

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Funerals held for 13 Israeli soldiers Hamas 'successfully rebuilt' presence in Gaza Strip

## Tsunami of Resistance Drowns Israel's War Cabinet

Family and friends of Sgt. Eliyahu Moshe Zimbalist, attend his funeral at the Mount Herzl military cemetery in Jerusalem on June 16, 2024. Zimbalist was killed in combat in the southern Gaza Strip.

### Tehran condemns Western hypocrisy over anti-Iran E3 statement

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry has condemned a joint statement by the UK, France, and Germany concerning Iran's nuclear program, dismissing their allegations as "bogus and invalid."

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the joint statement of the three European countries—Germany, the United Kingdom, and France—regarding Iran's nuclear program as baseless, invalid, and containing false claims," said the ministry in a Sunday statement.

The joint statement by the E3 accuses Iran of escalating its nuclear program and taking steps to "hollow out" the JCPOA, a 2015 deal on the West Asian country's nuclear activities scrapped by Washington in 2018 and shunned by its European signatories in the following years.

"The bitter irony of the situation is that the countries with a political and non-constructive approach, who themselves are responsible for and the architects of the current situation regarding the JCPOA, accuse Iran of emptying the JCPOA of its content," the foreign ministry said, adding that Iran has proven the peaceful nature of its nuclear program countless times. ▶ Page 2

### Election atmosphere heats up

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - As the presidential election draws closer, the political landscape in Iran is becoming more intense, with several candidates grabbing headlines this weekend.

Despite the intense competition for attention, it seems that no presidential hopeful has yet managed to attract significant support from outside their traditional bases, despite multiple appearances on national TV.

This inability to attract new voters was pointed out by Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, who warned on Sunday that conservatives need to ally before June 28, the day Iranians are set to head to the polls to choose the next president.

"The revolutionary front needs to reach a consensus on one person before June 28. I believe that with the affection and logic that exists between revolutionaries, this will eventually happen," Qalibaf said when asked if there was any chance, he would withdraw in favor of a fellow conservative.

Analysts warn that conservative candidates face a significant challenge from the sole reformist hopeful, Masoud Pezeshkian, unless they consolidate their support. They believe that Qalibaf and Saeed Jalili, the two frontrunners among conservatives, must reach an agreement, with one withdrawing in favor of the other, to avoid splitting the conservative vote. This consolidation, according to analysts, is crucial to prevent a potential victory by Pezeshkian. ▶ Page 3

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### Australia must recognize Palestine to promote peace: senator

Writing an article on the Al Jazeera website, Fatima Payman, a Labor senator for Western Australia, suggests it is morally and ethically imperative that Canberra recognize Palestine as an independent state to promote peace.

Following is the text of the article published on Monday:

Over the last eight months, we have witnessed the mass killing and displacement of Palestinians and the devastation and destruction of Gaza carried out by Israel under the guise of "self-defense". As the Israeli government continues to disregard its obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and cease genocidal acts, it is imperative for influential nations to take a definitive stance.

Australia, with its global standing and democratic values, is in a strong position to facilitate peace. An important step in this direction is recognizing a Palestinian state. It is also a moral and ethical imperative.

On May 29, a motion was presented to the lower house of the Australian parliament by the Greens to vote on whether Australia should follow Spain, Norway, Ireland, Slovenia, and the overwhelming majority of the world's nations in recognizing Palestinian statehood, but it failed to pass as 80 MPs voted against it.

### American lawmakers are serving Israeli interests and not America's

By Professor Hossein Askari

The United States has long supported Israel: we have sent over \$320 billion in financial aid to a country that has a higher per capita income than France and Germany; we have given Israel most of our lethal weapons; we have shared intelligence and supplied Israel with political support at

the UN and at the UN Security Council with dozens of vetoes to shield Israel from its crimes and to protect it from increasing global recrimination and isolation; we have issued massive media support including through print, airwaves, internet and the entertainment industry in order to silence anti-Israeli voices.

The public justification for this overwhelming support has been that Israel is the Middle East's only democracy and is indispensable for our national security. These justifications are so ridiculous that they deserve only a brief debunking. Many global observers classify Israel as an apartheid state with different laws depending on status—Israeli Jews, Israeli Arabs and non-Israeli Arabs with the latter having few rights and being persecuted at will. Inside Israel today, free speech is limited and those who speak out in defense of Palestinian rights are openly

### Gaza govt. decries Israel's 'use of starvation to achieve political goals'

Gaza's Government Media Office has accused Israel and the US of "purposefully" worsening famine-like conditions in Gaza by "withholding humanitarian aid as a tool for political pressure".

In a statement, the media office said they are "deliberately aggravating the humanitarian situation" in Gaza to achieve political goals, Al Jazeera reported.

About 2.4 million Palestinians are living under harsh conditions, especially in Gaza's north where famine has taken hold, the media office said.

Tens of thousands of sick and wounded people have no access to food or medicine, it added.

Israel has closed almost all of its crossings into Gaza and has severely restricted aid deliveries through the one crossing that has been sporadically open.

In February, a UN expert accused Israel of intentionally starving Palestinians.

"Intentionally depriving people of food is clearly a war crime," Michael Fakhri, the UN special rapporteur on the right to food, told the Guardian.

### Promoting intl. cooperation to combat SDSs

By Maryam Tavassoli

TEHRAN - The efforts of the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi to address the predicament of sand and dust storms (SDSs), as one of the factors contributing to drought and desertification, led to the evolution of national discourse into regional, and subsequently international discourse, according to the head of Department of Environment (DOE).

"It has also led to the inclusion of sand and dust storms in the key terminology of the United Nations," ISNA quoted Ali Salajeqeh as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, which is annually observed on June 17. ▶ Page 7



### Iranian Hajj pilgrims hold rally 'denouncing pagans' in Mount Arafat

TEHRAN - Iranian Hajj pilgrims have held a ceremony to "denounce the pagans" in Mount Arafat near Mecca.

The ceremony, which is the "political aspect" of the Hajj, is held annually in an agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The ceremony was of paramount importance this year as Israel has butchered more than 37,000 Palestinians in Gaza with the unwavering support of the United States.

The pilgrims were carrying placards chanting slogans "Down with USA," "Down with Israel" and "Palestine Will Return to the Cradle of Islam".

In his Hajj message, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei highlighted the «human scope» and «spiritual strength of Islam» as integral facets of the pilgrimage duty.

### Iran Oil Ministry signs contracts worth \$2b with local firms

TEHRAN - The Iranian Oil Ministry has signed four contracts worth \$2 billion, including agreements to develop two oil fields.

The contracts were signed with Iranian contractors on Sunday at the ministry's building in the capital Tehran.

The projects developed under the four deals will generate \$17 billion in revenues for the country.

One of the contracts, signed with the Oil Industries Engineering and Construction (OIEC), calls for developing the Changuleh oil field located in the western province of Ilam, 5km north of the border with Iraq. The field contains almost 4,800 million barrels of in-place crude oil.

Under the 20-year contract, a total of 228,000 barrels of crude oil will be produced from the Changuleh field. ▶ Page 4

**Imbalance in the prospect  
of two competitors***In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the Sunday Iranian newspapers.*

In an analysis, Donya-e-Eqtasad dealt with the prospect of cementing diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and said: There are two doctrines of thought in Saudi Arabia's political circles. One continues to mistrust Iran and believes that this country is behind all the problems in the region. Another considers Iran as a security problem that can be controlled by improving bilateral relations.

From Riyadh's point of view, the first is aimed at the de-escalation and establishment of political relations, followed by more fundamental discussions that address the main tensions between the two countries and help build trust and goodwill. After that, the parties can continue to further cooperate in various areas specified in the agreement, including trade, security, and people-to-people exchanges.

Currently, Riyadh believes that relations are still in the first phase as de-escalation is incomplete, while efforts to build political relations have not followed the expected protocol yet. In response to this issue, a senior Iranian official said that diplomatic details should not delay the practical work of advancing bilateral relations.

**Iran: The new security order in West Asia**

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed the new strategy of the Arabs in the region and wrote: The new security order in West Asia has led the Arabs to adjust their foreign policy orientations. A new level of Arab relations with China and Russia shows the pessimism of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf towards America's policies in the region, an example of which is the Gaza war.

The Hamas attack occurred just as a new order seemed to be emerging in the region. According to Foreign Affairs, in the future, U.S. leaders will seek to end the conflict in Gaza and they will negotiate for a permanent settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The United States also hopes to strengthen regional alliances against Iran and limit China's engagement in the region. To achieve these goals, Washington needs the participation of Arab countries, but it will be more difficult to achieve if the Arabs become pessimistic about America's goals in the Middle East.

In the same way, the Arab governments that were looking for "balancing" against Iran, it seems that they are currently more looking for East-West balancing against the United States of America!

**Terrorist breeding centers in neighboring countries identified: commander**

TEHRAN – The commander of the Ground Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) announced in a Sunday gathering of military officials that Iran's armed forces have identified multiple terrorist breeding centers in neighboring countries, where criminals are nurtured and rented out for terrorist purposes.

While hailing the achievement, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour emphasized the critical importance of identifying and neutralizing terrorist threats to safeguard the security of the Iranian people.

General Pakpour stated, "A series of overt and covert actions are taking place in the IRGC Ground Force that has so far stifled many threats."

He highlighted the relentless efforts of the IRGC Ground Force in countering terrorist plots aimed at destabilizing the peace and security of the nation.

The military commander underscored the continuous challenges posed by the enemy's terrorist designs, noting that despite the successful thwarting of previous plots, new threats continue to emerge.

"The importance of the current actions of the IRGC Ground Force is such that if some of the enemy's terrorist designs were not identified and dealt with, heavy and extensive

**Jam-e-Jam: Mercenaries of the enemy are busy!**

Due to the atmosphere of the 14th presidential election, the election activities have reached their peak, and media operations are active to support or destroy the candidates.

his is exactly the point that counter-revolutionary currents and opposition think tanks have invested in with a special focus. They seek to influence the atmosphere of domestic public opinion. During the current elections, we are witnessing a pattern similar to the riots of the fall of 1401(2022) from the opposition media. Virtual (trolls and robots) and real enemy agents in social networks and messaging apps are planning extensively to create tension along with destroying and insulting candidates in the election atmosphere.

The headquarters and supporters of the election candidates should carefully deal with these atmospheres and stay away from false excitement, and not allow the peace prevailing in the society to be disrupted for the benefit of the enemy, because the country has faced such bitter conditions many times.

**Shargh: Controlled response**

In a conversation with senior nuclear analyst Esmail Kiani, Shargh addressed the recent European troika resolution against Iran and Iran's response to it. It wrote: Rafael Grossi claimed Iran's decision to increase the production capacity of enriched uranium in Natanz and Fordow sites.

These actions are a controlled response from Iran's side in such a way that it can both react to the resolution of the Board of Governors and the severity of its response should not be so that it stimulates the sensitivity of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Board of Governors. Due to Tehran's serious focus on holding presidential elections, Iran currently has no reason to increase tension with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Board of Governors.

Tehran has concluded that in the 15 months until the expiration of Resolution 2231, it should not make its nuclear case so sensitive that it acts as a catalyst for the radical actions of the West in order to activate the snapback mechanism and refer the case to the Security Council. It is unlikely that the Board of Governors will take action to hold an early meeting or want to show a strong response to Tehran's reaction.



damages would have affected the security of the people, resulting in significant human casualties," he emphasized.

General Pakpour raised concerns about the enemy's utilization of terrorist groups like Daesh and Salafis in the region, adding that Iran's foreign enemies are responsible for equipping, preparing, guiding, and organizing these terrorists.

The commander also pointed out that in recent terrorist attacks in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, all individuals mobilized to carry out the terror acts were foreign nationals.

"In a series of terrorist activities that took place in Sistan and Baluchestan province a while ago, 30 individuals employed as trained terrorists with ideologies and teachings of Daesh and Salafis had completely foreign identities," he said.

**Iranian, Russian officials discuss Caucasus developments in Tehran meeting**

TEHRAN – Igor Khovayev, the Special Representative of the Russian Foreign Minister for the Settlement of Issues between Azerbaijan and Armenia, visited Tehran on Sunday to discuss the latest developments in the Caucasus region.

During his visit, he met with Ali Baqeri Kani, Iran's acting Foreign Minister.

Baqeri Kani highlighted the alignment of Iran and Russia's positions on key regional and international issues. He underscored that the Caucasus region is of significant national interest and security concern for both nations, stressing the necessity of bilateral cooperation in this area.

The Iranian acting Foreign Minister reiterated Iran's commitment to the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts. He pointed out that the current sensitive developments in the Caucasus, particularly the growing foreign interventions, require strategic coordination and ongoing consultations between Iranian and Russian officials.



Baqeri emphasized the importance of utilizing regional mechanisms, such as the 3+3 format, to address regional issues, enhance cooperation and convergence, and ensure the security, stability, and collective interests of the countries in the Caucasus.

Igor Khovayev conveyed greetings from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and provided an update on Russia's diplomatic efforts to establish peace in the Caucasus.

He stressed the need for a joint strategic assessment of the

region's developments by both countries and the importance of close, continuous interaction and coordination between Iranian and Russian officials to counter external interference in the region.

**Iran ready to assist Afghanistan in overcoming challenges: acting FM**

On Sunday evening, Baqeri Kani engaged in a telephone conversation with the Taliban's caretaker foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi.

The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation,

the current situation in Gaza, and the crimes of the Zionist regime in that region.

During the call, Baqeri Kani reaffirmed Iran's readiness to collaborate with Afghanistan across various sectors and emphasized the continuation of support for the Afghan people.

In addition to bilateral relations, Baqeri Kani addressed the ongoing violence in Gaza. He highlighted South Africa's legal initiative to lodge a complaint against this regime at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and noted the diplomatic actions taken by several countries, including those in Latin America, to sever ties with the Zionist regime.

Baqeri Kani stressed the importance of collective action by Islamic nations to exert pressure on the regime to cease its actions against Palestinians. He particularly emphasized the role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in coordinating these efforts.

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

**Iran reiterates peaceful nature of nuclear activities**

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, has firmly rejected allegations raised by the G7 regarding Iran's nuclear program, reaffirming its peaceful nature.

Kanaani was responding to certain aspects of the G7 leaders' recent statement raising one-sided and unfounded concerns about Iran's nuclear enrichment advancements. The statement also hinted at possible new sanctions if Tehran "proceeds with the transfer of ballistic missiles to Russia."

The foreign ministry spokesman viewed the G7's mention of the recent anti-Iranian resolution by the IAEA Board of Governors as an endorsement of the political bias behind the resolution and its supporters, as well as an abuse of international mechanisms by certain governments against independent nations.

Kanaani reiterated that Iran continues

to engage constructively and cooperate technically with the IAEA in line with its rights and obligations. He affirmed that Iran's peaceful nuclear initiatives will progress in compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, regardless of external pressures and political dynamics.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson pointed out that the unlawful actions of the United States and three European countries are at the core of the current situation. Demonstrating goodwill and avoiding politically motivated maneuvers are crucial steps toward addressing mutual concerns, he said.

Emphasizing Iran's commitment to human rights, Kanaani highlighted the challenges facing the realization of noble human rights goals globally. He criticized the G7 leaders for overlooking the "systematic killing" and widespread atrocities committed against



Palestinians by Israel, labeling it as the world's sole apartheid regime.

Regarding Ukraine, Kanaani reiterated that any effort to link the conflict there to Iran-Russia cooperation is driven by malicious political motives. He criticized countries that persist in baseless claims to justify sanctions against Iran, urging the G7 to learn from past errors and distance themselves from destructive policies.

**Acting President hails late Amir Abdollahian's endeavors in meeting with Hamid Nouri**

TEHRAN – Iran's acting President has lauded the late Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian's political endeavors, during a meeting with Hamid Nouri, the Iranian national recently released from Swedish prison.

Mohammad Mokhber paid a visit to Nouri's home in Tehran on Monday on Eid al-Adha, two days after he returned to Iran.

Mokhber congratulated Nouri on his release and highlighted the significant efforts made by the late President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian to secure his freedom.

He praised Iran's diplomatic and security apparatuses for using dignified and powerful diplomacy to overcome the adversarial actions of the regime's opponents, including the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO).

Mokhber discussed the extensive efforts by Iran's enemies and opposition groups to convict Nouri on unfounded charges.

During the visit, Nouri expressed his gratitude for the efforts of the thirteenth administration, particularly the late Foreign Minister, in facilitating his release.

Additionally, he recounted that one of the most bitter moments

during his imprisonment was learning about the martyrdom of President Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian.

On Saturday, Kazem Gharibabadi, head of the Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights, announced the release of Hamid Nouri, a former Iranian judiciary official who had been held in Sweden since 2019.

Nouri was arrested upon arrival at Stockholm Airport in November 2019 and had been imprisoned since then, spending over three and a half years in solitary confinement. His arrest stemmed from allegations by the Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), a group with a history of terrorist activities against Iranian officials and civilians.

In 2022, a Swedish court sentenced Nouri to life imprisonment on charges of "war crimes and crimes against humanity," which Iran denounced as illegitimate. These charges were primarily based on testimonies from MKO members living in exile. The conviction was upheld by Sweden's Appeal Court in December 2023.

Iranian officials consistently maintained that Nouri's detention

and trial were politically motivated, influenced by anti-Iran groups and individuals in the West. Nouri denied the charges, claiming they were fabricated. His family also reported that he faced harassment from the MKO during court proceedings and suffered health issues, including severe vision problems and inadequate medical care. They also alleged physical assaults by Swedish authorities.

Nouri's Swedish attorney, Thomas Bodstrom, highlighted the harsh conditions of his client's detention, noting that Nouri endured the longest solitary confinement in Swedish history, making him "the most isolated prisoner" the country has seen.

Bodstrom also argued that by Nouri's trial, Sweden deprived itself of hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of Iranian visitors who have worked in the Iranian government and do not want to risk life imprisonment by visiting Sweden.

Nouri's release was part of a prisoner swap involving a European Union diplomat and another Swedish-Iranian citizen. The swap was mediated by Oman, whose foreign ministry stated that the negotiations resulted in the

mutual release of prisoners, with those freed being transferred from Tehran and Stockholm.

"Omani efforts resulted in the two sides agreeing on a mutual release, as those released were transferred from Tehran and Stockholm," the statement by the Omani foreign ministry said.

On Saturday, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson confirmed that Swedish national Johan Floderus and Iranian-Swedish Saeed Azizi were released by Tehran and were en route back to Sweden.

Separately, Nasser Kanaani, spokesman for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that Nouri's release demonstrated Iran's effective diplomacy in protecting national interests and the rights of its citizens abroad.

The spokesman stressed that after enduring 1,680 days of unjust captivity, which violated fundamental human rights, Hamid Nouri has finally returned to his homeland and reunited with his patient family and loved ones.

Kanaani expressed gratitude to Oman for its mediation and reaffirmed Iran's commitment to securing the release of other Iranian citizens detained overseas.

**Tehran condemns Western hypocrisy over anti-Iran E3 statement**

From page 1 ▶ "The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to continuing constructive interaction and technical cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within the framework of its rights and obligations. It has implemented and will continue to implement its peaceful nuclear

projects and plans in accordance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement," it added.

Iran's foreign ministry also advised the E3 to demonstrate seriousness and adopt a pragmatic approach, if it really wants to

revive the JCPOA. "As it has been repeatedly stated, Iran's nuclear program has always been entirely peaceful, and nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's military and defense doctrine. The incorrect speculations of the Westerners in this regard, like their other errors, will lead nowhere."

# Election atmosphere heats up

From Page 1 ► **Qalibaf vows to "truly" terminate sanctions**

During a political roundtable, Qalibaf's advisor sitting next to him said that the candidate's administration would be focused on getting rid of anti-Iran U.S. sanctions for good.

"Negotiations to terminate the sanctions will be a priority in Qalibaf's government. It is important to ensure that the sanctions are fully terminated and their impact is verified, not just on paper.

As part of the negotiations, we will aim to restore oil sales, banking operations, and foreign trade in exchange for nuclear commitments," said Kazem Gharibabadi, the Secretary General of Iran's High Council for Human Rights.

In separate remarks, Qalibaf stated that "effective governance in foreign policy is



about managing relationships to maximize benefits and minimize costs for Iran."

He also emphasizes the importance of strengthening bilateral financial relations and leveraging Iran's geographical location for economic management.

"A strong and informed manager is needed to utilize Iran's geopolitical capacity effectively. Foreign policy and diplomacy will be my key priorities," the

parliamentary speaker said. **Pezeshkian distances himself from extremists**

During a gathering at the University of Tehran, Pezeshkian stated that he is a staunch supporter of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and while criticism is allowed, no one has the right to insult the figures he very dearly believes in.

"Students have the right to protest when there is something they see unfair. But protesting

is different from rioting," he commented.

**'Candidates should observe Islamic ethics'**

Before their first presidential debate on Monday, all six Iranian candidates met with the Chairman of Iran's Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Mohammad-Ali Movahedi Kermani.

In their discussions, Ayatollah Kermani emphasized the importance of good conduct and assertiveness during the upcoming presidential debates.

He also advised the candidates to maintain their composure and refrain from attacking their opponents in an unethical manner.

"In the debates, people should see integrity, dignity, and seriousness in you. Maintain your personality and self-control with observance of Islamic ethics," he said.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

JUNE 18, 2024

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

The 2024-25 Ekstraklasa season will start on July 19, 2024 and will conclude on May 24, 2025.

### Sepahan, Mes advance to 2023/24 Hazfi Cup final

TEHRAN – Sepahan and Mes football teams advanced to the final of the 2023/24 Hazfi Cup Saturday night.

Sepahan came back from a goal down to beat Gol Gohar 2-1 in Isfahan's Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium. Mes also defeated Aluminum 4-2 in penalty shootout after two teams ended the match 1-1 in regular time.

Mes and Sepahan will lock horn on June 20 in Qazvin's Sardar-e Azadegan Stadium.

Hazfi Cup is an Iranian knockout football cup competition held annually by the Football Federation of Iran.

### Taremi will be nice Inter Milan surprise: agent

TEHRAN – Agent Federico Pastorello says that Iran international Mehdi Taremi will surprise fans at Inter Milan.

The Iranian forward will arrive as a Bosman transfer (the ruling allows a player to leave a club on a free transfer as soon as his contract expired) from Porto next month.

Pastorello told TMW: "He is very eager to start, he made a choice many months ago and he will be a wonderful surprise.

"I was the intermediary in the negotiations, he is not my client, but I found an extraordinary boy.

"He will certainly adapt very well, it will be a nice surprise for the fans too."

### Prodigy Saharkhizan linked with Orenburg

TEHRAN – Iranian forward Saeid Saharkhizan has been reportedly linked with a move to Russian club Orenburg. The Gol Gohar forward has scored eight goals in 28 matches in the 2023-24 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Iranian midfielder Mohammad Ghorbani has previously joined the Russian team.

Saharkhizan had been previously linked with Iranian teams Esteghlal and Persepolis.

### Esteghlal Khuzestan part ways with Pourmousavi

TEHRAN – Iranian top flight football club Esteghlal Khuzestan parted company with its head coach Siroos Pourmousavi.

Pourmousavi helped the Ahvaz-based football club avoid relegation from 2023-2024 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Esteghlal Khuzestan defeated Havadar 3-1 in its last match to remain in IPL.

The win saw Esteghlal Khuzestan end the campaign in 14th place on 28 points in the final standing.

### John van 't Schip shortlisted to lead Persepolis

TEHRAN – Canadian-Dutch football coach John van 't Schip has been reportedly shortlisted to lead Iranian giants Persepolis.

Persepolis parted ways with their Brazilian coach Osmar Vieira last week.

Osmar was appointed as Persepolis head coach in last year's January and helped the Reds win Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) for the second successive season.

Now, the Iranian media reports suggest that Persepolis are going to hire 60-year-old John van 't Schip as their new head coach.

The former Netherlands winger started his coaching career as head coach of Ajax Youth in 1997 and has also led Melbourne Heart, Guadalajara, PEC Zwolle and Greece national team.

Ajax appointed John van 't Schip as interim head coach of Ajax 1 in late October. The former Ajax player signed a contract with the club running from 30 October 2023 until 30 June 2025 but in late March announced that he would not continue as Ajax coach next season.

### Gholizadeh returns to Lech Poznan training

TEHRAN – Lech Poznan winger Ali Gholizadeh will begin preparation for the new Ekstraklasa season with the rest of the team.

Gholizadeh has been sidelined since the beginning of April, when he had to undergo surgery after suffering an injury in a match against Stal Mielec (0-0). Now, everything is fine now with the Iranian footballer. Although he was ready and fit, Gholizadeh didn't join Team Melli for the June World Cup qualifying matches against Hong Kong and Uzbekistan.

## Leader's media representative calls for global show of renunciation of Israel

TEHRAN – Khamenei.ir, covering the Leader of the Islamic Revolution's activities and thoughts, has urged people worldwide to join a campaign demanding the public rejection of the Zionist regime.

In a post on X, the media arm of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei asked users to write "death to Israel" seven times and express their repudiation of Zionism through the symbolic act.

The move came after in his annual Hajj message, Ayatollah Khamenei called on millions of Muslim pilgrims from around the globe who commenced their pilgrimage in Mecca Saturday to demonstrate their "renunciation of the Zionist regime and its supporters, in particular the U.S., in words and actions".

"This year's renunciation of the polytheists must continue beyond the time and place



of Hajj to all Muslim countries and cities worldwide. It must continue beyond just the Hajj pilgrims and be extended to the general populace," he added.

Israel which had been relying on propaganda and Western control of mass media for decades to portray a democratic and progressive image of itself, has been under

scathing scrutiny in the past months for its latest war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The West's lack of control over certain social media platforms like Tik Tok, has laid bare Israel's brutal and criminal treatment of Palestinians in an unprecedented way.

Public opinion around the world is increasingly turning against the Zionist regime, especially in Western nations where citizens have taken to the streets multiple times to ask for divestment from Israel.

Since the beginning of its latest war in Gaza, the regime has murdered over 37,000 civilians, razed almost the entire enclave to the ground, and instigated a famine there.

Its actions have been justified by Western politicians, who continuously reject Israel is committing war crimes, as self-defense.

## Leader pardons, commutes sentences for 2,654 inmates

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Islamic Revolution, has approved to pardon or commute sentences for 2,654 prisoners.

This decision, made on the occasion of Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Ghadir, follows a proposal from Gholmhossein Mohseni-

Ejei, the Chief of the Iranian Judiciary.

Sadeq Rahimi, the deputy head of the Judiciary, detailed the pardon and sentence reduction, specifying that out of the 2,654 eligible individuals, 2,547 were from public and revolutionary courts, 55 from the Judicial

Organization of the Armed Forces, and 52 from the Discretionary Punishments Organization of Iran.

Among those pardoned, Rahimi highlighted that 182 were women, 30 were foreign nationals, 53 had been convicted on security charges, and 6 were under 18

years old.

This initiative is carried out under Article 110 (11) of the Iranian Constitution, granting the Supreme Leader authority to pardon or commute sentences upon recommendation from the Judiciary chief.

## Iran calls for Muslim unity against Israeli actions in Gaza

TEHRAN – Iran's acting President Mohammad Mokhber has urged Muslim nations to unite in an effort to halt the Israeli regime's ongoing actions in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Mokhber made these remarks during a phone conversation with Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday.

In the discussion, Mokhber commended the Pakistani public's strong support for Palestinians and the Pakistani government's firm stance against the Zionist regime's activities in Gaza. He emphasized the necessity for a united front among Muslim countries to stop the continued aggression in Gaza.

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

The operation came as an answer to years of Israeli crimes in the occupied territories.

Mokhber criticized war, violence, and terrorism as remnants of the world's oppressive

powers inflicted upon the vulnerable, urging Muslim nations to collaborate in eradicating this detrimental legacy from their regions.

He also highlighted the agreements made between Tehran and Islamabad during the late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Pakistan.

Notably, Mokhber pointed out the commitment to increasing trade and economic exchanges to \$10 billion annually, expressing hope that this goal would be achieved through concerted efforts and the removal of trade barriers.

Mokhber reiterated Iran's view of Pakistan as a strategic partner and stressed the determination of both countries' leaders to enhance bilateral relations in political, economic, and cultural areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif echoed these sentiments, describing the relationship between Iran and Pakistan as long-standing and rooted in deep cultural and religious ties. He noted that late Raisi's visit marked a new

chapter in bilateral relations and affirmed Islamabad's commitment to implementing the agreements made during that visit, including boosting trade to \$10 billion.

Late President Raisi's visit to Pakistan on April 22 aimed to strengthen security and trade ties and was part of a regional tour that also included Sri Lanka.

President Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian and six others died on May 19, when their helicopter crashed in foggy weather in the mountains near the northwestern border with Azerbaijan.

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

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

## Army Ground Force equipped with advanced armaments

TEHRAN – In a Monday meeting, the commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force emphasized the significant shift in the force's capabilities, moving away from traditional weapons to advanced armaments with high combat readiness and defensive capabilities.

Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari made the remarks while talking to the military leaders of the major units of the Army's

ground forces.

General Heidari highlighted that the ground force now possesses new and advanced armaments, enabling it to impose combat on the enemy in all missions. He emphasized the force's preparedness for future wars and threats, aiming to create a unit capable of withstanding any potential conflicts.

The commander revealed that the ground force has

undergone fundamental changes in its structure, aligning with a defensive cycle characterized by long-range, point-strike, intelligent, and network-centric capabilities. "This strategic shift positions the ground force as a formidable and modernized military entity," he noted.

Furthermore, General Heidari underscored the weakening of the hegemony and sinister domination of Washington, the Zionist regime,

and their allied countries in the region due to the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"In the minds of the rulers of regional countries and even some countries in the world, there is a belief that America is the godfather and owner of the world and that nothing happens without Washington's permission. Operation True Promise proved the falsehood of that narrative," he said.

## Iran Oil Ministry signs contracts worth \$2b with local firms

From page 1 ▶ The oil ministry also signed a contract with MAPNA Group to develop the Band-Karkheh oil field in the southwestern Khuzestan province.

The field is estimated to contain nearly 980 million barrels of in-place crude oil. Under the 15-year contract, a total of 56.6 million barrels of oil will be produced from the field.

Another contract was also signed with MAPNA Oil and Gas Development Company to provide crude production services for the three oil fields of Qalener, Kaboud and Balaroud, with a total capacity of 40,000 barrels per day for ten years.

A contract was also signed with Maham

Sharq Industrial Group to construct a crude oil production unit at the Mansouri oil field, with a capacity of 75,000 barrels per day for ten years.

Under the newly-signed contracts, Iran's annual oil production will boost, which will help the country increase its revenues, while the private sector will have a more active role in upstream projects of the country's oil industry.

Iran has in recent years worked on developing its oil industry by using domestic capabilities and in line with its Resistance Economy principles amid Western sanctions limiting the presence of foreign firms in the country.

## Annual production of home appliances in Iran rises 18%

TEHRAN - The secretary general of the Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said the production of home appliances increased by 18.2 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) compared to a year before.

According to Omid Fazeli-Nia, production of home appliances reached 19.5 million units in the previous year from 16.5 million units a year earlier, IRNA reported.

The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past few years, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many



other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past six years.

Back in January, the head of the Association of Home Appliances Manufacturers in Iran said that over the past few years, the production of home appliances has increased from eight million units to more than 17 million units.

Alireza Mohammadi Daniali said that the industry has expanded by 25 percent.

Mentioning some of the challenges that manufacturers of home appliances are currently facing, the official said: "Producers have problems such as mandated pricing, lack of liquidity, lack of foreign currency supply, and exports, which need to be addressed and resolved."

## Asian, African journalists participate in basketball friendship match at "The Box"

By Mahnaz Abdi

BEIJING- A number of journalists from Asia and Africa participated in a basketball friendship match at "The Box", a youth energy center in Beijing's Chaoyang District.

Besides participation in this match, these journalists along with some other Asian and African journalists also paid a visit to the different parts of "The Box".

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

Spanning across 103,544 Sq.m., "The Box" blends culture, community, and consumption in a unique narrative of innovative retail storytelling, positioned strategically for the next generation of Youth Energy.

Drawing inspiration from the name and architecture, the design concept for "The Box" takes inspiration from the Rubik's cube, a classic game of problem-solving. This notion celebrates the infinite possibilities that a Gen Z-led culture can unlock. It is said that the numerous permutations of a Rubik's cube surpass the number of observable stars in the Milky Way, mirroring the endless experiences and opportunities that "the Box" provides.

This concept invites everyone to delve into the different dimensions of the cube and explore the wide range of experiences "The Box"

has to offer. It stirs curiosity, making "The Box" the go-to destination for all trendsetters and fun-seekers.

The logo of "The Box" takes cue from the multifaceted cube, symbolizing the brand's dedication to unending creativity. It encapsulates the idea of thinking outside the box while playing within it, echoing the innovative and interactive spirit of the brand. This ingenious use of symbolism establishes a visual connection with the target audience and communicates the core values of "The Box".

As earlier mentioned, the visit to "The Box" was organized by the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC).

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

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

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

above that of the same day of last year.

It added that the temperature lowered on first working day of the week while the electricity consumption continued to rise.

The country's electricity consumption on Sunday also witnessed an increase of over 7 GW compared to figures reported a year ago.

## Daily power demand rises by 9GW: IGMC

TEHRAN - Iran's electricity consumption has registered a significant year-on-year growth, according to a report by Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC)

The IGMC report said that as much as 69,153 GW of electricity was consumed in Iran at peak hours of Saturday which is more than 9 GW

# Iran's domestic wheat purchase at over \$1.3bn since April

TEHRAN - Iran has purchased some 4.4 million tons of wheat at the worth of over \$1.3 billion from domestic producers since April under the framework of a national plan that guarantees the purchase of domestic production of the crop.

Alireza Mohajer, a senior official with the Agricultural Ministry said on Sunday that the figure is 200,000 tons more than that of last year's corresponding period.

He added that the government has paid over \$500 million to the farmers and the rest sum will be gradually paid to them.

The official noted that the wheat harvest is underway in 25 provinces and will continue until late September.

The southwestern province of Khuzestan has been the number one province in the supply of wheat with 1.6 million tons of



supply, followed by the provinces of Golestan, Fars, and Ilam which ranked second to fourth respectively, the official said, adding that with the beginning of harvest in the temperate provinces, the rankings will change, except for Khuzestan province which is expected to keep it first place.

Wheat production in Iran has

increased by six percent in 2023, putting the Islamic Republic in 14th place among the world's top producers of the strategic grain, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s World Agricultural Production report.

Based on the said report, Iranian farmers managed to produce

14 million tons of wheat in the 2023 crop year, 800,000 tons more than the figure for the previous year in which the total production stood at 13.2 million tons.

According to USDA, Iran was the world's 13th largest wheat producer in 2022.

The department has also predicted that Iran will produce 14 million tons of wheat in 2024, which will not change compared to 2023.

The increase in Iran's wheat production during 2023 comes as the world's total wheat production this year has decreased by about seven million tons to reach 782 million tons.

According to this report, Iran, which is the 18th most populous country in the world, has produced more wheat than many countries including Brazil and Egypt.

## Iran, Tajikistan sign MOU to expand cooperation in geomatic sciences

TEHRAN - Iran and Tajikistan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the field of geomatics.

The MOU was signed by the Director General of the National Cartographic Center of Iran (NCC) Ali Javidaneh and the Chairman of the State Committee for Land Management and Geodesy of Tajikistan.

According to Javidaneh, the MOU is a turning point in enhancing cooperation between the two countries.

The Tajik official also termed the expansion



of bilateral cooperation by implementing the agreement as an important step in solidify-

ing and strengthening the bilateral relations, Mehr news agency reported.

Khojzoda Orif Ashuri added that the two countries enjoy high potential and capabilities to expand their cooperation in the relevant field.

Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Nezamoddin Zohidi, who attended the signing ceremony, expressed hope that Iran and Tajikistan would witness accelerated bilateral cooperation in the field of geomatic sciences and export of technical and engineering services.

## Export of steel products reach 5m tons in 2 months

TEHRAN - Iran exported about five million tons of steel products in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to May 22, 2024), showing a 4.6 percent decrease compared to the same period last year.

The value of semi-finished steel exports has decreased by \$368 million in the first two months of the current year compared to last year's corresponding period, Mehr news agency reported.

Also, 50,000 tons of various types of steel sheets were exported from the country in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Iran exported \$7.6 billion worth of steel products last calendar year ending March 19, according to figures released by the Iranian

Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

The ISPA said on Saturday that the total export value of the steel supply chain rose by 18 percent, describing it as the "most important achievement" within the steel industry.

Based on the figures, the country exported an estimated 30 million metric tons of steel concentrate and pellets, a 66 percent surge from the year before.

The export volumes of medium-carbon steel and steel slabs also increased by 4.3 percent and 23 percent, respectively.

Most notably, the industry boasted a 621 percent rise (more than 7 times) in the volume of concentrate iron ore exports.

According to ISPA, production of steel in Iran increased by 5.8 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year compared to the preceding year.

According to the latest data released by the ISPA, the country's steel production reached 29,334 million tons in the previous year.

Of the mentioned amount, 18,452,000 tons were billet and bloom and 10,882,000 tons were slabs; Billet and bloom production increased by 9.2 percent and slab production increased by 0.7 percent in the previous year.

The production of sponge iron also increased by 8.5 percent in the previous year compared to the figure for the preceding year.

Iran improved its global stand-

ing in steel production, becoming the ninth-largest producer in January 2024, according to new data released by the World Steel Association (WSA).

In the first month of 2024, Iranian steel mills produced a total of 2.6 million tons of steel, registering a 39.3 percent increase compared to the same month of 2023, as reported by the WSA on Monday.

The world's 71 steel-producing countries produced 148.1 million tons of steel in January 2024, indicating a 1.6 percent yearly decline.

Iran was ranked first in terms of production growth among the world's top steel producers in the mentioned period.

## Bangladeshi envoy calls for expansion of trade with Iran

TEHRAN - The ambassador of Bangladesh to Iran has said Iran has no rival in the region, benefits from capable manpower, and has rich natural resources and Bangladesh wishes to expand economic ties with the Islamic Republic.

Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury made the comments in a meeting with the merchants and businesspeople of Iran's Kermanshah province, held at the venue of the Kermanshah Chamber of Commerce.

He added that Iran is an unrivaled country both in terms of rich natural resources and competent manpower.

The envoy went on to say that the two countries have cultural and historical commonalities and established trade and economic ties for many years.

## CIPPC provides opportunity for world journalists to visit Beijing Bell, Drum Towers

By Mahnaz Abdi

BEIJING- A number of journalists from different countries visited Drum Tower and Bell Tower of Beijing in a tour arranged by the China International Press Communication Center (CIPCC).

Lying on the north-south axis line of Beijing City, Bell and Drum Towers are visibly prominent constructions and represent the symbol of this old city. They were built in 1272

and rebuilt twice after two fires. At one period in history they were the time-telling center of the capital city during the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties (1271-1911).

Deploing the sanctions imposed against Iran, he said that they have caused the volume of trade between the two countries to decline.

The trade and economic activities between Iran and Bangladesh were on an upward trajectory before the sanctions period, he said, expressing hope that the trade ties would be revived as Bangladesh can be Iran's trade hub in Southeast Asia.

Addressing traders and businesspersons in this province, the ambassador pointed to the key role of the private sector which can spur trade and economic activities between the two countries.

Chowdhury referred to the activity of traders of his country in the field of supplying food products to the Persian Gulf littoral states and added that once Bangladeshi traders establish economic relations with Iranian traders, they can supply more products from Iran, IRNA reported.

According to the statistics, Iran exports 127 items of goods, valued at about \$40 million, to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is the producer of 10 percent of bicycles in the world and also produces 90 million tons of tea annually, exporting it to 140 countries in the world.

Clothing (garment), textiles, aquatics and frozen fish are among other products exported by Bangladesh worldwide.

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

# Tsunami of resistance drowns Israel's war cabinet

## Netanyahu scraps war cabinet amid Gaza war failures

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN - The decision made by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to dissolve his six-member war cabinet has highlighted growing rifts in Israel amid the regime's failure to achieve its goals in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli premier's move to disband the war cabinet comes over a week after opposition leader Benny Gantz withdrew from it.

On June 9, while announcing his resignation, Gantz accused Netanyahu, known as Bibi, of mismanaging the war effort and putting his own "political survival" over Israel's security needs.

"The [war] cabinet was in the coalition agreement with Gantz at his request. As soon as Gantz left - there is no need for a cabinet anymore," Netanyahu told ministers on Sunday, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Another Israeli newspaper touched upon the process of decision-making following the dissolution of the war cabinet.



According to Haaretz, some of the issues previously discussed by the body would be transferred for discussion in the security cabinet. It includes far-right ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich who have opposed ceasefire deals and voiced support for reoccupying Gaza.

### War cabinet establishment

The war cabinet was formed days after Israel launched its brutal onslaught on Gaza on October 7 in the wake of a surprise military operation carried out by Hamas in southern Israel dubbed

the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation.

The body originally included Netanyahu, war minister Yoav Gallant, and Gantz, who made important decisions, as well as three observer members; one of whom stepped down with Gantz. It was tasked with steering the Gaza conflict.

### Netanyahu's elusive goals

Since the early days of the war, Netanyahu has said achieving "total victory" over Hamas and "destroying" the resistance group are his priorities.

But more than eight months into the war, Israel has not only failed to defeat Hamas but it continues to suffer crushing blows at the hands of resistance fighters in the Gaza battlefield. It now seems that Israel is being consumed by a tsunami of resistance.

### Israel's intel. isolation

Israel's mass massacres in Gaza have also deepened the regime's isolation.

The Israeli army has butchered more than 37,300 Palestinians in Gaza since early October, many of them women and children.

Israel stands accused of genocide by the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The International Criminal Court (ICC) has also requested arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. More countries have also announced that they will recognize Palestine as a state.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

## Funerals held for 13 Israeli soldiers

### Hamas "successfully rebuilt" presence in Gaza Strip

TEHRAN- Funerals are being held for more than a dozen Israeli soldiers who have died since Saturday as a result of battles in the Gaza Strip.

The latest deaths have raised further pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On Monday, Israeli demonstrators blocked the main highway connecting Tel Aviv to occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem) in protest against the Netanyahu government.

Eight Israeli soldiers who were inside a heavily fortified Namer armored personnel carrier were all killed on Saturday.

A probe by the Israeli occupation forces (IOF) says the advanced \$3 million combat vehicle was traveling as part of a convoy to Palestinian buildings captured by the Israeli military when it burst into flames.

According to the IOF, it was not immediately clear if a bomb was planted before the convoy arrived or Palestinian fighters approached the Israeli Namer with an explosive device, placing it directly on the armored personnel carrier.

According to Israeli media, which has been placed under tight censorship over war casualties, the attack led to the single deadliest incident for the IOF in months.

The al-Qassam brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, claimed responsibility for the operation. In a statement, it said that its fighters carried out a complex ambush against Israeli vehicles penetrating the area of the Saudi neighborhood in Tell al-Sultan, west of the city of Rafah.

According to the resistance group, an Israeli D9 military bulldozer was targeted by an al-Yassin 105 shell, causing it to catch fire and resulting in casualties among its crew.

The al-Qassam brigades says immediately upon the arrival of the rescue force, a Namer armored personnel carrier was targeted with an al-Yassin 105 shell, which led to its full destruction and the killing of 11 Israeli troops.

Separately, the Israeli military announced on Sunday that two soldiers were killed and two others sustained injuries during battles in northern Gaza.

It is another reflection of the presence of Hamas and its ability to carry on fighting in the northern part of the enclave.

This is despite the region being the first target of the ferocious Israeli bombardment and ground invasion.

The IOF has repeatedly bombarded and invaded northern Gaza since the start of the war in October.

### "Thousands of soldiers in the Israeli army return from Gaza suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder."

Another soldier was killed in the southern city of Rafah on Sunday, according to the IOF.

A twelfth soldier also succumbed to his wounds during fierce combat with the Palestinian resistance forces five days earlier.

Meanwhile, Israeli news platforms, under the condition of "allowed to publish" reported the suicide of another soldier after returning from combat in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli news platforms clarified on Monday that the soldier shot himself to death, just 24 hours after being discharged on leave from Gaza.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz revealed that more than 10 officers and soldiers have committed suicide since October 7, 2023.

The newspaper highlighted another case of a soldier's suicide in the Israeli army reserves last week.

The IOF ground invasion of Gaza and intense confrontations waged by the Palestinian resistance are widely believed to have caused widespread psychological crises among Israeli soldiers.

The regime's news outlet Jerusalem Post reported on June 15 about an epidemic of post-traumatic stress disorders affecting thousands of occupation soldiers as a result of their participation in the war on Gaza.

It has also been reported by the Israeli organization Nefesh B'Nefesh that "thousands of soldiers in the Israeli army return from Gaza suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder."

The organization added that "more than 10,000 reserve soldiers have sought mental health services."

Other reports have cited army figures as saying 30,000 soldiers have been treated for mental health issues since the war began.

Amid the latest casualties, the death toll of Israeli soldiers since the start of the war on Gaza on October 7 has risen to more than 660. This includes over 311 soldiers killed since the beginning of the ground invasion.

Furthermore, 3,617 soldiers have been wounded, according to the IOF figures. An Israeli report citing hospital data revealed that more than 20,000 have been disabled.

A Palestinian affairs analyst for Israeli Channel 12, Ohad Hemo, said on Sunday that Hamas has successfully rebuilt its presence in the Gaza Strip.

He emphasized that Israeli expectations over the invasion of Rafah and the ground operations there are misleading the public.

Hemo detailed how Hamas has re-established its presence in many areas and has regained a level of control, presence, and armament in central Gaza, Deir al-Balah, and the central refugee camps.

"In this sense, those who pinned their hopes on the battle in Rafah have misled the public, suggesting that it would change the entire picture," Hemo added.

Almost nine months since the genocidal Israeli war on Gaza, growing public and political delusion over Netanyahu's alleged success in the enclave has been reflected by the Israeli premier's dissolution of the war cabinet created after October 7.

## American lawmakers are serving Israeli interests and not America's

### America must take control of its foreign policy before July 24

From page 1 ► punished. Israel can hardly be classified as a stalwart ally—it attacked an American ship (SS Liberty) in 1967 killing 34 U.S. sailors and wounding another 171, refused to support us at the UN Security Council after Russia invaded Ukraine and ignores our pleadings during the Gaza

War to change course. Our inseparable bond to Israel, no matter its actions, not only does not enhance our national security but endangers it. Our support is condemned by much of the world, especially by the Global South who see Israel as a rogue colonial settler country. The only

credible reason for our support for Israel is the power of the Israeli lobby in the United States.

While it is true that many illegitimate Arab rulers see the Palestinian conflict and Palestinians as irritants and a danger to their rule, Arabs and two billion Muslims in the world are overwhelming supporters of the Palestinian stipulation for their own viable country.

Since the deplorable events of October 7 last year, our support for Israel has been ratcheted up to a new high and is in danger of causing America great harm. Yes, we have supplied more and more 2,000 pound

bunker buster bombs and every other lethal weapon that has enabled Israel to butcher over 37,000 Palestinians, largely women and children and to kill UN and other aid workers. Meanwhile, illegal Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank have been on a rampage, killing and incarcerating hundreds of Palestinians with the support of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Israel has also restricted food supplies to malnourished Gazans, and the United States cannot persuade its "ally," Israel, to let in more food trucks and protect their distribution despite the rampant famine in Gaza.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Nearly 200 UNRWA workers killed by Israel

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) says Israel has killed nearly 200 of its workers since declaring war on Gaza on October 7.

"Gaza is the most dangerous place in the world for aid workers. Since the war began, 193 UNRWA colleagues have been killed - the highest death toll in UN history, UNRWA wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

It added, "Despite this, our colleagues keep working to support families & provide aid amid the dire humanitarian crisis."

alleged to have died as a result of being forced out of Greek territorial waters, or taken back out to sea after reaching Greek islands, according to a BBC analysis.

The Greek coastguard strongly rejected all accusations of illegal activities.

The BBC said it showed footage of 12 people being loaded into a Greek coastguard boat, and then abandoned on a dinghy, to a former senior Greek coastguard officer. When he got up from his chair, and with his mic still on, he said it was "obviously illegal" and "an international crime".

The Greek government has long been accused of forced returns - pushing people back towards Turkey, where they have crossed from, which is illegal under international law.

The 15 incidents the BBC analyzed - dated May 2020-23 - resulted in 43 deaths. The initial sources were primarily local media, NGOs and the Turkish coastguard.

### Russia: Rejected peace proposal will bring tougher terms

The conditions of the next peace proposal for Ukraine if the current one is rejected will be more complex and harsh, Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) Director Sergey Naryshkin told TASS.

"The conditions on which peace can be achieved and some sort of a peace agreement may be signed will become more complex and tough for Ukraine," he said, replying to a question as to what will happen if Ukraine refuses Russian President Vladimir Putin's peace proposal.

Putin promised Friday to "immediately" order a ceasefire in Ukraine and begin negotiations if Kyiv started withdrawing troops from the four regions annexed by Moscow in 2022 and renounced plans to join NATO.

Ukraine responded by calling Putin's proposal "manipulative" and "absurd."

### BBC report: Greek coastguard threw migrants overboard to their deaths

The Greek coastguard has caused the deaths of dozens of migrants in the Mediterranean over a three-year period, witnesses said including nine who were deliberately thrown into the water.

The nine are among more than 40 people

### Israel threatens to expand West Bank settlements

Israel said it is looking to "strengthen" Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank after several countries recognized a Palestinian state.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said all of the proposals for strengthening settlements would be voted on at the next security cabinet meeting, CNN reported.

Norway, Ireland, Spain and Slovenia have each recognized an independent Palestinian state in recent weeks.

Israel's far-right finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, said in May that Israel should approve 10,000 settlements in the West Bank, establish a new settlement for every country that recognizes a state of Palestine, and cancel travel permits for Palestinian Authority officials.

### Putin visiting N. Korea

Russian President Vladimir Putin is making a two-day official visit to North Korea.

According to the Kremlin and North Korean media, Putin holds talks with North Korean officials including its leader Kim Jong-un.

Putin last visited North Korea in 2000, when he became the first Russian or Soviet leader to visit the nation. The trip highlights North Korea's growing strategic importance for Putin.

### Australia must recognize Palestine to promote peace: senator

From page 1 ► My party, the Australian Labor Party, has consistently argued that such motions are political machinations on the part of the Greens in order to score "cheap points" and sway the public.

Even if that were the case, this "politicizing" does not detract from the underlying fact that a genocide is ongoing, and the Australian public knows it. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been slaughtered, among them 15,000 children.

Australians have seen for themselves the image of seven-year-old Sidra Hassouna hanging from a wall with her legs blown off and the footage of a man holding the corpse of 18-month-old Ahmad beheaded by an Israeli bombing. They have heard the sound of six-year-old Hind Rajab's last words, desperately pleading for help as Israeli tanks closed in on her.

Social media is rife with images and videos of children with multiple limbs amputated. Entire families have been wiped off the registry. According to the Geneva-based Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, more than 70,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on Gaza between Oct 2023 and April 2024.

Australians have read the endless human

rights reports from the likes of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and even Israel's own B'Tselem describing the governance in Israel as akin to "apartheid" and Gaza as an "open-air prison".

They have heard Israeli ministers calling for the ethnic cleansing and occupation of Gaza. They have seen the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rule that there is a plausible case of genocide in Gaza. They have watched the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) request arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes.

France has affirmed its support for the ICC. Sweden has done the same. Germany has announced it would arrest Netanyahu if the ICC warrant is issued. US Senator Elizabeth Warren has stated that there is ample evidence for international courts to find Israel guilty of genocide.

Renowned American Professor John Mearshimer who came to Australia's Centre for Independent Studies, has emphatically asserted that Israel is choosing between apartheid and ethnic cleansing in its treatment of Palestinians.

*(See full text at tehrantimes.com)*

## Mohammadreza Riazi, veteran cultural heritage expert, dies at 75



TEHRAN – Mohammadreza Riazi, a distinguished expert in the Iranian cultural heritage, has passed away due to cardiac arrest, at the age of 75.

In that regard, the National Museum of Iran issued a statement on Sunday, expressing condolences and confirming that Riazi died on Saturday.

Born in 1949 in the village of Kesheh, Isfahan province, Riazi had a long and illustrious career in the fields of archaeology and cultural heritage.

Holding a bachelor's and master's degree in geography, Riazi furthered his education by obtaining a master's degree in archaeology from the University of Tehran in the 1990s.

He also taught archaeology, museology, architecture, and art research at various universities across the country. Riazi's professional achievements are extensive. He served as the head of the National Museum of Iran's library, a member of the museum's research council, and Iran's representative on UNESCO's Memory of the World Committee.

In addition to his academic and administrative roles, Riazi was a prolific author, with over 70 books and articles on Iranian and global art and civilization.

He leaves behind a lasting legacy in various fields of cultural heritage and archaeology, influencing countless students, researchers, and enthusiasts through his teaching and publications.

## Sheikh Makan castle set for restoration

TEHRAN – The ruins of Sheikh Makan castle, located six kilometers southeast of Darreh Shahr, Ilam, are slated to undergo restoration.

The project will focus on the protection, repair, and structural reinforcement of this historical edifice, a local official said on Sunday. "The project will be implemented under the supervision of the Technical Council of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department of Ilam province."

Nestled on the hillside of Kabirkuh within the village of Sheikh Makan, the three-story structure, also known as Pour Ashraf castle, spans an area of 1,470 square meters, featuring a semi-square form and a single-style patch.

The facade of the building is adorned with three levels of stone inscriptions framed in plaster, featuring Nastaliq-scripted poems that provide details

about its construction and the builder's name.

According to the inscription, the monument was constructed by Mohammad Khan Pour Ashraf, who was bestowed the title Ashraf ol-Ashayer by Ahmad Shah Qajar.

The entrance on the north side of the castle includes three doors, with two now sealed that once led to stables, and one open for public access. Visitors pass through a rectangular corridor and hall to reach the central yard. The first floor embraces administrative and military sections, while the second floor serves as the residential area for Mohammad Khan's family. The southwestern side of the castle included a kitchen, rooms for military forces, restrooms, and stables, with a detention center located in the basement.

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

# Urgent need for attention: land subsidence threatens Naqsh-e Rostam

TEHRAN – Alireza Askari Chaverdi, the director of the Persepolis and Naqsh-e Rostam historical sites, has reported a critical funding cut for Persepolis while emphasizing the necessity of treating the land subsidence crisis at Naqsh-e Rostam as an international project.

The situation's urgency at Naqsh-e Rostam calls for viewing the preservation efforts on a national and international scale, Mehr quoted the official as saying on Tuesday.

"The ongoing land subsidence and water management issues, coupled with recent budget constraints, complicate these efforts."

"However, we recently conducted a ground scan to the best of our abilities with the current budget," Askari Chaverdi said.

Naqsh-e Rostam, a site of immense historical importance, faces serious threats from drought-induced land subsidence, which has caused significant ground fissures and landslides. These issues have raised considerable concern regarding the preservation of the ancient stone carvings and royal tombs at this treasured site.

Chaverdi explained that despite the geographical distance between Persepolis and Naqsh-e Rostam, archaeological studies indicate that the entire region was historically part of a broader area known as Parseh.

"This area was a hub of culture and knowledge, contributing significantly to Iran's history, including advancements in writing, architecture, astronomy, and science."

Given the historical significance of Naqsh-e Rostam and the ex-



tensive preservation work needed, the project's scope must be recognized as both national and international," Chaverdi stressed. He also noted that despite their limited resources, they have initiated exploratory programs, including a recent ground scan completed two days ago, and archaeological excavations to assess the depth and extent of the fissures.

Chaverdi said that some of the site's geological faults date back to ancient times, including the Achaemenid era, while others are related to activities from the past century. He highlighted the extensive nature of the Naqsh-e Rostam site, arguing that it cannot be adequately preserved with minimal funding.

Since the national budget allocation for Persepolis was cut two years ago, Chaverdi pointed out that the responsibility now falls on the local authorities.

He called for a dedicated budget line for Persepolis and Naqsh-e Rostam to ensure better management and preservation of these invaluable historical sites.

In May, Chaverdi announced the implementation of a comprehensive plan aimed at "re-organizing

and securing" the Naqsh-e Rostam historical site. This ancient necropolis, renowned for its rock-cut tombs, bas-reliefs, and the Ka'ba-ye Zoroaster, is now receiving updated and safer pathways for tourists, the official added.

Chaverdi detailed the recent improvements, stating, "We have redesigned and installed new guide signs. Additionally, site furnishings have been repaired and renovated, and the area has been cleared of weeds." These efforts are part of a broader initiative to enhance the visitor experience while ensuring the preservation of this invaluable historical site.

Naqsh-e Rostam stands as a testament to ancient craftsmanship, featuring a series of breathtaking Sassanid bas-relief carvings. The site houses four imposing tombs, believed to be the final resting places of Persian Achaemenid kings—Darius II, Artaxerxes I, Darius I, and Xerxes I—arranged left to right along the cliff face. However, scholarly debate continues regarding their precise identities.

Above these majestic tombs, intricate bas-reliefs echo the grandeur of Persepolis, portraying kings seated on thrones, upheld

by figures symbolizing the diverse nations under their rule. Additionally, two similar graves, likely belonging to Artaxerxes II and Artaxerxes III, lie within the vicinity of Persepolis.

Beneath the solemn funerary chambers, seven Sassanian-era bas-reliefs adorn the cliffside, vividly depicting imperial conquests and regal ceremonies. Informative signboards accompany each scene, offering detailed descriptions in English to enhance the educational experience for visitors.

At the base of Naqsh-e Rostam stands the enigmatic Ka'ba-ye Zardusht, or the Kaaba of Zoroaster. This square structure, approximately 12 meters tall and 7 meters wide, likely dates back to the early 6th century BC and features inscriptions from various periods thereafter. Despite its historical significance, the original function of Ka'ba-ye Zardusht remains a mystery. Some speculate it served as a tomb for Achaemenian royalty or as an altar, potentially dedicated to the goddess Anahiti, associated with royalty, war, and fertility.

The name Naqsh-e Rostam, translating to "Picture of Rostam," pays homage to the legendary Iranian hero celebrated in the Shahnameh and Persian mythology. Ancient locals mistakenly believed the carvings beneath the tombs depicted scenes from Rostam's tales.

These recent efforts to enhance and secure Naqsh-e Rostam underscore the ongoing commitment to preserving Iran's rich cultural heritage. By improving access and providing detailed information, the site continues to educate and inspire visitors from around the world.

## Isfahan comes out on top of national tourism marketing ranking

TEHRAN – Shining bright, Isfahan province, situated in central Iran, has come out on top of the tourism marketing ranking nationwide throughout the past Persian calendar year (ended in March).

"Isfahan province, took the top spot on the national tourism marketing and advertising ranking," a local official in charge of tourism, speaking on Sunday, brought to light.

Alireza Habibi further elaborated that the ranking is based on marketing measures assessment among all the provinces within the country.

The assessment processes, he further elaborated, included eight main and 25 sub-indicators.

Habibi in his concluding remarks, attributed the achievement to proper planning, efforts with an eye toward drawing inbound tourists, investments and researches in tourism tar-

get markets and promoting Isfahan as a tourism pillar.

Isfahan, once a bustling crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran, has evolved into one of the country's premier tourist destinations, drawing visitors from far and wide. Renowned for its wealth of architectural marvels, including unparalleled Islamic edifices, bustling bazaars, enriching museums, picturesque Persian gardens, and charming tree-lined boulevards, Isfahan offers a tapestry of experiences for the discerning traveler.

Situated along the banks of the Zayandeh-Rood, Isfahan, the provincial capital, boasts not only a plethora of historic bridges but also owes much of its allure to the life-giving river, which has endowed the city with an innate beauty and fertility. Dubbed Nesf-e-Jahan, or "Half the World," Isfahan's grandeur in its prime rivaled

that of cities twice its size, boasting a population nearing one million.

The iconic blue tiles adorning Isfahan's Islamic structures and its stately bridges stand in stark contrast to the arid expanse of the surrounding Iranian countryside. At the heart of the city lies the expansive Imam Square, also known as Naghsh-e Jahan Square, spanning an impressive 500 meters by 160 meters. Dating back to the early 17th century, this UNESCO-recognized square is adorned with Isfahan's most captivating landmarks, offering a glimpse into the city's rich history and architectural splendor.

Beyond its cultural treasures, the city has emerged as a leading hub for medical tourism, boasting a cutting-edge healthcare complex that attracts patients from around the globe, solidifying its status as a premier destination in the realm of medical tourism.

Second Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER

No.: 52484126

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

This Company Intends to Purchase the Refractory Items Required Steel-Making Shop by Holding a Public International Tender By selecting One Or More Companies from Top Domestic or Foreign Manufacturing Companies That Have the Appropriate and Acceptable Abilities in Terms of Records and Experience.

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

**Note 1:** The Closing Date for Declaration of Readiness to Participate in The Tender Is **29. June.2024**. Deadline For Receipt the Tender Documents Is **03. July.2024**. All Financial and Technical Bids Must Be Delivered to The Address: RAW MATERIAL PURCHASING DEPARTMENT- KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY (KSC)- KM10 AHVAZ & BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI ROAD- AHWAZ – IRAN P.O.BOX: 1378 - POST CODE: 61788-13111 On Before the Closing Date **21. July.2024**. The Opening Date of Technical Offer Envelopes Will Be At **11:00 AM On The 23. July.2024**

**Note 2:** THE OFFERED PRICE SHOULD BE VALID UP TO **4 MONTHS AFTER OPENING DATE**

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

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

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

- Siba account number: 0102513186002 (Siba number: **IR540170000000102513186002**)
- Sepehr account number: 0100304453001 (Sepehr number: **IR430190000000100304453001**)

**Note 3:** FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING CHANNELS:

Tel No.: +98-61-32136124

EMAIL: [n.roomani@ksc.ir](mailto:n.roomani@ksc.ir)

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



**ESFAHAN'S MOBARAKEH STEEL CO.**  
(Public Joint Stock)

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY intend to purchase 30,000 tons of Calcined Petroleum Coke with tender no 48601290, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP)** until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Monday 08. July .2024 (Monday 18.04.1403).

**Contact Details:**

Contact Person: Ms. Khorasani

Email: [n.khorasani@msc.ir](mailto:n.khorasani@msc.ir)

Cell Phone/WhatsApp: 00989134083545

Note:

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY reserves the right of return or rejection of those tender

documents in which haven't observed at least one of items of covering letter.

ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS

(1403-14)

# Wetland being restored after 25 years

TEHRAN – Having been dried up for nearly 25 years, the Dargah Lotfollah wetland, located in Naqadeh county, northwestern West Azarbaijan province, is being revived, an official with the provincial department of environment has said.

Stretching over 25 hectares, the wetland has been restored through collaborative efforts of the West Azarbaijan department of environment and Lake Urmia Restoration Headquarters, IRIB quoted Saeed Shahand as saying.

Approximately, one and a half million cubic meters of water have entered the wetland, filling it by almost 80 percent. In the next few days, 500 more million cubic meters of water will flow into the wetland to fill its full capacity.

It is one of the satellite wetlands (surrounding wetlands) of Lake Urmia National Park, which is ecologically located along the bird migration route.

The wetland annually hosts native and migratory birds, including flamingos and pelicans.

Highlighting the role of people in the restoration of wetlands, Shahand said, "In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the participation of local communities and native people highly contributed to the restoration of the wetland."

"This is a typical example of the popularization of environmental protection and the restoration of wetlands," the official added.



He went on to say the wetland's water right is supplied by the Godar river in Naqadeh. With the arrangements made, the allocated water is released into the wetland.

## Preservation of wetlands with an ecosystem approach

The ecosystem approach for the protection and management of 46 wetlands across the country is being used.

The approach is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization, which encompass the essential structure, processes, functions, and interactions among organisms and their environment.

It was launched in the Iranian calendar year 1384 (March 2005-March 2006) in Parishan and Shadegan wetlands as well as Lake Urmia, ISNA reported.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines the eco-

system approach as "a strategy for the integrated management of land, water, and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way".

It goes beyond examining single issues, species, or ecosystem functions in isolation. Instead, it recognizes ecological systems for what they are: rich mixes of elements that interact with each other continuously. This understanding is particularly important for coasts and seas, where the nature of water keeps systems and functions connected.

The Approach is also a way of making decisions in order to manage human activities sustainably. It recognizes that human activities both affect the ecosystem and depend on it. Thus, it aims to improve the way human activities are managed for the protection of the marine environment.

In 2015, the DOE initiated an

effort with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) aiming to preserve and revive the country's wetlands.

In the next phase in 2017, the government of Japan supported the project focusing on the sustainable management of water and soil resources around Urmia Lake as well as Shadegan and Bakhtegan wetlands.

It is a five-year plan, voluntarily supported by Japan, to take advantage of both their financial and technical assistance, ISNA quoted Mojtaba Zoljoodi, an official with the Department of Environment, as saying. Three years have passed since the implementation of the project, he added.

"To implement the program in the remaining two years, we are consulting with the government of Japan and other governments that are willing to cooperate with Iran to be able to implement the project properly.

The plan to conserve Iran's wetlands is one of the good practical projects that, if continues, can help not only the wetlands of Iran but also the wetlands of other countries."

The results of the implementation of the project in 200 villages concerning water consumption have shown that a good amount of water in the agriculture sector has been saved. In addition, productivity, quality of the products, and the economic income of the family have increased.

## Promoting intl. cooperation to combat SDSs

From page 1 ▶ "The earth has a certain capacity with clear resilience and resistance to cope with shocks.

The extent to utilize the earth's capacity is also known," Salajeqeh noted.

Currently, drought and desertification, as a part of a prevalent phenomenon called climate change, are imposed on the world, including our country, he noted.

The official went on to say that human impacts on climate change are limited, however, the way they treat the environment can intensify and hasten the changes.

Stressing that climate change has occurred in different geological periods, Salajeqeh stated, "Currently, the earth is undergoing the consequences of climate change, the two results of which are low precipitation which has resulted in drought; and increasing temperature that has changed seasonal patterns.

To moderate the impacts of climate change, human lifestyle from home activities to large-scale management needs to consider the current conditions like reduced water resources, raised temperature, extreme or lack of precipitation, and snowfall.

There are several ways to achieve this goal at all levels including policymaking, the presentation of the program, and its implementation.

Water-intensive crops should not cultivated; clean fuels should be used. Underground water sources should be consumed in such a way that erosion is minimized, and restoration of nature is maximized.

Water and soil resources and fossil fuels should not be used as in normal conditions, there should be a shift from fossil fuels to renewable energies.

This way, threats can be turned into opportunities and a non-wasteful lifestyle will be promoted.

Enhancing collaborations among different organizations to manage dust storms produced by internal dust zones effectively; holding bilateral and multilateral meetings with the officials of Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, Qatar, and Kuwait, and implementing the agreements concluded with these countries to address the SDSs are among taken actions by the DOE.

Furthermore, Iran is planning to hold a joint training workshop with the presence of senior representatives of the beneficiary countries in September.

Representatives of Syria, Iraq, Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will participate in the workshop.

**United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future.** Desertification, land degradation, and



drought are among the most pressing environmental challenges of our time, with up to 40 percent of all land areas worldwide already considered degraded.

Healthy land not only provides us with almost 95 percent of our food but so much more: it clothes and shelters us, provides jobs and livelihoods and protects us from worsening droughts, floods, and wildfires.

At the same time, growing populations coupled with unsustainable production and consumption patterns fuel the demand for natural resources, putting excessive pressure on land to the point of degradation.

Desertification and drought are driving forced migration, putting tens of millions of people each year at risk of displacement.

This year, the theme of Desertification and Drought Day "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future" spotlights the future of land stewardship — our most precious resource to ensure the stability and prosperity of billions of people around the world.

## Iran ranks 14th for most-cited institutes worldwide

TEHRAN –The number of top Iranian universities and research institutes in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database has increased from 115 last year to 134 this year, ranking the country 14th worldwide, and second among Islamic countries, the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) has reported.

Essential Science Indicators, or ESI, is a fundamental analysis and evaluation tool that reveals emerging science trends, as well as the performance of influential individuals, academic institutions, papers, journals, countries, and regions in various fields of scientific research.

A total of 9,019 universities and research institutes in all subject areas are ranked by the ESI database in a ten-year period, from 2014 to 2024.

Iran's top universities and research institutes are present in 19 subject areas, and the largest number is in the clinical medicine subject area with 74 universities and research institutes.

The number of institutions in the subject areas of engineering was 67, chemistry 57, agricultural sciences 29, materials sciences 28, pharmacology and toxicology 27, social sciences, general sciences 21.

Also, the number of institutions in the fields of plant and animal sciences, and environment/ecology 20 each, neuroscience and behavior 18, biology and biochemistry 17, computer science 15, immunology 10, geology 8, molecular biology and genetics and physics 5 each, microbiology and psychiatry and psychology 3 each and mathematics one.

The ranking includes 35 Islamic countries. Turkey ranks first among Islamic nations, followed by Iran in second place.

Also, Turkey with 149 universities and research institutes ranks 12th in the world.

Egypt (with 48 universities and research institutes) ranks 25th, Pakistan (with 46 universities) ranks 27th, and Saudi Arabia (with 45 universities) ranks 38th, respectively.

### Recent rankings

The Times Higher Education (THE) included 33 universities from Iran among the top 1,500 universities pursuing sustainable development goals (SDG) compared to 27 universities in 2023.

THE evaluated 2,152 universities from 125 countries to produce the overall Impact Ranking for 2024.

A total of 29 Iranian universities were mentioned in the overall table including Alzahra University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Kerman University of Medical Sciences (ranking 401- 600); Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili, and University of Tehran (ranking 601 -800); Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences, Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University, Sharif University of Technology, University of Kurdistan, Zanjan University of Medical Sciences (ranking 801-1000), Mehr news agency reported.

Amirkabir University of Technology and Sharif University of Technology achieved the highest ranking in industry innovation and infrastructure, where they are placed 27.

The 21st edition of the QS World University Rankings (2025) placed nine Iranian univer-

sities among the world's top institutes, compared with seven universities in 2024.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

These institutions' rankings in West Asia were as follows.

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

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

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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## COVID-19 takes lowest toll on foreign nationals in Iran

Iran had the lowest coronavirus cases and mortality among refugees and foreign nationals compared to the population it is hosting, Mehdi Mahmoudi, Director of Citizens and Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior has said.

Referring to the measures taken for non-Iranian citizens during the pandemic, he said that since the very beginning, when the country became infected with the disease, the community of foreign nationals in our country was no exception to this issue, and prevention programs and necessary measures have been taken for this group.

## ایران کمترین تلفات کرونا اتباع خارجی را داشته‌است

مهدی محمودی مدیرکل امور اتباع و مهاجرین وزارت کشور گفت در خصوص ابتلا به بیماری کرونا در بین اتباع خارجی، ایران کمترین ابتلا و کمترین تلفات را نسبت به جمعیت داشته‌است.

او در گفت‌وگو با ایلنا درباره اقدامات صورت گرفته برای اتباع غیرایرانی در ایام کرونا گفت: از همان ابتدا که کشور درگیر این بیماری شد، جامعه اتباع خارجی هم در کشور ما مستثنی از این موضوع نبود و برنامه‌های پیشگیری و تمهیدات لازم نیز برای این گروه نیز در نظر گرفته شده است.



## Lake Urmia in good condition

Thanks to normal rainfall in spring this year, the level of water in Lake Urmia has been rising compared to the past six months.

The lake started to dry up in the 2000s. It is the largest salt lake in West Asia and the sixth-largest in the world.



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JUNE 18, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Friendship is impossible with a liar.  
Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times > Noon:12:06 Evening: 19:44 Dawn: 3:02 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:48 (tomorrow)

## Arghavan Story Writing Award concludes with celebration of literary talent

TEHRAN- The 6th edition of the Arghavan Story Writing Award came to an end in a ceremony in Tehran on Saturday evening, honoring the winners and paying tribute to literary figure Ebrahim Golestan and stage director Reza Haddad.

The award was given to young writers Mohaddeseh Noruzi, Ali Molla Salehi, and Aida Roshdi in the first, second, and third places, respectively.

The ceremony also featured a sharing session with previous winners of the award, who expressed their gratitude for the honor and urged young writers to continue writing and persevere despite challenges.

Farhad Tohidi, a member of the selection committee, presented an overview of the stories submitted to this year's edition, noting that while the number of submissions was lower than in previous years, the quality of stories was higher. Tohidi also expressed disappointment at finding errors in grammar and spelling in some

submissions and urged young writers to pay attention to language and writing rules.

A tribute was paid to Ebrahim Golestan, the late UK-based Iranian filmmaker and literary figure, by one of his friends, who shared stories about their years of friendship and admiration for Golestan.

Moreover, in his speech, Ebrahim Haqiqi, a member of the award's council, praised late stage director Reza Haddad's contributions to Iranian literature and his support for the Arghavan award. Haqiqi noted that individuals like Haddad continue to inspire young writers and live on through their work.

Hossein Sanapour, representing the judges' panel, delivered a statement about the state of book reading in Iran, highlighting the economic and political challenges that make it difficult for many readers to access books. Sanapour encouraged young writers to continue writing despite these challenges.

## Iranshahr Theater Complex to host Matei Visniec's "Pockets Full of Bread"

TEHRAN- Iranshahr Theater Complex in Tehran will host the play "Pockets Full of Bread" written by Matei Visniec from July 2 to August 14.

Originally written in 1984, the play is a realistic drama, a satire about human nature, talking about people...sometimes cynical, sometimes shallow, witty and ridiculous, generous and coward in the same time

Directed by Alireza Goudarzi, the play has Sara Bahrami, Farzin Mohaddes, and Ali Heydari in the cast, Honaronline reported.

The 65-minute performance follows Man with Hat and Man with Stick as they try to decide what to do about the situation they have happened upon: a dog stuck at the bottom of a well. The two men rage at the cruelty of humankind, bicker about the best method to go down into the well, and contemplate whether or not the dog actually wants to be saved; but they end up doing nothing other than throwing down some bits of bread.

The inevitable comparison is with Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," which features similarly surreal discussion between the two characters (Man with Stick and Man with Hat spend several minutes discussing whether or not blind dogs actually exist).

The play creates a sad and ludicrous universe, its two characters resemble Vladimir and Estragon from Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," experiencing an absurd revelation, engaged in a game of power and free will. Conversing about absurd life events, "Pockets Full of Breads" has some very crunchy lines penned by Visniec.

Matei Visniec, 68, is a Romanian-French playwright, poet and journalist living in Paris. He graduated in 1980 from the History and Philosophy Faculty of the University of Bucharest. Between 1977 and 1987 he wrote 8 plays in two or three acts, about twenty short plays, and some screenplays, but all were turned down by the censors. In 1987 he was invited to France by a literary foundation.

## Cartoon of Day



Gaza

Cartoonist: Mohammad Sabaaneh from Palestine

# Iranian Animation "In the Shadow of the Cypress" wins at Tribeca Film Festival

TEHRAN-The Iranian short animation "In the Shadow of the Cypress," directed by Shirin Sohani and Hossein Molayemi won an award at the 23rd Tribeca Film Festival, held in New York, the U.S., from June 5 to 16.

Produced by the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, the flick won the Best Animated Short at the American event, ISNA reported.

"For using a distinctive visual style, unique imagery and exceptional sound design to bring to life a poignant family relationship, characterized by love and protection amidst an effective portrayal of the profound impact of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on both the individual and those around them," the jury said in a statement.

The 20-minute animation is the story of an ex-captain suffering PTSD who lives with his daughter in a modest house by the sea. He wants to be a caring father but they have to face the challenges of a harsh life. One day, something unexpected happens. It can be either a new trouble or a blessing in disguise.

At this year's edition of the



festival, renowned Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi served as a jury member in the International Narrative Competition section, in which the Best International Narrative Feature award went to "Bikechess," by Assel Aushakimova from Kazakhstan.

The jury statement about the film read: "This film caught the jury unaware. With a lightness of style and use of cinematic language that led us into a society

of oppressed youth and passive leadership. With stylish performances, and generous cinematography, we met a country and the state of the world."

This year's festival jury included a diverse roster of groundbreaking filmmakers, award-winning actors, celebrated multi-hyphenate producers, and leaders from entertainment, including David O. Russell, Selma Blair, Kim Cattrall, Chinonye

Chukwu, Nisha Pahuja, Niyatu Jusu, Sheila Nevins, Francesca Scorsese, Clara McGregor, and more.

For more than two decades, Tribeca Festival has been a destination for new, groundbreaking storytelling from established and emerging artists. Tribeca will continue to explore creative innovation across film, TV, immersive, games, audio storytelling, talks, and more.

## Late scholar's library donated to Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia

TEHRAN- The late scholar Azartash Azarnush's library was donated to the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia.

The library, comprising 4,648 volumes of books and journals, as well as research notes and articles was dedicated to the center by the late scholar's family, Mehr reported on Friday.

The library, which was donated to benefit scholars, is mainly focused on Arabic language and literature, a field in which Azarnush was an expert.

Azarnush, who joined the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia in its early years and became a member of its faculty, was appointed as the head of the Arabic Literature section in 1985. He was also a key member of the center's high scientific council until his passing.

Azarnush passed away in 2021, at the age of 84.

This generous donation is a testament to

Dr. Azarnush's dedication to academic pursuits and his commitment to sharing his knowledge with future generations.

Located in Tehran, the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia (CGIE) is a leading research institution dedicated to exploring and publishing comprehensive encyclopedias on Iranian and Islamic culture. With one of the largest libraries on these topics, the center attracts scholars from around the region and is renowned for its contributions to the field.

The center was founded in 1983 by the late Kazem Mousavi Bojnourdi, who envisioned a hub for scholars to gather and share knowledge on the vast subject of human civilization and culture. He believed that a scientific center would be essential to gather and organize information on the current state of knowledge, as well as the definitions and jargon used in various fields.

The center is directed by the High Council, composed of 54 members, including four

women and 50 men, who are selected and appointed based on their academic studies and research interests. The council is comprised of renowned scientists and theological scholars from around the world.

The center's research areas include comparative literature, Arabic and Iranian literature, history of political ideas, Islamic law and philosophy, history of Islam, oriental studies, and more. The center's publications include the prestigious Encyclopaedia Islamica, published by Brill in English, which has received international acclaim for its in-depth knowledge of Iranian and Islamic culture.

The center's flagship publication is at its ninth letter of the Persian alphabet and 22nd completed volume. With its extensive library and publications, the Center for the Great Islamic Encyclopedia continues to be a beacon of knowledge and research in the Islamic world.

## Cinema Museum to celebrate Kiarostami's birth anniversary

TEHRAN-The Cinema Museum in Tehran will hold a special ceremony on June 21 on the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of the late Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami (June 22, 1940 - July 4, 2016).

Titled "Happy Birthday Abbas Kiarostami," the program will include the screening of the feature documentary "76 minutes and 15 seconds with Kiarostami" (2016) by Seifollah Samadian, a speech by Samadian about Kiarostami and their collaboration, as well as a narration of the celebrated director's life and activities by voice artists Shahrad Banki and Mojgan Asghari, ISNA reported.

A famous Iranian photographer and filmmaker, Samadian, 70, was a close collaborator of Kiarostami. He started his career as a photographer since 1968

and as a documentary filmmaker since 1978. He's been involved as a jury, curator of photo exhibitions and running workshops in numerous national and international events and he's also founding director of the Annual Image Visual Arts Festival and Tassvir Film Festival since 2003. He's also running Tassvir (Image) Magazine as a founder and chief editor since 1991.

"76 minutes and 15 seconds with Kiarostami" is a Portrait of an artist, whose exceptional approach to art and life, defined him as one of the most ardent admirers of life itself. The leading aim of this documentary is to share 76 minutes and 15 seconds of undiscovered moments of Kiarostami's life and work, in commemoration of his 76 years and 15 days of creative journey.

The shots of this documentary are selected out of hundreds of hours of footages, filmed during 25 years of friendship, inside and outside Iran in various occasions: film festivals, photo exhibitions, photography sessions, artistic events, workshops and some unique moments of his daily life.

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 philosophical 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 Cinema Museum of Iran is located in Tehran's upscale Bagh-e-Ferdows neighborhood, Valiasr St., near Tajrish Square.

## Entertainment company Live Nation cuts Barclays ties after protests against bank's link to Israeli weapons

Entertainment company Live Nation has severed ties with Barclays, one of its major sponsors. The move comes after a number of artists pulled out of multiple events to protest against the UK bank's links to companies in the defense industry that work with Israel.

The sponsorship suspension includes Live Nation festivals across the UK this summer, including Latitude, Download and the Isle of Wight, The National reported.

"Following discussion with artists, we have

agreed with Barclays that they will step back from sponsorship of our festivals," Live Nation said.

Several artists, including country singer CMAT, metal band Ithaca and comedian Joanne McNally, pulled out of multiple events to protest against Barclays' alleged indirect links to violence in Gaza.

Last month, Barclay's annual shareholders' meeting was disrupted by activists protesting against its involvement in the war in Gaza.

The bank had said the week before that it did not invest its own money in companies that supply weapons used by Israel in Gaza.

Barclays signed a five-year sponsorship deal with Live Nation last year.

According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, more than 37,200 Palestinians, about half of them women and children, have been killed by Israeli since war broke out on last October.