and Serajeh by 3.03 billion cubic meters, the highest record in past ten years.", the NIGC official said.

# Iran, Russia explore untapped channels for bilateral connections

TEHRAN - Private sector actors of Iran and Russia have discussed connection channels which have remained untapped.

A delegation of Russian business actors visited Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) headquarters in Tehran on Monday where they had B2B meetings with their Iranian counterpart.

Addressing the meeting, Niloufar Assadi, the director of ICCIMA Asia-Pacific Department, said that enhancing the Iran-Russia trade level requires accurate planning.

She referred to customs, transportation, and money transfer problems as the main obstacles hindering exchanges between Iran and Russia while noting that a target of \$40 billion in bilateral trade is still possible.

Assadi hailed the finalization of a free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which she said would help Iran and Russia to continue with their connections more easily.



In the meantime, Maxim Petrochenkov, the head of the Russian delegation, said that relations between Iran and Russia have witnessed significant growth over the past few years.

Noting that Iran-Russia trade volume has surpassed \$4 billion, he said that the figure is not satisfactory but is promising.

Petrochenkov believed that there are many technical obstacles in the way of bilateral trade and making joint investments. He however noted that there are solutions to these problems.

Earlier in April, ICCIMA hosted

another Iran-Russia business forum which was attended by officials and businesspersons from both sides.

Speaking in this gathering, ICCIMA Deputy Head Ghadir Qiafeh said the volume of trade between Iran and Russia is expected to reach \$40 billion within 10 to 15 years.

The forum took place as a Russian trade delegation was in the Iranian capital to attend the Iran Expo 2024.

The official said that, Iran and Russia together can gain access to a 2,000-billion-dollar market.

He however regretted that the two neighboring countries have not been able to make use of their potential in bilateral exchanges.

Underlining the role of the customs administrations of both Iran and Russia in enhancement of bilateral trade, he said that customs agreements called "green corridor" were signed by the two countries seven years ago.

Qiafeh also hailed Iran's preferential trade agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) which he said can give a further boost to trade between Tehran and Moscow.

In the meantime, Leonid Lozhechko, Chairman of the Russian-Iranian Business Council, said that measures are underway for facilitating trade between Iran and Russia, adding that Russian SMEs have very good relations with Iran.

Referring to preferential agreement recently signed between Iran and the EAEU bloc, he said that once the agreement is put into practice, trade with Iran will be much easier.

## ICCIMA to support enhancing food exports

TEHRAN - The Deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Qadir Qiafeh has said that the exports of non-oil products are one of the main agendas of the chamber, with a high significance attached to the exports of food products.

In an address to the International Food Commerce Conference in Tehran on Sunday, Qiafeh said that the global value of food industry exports stands at \$9.5 trillion. He stressed that Iran's exports of food have registered a 5.3 percent increase over the past 12 years in terms of

tonnage while the value of the country's food exports has decreased by an average of 0.6 percent in the timespan. Qiafeh noted that the Iran Chamber of Commerce supports holding food industry weeks in neighboring countries and main trade partners of Iran.

He also touched upon an upcoming presidential election on June 28, stressing that the private sector expects the next president to refrain from intervening in the pricing process.

The International Food Commerce

Conference is being sponsored by the ICCIMA Commission of Food Industries.

Iran exported 1,562,000 tons of agricultural products worth \$684 million since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20) to May 20, an increase of 28 percent in value year on year.

Agricultural exports also rose by 24 percent in terms of weight, the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Iran exported some 1,260,000 metric tons (mt) of agricultural products worth

\$536 million in the same period last year.

In terms of value, the main agricultural items exported in the mentioned period are apples worth \$96.3 million, in-shell pistachios worth \$74.1 million, watermelons worth \$73.8 million, field tomatoes worth \$50.3 million, and greenhouse tomatoes worth \$44.7 million, the report added.

The statistics show that agricultural items account for about 6.66 percent of the total weight and 8.53 percent of the total value of Iran's exports in the same

period this year.

The value of Iran's exports of agricultural and foodstuff products increased by 22.5 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the spokesman of the International Relations and Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade said. According to Ruhollah Latifi, Iranian producers managed to export about \$6.3 billion worth of the mentioned products in the said year.

As reported, agro-food products

accounted for 12.8 percent of the country's total non-oil exports in the previous year.

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

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



### Call for Tender 2st Announcement for the Purchase of WELDED & SEAMLESS PIPES for Farzad B Project, Tender No. 958817

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

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



### Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of HVAC System for Belal Project, Tender No. 965814

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to **Purchase of HVAC System for Belal Project** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 30 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

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



### Call for Tender 2st Announcement for the Purchase of Accommodation Units and Offshore Explosion proof & Fireproof Container for Belal Project, Tender No. 958675

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to **Purchase of Accommodation Units and Offshore Explosion proof & Fireproof Container for Belal Project** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

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



### Call for Tender 2st Announcement for the Purchase of Plate & Sections for Farzad B Project, Tender No. 965980

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

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



# Blinken mission: Saving Israel from Gaza quagmire

## What are the ulterior motives behind the top US diplomat's trip to West Asia?

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The adoption of a US-backed resolution by the UN Security Council that is aimed at ending Israel's genocidal war in the Gaza Strip has sparked scrutiny of the media.

The 15-member Security Council passed the US-drafted resolution with 14 votes in favor while Russia abstained.

This is the first time the UN body has endorsed a comprehensive peace deal to end the Gaza war.

Previously Washington's obstructionism had hampered efforts to pave the way for the approval of such a resolution.

### Political rhetoric

"Colleagues, today we voted for peace," Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US ambassador to the UN, said after the Monday vote.

The US "vote for peace" comes more than eight months after Israel declared war on Gaza. The war has claimed the lives of more than 37,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children. The conflict has also pushed the Palestinian territory to the brink of famine and displaced the majority of its 2.3 million population.

Thomas-Greenfield did not miss the chance to smear the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas at the Security Council.

"Since the brief ceasefire and hostage release last November, such a deal has proven elusive. Why? Because Hamas has refused to accept any agreement," she said.

Hamas released more than 100 Israeli and foreign captives following a ceasefire deal in November last year.

More than 1,100 people were killed and about 250 others were taken captive when Hamas carried out a surprise military operation in southern Israel on October 7 which was followed by Israel's brutal onslaught on Gaza.

It is believed that about 120 captives remain in Gaza, with



43 pronounced dead. The Israeli strikes on Gaza have killed some of the captives.

The regime of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected growing domestic and international calls to sign a truce deal with Hamas and end the war.

Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group.

Nonetheless, Washington's UN envoy blames Hamas for prolonging the war.

### Russia seeks transparency

Speaking after the vote, the Russian envoy to the UN explained why he decided to abstain.

"Hamas has been called to accept the so-called 'deal'. But there is still no clarity as to whether Israel has formally agreed, as stipulated in the resolution, to the 'deal' proposed by President Biden, given numerous statements by Israel on continuing the war until Hamas is completely defeated. What exactly did Israel agree to?" Vassily Nebenzia said.

### Hamas stance

Hamas welcomed the adoption of the resolution and expressed readiness to work with mediators in indirect talks with Israel to implement it.

"Efforts are continuing to study and clarify some matters to ensure implementation by

the Israeli side," Hamas spokesperson Jihad Taha said as he accused the regime of "stalling and procrastinating and creating obstacles in order to continue the aggression."

The resolution which backs a ceasefire deal consists of three phases. It will see the release of captives and Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails, the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and its reconstruction.

### Israel's ambiguous position

Washington has been seeking UN endorsement for the proposal since unveiling it on May 31.

The text of the US-drafted proposal indicates that Israel has already accepted the ceasefire terms. American officials have also reiterated that Israel has accepted the truce deal.

However, the position of the Israeli officials has remained ambiguous, which calls into question their commitment to the deal.

Netanyahu has made a string of skeptical comments on the US proposal that will lead to a truce in Gaza.

The Israeli prime minister has claimed that the US has only revealed parts of the plan.

Netanyahu, known as Bibi, has also insisted that a lasting truce without the complete destruction of Hamas's military and governing capacity is a "non-starter."

Netanyahu stands accused of prolonging the war to keep himself in power.

The continuation of the Gaza war provides the premier with a lifeline. This is because as soon as the conflict ends, Netanyahu will be held accountable for failing to prevent the Hamas' October 7 attack.

### US double dealing

The top US diplomat was in West Asia when the Security Council passed the resolution.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Netanyahu had "re-affirmed his commitment" to the proposal when they held talks in Jerusalem (al-Quds) on Monday.

It seems as if the US is genuinely seeking to end the Gaza war.

But a glance at the remarks that were made by Blinken on Tuesday can make it clear whether Washington wants an end to the onslaught.

"We're committed to the defeat of Hamas, to ensure that it can't govern Gaza again. We also believe strongly that while military means have been necessary, they're not sufficient, and there has to be a clear political plan, a clear humanitarian plan, in order to ensure that Hamas does not in any way, shape, or form resume control of Gaza and that Israel can move forward toward more enduring security," Blinken said.

Blinken says the US is "committed to the defeat of Hamas". This is an echo of Netanyahu's comments.

Hence, when the US and Israel still insist on defeating Hamas, how can they end the war?

Likewise, Blinken says military means are not sufficient to eliminate Hamas. In fact, he is admitting that Israel has failed to defeat Hamas on the battlefield.

Blinken also talks about the necessity of having "a clear political plan", which explains why the US has tried to garner support for its resolution.

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

## Palestinians are portrayed as 'less human'

From page 1 ▶ This dehumanization is constructed through selective discourse aimed at portraying Palestinians as "collateral damage," often using openly colonial language that facilitates the justification of violence against those portrayed as "less human".

An example of this language was the headline in The New York Times (NYT) echoing the Zionist attack and the rescue of the four prisoners.

The headline is a perfect example of the role of Western media in what is known as the manufacturing of consent for genocide. This entails manipulating public opinion through propaganda by major Western media outlets. The media language fuels Islamophobic and pro-Zionist propaganda in its coverage of events in Gaza. One of the most common tactics to achieve this is through selective moral outrage, which conceals the pain and suffering of the Pal-

estinian people, as well as the structural injustices, such as the Zionist occupation of Palestine, which explain the origin of Hamas' response on October 7th.

In The New York Times headline, it's clear how the active voice is consistently used when referring to Israel, for example, "the Israeli army rescues 4 hostages." Conversely, Palestinians are always represented using the passive voice, "have died." This use of the passive voice by the American reference newspaper serves to ignore the principle of authorship of these deaths. In other words, the passive voice attempts to present the reality without focusing on the "who" did this to the Palestinians. Without considering this authorship, the information cannot be complete. According to this linguistic usage, one could say that Palestinians died spontaneously, without anyone being responsible. The passive voice often focuses on the recipi-

ent of the event, not the one who performs it.

Furthermore, in the headline, we can observe how the facts presented by the authorities in Gaza, the more than 200 killed due to the Israeli attack, are not presented as an indisputable fact, but rather as an opinion ("Gaza authorities say hundreds have died"). This way of wording is, of course, not neutral but rather part of the entire linguistic-ideological complex aimed at maintaining the humanity of Israelis ("4 Israelis rescued"), contrasted with the dehumanization of Palestinians ("scores").

This is what the manufacturing of consent for genocide implies: not only a distortion of reality or bad faith but also the intent to dehumanize one group of people in comparison to another, with the goal of making their deaths considered acceptable.

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

## Sinwar: "There may be a new Karbala"

From page 1 ▶ Back in March, the US intelligence community poured cold water on Israel's dreams of bringing Hamas to its knees.

The community said in its annual report that Israel would likely face Hamas resistance "for years to come".

Western officials have also acknowledged that Israel won't be able to defeat the Palestinian resistance.

Speaking during a panel discussion on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany in February, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Israel cannot defeat Hamas through military means.

### Power of Palestinian resistance

According to a report published late on

Monday by the Wall Street Journal, Yahya Sinwar, the military leader of Hamas, has said resistance fighters have the upper hand over Israel in the war in Gaza.

The American newspaper said Sinwar has recently told Hamas' political leadership in Qatar, "We have the Israelis right where we want them."

Sinwar has added, "We have the capabilities to continue fighting for months."

The senior Hamas official has stressed that only resistance can bring an end to Israel's war of genocide in Gaza.

He has drawn a comparison between the Israeli carnage in Gaza with the Battle of Karbala.

Imam Hossein, the third Shia Imam, and his 72 companions were martyred in the Battle of Karbala in southern Iraq in 680 AD after fighting courageously for justice against the much larger army of the then tyrant and illegitimate ruler Yazid.

Muslims in certain countries hold huge mourning ceremonies every year to mark the occasion.

"We have to move forward on the same path we started or let it be a new Karbala," Sinwar reportedly said.

The WSJ report comes days after Israel massacred more than 270 Palestinians in central Gaza as it tried to release four captives from the Nuseirat refugee camp which sparked huge global outrage.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### UK issues 100+ arms export licenses to Israel

The UK has issued more than 100 arms export licenses to Israel between October 7 and May 31, according to government figures.

Thirty-seven of the 108 licenses were described as military and 63 as non-military, but this might include telecommunications equipment for use by the Israeli army. A further eight open licenses were granted, the Guardian reported.

A total of 345 licenses to sell arms to Israel currently exist, including those issued before October 7. The figures were released by the business department in response to what it described as exceptional parliamentary interest.

The statistics show no arms export license application was rejected or revoked during the conflict, but Emily Apple, of the Campaign against Arms Trade, complained the figures did not reveal the value or the detailed category of the arms export licenses, only the number.

### UN: Israeli killings in central Gaza may be war crimes

The UN human rights office says civilian deaths in Gaza during the Israeli operation to release four captives could amount to war crimes.

"We are profoundly shocked at the impact on civilians of the Israeli forces' operation. Hundreds of Palestinians, many of them civilians, were reportedly killed and injured,"

### Allegations of abuse of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention facilities

At first, Jawad Sakhir Obaid doesn't want to talk about what was done to him, saying he is too ashamed. Then, the 17-year-old starts talking anyway. "They took my masculinity." He is still suffering from the treatment he says he received at the hands of Israeli soldiers: Insults, beatings – and sexualized violence. He tells his story at a meeting in the Deir al Balah refugee camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip.

His father, his five older brothers and he were detained by the Israeli military in late February. The soldiers, he says, discovered a tunnel near their home in Zaitoun, a district of Gaza City, and immediately arrested them. At first, they were locked up in a neighboring home. After a few hours, they were made to undress and sit in a hole in the ground. It was cold, he says, and the soldiers poured water on them and urinated on them. Then, says Obaid, they tied him up, blindfolded him, cut open his underwear with a sharp object and shoved a wooden stick into his anus. He says he begged them to stop.

After that, he says, he was brought to a military camp and detained for 18 days. The soldiers there interrogated him over and over again, asking him about his family members, his neighborhood and Hamas. And they repeatedly hit him in the head and upper body, he says, adding that he still has nightmares.

The details of the story told by the 17-year-old cannot be confirmed. But Obaid's story is similar to those told by six other former detainees in Israeli internment camps with whom Der Spiegel spoke following their release.

Because the Israeli government has barred international journalists from entering the Gaza Strip, Der Spiegel works together with Palestinian journalists. The interviews in Gaza were conducted by our colleague Ghada Alkurd, and her meetings with the former detainees have been documented. She works as a freelance journalist for Western media outlets like the Swiss public broadcaster and the BBC and also for the Independent Com-

said Jeremy Laurence, spokesperson for the UN human rights office.

At least 274 people, including at least 64 children, were killed during the Israeli raid on the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza last week.

### Less than 100,000 people left in Rafah

The UN has warned that there are now less than 100,000 people left in Rafah following Israel's attack on the city.

UNRWA said the vast majority of people in the former safe area have left, adding that there are now more than 1.7 million displaced people in Gaza

### US aid pier off Gaza 'useless'

A US floating pier off Gaza's coast has failed to ease the humanitarian crisis, with Salama Marouf, head of Gaza's Government Media Office, saying that "this pier is useless".

He added that "humanitarian aid worth 120 trucks have been channeled through the pier since it was built", in mid-May, Al Jazeera reported.

Aid groups have long warned that the US pier is an ineffective way to deliver aid and cannot be a substitute for opening land routes, which had been blocked or severely restricted by Israel.

It was also reported that the pier was used in the Israeli captive rescue operation in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza that killed more than 270 people.

mission for Human Rights, a Palestinian human rights organization. The identities of those interviewed along with the plausibility of their stories have been checked.

In addition, Der Spiegel has examined reports by Israeli non-governmental organizations and the UN, and has spoken with Israeli whistleblowers, humanitarian aid workers and human rights activists. The picture that has emerged is that the abuse and torture of prisoners from the Gaza Strip is systematic. On Thursday, the New York Times also published an investigation into the matter. The findings are largely consistent with our own.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said that the Israeli military is "the most moral army in the world." It is the view taken by many Israelis – a majority of them spent many years of their lives serving in the military, after all. The reports from the detention centers, however, give the impression that the soldiers may be violating international humanitarian law. Protecting prisoners of war is not a trivial matter. It is a core element of the Geneva Conventions, which were adopted by the international community following the world wars.

Israel refers to the prisoners as "unlawful combatants" – and denies them almost all rights

Israel, however, refers to fighters from Hamas and other groups as "unlawful combatants": Because the conflict is not international in nature and because these fighters did not conform to the laws of war, according to the argument, they can be denied the rights normally afforded to prisoners of war.

Accusations that prisoners have been tortured and killed could also play a role in a case before the International Criminal Court (ICC). The court's chief prosecutor applied for arrest warrants for the Hamas leadership and for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for possible crimes committed in the war in Gaza.

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



## Treasury of National Jewels reopens after 51 months

TEHRAN – After 51 months of closure, the Treasury of National Jewels has reopened its doors to the public, following extensive criticism and numerous rumors about the status of its artifacts.

Located in downtown Tehran, the museum, which houses some of the world's most unique and valuable jewels, resumed operations on Monday, much to the delight of eager visitors.

It was closed in March 2019 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the time of closure, some speculation about the security and integrity of the collection was raised, with rumors, including claims that two significant crowns had been stolen by the Pahlavi dynasty.

Now, after four years and three months, the museum is welcoming back the public, drawing large crowds eager to witness Iran's most dazzling and priceless collection.

According to Mehr news agency, the museum's severe security measures still remain in place, requiring visitors to surrender all personal belongings, including bags and mobile phones, and prohibiting photography. Guided tours are conducted in small groups, with each guide providing

detailed explanations about the exhibits. The tours typically last between 30 and 40 minutes.

"The museum guides, who had not hosted tourists for several years, were more welcoming and responsive to visitors' repeated questions."

Many inquiries focused on the Kiani and Pahlavi crowns and the surrounding rumors, to which the guides reassured them that all items were intact and in their rightful place.

As mentioned by Mehr, there were allegations that two royal crowns, adorned with 5,000 diamonds, 50 emeralds, and 368 pearls of inestimable value, had been taken out of the country by the Pahlavi family during the final days of their reign. However, before the museum reopened, Minister of Cultural Heritage Ezzatollah Zarghami visited the museum, and then revealed images of the crowns and confirmed that the entire collection was secure.

Affiliated with the Central Bank of Iran, the Treasury of National Jewels not only showcases Iran's cultural heritage but also serves as the legal custodian of Iranian National Jewels.

## Hasanlu Gold Bowl dazzles as a flagship at Urmia Museum

TEHRAN – After more than a month of display at the Urmia Museum, Hasanlu Gold Bowl, one of the most enigmatic ancient treasures of Iran, still shines bright drawing visitors.

Paying a visit to Urmia Museum on Monday, in celebration of World Handicrafts Day, West Azarbaijan's governor-general pointed to the artifact as a precious property that testifies the significance of archaeological explorations in unraveling history.

"Considering the rich historical background of the province," Mohammad-sadeq Mo'tamedian explained. "It is necessary to showcase the legacy lies within the region at provincial museums."

Hasanlu Gold Bowl, Mo'tamedian continued, is a flagship of West Azarbaijan's lavish artifacts, which needs to be a permanent guest of the Urmia Museum.

In his concluding remarks, he expressed total readiness of the provincial government in terms of supporting the implementation of the museal projects.

Hasanlu Gold Bowl was unearthed in 1958 by Emamqoli Mohammadi Hasanluei from the ruins of a burned ancient building at Tepe Hasanlu, near Naghadeh and Lake Urmia in West Azarbaijan province.

Engraved with images of gods and rituals, a stone cylinder with gold caps, a figurine of laminated ivory, and a sword hilt with a bronze guard, the Gold Bowl of Hasanlu was discovered almost 3,000 years later near the skeletal hand of an individual who had been fleeing with it at the end of the 9th century BC. Over the years, the bowl has been discussed in countless scholarly books and articles, including an analysis by Marie-Therese Barrelet (1911-1996), who deemed it one of the greatest finds of the decade.

## History embraces art at majestic Persepolis

TEHRAN – For the very first time, the ruined Tachara Palace, located in the heart of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, has played host to a photo exhibition.

The exhibit opened on Monday featuring a selection of works by Iranian and international artists to enchant sightseers in the glorious atmosphere.

Tachara is one of the oldest and most interesting palaces in Persepolis that its charming structure is situated south of the Apadana and on a platform 2.20-3m higher than the level of the latter and the adjacent courtyard.

The Persepolis website says that Tachara was built on a rectangular plan, measuring 40m by 30m, and a north-south axis. It consists of the main hall with twelve columns, two smaller columned halls on the north, a columned portico on the south, and several guardrooms or storage chambers on either side. A stairway with two reversed flights leads to the portico from a courtyard on the south.

The inner walls of these flights are sculptured with representations of servants and attendants, dressed alternately in the «Median» and «Persian» costumes, carrying food and utensils.

## Lalejin thrives as global pottery hub with hundreds of workshops

TEHRAN – Lalejin, a small town renowned as a world pottery capital, boasts hundreds of active workshops and home studios, providing ample employment for its residents.

In a recent interview with ISNA, a local official in charge of handicrafts, announced the operation of 1,400 pottery workshops and home studios in the world-renowned city of Lalejin.

"These facilities provide substantial seasonal employment," Mostafa Pashaei added.

ed. "Contributing to Lalejin's status as a town without unemployment."

Pashaei highlighted that over 5,000 residents of Lalejin are engaged in the pottery industry.

To celebrate Handicrafts Week, he underscored, the city is hosting various events, including pottery painting sessions in different centers.

"The city's artisans export their products to numerous countries..." Pashaei stated.

# Wonders of Uzbekistan: a ten-day travel experience

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – From my childhood, the names of Samarkand and Bukhara have been etched into my memory; whether in poems, school classes, grandmother's tales, or stories in my books, those names always lingered in the back of my mind.

In all those years, they seemed like mythical cities from a bygone era, too distant to consider visiting. To be honest, that was why visiting Samarkand and Bukhara never crossed my mind throughout all my life.

Fate, however, had other plans. About three weeks ago, I found myself on a ten-day tour of Uzbekistan!

At every site I visited, insights provided by knowledgeable tour guides along with conversations with fellow travelers, added layers of depth to my experience.

Here, I want to share with you a summary of my experiences.



A view of Bukhara with the ancient Kalyan Minaret seen in the foreground

It's challenging to detail every attraction I visited, but here are some highlights:

For me, it was easy to imagine caravans of merchants traversing these lands, making a cultural legacy that still echoes today.

### Tashkent

Tashkent, the capital city, was my entry point into Uzbekistan. Its blend of Soviet-era architecture and subsequent developments offered a unique start to my journey.

The city's bustling markets, impressive metro system, and welcoming people set the stage for the adventures that were ahead.

### Samarkand



A door opening to centuries-old monuments in Samarkand's Registan Square

Samarkand, a name that resonates with history and grandeur, exceeded all my expectations.

Despite extensive research and seeing countless photographs before visiting the city, experiencing it in person was a revelation.

For instance, I visited Registan Square both by day and night. With its stunning madrasahs, the site transported me to an era of architectural brilliance.

Wandering through the city's streets, interacting with locals, and soaking in the vibrant atmosphere was an unforgettable



experience.

For me, it was easy to imagine caravans of merchants traversing these lands, making a cultural legacy that still echoes today.

Among Samarkand's heritage sites, Shah-i-Zinda stands out as a meticulously organized necropolis of beautifully decorated tomb buildings on a gentle slope.

The vista along the route leading up the hill is stunning. The site is worth visiting twice if possible—once in the morning and once in the evening, as noon can be hot and crowded.

Each mausoleum is unique and has its own tales, making Shah-i-Zinda a must-see in the

city.

Moreover, we paid visits to the Meros Paper Mill and Samarkand Bukhara Silk Carpets Factory. Often overlooked by travelers, the old paper-making company, which is located in the Konigil Tourist Village, offers multiple educational experiences.

Visitors can see the entire handmade paper-making process, starting from the mulberry tree.

The informative tour includes a demonstration of the paper-making process and a small shop selling finished products, such as paper, cards, miniature paintings, and other paper goods.

Overall, the site has a serene and beautiful ambiance to stay for hours.

Inside the Samarkand Bukhara Silk Carpets Factory, carpets in various sizes are still produced by hand using ancient methods, both in silk and wool.

Visiting over 20 weavers sitting behind old looms to produce high-quality silk carpets was a highly educational experience.

No visit to Samarkand is complete without seeing the Amir Timur Mausoleum, a fine example of medieval architecture. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by a huge, majestic building with a courtyard, a ribbed dome, and vault walls covered in a mosaic of light and dark blue glazed bricks, gilding, and painting.

Then, a corridor leads to a room with walls painted in gold and azure colors.

The tomb itself is made of black jade.

The intricate artwork throughout the mausoleum is simply breathtaking, with "amazing" being the only word that comes to mind.

### Bukhara

Bukhara is situated between Khiva and Samarkand along the ancient Silk Road.

The main reason to visit

Bukhara is its well-preserved mosques, madrasahs, and other stunning architecture that reflect the city's rich history.

I stayed in Bukhara for a night and a day. Walking between the numerous arches and cupolas of the old city, I again imagined walking back in time.

Bukhara's charm lies in its well-preserved medieval architecture, which has earned it a place on UNESCO's World Heritage list. The city's old town comprises mosques, madrasahs, minarets, and caravanserais, each telling a story of Bukhara's illustrious past as a major center of trade and culture.

One of the highlights of my visit was the Kalyan Minaret, an iconic structure that has stood sentinel over the city since the 12th century.

The Ark Fortress, Bukhara's oldest structure, was another highlight of my trip.

This massive citadel, dating back to the 5th century, served as a royal residence and a stronghold against invaders.

However, the ancient city is not just about architecture; there are many cool things to do in and around Bukhara.

### Khiva

For those willing to visit Uzbekistan, I highly recommend putting Khiva on their itinerary. This open-air museum extremely impressed me with its traditional architecture and tranquility.

Khiva is divided into the old town, Itchan Kala (or inner city which is surrounded by ancient mud walls), and Dishan Kala that comprises lands outside the lofty mudbrick walls.

Stepping into Itchan Kala was an incredible experience that left me feeling as if I had traveled back centuries.

The well-preserved city walls, ancient minarets, and historical mausoleums made the past come alive.

Whether in poems, school classes, grandmother's tales, or stories in my books, those names always lingered in the back of my mind.

Wandering through its cobbled streets, I could almost hear the echoes of merchants and travelers from long ago!

### The warmth of Uzbek hospitality

One of the most heartwarming aspects of my journey was the hospitality of the Uzbek people. From street vendors and taxi drivers to shopkeepers and locals, everyone I encountered was friendly and welcoming.

A memorable incident in Khiva

involved getting lost at night after a long walk.

I had left my phone and wallet in the hotel, so I asked a shopkeeper for directions.

From street vendors and taxi drivers to shopkeepers and locals, everyone I encountered was friendly and welcoming.

To my surprise, he not only guided me but also offered to drive me back, refusing any payment for his kindness.

### Glimpses of hotels, taxis, and restaurants

Overall, the quality of the hotels that I stayed in was good. The fares for online taxis were reasonable, and you could even say they were cheap.

The price of food in various restaurants was also reasonable.



A cityscape of Khiva with its iconic minarets

I found that in their restaurants, meat dishes, such as Oshpelo (Uzbekistan's national rice dish cooked with lamb, carrots, and chickpeas), various kebabs, steaks, and lamb soups occupy a significant portion of the menu.

### Similar experiences

Apart from meeting and discussing ideas with several international travelers at various sites, when I was returning to Iran, I sat next to a passenger on the plane who was looking at pictures of the city of Khiva on his phone. I asked if he had been to Khiva.

He, a man of about forty, replied that he, along with 14 other Iranians, had been on an 8-day tour to the cities of Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva. I asked him about the excursion. His response was relatively long, but the important point was that his experiences were similar to mine. He said the journey was beyond his previous expectations.

### Conclusion

My journey through Uzbekistan was an eye-opening experience and it profoundly enriched my understanding of the region.

From Tashkent's modern vibrancy to the ancient splendor of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva, each city offered its unique and unforgettable moments.



# EU funds WFP to help support refugees in Iran

TEHRAN – The European Union (EU) has provided €1.5 million in humanitarian aid to assist the World Food Program (WFP) in supporting refugees in Iran.

The generous contribution will be allocated to providing assistance to 33,000 refugees residing in 20 settlements across the country through cash-based transfers, WFP website announced in a press release on June 10.

WFP has been committed to providing essential assistance to vulnerable communities worldwide.

This partnership with the EU marks a crucial step in enhancing the living conditions of refugees in Iran.

The funds will enable WFP to provide refugees with cash assistance, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources to meet their basic needs.

"We are incredibly grateful to the European Union for their continued support and generosity," said WFP Representative in Iran a.i Maysaa Alghribawy.

"This contribution will have a profound impact on the lives of thousands of refugees, providing them with the dignity and autonomy to make choices that best suit their needs," the official added.

The cash-based transfer program is designed to empower refugees by giving them the flexibility to buy food and other essential items according to their individual preferences.

This approach supports both refugee communities and local markets, especially local producers and small enterprises.



The contribution from the EU is a testament to the importance of international cooperation in addressing humanitarian crises.

By joining forces, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by displacement and ensure that no one is left behind.

WFP and EU remain steadfast in their commitment to providing life-saving assistance and support to the most vulnerable refugees. This contribution underscores the shared dedication to humanitarian principles and the pursuit of a world with Zero Hunger.

On April 3, WFP released its 2023 report on Iran based on the interim Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025).

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees over the past four decades.

According to the report, there are roughly 4.5 million Afghans currently living in Iran.

Around 33,000 of the most vulnerable documented refugees live in 20 settlements in 13 provinces of Iran.

their education and nutrition.

Under the same program, around 2,900 girls at primary schools and junior high schools also received cash incentives to support their education in line with girl's empowerment.

Following the successful establishment of bakeries in some settlements in the past years, WFP supported equipping a bakery in 2023 in one settlement to improve the efficiency of the baking process and the quality of the bread for around 1,400 inhabitants of the settlement.

WFP's commitment to supporting the government of Iran's assistance response for crisis-affected populations was further reinforced by WFP's provision of locally procured emergency family food packs to around 9,780 Iranian people affected by an earthquake in Khoy City in May, through its cooperating partner, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

WFP continued to play an active role in the interagency fora such as the United Nations Country Team, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), and Interagency Cash, Livelihood, Education, and Protection Working Groups.

WFP also continued its cooperation with its non-governmental partners, including UNHCR, IRCS, and International non-governmental organizations (INGOs) such as Relief International and Norwegian Refugee Council, Cooperazione e Sviluppo (Cesvi) across different forums and scopes such as conducting joint Post Distribution Monitoring with UNHCR and attending various interagency working groups.

## Exhibition on innovation for prosperity kicks off

From page 1 ► 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.

A total of 346 companies including knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies, are attending the event.

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.

## Iran, WHO to form working group to eliminate hepatitis C

TEHRAN –Iran and the World Health Organization have agreed to create a joint working group with the aim of eradicating hepatitis C in the country.

Deputy health minister Hassan Farshidi in a meeting with WHO's Assistant Director General for Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases, Jerome Salomon, underscored the establishment of a joint working group to eliminate hepatitis C.

The officials met on the sidelines of the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 27 to June 1.

During the meeting, Farshidi presented a report on the measures taken in Iran to control and prevent hepatitis C and stressed the key strengths of Iran's national program, including the strong primary health care services (PHC) and the integration of the programs to fight and manage hepatitis.

Salomon, for his part, lauded Iran for its commitment and strong will in the elimination of hepatitis C and announced WHO's readiness to support Iran's plans in this area.

He also called Iran a role model for other regional countries in the elimination and control of hepatitis C.

The two sides agreed to establish a joint working group to support the eradication of

hepatitis C program in Iran.

Also, a team of experts from the World Health Organization is scheduled to visit Iran to assess the strengths and needs in eliminating hepatitis C.

### The 77th WHA

The strategic roundtables of the 77th WHA spanned the overarching theme of the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly: All for health, health for all.

During the meeting, experts discuss and reflect on current and future priorities and challenges facing global health, IRNA quoted the deputy health minister, Mohammad Hossein Niknam, as saying.

Einollahi presented a statement on 34 specific documents related to the country's health system.

To promote collaborations, Einollahi held meetings with his counterparts from different countries including Armenia, Pakistan, Cuba, Zimbabwe, China, the health ministries of the G5 countries, and the Director General of the WHO.

### Hepatitis C to be eliminated in 2 years

The ministry of health is planning to eradicate hepatitis C across the country within a period of 2 to 3 years.

If the necessary budget is provided, we will eliminate hepatitis within two to three years," ISNA quoted Shahnam Arshi, a health ministry official, as saying.

Universities of medical science have put the eradication of hepatitis C in the spotlight, he stressed.

An estimated 200,000 people in the country are infected with hepatitis C, Arshi noted, adding that the ministry has been importing diagnosis kits for identifying patients.

In August 2023, Saeid Karimi, the deputy health minister, said that free treatment for hepatitis C is provided for patients in the country.

"We hope to eliminate hepatitis C from the country with insurance coverage and other efficient measures," IRNA quoted Karimi as saying.

"To be able to do so, many patients have been diagnosed and registered in the [treatment] systems," he added.

So far, some 600 patients under insurance coverage have been treated free of charge, he noted.

Iran is planning to provide free diagnosis and treatment services to people who are suffering from hepatitis and eradicate the disease by 2030.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 'Water transfer from Sea of Oman has no risk'

Transferring water from Sea of Oman to central provinces of the country will not pose threats to the environment, Issa Kalantari, the Department of Environment (DOE) chief has announced.

To provide the amount of water needed for the country, agriculture and industries, there is no choice but to use seawater, the incredible and abundant resources, now and in the future, Kalantari stated, IRNA reported on Monday. Iran located in an arid and semi-arid area, is facing environmental problems including water shortage, sand and dust storms due to low precipitation amounts coupled with climate change.

## انتقال آب دریای عمان مشکل زیست محیطی ندارد

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور گفت: شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان به استان های مختلف مشکل و مانع زیست محیطی ندارد و از نظر این سازمان بلا مانع است. به گزارش ایرنا، عیسی کلانتری اظهار داشت: برای تامین آب کشاورزی، آشامیدنی و صنایع کشور چاره ای جز استفاده از آب دریا نداریم و باید چه اکنون و چه آینده به این منابع بیکران و بسیار فراوان رجوع کنیم. ایران کشور پر آبی نیست و سالهای سال با بحران بی آبی، خشکسالی و مسائل زیست محیطی، گرد و غبار و ریزگردها مواجه است.





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JUNE 12, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*To separate oneself from things of time and to connect oneself with things of eternity is highest wisdom.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:04 Evening: 19:42 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

## Reza Mafi's artworks on display at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art



TEHRAN—Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMOCA) is hosting an exhibition of artworks by the late Iranian artist Reza Mafi (1943-1982) after over four decades from his passing.

A collection of more than 100 pieces of calligraphy and calligraphic paintings created by Mafi is on display at the museum, ILNA reported.

One of the most celebrated Iranian calligraphers and a key figure in the 1970s, Mafi began his artistic career by following the Persian nasta'liq tradition. However, with an avant-garde vision, Mafi soon began exper-

imenting with the calligraphic painting style, which had gained significance amongst the calligraphers of the 1960s and 1970s.

Imaginatively and without breaking the fundamental rules of Persian calligraphy, Mafi created semi-abstract works on paper and canvas, which quickly caught the attention of the critics.

In the late stages of his artistic career, the artist began creating depth in his calligraphic works by layering letters and words. Inspired by the Timurid luster tiles, with deep carved calligraphic inscriptions and luminous glazes, Mafi introduced a modern version made of polystyrene, often glazed with turquoise, red and other bright colors.

Mafi's work has been offered at different auctions multiple times, with realized prices ranging from \$5,000 to \$475,000, depending on the size and medium of the artwork.

The exhibition of Mafi's calligraphy and calligraphic paintings will run until June 30 at the TMOCA, located next to Laleh Park, North Kargar St.

## Jean-Pierre Martinez's "Him and Her" on stage at Sahne-ye Abi

TEHRAN—The play "Him and Her" written by the French playwright Jean-Pierre Martinez is on stage at Sahne-ye Abi Cultural and Artistic Center in Tehran.

Originally written in 2003, the play is about the exciting adventure of living together, Honaronline reported.

Marjan Afrouz and Arash Rostamzadegan are the two actors performing the roles of a couple in "Him and Her".

Martinez, 68, is a French playwright of Spanish descent whose career followed unconventional paths. He played drums in various rock bands, worked as an advertising semiologist for some of the biggest consulting companies, wrote television scripts, taught French in a Texas university, gave screen-

writing classes in Paris, and he is now a playwright whose plays are produced on the five continents.

A prolific writer, Martinez has written more than 100 comedies known for their accessibility and unique universe, populated with characters that are simultaneously laughable, moving and deeply relatable. Martinez's plays have been translated in several languages.

With an average of 400 stage productions every year, he is one of the most successful European playwrights.

The play will remain on stage until June 27 at Sahne Abi Center located at No. 1595, Valiasr St., after Taleqani junction.

## Cartoon of Day



Freeing the Hostages

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

# Franco-Iranian Center in Paris to commemorate Abbas Kiarostami

TEHRAN—On the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of the late Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami (June 22, 1940 - July 4, 2016), the Silk Road film club of the Franco-Iranian Center in Paris, France, will hold a commemoration ceremony for the globally-renowned director at Cinema Balzac in Paris on June 16.

During the event, "The Taste of Cherry," the masterpiece of the director, which won Palme d'Or of the 1997 Cannes Film Festival, will be screened, Mehr reported.

There will also be three speakers at the event including Seifollah Samadian, Nahal Tajadod, and Jean-Claude Voisin.

A famous Iranian photographer and filmmaker, Samadian was a close collaborator of Kiarostami, and director of the feature documentary "76 minutes and 15 seconds" (2016), which was made in homage to the great filmmaker.

Tajadod is a famous Franco-Iranian writer and translator of Kiarostami's collections of poems "With the Wind" (2002).

Voisin is a writer, historian, and archaeologist, who was the former director of the French Institute of Tehran.

Written, directed, and produced by Kiarostami, "The Taste of Cherry" is a film to appreciate life in a delicate way based on Iranian values.

It follows the enigmatic Mr. Badii (Homayoun Ershadi) as he drives around the hilly outskirts of Tehran looking for someone



who will agree to bury him after he commits suicide.

Extended conversations with three passengers (a soldier, a seminarian, and a taxidermist) elicit different views on mortality and individual choice. Operating at once as a closely observed, realistic story and a fable populated by archetypal figures, the film challenges viewers to consider what often goes unexamined in everyday life.

Since the film's release, multiple other critics have also declared it a masterpiece; in the British Film Institute's 2012 Sight & Sound poll, six critics and two directors named it one of the 10 best films ever made. "Taste of Cherry" was also named the 9th best film of the 90s by Slant Magazine.

Kiarostami was a film director, screenwriter, poet, photographer, and film producer. An active filmmaker from 1970, he was involved in the production of over 40 films, including shorts and documentaries.

He attained critical acclaim for directing "Close-Up" (1990), "The Wind Will Carry Us" (1999), and "Taste of Cherry" (1997). In later works, "Certified Copy" (2010) and "Like Someone in Love" (2012), he filmed for the first time outside Iran: in Italy and Japan, respectively.

He was part of a generation of filmmakers in the Iranian New Wave, a Persian cinema movement that started in the late 1960s and emphasized the use of poetic dialogue and allegorical storytelling dealing with philo-

sophical issues. He is known for his use of Persian poetry in the dialogue, titles, and themes of his films. His films also contain a notable degree of ambiguity, an unusual mixture of simplicity and complexity, and often a mix of fictional and documentary elements. The concepts of change and continuity, in addition to the themes of life and death, play a major role in Kiarostami's works.

The Franco-Iranian Center was created in 2016, with the aim of deepening and developing Franco-Iranian relations in all areas (institutional, economic and artistic, sporting, academic, etc.) and working to strengthen ties of friendship between the two peoples of France and Iran, and the two countries.

## "ACT for Treating Children" available in Persian

TEHRAN—The Persian translation of "ACT for Treating Children" written by Tamar Black, which is a guide to acceptance and commitment therapy for kids has been released in the book market across Iran.

Ali Baghshahi and Morteza Golshanian have translated the book that has been brought out by Danjeh Publications, Mehr reported.

Written by an experienced educational and developmental psychologist, the book offers clinicians clear, practical, brief, and developmentally appropriate strategies grounded in acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) to help children ages 5 to 12 learn effective coping skills, manage emotions, and bounce back from life's difficulties.

If you treat children struggling with mental health conditions such as depression or anxiety, you know that approaches designed for adults do not work with younger clients. "ACT for Treating Children" presents skills grounded in evidence-based ACT to help children regulate emotions and cope with the inevitable ups and downs of life, and is suitable for clinicians with no prior knowledge of or training in ACT, as well as seasoned ACT clinicians.



This practical clinician's guide outlines a simplified version of the ACT Hexaflex—a key component of this treatment model—called the Kidflex, to help young clients build resilience and psychological flexibility.

You'll also find detailed case studies, transcripts, activities, experiential exercises, worksheets, and session plans to help you develop the skillset you need to help children overcome disorders such as stress, anxiety and depression.

Finally, you'll find strategies for involving parents in treatment when appropriate, and enlisting them as ACT coaches in the child's therapy. It can be difficult to know where to start when using ACT for individual thera-

py with children. That's why the skills in this go-to guide are practical and easy-to-implement, can be done with children in both face-to-face therapy and online sessions, and are simple enough for children to put into practice in any setting—whether it's at home, in school, or out in the world.

Tamar Black is a licensed Educational and Developmental Psychologist in Melbourne, Australia. She has more than 20 years of experience working in private practice and as a school psychologist. She has extensive experience providing counselling to children, adolescents and parents, and providing clinical consultation to psychologists.

She provides ACT training to individuals and organizations. Tamar is passionate about using ACT with children and adolescents and teaches clinicians how to use ACT in a simple and developmentally appropriate way.

She is an approved supervisor with the Psychology Board of Australia and the Australian Psychological Society College of Educational and Developmental Psychologists.

## Tehran cultural center to screen "Leave Her to Heaven"

TEHRAN—"Leave Her to Heaven," a 1945 movie by American film director John M. Stahl will be reviewed during a session at the Arasbaran Cultural Center in Tehran on Wednesday afternoon.

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

"Leave Her to Heaven" is based on the 1943 novel of the same name by Ben Ames Williams. The movie follows the story of Ellen Berent (played by Gene Tierney), a beautiful and alluring woman who marries a novelist, Richard Harland (played by Cornel Wilde), on a whim.

As their marriage progresses, it becomes clear that Ellen is possessive and controlling, using her charm and beauty to manipulate Richard and keep him from leaving her. She becomes obsessed with their marriage, and her behavior becomes increasingly erratic and erratic. Richard, who is initially swept up in his love for Ellen, begins to feel

trapped and suffocated by her behavior. He tries to talk to her about his concerns, but she is unable or unwilling to listen.

Meanwhile, Ellen's brother, Russell (played by Darryl Hickman), becomes increasingly concerned about his sister's actions and warns Richard about her true nature. However, Ellen's manipulation is so strong that Richard is unable to break free from her grasp.

He becomes increasingly unhinged and begins to question his own sanity. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that Ellen is hiding secrets from her past, including a tragic event that has left her emotionally scarred.

As the tension builds, Richard becomes trapped in a web of deceit and obsession. He is unable to escape Ellen's grasp, and she uses her beauty and charm to keep him captive. In the end, it is revealed that Ellen has been hiding a dark secret: she is dying from a terminal illness, and she has been using her husband's

love to fuel her own selfish desires. The film ends with Richard's tragic realization of Ellen's true nature, and he is left to pick up the pieces of his shattered life.

Throughout the film, director John M. Stahl uses a combination of shadowy lighting, expressionistic cinematography, and a haunting score to create a sense of foreboding and unease.

The film's visual style is reminiscent of classic German Expressionism, with its use of distorted perspectives and eerie lighting. Gene Tierney's performance as Ellen is particularly striking, as she brings depth and complexity to the character. "Leave Her to Heaven" is a classic film noir that explores themes of obsession, manipulation, and the destructive power of unchecked emotions.

John M. Stahl was an American film director who was active in the industry from the 1920s to the 1950s. Born in 1886 in New York, Stahl began his career in

the film industry as a screenwriter and editor, working on silent films such as "The Greatest Thing in Life" (1926) and "The Patent Leather Kid" (1927).

He transitioned to directing in the early 1930s, and quickly established himself as a skilled and versatile director.

Stahl worked on a wide range of films, including romantic comedies, dramas, and film noir, and was particularly known for his ability to elicit strong performances from his actors. Some of his most notable films include "Only Yesterday" (1933), "Imitation of Life" (1934), and "Leave Her to Heaven" (1945).

Stahl's direction was often praised for its sensitivity and nuance, and he was regarded as one of the top directors of his era. Despite his success, Stahl's career slowed down in the 1950s, and he died in 1950 at the age of 64.