

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Why Ayatollah Khamenei warns of enemy-pleasing statements

## Electoral Warning



### Candidates address cultural and social concerns in 3rd debate

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – The third presidential debate, held on Friday, focused on cultural and social issues, sparking heated discussion on topics such as the Hijab and access to the Internet.

The candidates presented differing viewpoints on internet access and its limitations. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, currently leading in polls, argued that restrictions are not the sole solution to ensuring internet security.

“As a former member of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, I have firsthand experience and can offer five practical points for improving our cyberspace,” Qalibaf stated. His proposals included:

1. Unconditional support for domestic platforms: the government should fully support successful domestic platforms like Neshan, Balad, and Eitaa.
2. Strengthening online business security: A dedicated group within the Cyberspace Council is needed to ensure the security of online businesses.
3. Promoting content production: Iran needs to prioritize and incentivize content production to catch up in this area, while simultaneously investing in infrastructure development. ▶ Page 3

### Israel begged Iran to abandon retaliation after realizing consulate attack mistake: commander

TEHRAN – During a gathering on Saturday, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC’s Aerospace Division, mentioned that Israel was left despondent following the Leader of the Islamic Revolution’s declaration that Iran would ensure the regime “regrets” its assault on the Iranian consulate in Syria on April 1.

“After the speech of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the Israelis realized that Iran’s response was definite. They began to threaten through intermediaries, but after a few days when they realized that Iran does not pay attention to threats and seeks a response, not through resistance forces but from within its own territory, they resorted to pleas and requested neighboring countries to ask Iran to respond lightly,” the commander disclosed.

Israel’s attack on the Iranian consulate was condemned by most countries except for the regime’s Western patrons as a blatant violation of international law. The strike carried out with the help of fighter jets resulted in the martyrdom of a high-ranking IRGC commander and his deputy. ▶ Page 2

### “Palestine+100”: What will Palestine be like in 2048?

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN – “Close your eyes, imagine Palestine 100 years after the Nakba, and now, describe it as a story.” This was the request of Basma Ghalayini, editor, to twelve famous writers, which was published in the book “Palestine +100” in 2019 by Comma Press.

Writers such as Selma Dabbagh, Mazen Maarouf, Emad El-Din Aysha, Amir El-Youssef made this amazing adventure and tried to portray Palestine in 2048 from their point of view in a short story. A century on from the Nakba of 1948, which marked the violent expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homes and the founding of the Israeli regime.

The book follows on from the success of Comma’s “Iraq+100” (2016), set a hundred years after the U.S. invasion of 2003; year 2103.

Stories in “Palestine + 100” range from Majd Kayyal’s depiction of a futuristic solution to the Palestine-Israeli war, in which two parallel worlds occupy the same geographic space, to Saleem Haddad’s Matrix-like concept of a “right to digital return” ▶ Page 8

### Schools wiped out in Gaza

By Wesam Bahrani

TEHRAN- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) has reported that more than 76% of schools in the Gaza Strip have been damaged by the Israeli war on the blockaded enclave.

In a post on social media, UNRWA said, “Over 76% of schools need reconstructing or require major rehabilitation to be functional again.”

The UN agency cited research by the Global Education Center, a coordinating mechanism between aid organizations working in the field of education in the cases of internal displacement caused by conflicts, which is co-led by UNICEF.

Despite this, UNRWA said its “teams continue to reach children with play and learning activities. Education is a fundamental human right.”

The Israeli occupation has been accused of deliberately targeting schools in the Gaza Strip, leading to numerous massacres over the past eight months.

This is despite the education centers being used as shelters for hundreds of thousands of civilians who have been displaced from their homes as a result of the Israeli invasion. ▶ Page 5

### Regional resistance shatters Netanyahu’s dreams

By Shahrokh Saei

TEHRAN- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still facing immense domestic and international pressure as he remains adamant that his army will be able to achieve its objectives in the war on the Gaza Strip.

Since declaring war on the besieged Palestinian territory on October 7, Netanyahu, known as Bibi, has repeatedly vowed to continue the onslaught until achieving “total victory” over Hamas and “destroying” the resistance group.

But incumbent and former Israeli military and intelligence officials have thrown a bucket of ice water over Netanyahu to wake him up to the fact that his dreams will remain elusive.

Former Mossad chief Tamir Bardo has described Bibi’s war strategy as a disaster.

“All he cares about is staying in power, and he is leading us to disaster. The absolute victory he is talking about will result to more soldiers losing their lives,” Bardo has been quoted as saying on Israel’s Channel 12.

The Israel army says over 660 of its troops have been killed during the operations against Hamas. ▶ Page 5

### Alvand range: discover hidden charms from valleys to peaks

TEHRAN – Spanning the breathtaking landscapes of Hamedan province, the Alvand mountain range beckons nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts with its awe-inspiring beauty and thrilling escapades.

The range is renowned for its steep valleys, lush plains, towering peaks, and unique flora and fauna. Among its impressive features, Mount Alvand reigns supreme with an elevation of 3,584 meters, making it the highest peak in this subrange and a significant summit within the larger Zagros Mountains.

There are multiple routes to reach this summit, the most popular of which passes through the Ganjnameh Valley, Kiwarestan, Meidan-e Mishan, and Takht-e Nader. Another notable route originates from Sarkan city, located to the south of the subrange, providing alternative breathtaking vistas. ▶ Page 6



### Western principles of human rights are wrong: Leader

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei met with the head and senior officials of the Judiciary on June 22, 2024.

At the beginning of the meeting, he paid tribute to the Martyrs of the Judiciary, including martyrs Beheshti and Raisi, both of whom had prominent backgrounds in the Judiciary. Ayatollah Khamenei also expressed gratitude for the dedication and hard work of the head, officials, judges, and staff of this branch. ▶ Page 2

### Iran outperforms Qatar in extracting gas from SP joint fields: Oji

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said on Saturday that the Islamic Republic has outpaced Qatar in gas extraction from joint fields by 100 million cubic meters (mcm), IRNA reported.

“We set an unprecedented record in gas production, and Iran has been ranked first among the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) members in terms of gas production increase; the average growth of the countries was equal to 2.5 percent, and Iran ranked first with five percent gas production growth,” Oji said in a press conference.

“In the South Pars joint field, we extract 75 to 100 million cubic meters of gas more than the Qatari side,” he added.

The official noted that the oil ministry has signed deals worth \$20 billion with major holdings to boost the recovery factor of the giant field’s wells. ▶ Page 4

## TEHRAN PAPERS

## There is no consensus in the Security Council against Iran

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

In a note, Kayhan addressed Grossi's complaint about the lack of consensus of the UN Security Council against Iran's nuclear program. It wrote: Grossi repeated his previous claims that the IAEA has lost its point of view on key aspects of Iran's nuclear activities and claimed that having such an insight is necessary to confirm the civilian nature of Iran's nuclear program. Analysts say that the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency played the main role in preventing the revival of the JCPOA negotiations and created a difficult obstacle in this direction. The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated that the actual return of the other party to the nuclear agreement will be the main precondition for returning to the cooperation mechanism set in the JCPOA.

According to Grossi, the IAEA can technically involve the Security Council in this case, but this action will not be useful because Russia can use the veto power to prevent action against Iran's nuclear program, and this is one of the negative consequences of the current geopolitical tensions and a backward step compared to the past.

**Siasat-e-Rooz: Canada's pandering to the Zionist regime**

In an action against Iran in order to flatter the Zionist regime, Canada included the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the list of terrorist groups. Canada put the IRGC, which is the center of the fight against terrorism, on the list of terrorist groups, but this country has a black record against humanity, including the genocide of 150,000 native children. In addition, this country continues to discriminate against the natives, and the soldiers of this country have committed countless crimes in Afghanistan.

Also, for many years, Canada has been the center of gathering and support for terrorist groups and embezzlers, but now, in an action aligned with the United States and in a favorable direction to the Zionist regime, the IRGC has been put in the list of terrorist groups, while Canada should be condemned for the crime of state terrorism.

According to Kazem Gharibabadi, the secretary of the human rights council, it is a bitter irony that a country that is one of the major violators of human rights and one of the supporters of terrorism has put the IRGC's name on the terrorist list.

**Donya-e-Eqtasad: Expanding foreign relations and solving the crisis of sanctions in the 14th government**

In its note, Donya-e-Eqtasad investigated the challenges faced by Iran. The paper said:

**IRGC commander calls for maximum voter turnout to deter enemies**

TEHRAN – A senior IRGC official has emphasized the importance of widespread public participation in the upcoming presidential election to prevent adversarial actions by the enemies of the nation.

Brigadier General Ali Fadavi, the second-in-command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), said on Saturday that it is important to increase participation in the June 28 presidential election. Urging the public to engage actively in the elections, Fadavi highlighted the numerous benefits of widespread voter turnout. "There is abundant good in maximum participation, and we must come forward, confident in the truth of God's promise," he said.

Reflecting on the past 45 years, Fadavi asserted that Iran had consistently confronted many challenges with resilience, resulting in the defeat and humiliation of its adversaries. "We have stood firm, confronting the enemy with defeat and humiliation, and have sacrificed 200,000 martyrs to defend our cherished homeland and the values of the Islamic Revolution," he declared.

He emphasized that robust participation in the electoral process is crucial in deterring enemy actions. "With maximum participation in the elections, the enemy would not dare to act against us," he affirmed. He further praised the IRGC's unwavering commitment, noting significant achievements during the tenure of late President

Iran's economy and society are going through critical days. Cruel sanctions in the past years have had serious negative effects on Iran's economy.

Although economic activists and governments have tried to keep Iran's economy strong by evading the sanctions, it cannot be hidden that the sanctions have imposed heavy costs on various sectors of the society, including the economy. The expansion of economic diplomacy, the expansion of relations with the neighbors, the wide presence in the target markets, and the resolution of political disputes are the ways to get rid of this situation.

For example, the expansion of the government's diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia in the past months or the resumption of political relations with Egypt can become models for the development of foreign relations. It is a basic principle in the world economy that no country has been able to achieve the desired economic development and growth without extensive international relations and economic diplomacy, and the future government should put this on its agenda.

**Jam-e-Jam: Opposition media and Iran's elections**

In a commentary, Jam-e-Jam addressed the destructive role of the opposition and Persian-language media. It wrote: These media have played a destructive role in all periods of the elections, from denigrating to creating social unrest. But what happened in the 2024 elections was the unification of the enemy including the opposition and all kinds of enemy media (monarchist, secular, separatist, etc.) to reach a unified program, and their goal is to reach an agreement under the title of "boycotting the elections."

The foundation of this division and disappointing approaches is based on some livelihood challenges in order to take revenge from the Islamic Revolution by putting pressure on the Islamic system. But the people have carefully understood that the content of these media is the enemy's message and no one has the competence and ability to rule over their destiny except themselves.

The opposition media, by planning an anti-election discourse, is trying to target the national will of Iranians, but Iranians have shown that despite the differences in tastes and also having serious questions from the officials, they never prefer the enemy to security, interests and national unity in crucial situations.

Ebrahim Raisi, and expressed hope for continuing his legacy.

"The IRGC remains fully dedicated. Major initiatives were undertaken under Martyr Raisi's presidency, and we aim to follow in his footsteps," he said. He concluded by stressing the collective responsibility not only to vote but also to encourage others to participate in the elections. "It is our duty to not only cast our votes but also to motivate others to take part in the electoral process," he added. Iran is gearing up for a snap presidential election scheduled for June 28, following the untimely death of President Ebrahim Raisi. Raisi perished in a tragic helicopter crash in northwestern Iran on May 19, which also claimed the lives of Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and six other officials.

In the wake of this unexpected event, six candidates have been approved by Iran's top election supervisory body to run for the highest executive office. These candidates are actively campaigning across the country, utilizing both national television and public events to reach voters and present their platforms.

Voting will not only take place within Iran but also at designated polling stations worldwide, allowing overseas Iranians to participate in selecting the new president.

**Western principles of human rights are wrong: Leader**

From page 1 ▶ During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that in the Quran and other Islamic sources, great emphasis has been placed on issues such as "justice" and considered courage a prerequisite for its implementation.

"According to Imam Sajjad (PBUH), the judiciary should act in a way that protects even its enemies from oppression and injustice, and discourages its closest friends from unfair favoritism," he stated.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution pointed out the necessity for a plan-oriented approach in the Judiciary and the reform documents of this branch.

"These documents must be implemented in a way that will



have a tangible impact on key judicial indicators," he asserted.

Other points made in the Leader's speech emphasized the requirement for judges to base their rulings on domestic laws rather than Western human rights sources. He also highlighted the significance of continued field

visits by the head of the Judiciary, as well as the importance of monitoring the implementation of the promising decisions made during these visits.

"Act in a way so that public opinion recognizes the Judiciary as a house of justice and a center of upholding justice without

bias," he remarked.

During the meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei voiced concern regarding the delayed processing of cases involving detainees and the consequent prolongation of temporary detention.

"The fate of such individuals must be determined as soon as possible so that no one is placed in hardship in prison due to the prolonged handling of their case," he said.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also pointed out the unresolved issue of debt-ridden prisoners, noting that, "There are individuals who, even if they remain in prison for the rest of their lives, do not have the ability to pay off their debts, and this problem needs to be addressed."

**Israel begged Iran to abandon retaliation after realizing consulate attack mistake: commander**

From page 1 ▶ Tehran responded to the unprecedented assault by carrying out a large-scale drone and missile operation dubbed "True Promise" against military positions in the occupied territories on April 14. It successfully destroyed the bases that were used in the consulate attack, even while the U.S., Britain, France, and Jordan were also aiding the regime in intercepting Iranian projectiles.

General Hajzadeh said Israel made a miscalculation in its decision to carry out the April 1 assault, as it believed that it wouldn't receive a harsh response from Iran. "Iranian officials do not seek war, but they have red lines that the Israelis did not consider and did not expect Iran to respond," he said.

The commander explained that the regime only decided to strike Iran's embassy after it failed to gain any strategic advances in Gaza or against Hezbollah in the northern parts of the occupied territories.

"Through their assessments, Israel realized that it was in a deadlock in Palestine, so they intended to attack Hezbollah.

However, since the risk was high, they attacked Iran's consulate to martyr several IRGC commanders in a region that belongs to Iran's territory, in order to achieve a strategic victory."

The IRGC official hailed Iran's Leader for his farsighted and courageous decision to teach Israel a lesson. "If it were not for the resolve of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, no one would have dared to carry out such an action.

This operation, just as it was a strategic victory for us, added another defeat to Israel's list of defeats," he noted.

Elsewhere in his comments, General Hajzadeh highlighted the prospects of Israel's imminent collapse.

"In the past 9 months, the Israelis have



only managed to martyr children and women, and their only victory was a tactical one, which does not compensate for their strategic defeat. Therefore, their existence is now in jeopardy," he noted.

Israel's brutal and callous war in the besieged Gaza Strip in the past 8 months is considered a failed military campaign by analysts across the world, as the regime is nowhere near "eradicating Hamas" despite the loss of public opinion.

**Iran's UN envoy emphasizes efforts to combat extremism in Afghanistan**

and economic growth.

"To promote peace and stability and strengthen the Afghan economy, Iran continues economic and commercial ties with Afghanistan, focusing on projects like Chabahar port, railways, and alternative crop cultivation to curb drug production," he added.

Iravani also expressed concerns about the persistent terrorist threats emanating from within Afghanistan, doubting the Taliban's capability to effectively counter these threats.

"Continuous international engagement with the de facto authorities is essential for regional peace and stability," he noted.

The Iranian envoy highlighted the broader regional implications of Afghanistan's instability and stressed the importance of regional and international cooperation. He reaffirmed Iran's commitment to supporting Afghanistan, maintaining open borders for displaced Afghans and refugees during critical times.

Iravani also pointed to the severe economic strain Iran faces due to U.S. sanctions and the lack of international support, making it difficult to manage the influx of Afghan refugees and the associated drug trafficking issues alone. He called on the international community to offer swift, sufficient, and continuous support to host countries like Iran.

"The Iranian public is frustrated by the lack of international support in managing the refugee and drug trafficking crises. The international community must provide swift, sufficient, and continuous support to host countries like Iran," he further commented.

Furthermore, Iravani urged the unfreezing of Afghanistan's assets held by Western countries, insisting that sanctions should not impede economic revitalization efforts.

"Western countries, having occupied

Afghanistan for over 20 years, must honor their commitments to the country's reconstruction and the fight against terrorism," he asserted.

Iravani also underscored Iran's active engagement with regional initiatives aimed at fostering dialogue with Afghanistan, such as neighboring ministerial meetings and the Moscow format.

"Iran supports Pakistan's initiative to convene meetings of foreign ministers from Afghanistan's neighboring countries, with four rounds already held and a fifth scheduled in Ashgabat," he mentioned.

He also noted the regional contact group that was established at Iran's initiative, including representatives from Iran, Pakistan, China, and Russia.

Two rounds of these meetings have been conducted so far, according to Iravani. He continued, "During the second meeting held on 8 June in Tehran, the participants expressed deep concern about the situation in Afghanistan, particularly the ongoing foreign-backed terrorist threats emanating from the country and affecting neighbors and regions."

"Iran advocates for addressing extremism, terrorism, and underdevelopment in Afghanistan and stands ready to play an active role in its reconstruction. Iran welcomes the next round of the Doha process scheduled for June 30 and 1st July 2024," Iravani further stated.

In conclusion, Iravani's remarks at the UN Security Council meeting serve as a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan and the critical need for international solidarity and support to address the multifaceted crises impacting the nation and the region.

Following Taliban's return to power in August 2021, the United States-led foreign forces withdrew chaotically from the country which led to the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's U.S.-trained security forces.

Iran has repeatedly stated that resolving Afghanistan's problems lies in Afghan-led solutions, overcoming unilateralism, achieving internal cohesion, and addressing social and economic demands, which are key to building a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.

# Electoral warning

By Soheila Zarfam

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution addressed an important recommendation to the presidential candidates during a Saturday meeting with Iran's judiciary officials.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei first expressed approval of the televised election programs, viewing them as a positive way for the public to become familiar with diverse viewpoints. Then he addressed the candidates in a cautionary message.

"The discussions of the candidates on television or their other statements should not lead a candidate to speak in a hostile and enemy-pleasing manner to overcome a rival," he said, adding, "It is assumed that all candidates love Iran and the Islamic Republic because they want to become president in this system and serve the people. Therefore, they should not speak in a way that pleases the enemy."

**Why did the Leader feel the need to caution candidates?**

Elections around the world are usually marred by fearmongering comments by candidates, who warn people that their rivals may



drive the country into chaos and crisis if elected.

In the United States, Donald Trump promises to "make America great again," while Joe Biden warns of the "fall of American democracy" if Trump is chosen again as president.

In France, Emmanuel Macron says "Frexit" is on the way in case of a right-wing victory, and Marine Le Pen claims the president's allies will leave the country "broken" if granted another term in power.

Criticism is employed as a scare tactic in almost every election taking place across the globe. Voters are frequently warned of potential economic collapse, threats to their values, or the loss

of their country to ominous forces. Iranians have been no exception, often hearing such inflammatory and fear-mongering rhetoric from candidates seeking power in the past several years.

Ayatollah Khamenei, however, like many seasoned analysts and experts understands that while such remarks may assist candidates in winning elections, they will ultimately have negative repercussions on the future of the country.

"The Leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized a significant message in his remarks. He urged candidates to avoid actions that cater to the enemy and then clarified that the

enemy is not only opposed to the Islamic Republic but also poses a threat to Iran and its citizens," Dr. Mehdi Fazaeli, a member of Ayatollah Khamenei's office, told the Tehran Times.

"So, candidates who choose to break taboos on national TV and make unrealistic and outrageous remarks may initially feel satisfied that they have deterred voters from supporting their opponents. They will, however, understand down the line that they have done a disservice to everyone, including themselves," he added.

Fazaeli explained that candidates in Iran have shown a tendency to gain votes by creating polarization. "For instance, everyone agrees that sanctions are detrimental to the country and that they should be terminated and neutralized.

Officials and politicians only have disagreements on the path that could lead to the termination of sanctions. But a candidate that wants to create polarization on this matter could say that only he wants the sanctions gone and that his rivals do not care enough about the issue or are even supporters of sanctions," he stated.

## Candidates address cultural and social concerns in 3rd debate

From Page 1 ▶ 4. Intelligent cyberspace monitoring: Precise and intelligent monitoring of cyberspace is crucial to address concerns from families, especially regarding Iranian youth.

5. Collaborative approach with foreign platforms: Engaging in a participatory manner with foreign platforms is essential.

Amir-Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi argued that just like any other country in the world, Iran should not rule out the use of restrictions to ensure Internet security. He, however, argued that in some cases, Iranian authorities have gone overboard, like in restricting access to Google Play.

The conservative also emphasized that the Internet should be viewed as a "basic need" as it is an inseparable part of business management in today's world.

He said the Internet can particularly be helpful for working mothers, who prefer to make money remotely, so they can spend more time with their children.

Moderate candidate Mostafa Pourmohammadi expressed a preference for lifting most Internet restrictions. This stance drew comparisons to his previous statements from a decade ago, where he had strongly advocated for government control over Internet access. Social media users pointed out this shift in his position, accusing him of dishonesty.

### Hijab laws and their violations

The issue of Hijab regulations and the consequences of their violation clearly divided the candidates into two camps.

All conservative candidates, with the exception of Saeed Jalili who offered only vague and general comments, maintained that the Hijab is a constitutional requirement in Iran and should be respected. However, they expressed a preference for avoiding harsh and heavy-handed responses to violations of these laws.

Moderate Pourmohammadi and reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian both seemed to voice strong opposition to any sort of response to

Hijab violations.

The consequences of Hijab violations have been a sensitive and hot topic in Iranian society in the past years with differing opinions on how it should be addressed. However, reformists are often accused of exploiting the topic for political gain during elections.

Following the debate, Iranian women interviewed by IRIB reporters emphasized that while they hold the government's approach to Hijab violations as a significant issue, they prioritize concerns like the economy and employment.

"I have many issues with how the government has addressed the Hijab in recent years. I believe some decisions were deeply flawed. However, it's not my top concern," shared a woman in her thirties.

"I'd much rather candidates focus on how I can pay my bills. I think this is the case for most Iranian women," she added.

## Tehran to host diplomats from 30 Asian countries for ACD meeting

TEHRAN - Iran is poised to host the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) ministerial meeting on Sunday and Monday, in its capital, Tehran.

This significant event will see the participation of more than 30 delegations from across Asia, reflecting the continent's commitment to fostering enhanced cooperation.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry will preside over the ACD meeting of foreign ministers, scheduled for Sunday and Monday. The agenda will focus on strategies to bolster collaboration among member states, addressing a broad spectrum of issues pertinent to the region's collective interests.

On the opening day, experts and senior executives from ACD member countries will convene to

prepare and coordinate the topics for discussion by senior diplomats the following day. This preparatory session is crucial for setting the stage for meaningful deliberations and ensuring that the ministerial discussions are productive.

Monday will feature extensive discussions among the foreign ministers, who will exchange views on optimizing the use of the ACD as a pan-Asian forum. They aim to leverage the forum's diverse resources to build robust partnerships and bridge gaps between Asian nations and other regional organizations. This dialogue is expected to strengthen ties and promote a unified approach to addressing regional challenges.

Acting Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Baqeri Kani is slated to deliver the

keynote address at the summit's opening ceremony on Monday. His speech is anticipated to highlight Iran's vision for the ACD and its role in fostering Asian unity and cooperation.

The meeting will bring together more than 30 foreign delegations, including ministers, deputy ministers, relevant deputies of foreign ministers, general secretaries of regional organizations, and special envoys from member countries. This diverse representation underscores the broad support for the ACD's mission.

Iran has held the presidency of the ACD since late 2023, following Bahrain's two-year chairmanship. The ACD, established in 2002 in Thailand and headquartered in Kuwait, is a unique continent-wide

forum comprising 35 Asian member countries. It aims to integrate Asian countries into a cohesive community without replicating other organizations or forming exclusive blocs.

A fundamental goal of the ACD is to harness and consolidate Asia's strengths, enhancing the continent's competitiveness on the global stage. By maximizing Asia's diversity and rich resources, the ACD seeks to build a strong and united Asian community, fostering cooperation and mutual growth.

This ministerial meeting in Tehran is a pivotal moment for the ACD, offering a platform for member countries to reaffirm their commitment to regional solidarity and cooperation, paving the way for a more integrated and prosperous Asia.

## Army announces major border security project east of Iran

TEHRAN - The Commander of the Northeast Regional Headquarters of the Army's Ground Forces of Iran, Amir-Reza Azarian, has revealed that an extensive border closure project is underway in Khorasan Razavi province, located near the northeastern border.

This initiative involves sealing approximately 297 kilometers of the border, with parallel efforts ongoing along the southeastern border.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Azarian detailed the ambitious project. "The closure of the eastern borders is being conducted with great intensity. Four engineering groups from the Army, along with four of the nation's top-ranked contractor companies, are currently constructing a four-meter-high wall along these borders," he stated.

Azarian highlighted the comprehensive nature of the project, noting that it goes beyond physical barriers. "In addition to the physical closure of 297 kilometers of the border in Razavi Khorasan, we are also employing advanced software systems to ensure that the border is equipped for enhanced security," he added.

The project is designed not only to physically fortify the border but also to incorporate cutting-edge technology to monitor and manage border security effectively. This dual approach aims to create a robust defense system that can respond to various threats and challenges.

Addressing concerns about national security, Azarian reassured the public that there is no need for worry. "Complete security is maintained in the country. The Army, with its excellent intelligence

capabilities, has successfully been able to monitor activities beyond our borders. This intelligence oversight is crucial for maintaining the safety and security of our nation," he emphasized.

The closure of the eastern borders is seen as a critical step in preventing illegal activities, enhancing national security, and ensuring the safety of Iranian citizens. Terrorist groups have been carrying out attacks against Iranian interests in southeastern and southwestern parts of the country and have known links to a number of repressive regimes in the Persian Gulf region.

Iran's security forces have invariably protected the border areas and managed to repel almost the entire terrorist attacks by foreign-backed anti-revolution elements across the country.

## Walter Mazzarri to lead Persepolis

TEHRAN - Former Napoli coach Walter Mazzarri has reportedly been lined up for a new job with Iranian football club Persepolis.

The 62-year-old was on the short-list for the role and Sky Sport Italia claim that the decision has now been made, handing Mazzarri the reins.

He had been in Serie A and the Champions League only this season, with an ill-fated return to Napoli from November 2023 to February 2024.

The coach was sacked after six wins, three draws and eight defeats in all competitions on the Partenopei bench.

This will be his second coaching role abroad, as he had 41 games at English club Watford in the 2016-17 campaign.

His has also coached Livorno, Reggina, Sampdoria, Napoli, Inter, Torino and Cagliari.

Persepolis FC was only recently crowned Persian Gulf Pro League champion, but Brazilian coach Osmar Loss Vieira decided to return home after this victory.

Mazzarri becomes the second Italian coach in Iran, as for a brief period Andrea Stramaccioni was at the helm of Esteghlal in 2019.

## Javad Nekounam to remain Esteghlal coach

TEHRAN - Javad Nekounam will lead Esteghlal football team in the 2024-25 Iran Professional League (IPL) season.

The 43-year-old coach was appointed as head coach of Esteghlal in June 2023 on a three-year deal. He failed to win a title in his first year and Esteghlal was knocked out from Hazfi Cup and also finished in second place in IPL.

Shortly after, the local media reported that the Club are going to part company with Nekounam but the former captain of Iran national football team will continue his job at Esteghlal.

## Iran beat Kazakhstan at 2024 Asian Women's U18 Volleyball

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Kazakhstan 3-1 (25-13, 23-25, 25-16, 25-13) in the 15th Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship on Saturday.

Iran are to meet the winners of Uzbekistan and South Korea match for the fifth place on Sunday.

Iran had started the competition on high note, beating the Philippines 3-0 in Pool B but lost to holders Japan 3-0, Chinese Taipei 3-0 and South Korea 3-0 in the following days.

The flagship biennial championship, which got underway at Nakhon Pathom Gymnasium and Ratchaburi Gymnasium in Ratchaburi Province, serves as the Asian qualification for the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Girls' U19 World Championship, attracted 13 teams to vie for top honor.

Top four teams in the June 16-23 championship will qualify for the topflight world meet.

## Khazadeh joins A.S. Volley Lube

TEHRAN - Iranian spiker Poriya Hossein Khazadeh joined Italian club A.S. Volley Lube.

The 20-year-old player currently accompanies Iran national volleyball team in the 2024 VNL.

He has most recently played for Iranian club Foolad Sirjan. Hossein Khazadeh won a gold medal at 2022 U-20 Asian Championships in 2022 as well as a gold at 2023 U-21 World Championships.

Associazione Sportiva Volley Lube is a professional volleyball team based in Treia, Italy. Since 1995 the club has been playing in the Serie A of the Italian Volleyball League. It won the Italian Championship seven times, the Italian Cup five times, and the Italian SuperCup three-times.

At European level, Lube won two CEV Champions League in 2002 and 2019, the CEV Cup in 2001, 2005, 2006 and a CEV Challenge Cup

2011. In 2019, it won the FIVB Men's Club World Volleyball Championship.

## Foolad defender Bahia joins Borneo

TEHRAN - Foolad Brazilian defender Jeferson Bahia joined Indonesian team Borneo Football Club Samarinda.

The Iranian club had completed the signing of the 32-year-old player last year on a two-year deal but former Palmiras B player left the team at the end of 2023-24 Iran Professional League (IPL). Foolad finished in 11th place in the IPL's 16-team league. The Indonesian football club based in Samarinda, East Kalimantan, currently competes in Liga 1. The club's nickname is Pesut Etam (Our Dolphins).

## Iran come seventh in 2024 Junior AHF Cup

TEHRAN - Iran's U-21 hockey team defeated Singapore 2-1 on Saturday to finish in seventh place in the Men's Junior AHF Cup 2024.

Iran lost to Chinese Taipei 8-0, Oman 2-1 and China 10-1 in Pool B and shared spoils in a goalless draw against Hong Kong and also defeated Kazakhstan 4-2 and Singapore 2-1 in the tournament held in Singapore.

The top five teams Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Oman qualified for the 2024 Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup.

Bangladesh are the defending champions.

## Iran fall to Brazil at 2024 IHF Women's Junior World C'ship

TEHRAN - Brazil had to dig deep to seal a 30:22 win over Iran, their maiden at the 2024 IHF Women's Junior World Championship, as the South American side will now head into the President's Cup with two points.

For more than 30 minutes, Iran delivered maybe the best handball in their appearances at the IHF Women's Junior World Championship, putting serious pressure on Brazil and even leading throughout most of the time.

But with Brazil's superior nous and know-how, the South American team, which previously went close to shock Romania, losing by a single goal in the first match at North Macedonia 2024, managed to wake up and get back into the match, to secure their maiden win in the competition.

Iran goalkeeper Elnaz Yarmohammadi was named as Player of the Match.

The two sides will continue in the Group I of the President's Cup, where Brazil and Tunisia start with two points, while Iran and Chile will be on zero points, in what promises to be quite a well-balanced group between the two sides.

## Jafari wins gold at 2024 Powerlifting World Cup

TEHRAN - Amir Jafari Arangeh of Iran claimed a gold medal at the 2024 Para Powerlifting World Cup on Saturday.

Amir Jafari won the gold medal with a total of 562kg. The silver medal went to Egyptian Osman Sherif with 561kg.

Overall, a total of 313 athletes from 66 nations compete in the prestigious event aiming to improve their Paralympic rankings one last time, making it the most competitive fields ahead of the Games. Powerlifting powerhouses and Tokyo 2020 medal toppers China, Nigeria, Jordan, Iran, Malaysia, Egypt among others have brought in their top names to stamp their dominance ahead of the Games.

Iran should be hoping to have several podium finishes in the middleweight and heavy weight categories with Rouhollah Rostami (men -80 kg), Aliakbar Gharibshahi (men's -107 kg) and Ahmad Aminzadeh (men's +107) in their ranks.

The competition kicked off on June 20 in Tbilisi, Georgia and will run until June 26.

## Iran, Belarus to cooperate in producing gas turbines

TEHRAN - In a joint meeting, the Energy Ministers of Iran and Belarus emphasized the readiness of the two countries regarding cooperation in the field of gas turbine production.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 4th SCO energy ministers' meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Friday, IRNA reported.

Stating that Belarus is an advanced country in terms of industry and technological level, the Iranian minister said in the meeting that this country is at a good level in terms of electronics, mining machinery, and various equipment.

He further mentioned Iran's advances in the technological and industrial sectors,

saying that the two countries could have good cooperation in such areas.

"Iran is an advanced country and has seen significant growth in the industrial field after the revolution and considering the potentials the two countries' relations in the economic field need to be strengthened," Mehrabian said.

"We are ready to cooperate with Belarus in terms of sales and after-sales services in the field of gas turbines," he said.

Viktor Karankevich for his part referred to the exchange of experience between Iran and Belarus in the field of construction, maintenance, and repair of gas turbines.

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

## Domestic wheat purchase at over \$1.6b since April

TEHRAN - Iran has purchased some 4.77 million tons of wheat at the worth of over \$1.63 billion from domestic producers since April under the framework of a national plan that guarantees the purchase of domestic production of the crop.

According to the data released by the Government Trading Corporation of Iran, the figure is 200,000 tons more than that of last year's corresponding period.

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

The wheat harvest is currently 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 outperforms Qatar in extracting gas from SP joint fields: Oji

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said on Saturday that the Islamic Republic has outpaced Qatar in gas extraction from joint fields by 100 million cubic meters (mcm), IRNA reported.

"We set an unprecedented record in gas production, and Iran has been ranked first among the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) members in terms of gas production increase; the average growth of the countries was equal to 2.5 percent, and Iran ranked first with five percent gas production growth," Oji said in a press conference.

"In the South Pars joint field, we extract 75 to 100 million cubic meters of gas more than the Qatari side," he added.

The official noted that the oil ministry has signed deals worth \$20 billion with major holdings to boost the recovery factor of the giant field's wells.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf,

is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

Last week Oji said that over the first three years of the 13th administration in office, 150 oil industry projects, worth \$34 billion, have become active.

Speaking during the signing ceremony of developing two oil fields on June 16, he commemorated the memory of late President Ebrahim Raisi, noting that "developing least-developed regions of the country and creating jobs for the people living in

those areas was the top priority of the late president."

the majority of 153 projects that came to fruition were projects that had been ignored before the 13th administration took office, including South Pars gas field phase 11 which its development contract was exchanged for 20 years between the related sides, but when the 13th administration took office it decided to start its development which is now complete and operational, the Minister of Petroleum said.

Oji continued: The country managed to acquire good revenues by implementing these kinds of projects in the oil, gas, refining, and petrochemical sectors.

According to him, while the oil industry's growth stood at 10 percent two years ago it reached 20 percent last year; the highest rate of growth among all sectors of the economy.

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

# Iran, Kyrgyzstan eager to cooperate on energy areas

TEHRAN - Iranian Minister of Energy Ali-Akbar Mehrabian and his Kyrgyz counterpart Taalaibek Ibrayev have voiced readiness to cooperate in the field of energy and implementation of hydroelectric projects.

The two ministers met on the sidelines of a ministerial meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries on Friday.

Speaking during the meeting, the Iranian minister said that the future of relations between Iran and Kyrgyzstan is bright, noting that Tehran is ready for any cooperation with Bishkek.

Mehrabian referred to Iran's huge energy potential and said that the country generates some 360 terawatt/h of electricity annually.

The Kyrgyz minister, for his part, appreciated Iran's capacities in the production and supply of oil and



oil products, while adding that his country has good experience in constructing hydroelectric and small-scale power plants.

In the meeting, Mehrabian voiced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to export technical and engineering services, as well as supply equipment in the energy sector.

The Iranian energy minister pointed out that connecting the

electricity grid of Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan and then Iran will enable the exchange of electricity for the countries of the region, especially during the peak consumption period of summer and winter.

Also on Thursday, in another meeting with Mahmoud Jurabek, the Minister of Energy of Uzbekistan, Mehrabian expressed his readiness to expand cooperation between the two countries, while thanking

the president of that country for his efforts in bilateral cooperation in the field of energy.

He voiced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to develop cooperation, especially in the field of exporting technical and engineering services, as well as supplying energy field equipment to Uzbekistan.

Stating that Uzbekistan has a growing economy, the Mehrabian mentioned energy as the most important issue of development in this country.

Referring to the capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the production, transmission and distribution of electricity, Mehrabian pointed out that factories manufacturing equipment in the Islamic Republic of Iran are ready to cooperate with Uzbekistan at a competitive price.

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

### IN HIS EXALTED NAME

### INVITATION TO TWO STAGE PUBLIC BID – SECOND NOTICE

**Phase one of Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant (500±10% MW) on EPCF Basis**  
**Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)**  
**Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC)**

### INVITATION NO: 200309024600001

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) with representation of Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC), intends to international two stage public bid for Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant Project. To do this first a short list of eligible experienced companies will be prepared and on next stage they will be invited to technical evaluation. This second notice of invitation for renewal of first stage of Bid is based on the sub-clause 10-B of "Clause C, Article 12, tenders formalities law" dated 16/07/1385 Iranian calendar date.

Herewith, we are inviting eligible candidates (Applicants) to refer Bid No 200309024600001 on Iran Public eProcurement System (SETAD) available on [www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir), should they to be i) a company duly organised, registered, existing and having grade one certificate of EPC for power generation sector from Iran Plan and Budget Organisation for local Applicants or similar certificate from pertinent authorities in their countries, which to be verified by the respective consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for overseas Applicants; or ii) to be a Consortium comprising of two or more companies (members), whose members are organised, registered, existing and collectively having grade one or two certificate of design/engineering for power generation sector and grade one certificate of construction for power generation sector with aforesaid procedure for such certificates as well as valid HSE certificate from Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour, and Social Welfare.

After preparation of the pertinent short list of qualified Applicant, we invite them for second stage of the Bid.

As specified before, participating in the Bid as Consortium is allowed.

#### Bid in brief:

**1) Company/Client:** Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC) on behalf of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) with the following address:

#### Bids Department,

**Parsian Jonoub Energy Intensive Industries Development Company (PEIIDC),**

**No. 1713, 1st floor of National Iranian Steel Company building, Vali-e-Asr Avenue (Above Valiasr Sq.),**

**Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

**Postal Code: 1594643118, Tel: +98-21-88906133**

**Email: [parsian\\_ccpp\\_tender@psez.ir](mailto:parsian_ccpp_tender@psez.ir)**

**2) Invitation subject:** Selecting the EPCF contractor for Parsian Combined Cycle Power Plant (500±10% MW) project on EPCF Basis (phase one)

**3) Project's estimated price:** Two hundred eighty-five million (285,000,000) Euros.

**4) Bid Bond:** The Bid Bond shall be in the form of a bank guarantee in the amount of 2.055.000 € (two million fifty-five thousand euros) issued by an Iranian bank acceptable to the Company According to related circular (governmental transactions guarantees regulation) dated 24/08/1394 as per Iranian calendar (15/11/2015) No. H50659 T/123402. The Bid Bond shall be extendable and shall be valid for six (6) months after the Bid Closing Date. The bank guarantee shall have SEPAM number without any conditional statement.

**5) Source of Fund:** IMIDRO's internal resources

**6) Prequalification Documents obtaining:** The Prequalification Questionnaire will be available on the portal of government's electronic procurement system ([www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir)) from 2024 June23, Sunday, 08:00 AM until 2024 June29, Saturday, 04:00 PM.

**7) Prequalification Documents submission:** The Prequalification Documents shall be uploaded on the portal of government's electronic procurement system, available on [www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir) website before 2024 July20, Saturday, 04:00 PM.

**8) Bid Opening Date and Place:** on the 2024 July21, Sunday at a/m address.

**9) Bid Validity Period:** Bids shall remain valid for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of Bid opening.

**10) Invitation notice date:** The invitation will be noticed on 2024 June23, Sunday through the portal of government's electronic procurement system ([www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir)).

All Bidding stages from beginning, i.e. noticing of this invitation, sending/ delivering of Bidding Documents up to opening of the Bids will be conducted via Iran Public eProcurement System (SETAD) available on [www.setadiran.ir](http://www.setadiran.ir).

Therefore, Applicants shall be registered in the mentioned system and receive the electronic signature certificate in order to participate in the Bid if they have not been a member before.



### Call for Tender 1st Announcement for the Purchase of necessary Pigs (spare parts) for South Pars Gas Field Development Phase 11 Pipeline Project, Tender No. 963617

Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to **Purchase of necessary Pigs (spare parts) for South Pars Gas Field Development Phase 11 Pipeline** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 15 days after the date of 1<sup>st</sup> publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: [WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS](http://WWW.IOEC.COM/EN/TENDERS), and Please do not hesitate to contact with Transaction Committee office with Mr Amir Nosrathzadeh with Tel: +9821-82841533 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

# Hamas acting like Viet Cong rebels: Foreign Affairs

## 'Israel has failed to realize that carnage in Gaza has only made Hamas stronger'

TEHRAN - In an article published on June 21, Foreign Affairs analyzed "why Israel's failing strategy makes its enemy stronger".

The American magazine compares Hamas fighters resisting Israeli forces with Viet Cong guerillas fighting the United States during the Vietnam War.

Following is a summary of the article titled "Hamas is winning":

Nine months of Israeli air and ground combat operations in Gaza have not defeated Hamas, nor is Israel close to vanquishing the group. To the contrary, according to the measures that matter, Hamas is stronger today than it was on October 7.

**"Hamas is neither defeated nor on the verge of defeat."**

Since Hamas's attack last October, Israel has invaded northern and southern Gaza with approximately 40,000 combat troops, forcibly displaced 80 percent of the population, killed over 37,000 people, dropped at least 70,000 tons of bombs on the territory (surpassing the combined weight of bombs dropped on London, Dresden, and Hamburg in all of World War II), destroyed or damaged over half of all buildings in Gaza, and limited the territory's access to water, food, and electricity, leaving the entire population on the brink of famine.

Although many observers have highlighted the immorality of Israel's conduct, Israeli leaders have consistently claimed that the goal of defeating Hamas and weakening its



ability to launch new attacks against Israel must take precedence over any concerns about Palestinian lives. The punishment of the population of Gaza must be accepted as necessary to destroy the power of Hamas.

But thanks to Israel's assault, Hamas's power is actually growing. Just as the Viet Cong grew stronger during the massive "search and destroy" operations that ravaged much of South Vietnam in 1966 and 1967 when the United States poured troops into the country in an ultimately futile bid to turn the war in its favor, Hamas remains intractable and has evolved into a tenacious and deadly guerrilla force in Gaza—with lethal operations restarting in the northern regions that were supposedly cleared by Israel only a few months ago.

The central flaw in Israel's strategy is not a failure of tactics or the imposition of constraints on military force—just as the failure of the United States' military strategy in Vietnam had little to do with the technical proficiency of its troops or political and moral limits on the uses of military power. Rather, the overarching failure has been a gross misunderstanding of the sources of Hamas's power. To its great detriment, Israel has failed to realize that the carnage and devastation it has

unleashed in Gaza has only made its enemy stronger.

**"Israel strengthening the bonds between Hamas and the local community."**

For months, governments and analysts have fixated on the number of Hamas fighters killed by Israel's forces as if this statistic were the most important measure of the success of Israel's campaign against the group. To be sure, many Hamas fighters have been killed. Israel says 14,000 of the estimated 30,000 to 40,000 fighters Hamas had before the war are now dead, while Hamas insists it has lost only 6,000 to 8,000 fighters. U.S. intelligence sources indicate the real number of Hamas dead is around 10,000.

A focus on these numbers, however, makes it hard to truly assess Hamas's power. Despite its losses, Hamas remains in de facto control of large swaths of Gaza, including those areas where the territory's civilians are now concentrated. The group still enjoys tremendous sup-

port from Gazans. According to a recent Israeli assessment, Hamas now has more fighters in the northern areas of Gaza, which the Israeli army seized in the fall at the cost of hundreds of soldiers, than it does in Rafah in the south.

Hamas is now waging a guerrilla war, involving ambushes and improvised bombs (often made from unexploded ordnance or captured IDF weapons), protracted operations that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's national security adviser recently said could last through the end of 2024 at least. It could still strike in Israel; Hamas likely has some 15,000 mobilized fighters—roughly ten times the number of fighters who carried out the October 7 attacks. Further, more than 80 percent of the group's underground tunnel network remains usable for planning, storing weapons, and evading Israeli surveillance, capture, and attacks. Most of Hamas's top leadership in Gaza remains intact. In sum, Israel's fast-moving offensive in the fall has given way to a grinding war of attrition that would leave Hamas with the ability to attack Israelis even if the IDF presses ahead with its campaign in southern Gaza.

Failed counterinsurgencies in the past often fixated on enemy body counts. The IDF is now engaged in the familiar game of whack-a-mole that bogged down U.S. troops in Afghanistan for years. Slavish attention to body counts tends to confuse tactical and strategic success and ignore the key measures that would show whether the strategic power of the opponent is growing even as the group's immediate losses mount. For a group, the key source of power is not the size of its current generation of fighters but its potential to gain supporters from the local community in the future.

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

## Schools wiped out in Gaza

### "Over 76% of schools" need reconstruction

From page 1 ▶ As the ongoing strikes by Israeli forces continue with aerial, land and maritime bombardment across the Gaza Strip, the widespread damage committed by the U.S.-backed genocidal war on Gaza has had a damaging impact on education for Gazan students with many putting their dreams on hold as missiles rain down around them.

According to a report by Relief Web in late March, the Israeli military's actions have disrupted the education and safety of 625,000 students and 22,564 teachers in Gaza. Of the 378 schools affected, constituting 76% of all school buildings, 117 suffered severe damage or destruction. Around 433,000 children and 16,200 teachers were impacted.

A large majority of schools have been directly

targeted by Israeli airstrikes in what is a war crime.

In February, the spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, announced that 30% of Gaza's schools had been directly bombed by the Israeli occupation forces.

Dujarric mentioned that out of a total of 563 schools, 162 were directly bombed, with 26 completely destroyed.

He pointed out that the schools that were directly targeted accommodate around 175,000 students and employ more than 6,500 teachers.

The senior UN official also confirmed that at least 55% of Gaza's schools require complete reconstruction or significant rehabilitation.

According to the United Nations, more children were killed in the Gaza Strip in five months than in all

armed conflicts worldwide over the past four years.

More than 12,000 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli forces since October 2023.

Tens of thousands have been maimed and hundreds of thousands have been left traumatized by nearly nine months of war.

Nearly 20,000 others have been left orphaned.

"The longer children stay out of school, the more difficult it is to catch up, with lasting consequences," UNRWA said.

Critics accuse the Israeli military of deliberately targeting the younger generation in a bid to pile pressure on Hamas and other Palestinian resistance factions which the occupation's army has been unable to defeat militarily or dismantle on the ground in Gaza.

## Regional resistance shatters Netanyahu's dreams

### Former Mossad chief says the Israeli PM's total victory pledge over Hamas spells disaster for the regime

From page 1 ▶ Netanyahu said after October 7 that every member of Hamas "is a dead man". But, it now seems as if every Israeli soldier is a dead man.

The former chief of the Israeli spy agency further referred to Netanyahu's priority in the face of his warmongering approach.

"Netanyahu doesn't hear, doesn't see, doesn't think, and he only cares about himself and doesn't think about the state and he leads us to disaster. All that matters to him is that he remains at the head of the government," he said.

Netanyahu stands accused of prolonging the conflict to evade responsibility and accountability over his failure to prevent the October 7 military operation that was carried out by Hamas which was followed by Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

More than 37,500 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza by the Israeli army as the war approaches the 10-month mark.

Bardo's remarks have highlighted divisions in Israel over its failure to defeat Hamas. But, this is just the tip of the iceberg.

A few days earlier, a fracture between Netanyahu and his military was thrust into the public domain.

"This business of destroying Hamas, making Hamas disappear — it's simply throwing sand in the eyes of the public," the Israeli military spokesman said on Thursday.

"Hamas is an idea, Hamas is a party. It's rooted in the hearts of the people — anyone who thinks we can eliminate Hamas is wrong," Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari added.

In mid-February, assessments by Israel's military intelligence showed that even if the regime dismantles Hamas's organized military capabilities, it will continue to operate in Gaza.

The assessments indicated that "authentic support remains" for Hamas among Gazans.

In addition to domestic concerns over Israel's inability to achieve its military goals in Gaza, the United States has also admitted that Bibi will not be able to bring Hamas to its knees.

On Thursday, CBS News cited an American official as saying that after nine months of bloodshed,

Israel's forces "haven't come close to achieving their objective of destroying Hamas."

The official told the US news channel that hundreds of Hamas fighters are still operating in Gaza, taking advantage of miles of still-intact tunnels in the territory.

Despite Netanyahu's incapability to defeat Hamas, he is beating the drums of a full-blown war with Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Hezbollah Secretary General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah has warned that nowhere in Israel would be safe in such a scenario.

Netanyahu's war rhetoric clearly indicates that he is biting off more than he can chew.

Bibi is making desperate attempts to cover up the Israeli failures against Hamas by threatening to wage a new war against Hezbollah.

The Hamas' October 7 attack showed that Israel can collapse like a house of cards. Undoubtedly, a potential war with Hezbollah will be a game changer because the Lebanese resistance group holds all the cards.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Israeli attacks kill dozens in Gaza

Two Israeli air strikes on buildings in Gaza City have killed dozens of people and injured many more.

A spokesman for Gaza's civil defense said a residential block in the al-Shati area, one of Gaza's historic refugee camps, was hit several times. The other strike targeted houses in the al-Tuffah district, the government media office said.

Footage showed people carrying away the wounded and searching for survivors in the wreckage as dust filled the streets, the BBC reported.

Earlier, the International Committee of the Red Cross said its offices in Gaza had been damaged by shelling, which killed 22 people who had sought shelter around its compound.

The Health Ministry in Gaza gave different figures, saying 25 people had been killed and 50 injured in the shelling, which it blamed on Israel.

### Iraqi resistance vows to assist Hezbollah

Fighters from Iraqi anti-terror resistance groups have expressed their full solidarity with Hezbollah, stressing they will fight alongside their comrades in the Lebanese group in case the Tel Aviv regime decides to wage a new war on Lebanon, according to Press TV.

Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Akhbar daily newspaper, citing unnamed sources at the Islamic Resistance in Iraq — an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, reported that Kata'ib Hezbollah, Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba groups have announced their readiness to participate alongside Hezbollah in confronting any possible Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

The sources added that the Iraqi resistance groups are awaiting Hezbollah's approval.

Kadhim al-Fartousi, the spokesman for the Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada anti-terror resistance group, stated that Hezbollah enjoys great prowess, powerful and effective weapons, and large numbers of fighters, which are sufficient to repel Israeli aggression irrespective of its extent.

"Should the need arise for Iraqi fighters in southern Lebanon, we will be the first to face up to the Zionist enemy's act of aggression [alongside Hezbollah]. This is a Muslim and Arab issue," he pointed out.

On Wednesday, Hezbollah Secretary-General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah warned that "no place" in the Israeli-occupied territories would be spared from the group's weapons in case of a full-blown war.

### Guantanamo victims: Israel using 'US-style' torture

When former Guantanamo detainee Asadullah Haroon looks at pictures of Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons, the memories of abuse and torture in US detention centers come flooding back, Al Jazeera reported.

"This is the worst form of oppression," he says. "When you are labelled as a terrorist you cannot defend yourself in any way. Without a doubt it's the same process. They are torturing the people in the same way."

I think the Americans have made this and the Israelis are implementing it"

Haroon, who won his case against the US government for illegal imprisonment in 2021, was held without charge in the notorious Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba for 16 years following his arrest in 2007. He says Palestinians held in Israeli prisons now are enduring similar treatment to that he experienced.

### Cuba joins ICJ genocide case against Israel

Cuba announced on 21 June that it will join South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The case accuses Israel of

committing genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza, the Cradle reported.

The Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement expressing its "unwavering and sustained commitment to supporting and contributing as much as possible to legitimate international efforts to put an end to the genocide committed against the Palestinian people."

"Genocide, apartheid, forced displacement, and collective punishment cannot have a place in today's world, and the international community cannot tolerate them," the ministry stated.

South Africa filed a genocide case against Israel in December 2023.

South Africa accused Israel of carrying out acts that are "genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group."

### UN: World cannot afford Lebanon becoming another Gaza

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has expressed increasing concern over the escalating war of words and deadly border clashes between Israel's military and Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters.

UN peacekeepers are working to calm the situation and prevent "miscalculation" after both sides heightened their rhetoric and raised the possibility of full-scale conflict, he said on Friday, according to Al Jazeera.

"One rash move — one miscalculation — could trigger a catastrophe that goes far beyond the border and, frankly, beyond imagination," Guterres told reporters.

"Let's be clear: The people of the region and the people of the world cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza."

A UN peacekeeping force UNIFIL, as well as unarmed technical observers known as UNTSO, have long been stationed in southern Lebanon to monitor hostilities along the demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel, known as the Blue Line.

"UN peacekeepers are on the ground working to de-escalate tensions and help prevent miscalculation," Guterres said. "The world must say loudly and clearly: immediate de-escalation is not only possible — it is essential. There is no military solution."

### Top US State Department official for Israel-Palestine affairs resigns

A senior US Department of State official and expert on Israeli-Palestinian affairs has resigned this week, United States media reported, amid the eight-month war in Gaza that has killed more than 37,500 Palestinians.

Andrew Miller, the deputy assistant secretary for Israeli-Palestinian affairs, cited personal reasons for his decision to leave his job, The Washington Post newspaper reported on Friday.

Miller told colleagues that he wanted to spend more time with his family as the current conflict which started in October had "become all-consuming", the report said.

He was a sceptic of US President Joe Biden's "bear hug" approach towards Israel's government, said the Post, which first reported Miller's departure.

Miller's is the latest in a string of resignations from the Biden administration across several government agencies over Washington's continued support for Israel.

The Post added, however, that Miller told colleagues that if not for his personal responsibilities, he would have preferred to remain in his job including in areas where he disagreed with administration policy.

Reporting from Washington, DC, Al Jazeera's Kimberly Halkett said it underscored growing frustration within the Biden administration over the president's staunch support for Israel's war on Gaza.

## Farahan celebrates ancient Tirgan festival

TEHRAN - The time-honored Tirgan Festival has been joyfully celebrated in the Farahan region of Markazi province, with residents and officials participating in traditional and cultural activities.

A local official in charge of cultural heritage announced that the national Tirgan Festival was celebrated on Friday with the participation of enthusiasts.

Mahmoud Moradi-Naraqi added that the people of Farahan, along with residents from neighboring villages and towns, gathered near the shrine of Ahmad ibn Ali (AS) in the historical village of Zolfabad.

They expressed their gratitude for God's blessings during the wheat harvest season and the start of summer through various cultural, artistic, and entertaining activities, according to the official.

He highlighted that this traditional ceremony is one of the significant rituals of ancient Iranians, symbolizing gratitude, agricultural prosperity, and the preservation of the value of water.

"The Tirgan Festival has been registered as a national and spiritual heritage since 2010," Moradi-Naraqi outlined. "celebrated annually in Farahan."

The celebration included traditional ceremonies such as the "Koozeh Fortune Telling" and "Tir and Wind Bracelet" rituals, honoring top farmers, hosting a handicrafts exhibition and agricultural tools market, performing traditional music and local games, paying



tribute to cultural veterans, and unveiling a book.

The Tirgan Festival, an ancient Iranian celebration, originates from pre-Islamic times and holds significant cultural and historical importance. It is typically observed on the first month of summer, marking the end of the harvest season. The festival is deeply rooted in Iranian mythology and folklore.

Tirgan is celebrated to give thanks for abundant crops, particularly wheat, and to pray for rain and prosperity in the coming year.

The festival's rituals often include outdoor gatherings, feasting, and traditional performances.

Over time, Tirgan has evolved into a cultural event that fosters community unity and pride in Iranian heritage. Today, Tirgan continues to be cherished as a time-honored occasion that reinforces cultural values and celebrates the cyclical rhythms of nature.

## Kerman's handicraft exhibition highlights local talent

TEHRAN - An exhibition of handicrafts and traditional arts has opened in the southern city of Kerman.

The opening ceremony was attended by a host of artists and artisans, local tourism officials, and members of Kerman's Chamber of Commerce at the Kerman Pars Hotel on Friday.

The three-day exhibition highlights Kerman's vibrant craft traditions under the theme "Handcrafted Creations that Touch Your Heart."

Featuring the work of 90 talented artists and craftspeople from across Kerman province, the three-day event aims to celebrate and promote the rich heritage of the region's handmade arts.

A notable aspect of the exhibition is its focus on the commercial potential of traditional crafts.

In addition to the display and sale of items, the event includes discussions and workshops on branding and marketing strategies for artisans.

According to organizers, visitors may purchase a wide array of exquisite handcrafted items, ranging from intricate textiles and ceramics to unique metalwork and jewelry.

jewelry.

"The exhibition not only serves as a showcase for these beautiful creations but also emphasizes the importance of commercializing and branding these traditional crafts to ensure their sustainability in modern markets."

The Handicrafts Association of Kerman, which organized the event, boasts over 400 members skilled in more than 40 different disciplines of handicrafts and traditional arts.

This diversity is reflected in the exhibition, offering a comprehensive view of the region's artistic prowess and cultural legacy.

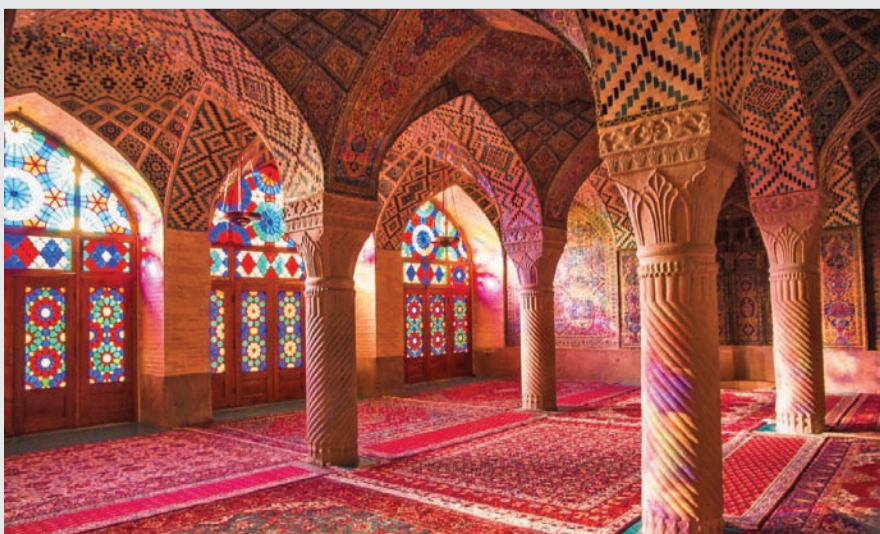
The Kerman region is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time.

It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites, including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais and ruins of ancient urban areas.

It is bounded by the provinces of Fars in the west, Yazd in the north, South Khorasan in the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan in the east, and Hormozgan in the south.

It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

## Iran in frames



A view of Nasir al-Molk Mosque, also known as the "Pink Mosque", in Shiraz. This 19th-century architectural gem captivates visitors with its stunning pink tilework and vibrant stained glass, creating a mesmerizing play of light and color.

# Alvand range: discover hidden charms from valleys to peaks

TEHRAN - Spanning the breathtaking landscapes of Hamedan province, the Alvand mountain range beckons nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts with its awe-inspiring beauty and thrilling escapades.

The range is renowned for its steep valleys, lush plains, towering peaks, and unique flora and fauna. Among its impressive features, Mount Alvand reigns supreme with an elevation of 3,584 meters, making it the highest peak in this subrange and a significant summit within the larger Zagros Mountains.

There are multiple routes to reach this summit, the most popular of which passes through the Ganjnameh Valley, Kiwar-estan, Meidan-e Mishan, and Takht-e Nader. Another notable route originates from Sarkan city, located to the south of the subrange, providing alternative breathtaking vistas.

This subrange, stretching about 70 kilometers in length, is characterized by a series of high summits that progressively increase in elevation from north to south. Almabolagh summit marks the northwestern end, while Kolah Ghazi summit defines the southeastern extremity. This natural fortification encircles Hamedan city from northwest to southeast, covering an expansive area of approximately 1,300 square kilometers.

**A landscape of diverse ecosystems**

The Alvand subrange is a haven of diverse ecosystems, ranging from the vast plains of Hamedan in the north and east



to the fertile lands of Asad Abad and Tuyserkhan in the south and west, extending further to the extensive Nahavand plain. These areas are well-known for their walnut production, a key agricultural product.

The vegetation in this region is remarkably varied, with Astragalus and a myriad of seasonal flowers dominating the landscape. Spring transforms the area into a vibrant tapestry of colors, as Chimonanthus emerge where the snow melts, followed by a stunning display of tulips. The grasslands and springs become adorned with yellow and purple flowers, buttercups, urchins, pennyroyals, licorice, allium stipitatum, nettles, and rhubarb.

**A sanctuary for wildlife**

Alvand mountain range is not only a botanical paradise but also a sanctuary for a variety of wildlife. The rugged terrain and diverse habitats support a rich array of animal species.

Partridges, martens, rock doves, eagles, rabbits, wolves,

foxes, and jackals are commonly sighted. More elusive inhabitants include mouflon, wild sheep, and goats, while the skies are occasionally graced by the presence of rare black eagles and cinereous vultures. Although gazelles once roamed the western foothills, they are now a part of the region's history.

**A journey through history and culture**

Alvand Mountain is steeped in historical and cultural significance, dating back to ancient Iranian texts. Referred to as "Arvand" in Pahlavi texts and "Aurvand" in the Avesta, the name Alvand is believed to derive from the Avestan word "Aurvant," meaning "quick, swift; a steed, horse, racer, warrior." According to some accounts, the name also commemorates a person named Arvand who is said to be buried within the mountain.

The rich history and mythological connections add a layer of mystique to the mountain, making it not just a natural wonder but also a cultural landmark.

This blend of natural beauty and historical depth makes Alvand Mountain a compelling destination for both locals and international tourists.

**Activities and attractions**

For those visiting Alvand Mountain, there are numerous activities to indulge in. Hiking and climbing are primary attractions, with various trails offering different levels of difficulty to cater to all adventurers. The route through Ganjnameh Valley is particularly popular, not only for its scenic beauty but also for the historical inscriptions found in the valley, which date back to the Achaemenid era.

In addition to hiking and climbing, visitors can explore the lush plains and valleys, enjoy picnics surrounded by nature's splendor, and engage in wildlife watching. Springtime is especially delightful as the blooming flowers create a picturesque landscape.

The mountain's proximity to Hamedan city allows for easy access to urban amenities and historical sites. Hamedan itself is one of Iran's oldest cities, rich in archaeological and cultural attractions. After a day of exploration, visitors can return to the city to experience its hospitality, cuisine, and vibrant markets.

Whether you are an avid mountaineer or a nature enthusiast, Alvand Mountain promises an unforgettable journey filled with awe-inspiring landscapes and a deep sense of connection to the natural and cultural treasures of Iran.

## Title deed awarded to Yazd's oldest qanat worker

TEHRAN - The first cadastral title deed for the oldest and longest qanat in the world has been issued to Gholamreza Sardari-Zarchi, the eldest qanat worker in Yazd province.

According to CHTN, the UNESCO-listed Zarch Qanat, located in Yazd province, is recognized as the oldest and longest qanat in the world. With a history spanning 3,000 years, this ancient water management system includes several shafts, some of which are situated near the Jame Mosque of Yazd.

The qanat's water source, known as its mother well, is located in the town of Zarch. The water-supply system comprises three separate underground tunnels named Shur, Ebrahim Khwidak, and Shirin.

"The first cadastral title deed for this historical qanat, which was registered in 2005 under number 14830 in the National Heritage



List of Iran, has now been issued for the Shirin tunnel section in the name of the oldest Moqanni (qanat worker) in Yazd, Gholamreza Sardari-Zarchi," the report said.

The Shur tunnel begins three kilometers north of the Malabashi farm in section 5, while the Ebrahim Khwidak tunnel starts four kilometers away from the first tunnel and extends to parts of section 3 of Yazd city. The Shirin tunnel starts at the front yard of

the Seyyed Mirza farm in section 5 and runs through various parts of Yazd, including Amir Chakhmaq, Lord Fahadan, and Koshk-e Now. All three tunnels intersect in several areas of Yazd, such as Seyyed Gol-e Sorkh, Kasnaviyeh, and Mahmoudabad, CHTN explained.

Having a length of 90 kilometers, the qanat was inscribed as part of the "Persian Qanats" during the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Istanbul on July 15, 2016.

UNESCO has it that "The qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate."

Generally, each qanat comprises an almost horizontal tunnel for collecting water from an underground water source, usually an alluvial fan, into which a mother well is sunk to the appropriate level of the aquifer.

## Historical sites in Fars province ready to welcome major events

TEHRAN - More historical and cultural venues in Fars province have been equipped to host significant national and international events, a local official noted.

On Saturday, during a visit to Saadi mausoleum, the provincial tourism chief, Mohammad Sabet-Eqlidi, publicized the province's readiness to host further cultural events.

Citing an example, the official said: "Last week, the grand finale of Iran's Family Chorus League was held at the Saadi Cultural Complex, receiving an exceptional public response."

Event tourism, the director-general highlighted, is one of the most crucial branches of tourism, widely utilized by leading countries in the industry.

Currently, Fars province's historical and cultural sites have become hubs for national events, he added.

"Apart from the cultural and artistic events held throughout the week, particularly at Hafez and Saadi's tombs," Sabet-Eqlidi noted. "We are also hosting national events at these historical sites."

Moreover, he announced that upcoming summer tourism, cultural, and religious events would soon be introduced and implemented.

The aim of these events, the official underscored, is to familiarize tourists and the target audience with the capacities, capabilities, and potentials of the Fars tourism sector.

Sabet-Eqlidi also mentioned an upcoming concert at Persepolis, ensuring that all aspects of organizing such an event in a historical complex have been meticulously reviewed and supervised by cultural heritage and tourism experts of the province.

"Hosting events at historical and cultural sites offers a golden opportunity to attract more tourists and extend their visit duration," he pinpointed. "Currently, Fars province has become the center of such events, which undoubtedly significantly impacts the development and economy of the province's tourism sector."

Additionally, the official referred to the upcoming International Multimedia Cultural Heritage Festival. "According to

our plans, this festival, one of the most significant international events in the country, will be hosted in Shiraz this autumn," he continued. "It will undoubtedly play a crucial role in showcasing the historical, cultural, and tourism potential within the province."

Fars province, located in southwestern Iran, is a region steeped in history and culture, renowned for its rich heritage and numerous historical sites. Often considered the cultural heartland of Iran, Fars is home to ancient cities, monumental ruins, and architectural masterpieces that reflect its illustrious past.

One of the most iconic sites in Fars is Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire, founded by Darius the Great in 518 BC. This UNESCO World Heritage Site showcases the grandeur of ancient Persian architecture with its impressive palaces, reliefs, and staircases.

Another significant landmark is Pasargadae, the tomb of Cyrus the Great, which is a testament to the early Persian Empire's architectural ingenuity. This site also holds a UNESCO designation



and is revered for its historical and cultural importance.

Shiraz, the provincial capital, is a city renowned for its poetry, gardens, and historical monuments. The tombs of famous Persian poets Hafez and Saadi are located there, attracting numerous visitors who come to pay homage to these literary giants.

The city also features the exquisite Nasir al-Mulk Mosque, known for its stunning stained-glass windows, and the Eram Garden, a beautiful example of Persian garden design.

Fars province's historical sites are not just relics of the past but vibrant venues for cultural events and tourism. They play a crucial role in preserving Iran's heritage and showcasing the architectural and artistic achievements of ancient Persian civilizations, attracting enthusiasts from around the world.

# Over 680 medical, health projects inaugurated

TEHRAN – A total of 687 medical projects were inaugurated nationwide via video conference on Saturday morning by interim President Mohammad Mokher and Health Minister Bahram Einoollahi.

The projects included the inauguration of 90 medical projects in nine provinces, including Yazd, Hormozgan, Markazi, Kerman, and Semnan.

The hospitals are provided with 1,729 new beds, the Health Ministry website reported.

Moreover, 574 health projects including 68 rural health centers, 234 health facilities, 44 medical centers, 6 maternity health service centers, 70 labs, and a border quarantine center, with an infrastructure of 170,000 square meters in 29 provinces. 14 educational and welfare projects with an infrastructure of 56,000 square meters are also inaugurated.

## Provided health services

Since August 2021 - the start of the administration of the late President Ebrahim Raisi - many health projects have been implemented to facilitate access to healthcare and medical services, removing the face of deprivation, particularly from rural and underprivileged areas.

The outcome of these plans and programs is clearly evident in the country.

President Raisi was concerned about justice in education and access to medical and pharmaceutical services, doctors, and hospitals. He always emphasized that people's lives are more important than anything else.

## Procurement of vaccine

When the president took office, the health sector was going through challenging times; the



fourth and then fifth waves of coronavirus were raging and taking toll on people.

However, the positive efforts facilitated the process of procuring the vaccine for the country, and with the help of the Iranian Red Crescent Society up to 10 million doses of coronavirus vaccine were brought into the country in each flight, accelerating immunization in the country.

Vaccination centers operated actively in the country; six different types of vaccines were produced and vaccines were imported.

Taking necessary measures, the Health Ministry successfully mitigated the pandemic.

## Free health insurance coverage

The astronomical costs of treatments and medicines, especially for low-income and disadvantaged people, and access to economic medical services were among other concerns of the late president.

In this regard, many individuals are covered by insurance free of charge and many others benefit from discounts to receive health insurance services.

## The Law on Family

The Law on Family and Youth Support and the contribution of incentives for childbearing was the other program conducted under the supervision of the president. It resulted in offering free infertility treatment to couples to benefit from numerous services.

## Insurance coverage for heard-to-treat diseases

There are about 400 hard-to-treat diseases. Currently, the number of diseases covered by insurance has reached 107.

The frequency of these 107 diseases is higher than other diseases.

According to the authorities, the chance to come down with the rest of the diseases is so low that there are less than 100 cases of individuals suffering from them.

## Family health program and referral system

Family Health Program and Electronic Referral System is one of the most important priorities of the health ministry, which is designed and implemented in order to increase access to health services and strengthen the country's health network system.

According to the program, a health team comprised of two caregivers and a physician is re-

sponsible for 3,000 individuals.

## Construction of big hospitals

Over the past two years, hospitals have been equipped with about 16,000 beds.

The construction of big hospitals was one of the important priorities of the administration of President Raisi and the health ministry.

Two hospitals with respectively 1000 and 821 beds were built.

Also, the first specialized hospital for children, named Hakim, after the Islamic revolution was built in 27 months.

About 79 other important hospital projects are also on the agenda, and between 8 and 10 hospitals with 1,000 beds are under construction.

## Other services

In an effort to boost the health of society, the treatment of children under seven years of age is free of charge, and now medical centers are obliged to implement it.

Fighting against the smuggling of economic Iranian medicines and also reducing the treatment costs by increasing insurance coverage as well as the implementation of the nursing services tariff law after 15 years of delay, opening and inaugurating 2000 health projects in two years to rebuild the health network system are other projects implemented by the President Raisi administration.

Additionally, providing free services to improve the nutrition of pregnant mothers and their children, free cochlear implantation for deaf children for the first time in the country, and dispatching 2,800 doctors to deprived and less privileged areas are part of the offered services.

## Iran maintains lowest infant mortality rate in West Asia

TEHRAN – According to an official with the Iranian Society of Pediatrics, the country has made significant progress in reducing child mortality, achieving the lowest mortality rate of infants in West Asia.

"Infant mortality rate is one of the indicators for overall health of a country according to the World Health Organization," Mehr news agency quoted Mohammad Zonouzi-Rad as saying.

He made the remarks on the occasion of the annual congress of the Iranian Society of Pediatrics.

Luckily, the country takes pride in its record of having the fewest infant mortality rate in the region which is even comparable to the European countries, Zonouzi-Rad added.

The global infant mortality is 11 deaths per 1,000 live births. While the indicator is higher than 11 in West Asia, infant mortality rate for Iran is 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births.

He went on to say that this remarkable achievement is the result of collaborative efforts; training competent staff including physicians and nurses; and providing essential equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Also, the country has been successful in preventing infectious diseases that are prevalent among infants and children in the past few decades.

"We have managed to eradicate some diseases that are still prevalent in neighboring countries, such as polio and measles," the official stressed.

Currently, the main challenges ahead include emerging diseases and low-birth-weight children. To address these issues, a high-risk clinic for newly born babies is planned to be established, he further said.

Regarding the implementation of the free treatment of children under seven years of age, he noted people not to be worried about

the costs; their main concern is the child's health.

In October 2023, a hospital for children, which is the most advanced one of its kind in the country, was officially inaugurated by the late President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran.

The hospital, named Hakim, comprises 19 specialized clinics, emergency medical services, surgery rooms, medical imaging, cardiology, a behavioral intensive care unit (BICU), and a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) totally equipped with 266 beds.

The building has been designed according to the physical and mental needs of children. Green space and natural light, easy access, and welfare services for children and their companions are among the most important design features of the hospital.

It is also equipped with a biological water treatment plant, which makes it the first green hospital in the country.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iranian zoos to be monitored online

The Department of Environment (DOE) will launch an online monitoring system in zoos across the country, the Department of Environment's director general for hunting and fishing has said.

"Putting in place the necessary infrastructure for this plan is underway; newly constructed zoos are supposed to have an online monitoring system, and the old ones must launch the system as soon as possible," IRNA quoted Ali Teymouri as saying on Saturday.

Teymouri stated that all provincial departments of environment must supervise the zoo online systems to register all animal species entering or leaving the zoo, casualties and causes.

## باغ وحش های کشور آنلاین پایش می شوند

مدیرکل حفاظت و مدیریت شکار و صید سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: پایش آنلاین باغ وحش های کشور جزو برنامه های سازمان است و در حال تهیه زیر ساخت برای اجرای آن هستیم. علی تیموری روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا افزود: باغ وحش هایی که جدید احداث می شوند باید حتما سیستم پایش آنلاین داشته باشند، مجموعه های قدیمی نیز باید هر چه سریعتر این سیستم را راه اندازی کنند.

وی اظهار داشت: باید تمام ادارات کل استان ها آدرس سیستم آنلاین باغ وحش ها را دریافت کنند تا ورود و خروج گونه ها از باغ وحش، ورود گونه های جدید، تلفات و دلایل آن را ثبت و به صورت آنلاین در جریان قرار گیرند.

## Blood storage duration rises to 8-15 days

TEHRAN – Iran's blood storage has increased from four or five days to eight and sometimes to 15 days, according to the CEO of the Blood Transfusion Organization.

Mostafa Jamali said implementation of molecular and antibody screening tests has commenced in some provinces of the country, and it is scheduled to be conducted nationwide by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2024 - March 2025) to eliminate the risk of transmission of serious diseases by transfusion.

Presently, there is an ample supply of blood and its products storage with no shortage in the country, the official added, IRIB reported.

Jamali went on to talk about leukocyte filter bags, which reduce complications associated with transfused blood, saying their production has reached 80 percent.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Blood donation in Iran

The average blood donation rate in Iran is 26



per thousand people which places the country in a good situation among other countries.

According to the World Health Organization, the median blood donation rate in high-income countries is 31.5 donations per 1000 people. This compares with 16.4 donations per 1000 people in upper-middle-income countries, 6.6 donations per 1000 people in lower-middle-income countries, and 5.0 donations per 1000 people in low-income countries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Iranian nano-tech products target 50 countries

TEHRAN – Thanks to Iranian experts' achievements and findings, the country is recognized as one of the top nations in nanotechnology in the world and exports nano-tech products to 50 countries worldwide.

The development of nanotechnology in Iran dates back to the Iranian year 1379 (2000-2001) country. Three years later, the national headquarters for the development of nanotechnology was established.

In addition, the long-term document for the development of nanotechnology was approved in 1384 (2005-2006).

Nanotechnology is the manipulation of matter on a near-atomic scale to produce new structures, materials, and devices. The technology promises scientific advancement in many sectors such as medicine, consumer products, energy, materials, and manufacturing. Nanotechnology refers to engineered structures, devices, and systems.

According to the report by the national nanotechnology headquarters, the country published only 22 international articles in the field of nanotechnology in 2001. However, in 2019, the number of internationally published articles increased to 12,000, promoting Iran's ranking from 57th to the 4th globally.

Moreover, the number of registered patents improved from 2 in 2001 to 260 in 2019, accounting for 24 percent of the whole registered patents worldwide.

With the support of talented academicians and knowledge-based companies, the nanotechnology sector has indigenized many technologies to solve the main challenges of the country in various areas, including industry.

The latest ranking has placed Iran among the top seven countries in the world.

## Nanotech products

Some 358 companies are operating in the field of nanotechnology in the country and 1608 products and equipment have received nanotechnology certificates.

Some 42 percent of the products in this field are related to construction, more than 17 percent to the fields of oil, gas, and petrochemicals, 13 percent to automobiles, and over 10 percent to optoelectronics.

The expansion of nanotechnology export programs in recent years and the establishment of bases for exporting nanotechnology products to China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have provided the opportunity for the entry of Iranian nanotechnology goods, equipment, and services into global markets.

A total of 1808 nano-tech products have so far been produced and marketed in 15 different industrial fields based on domestic technologies in the past Iranian calendar year that ends on March 19, 2014.

The total sale of nano-tech products made in Iran is calculated to be more than 300 trillion rials (around \$600m), Mehr news agency quoted Emad Ahmadvand, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, as saying.

The market's total value is equal to 1.125 billion dollars, with nano-tech products exports accounting for 69 million dollars representing six percent of the entire market value.

Last year, the best-selling products were sanitary faucets, oil and gas nano-catalysts, automotive nano-catalysts, construction and decorative tiles, and optoelectronic products, respectively. The industrial fields of construction; automobile and transportation; oil, gas, and petrochemical had the largest share in the market, respectively.



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JUNE 23, 2024

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

*He who trusts the world, the world betrays him.*

**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times > Noon:12:07 Evening: 19:45 Dawn: 3:03 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 4:50 (tomorrow)

## Group exhibition “Fast Forward 4” opens at Iranshahr Art Gallery

TEHRAN—A group exhibition of 13 artists, titled “Fast Forward 4” (“FFWD” for short), was launched at Iranshahr Art Gallery in Tehran on Friday.

According to the statement of the exhibit, it takes an innovative approach to presenting previously unseen art by the artists of Iranshahr Gallery. The organizers believe it provides an opportunity to exhibit works by gallery artists who may not have the chance for individual shows, ISNA reported.

In a statement, the exhibition organizers emphasized that art is the result of deliberate choices. “Often, our perception of an artist is shaped by the specific artworks we encounter. However, each

artist engages with their known context, creating something that might not always find visibility due to various reasons. FFWD aims to explore a world beyond what has been previously exhibited, delving into the uncharted spaces of artists’ minds.

Participating artists in the exhibition include Mohsen Rezaei, Shahrouz Sadr, Mehdi Shirahmadi, Ahmad Morshedlou, Bahram Ghonchehpour, Elham Fatemi, Farshid Davoudi, Mohammadreza Yazdi, Reza Baharvand, Kourosh Golnari, Seyyed Ali Alikhani, Mohammad Keyvan, and Hamid Arabi.

The exhibition will run until July 2 at Iranshahr Art Gallery, located at No. 15, 6th Alley, Nejatollahi (Villa) Street.

## Christopher Bollas’s “China on the Mind” published in Persian

TEHRAN—The Persian translation of the book “China on the Mind” written by Christopher Bollas has been released in the book market across Iran.

Qoqnoos Publishing House has published the book in 208 pages with a translation by Sahar Alaei, Mehr reported.

Several thousand years ago Indo-European culture diverged into two ways of thinking; one went West, the other East. Tracing their differences, Christopher Bollas examines how these mentalities are now converging once again, notably in the practice of psychoanalysis, in this book, originally published in 2013.

Creating a freely associated comparison between western psychoanalysts and eastern philosophers, Bollas demonstrates how the Eastern use of poetry evolved as a collective way to house the individual self.

On the one hand, he links this tradition to the psychoanalytic praxes of Winnicott and Khan, which he relates to Daoism in their privileging of solitude and non-verbal forms of communicating. On the other hand, Bollas examines how Jung, Bion and Rosenfeld, assimilate the Confucian ethic that sees the individual and group mind as a collective, while Freudian psychoanalysis he argues has provided an unconscious meeting place of both viewpoints.

The first part of the book considers mentality of the eastern people from the perspective of psychoanalysis by centering on “The Book of Songs,” “The Book of Rites,” and “The Book of Changes”; in the second part, the author lets go his imagination to explore connections between the classics of Lao Zi, Zhuangzi and Confucius and the modern psychoanalytical thoughts; the third part discusses the social mentality of individuals and community to understand China and the far east interest in psychoanalysis.

Bollas’s intriguing book will be of interest to psychotherapists, psychoanalysts, Orientalists, and those concerned with cultural studies.

Christopher Bollas, 80, is a British psychoanalyst and novelist. He is a leading figure in contemporary psychoanalytical theory.

He is most widely known for his psychoanalytical writings and some of his ideas have had a wide dissemination; indeed, he is one of the most widely read authors in the field of psychoanalysis.

Aside from his clinical writings, Bollas is also a cultural critic and his writings have earned the interests of people outside the world of psychoanalysis. He has also written three comic novels and five plays.

## Cartoon of Day



Famine in Gaza

Cartoonist: Osama Hajjaj from Jordan

# “Palestine100+”: What will Palestine be like in 2048?

By Ali Hamedin

TEHRAN - “Close your eyes, imagine Palestine 100 years after the Nakba, and now, describe it as a story.” This was the request of Basma Ghalayini, editor, to twelve famous writers, which was published in the book “Palestine +100” in 2019 by Comma Press.

Writers such as Selma Dabbagh, Mazen Maarouf, Emad El-Din Aysha, Amir El-Youssef made this amazing adventure and tried to portray Palestine in 2048 from their point of view in a short story. A century on from the Nakba of 1948, which marked the violent expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their homes and the founding of the Israeli regime.

The book follows on from the success of Comma’s “Iraq+100” (2016), set a hundred years after the U.S. invasion of 2003; year 2103.

Stories in “Palestine + 100” range from Majd Kayyal’s depiction of a futuristic solution to the Palestine-Israeli war, in which two parallel worlds occupy the same geographic space, to Saleem Haddad’s Matrix-like concept of a “right to digital return”.

### More than a fiction

In almost all these stories there is a doubled, troubled vision, that never resolves so much as it fractures further. The themes of technology, violence, and memory are central to all the 12 pieces of the collection.

Dabbagh’s inventive story, “Sleep it Off, Dr. Schott”, is one of the 12 entries in “Palestine+100”. The story takes place on June 15, 2048. A high-speed, underground shuttle is about to be launched, carrying goods from Gaza to neighboring affiliated countries, in exchange for much-needed materials. Paid for by a cryptocurrency, it’s the brainchild of Professor Kamal, who lives in The Secular Scientific Enclave and is the creator of Body-Bots – a semi-indestructible fighting force who have triggered severe bombardments.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, British-Palestinian writer and lawyer Dr. Selma Dabbagh explained that the use of science fiction is not very popular in Palestine. Instead, there is a prevalence of poetry, short stories, memoirs, and increasingly more novels. These novels are not usually fantastical but are literary responses that depict Palestinian realities.

“I would say the collection ‘Palestine +100’ is more one of speculative fiction, in the sense that it’s more concerned with human actions and responses to a new, futuristic situation driven by scientific innovation, rather than the scientific innovation itself,” she added.

### Palestine, a dystopia in reality

Basma Ghalayini, the editor of the collection, writes in her introduction that science fiction has never been particularly popular for Palestinian authors, because “it is a luxury, to which Palestinians haven’t felt they can afford to escape”.



Palestinian-Icelandic writer and poet Mazen Maarouf (L) and British-Palestinian writer and lawyer Selma Dabbagh

“Not that the disguise of science fiction would be that drastic a costume change for Palestinian writers, especially those based in Palestine. Everyday life, for them, is a kind of a dystopia,” she writes.

Dabbagh stated that Palestinian reality is so harsh, the technology is so dehumanizing that she is not sure that we need to step in to the future for it to seem like science fiction.

“My friends who managed to leave Gaza last year, after walking from north to south in November and December, described it as being like a dystopian movie set. They reported seeing burnt-out buildings, iris-scanning checkpoints, and dead bodies scattered everywhere.”

### The last living Palestinian

The writer noted that what she found exciting about contributing to the collection is that it opened up her imagination to visualizing the future. “I was a little disappointed by how in my story and all of the stories set in Gaza, we all had the siege continuing. It made me think about how blocked our mindset has become.”

Dabbagh also told the Tehran Times that although the writing in “Palestine +100” is mainly quite pessimistic, none of the writers imagined anything quite as horrific as the current genocide in Gaza, except Mazen Maarouf perhaps in his story where the last Palestinian on earth is kept in a glass box.

“Curse of the Mud Ball Kid” by Mazen Maarouf is the most surreal and tragic of the stories. The story, set in the aftermath of a nanobot attack in 2037, is narrated by the last Palestinian left alive, whose body is so affected by radiation that he is kept in a glass box, but cannot be killed.

Mazen Maarouf, a Palestinian-Icelandic writer and poet, was another writer of the book “Palestine + 100” who was interviewed by the Tehran Times. Regarding finding the subject for his story, Maarouf said that he couldn’t think of any idea for the first few weeks until he decided to decline the call. “That’s when an old and tasteless sarcastic joke came to mind, taking a serious and horrific real face. Could Israel kill every Palestinian until only one is kept alive?” he added.

### Surreal realities

Even though Dabbagh believed that Maarouf’s surreal story somehow has a theme of the current terrible conditions in Gaza, Maarouf said that no fictional imagination could have matched the level of crimes and atrocities we are witnessing nowadays in Gaza.

Maarouf also explained his story style. “I think I wrote the story with the same sense that I feel towards the situation. The story of Palestine has never been less surreal at any time in modern history. It is a story of twisted reality, injustice, evilness, and theft.”

Man Booker International Prize nominee mentioned that the world has been pulled into dystopia long time ago, through barbaric capitalist practices that destroyed the lives of millions of people in the Middle East and Africa but also in Europe and the U.S. as well.

### Nakba at the center

When Palestinians write, they write about their past through their present, knowingly or unknowingly. Their writing is, in part, a search for their lost inheritance, as well as an attempt to keep the memory of that loss from fading. In this sense, the past is everything to a Palestinian writer; it is the only thing that makes their current existence and their identity meaningful. And the Nakba, of course, sits at the heart of this.

Maarouf noted that Palestine was the first and longest continuous practice of real stories, and visualization. “The first thing I thought of is to return to the roots when I was writing the story. So, I had to go back to the starting point and re-construct the place from scratch, with the people there.”

The writer highlighted that what disturbs the colonizer is the memory that is inherited and relived. “I met people in Lebanon, refugees from Palestine, like me who were my age and amazingly I found out that we all have same memory about Palestine, as if we were friends there, except that we had never been there.”

He said he had heard stories about Palestine from different Palestinian refugees when he was a child. “Slowly, Palestine was

constructed through oral narration and imagination. We had very limited visual materials,” he added.

### Science fiction as a special genre

Maarouf also told the Tehran Times that if he were to write another story about the future of Palestine, he would still choose a fictional approach that draws direct inspiration from the Palestinians’ current suffering in Gaza.

Dabbagh explained that there is an ability in science fiction to exaggerate or extrapolate a current reality in order to make a point. “Writers who, over the centuries, have written under political censorship have used more fantastical forms to create allegories that the reader will understand what is being criticized without the writer putting themselves at risk.”

She also mentioned, the genre is like a double-edged sword. “I agree that there is potential for use of science fiction for exposing the current situation in Palestine, it is a malleable form; but the genre also can be used to further narratives of conquest and domination.”

“My interpretation of ‘Star Wars’ for example was that it was a kind of U.S. propaganda set during the Cold War,” she added.

Dabbagh believed that there is a need for artists and writers to visualize better potential future, to develop credible, attractive futures that we can work towards. “I hope that there is more Palestinian fiction of this kind being written. We may need speculative fiction more to envision ‘the day after,’ and our ambitions for a new Palestine free of discrimination based on race, religion, or ethnicity.”

The writer said she is actually more interested in the past rather than the present and is writing a novel set in 1930s Jerusalem. “I find it hard to write about current events as they are changing so quickly. I am following developments closely and work in this area as a lawyer, but I live in London and it really is the responsibility of those of us in the diaspora to broadcast the voices of those who have experienced the genocide.”

## Tehran cultural center to review “There’s Still Tomorrow”

TEHRAN- “There’s Still Tomorrow”, a 2023 Italian movie directed by Paola Cortellesi, will go on screen at the Andisheh Cultural Center in Tehran on Monday.

A review session will be held with the presence of the film critics Mehdi Soltani and Mohsen Soleimani Fakher after the screening.

Set in post-war Italy, this black-and-white neorealist film follows Delia’s journey as she breaks free from traditional family patterns and dares to dream of a different future. The film’s critical acclaim is well-deserved, with many praising its thought-provoking exploration of feminism and patriarchy.

The story takes place in inner-city Rome in May 1946, where the city is still reeling from the devastation of World War II. Delia, a wife and mother of three, lives a life marked by poverty

and domestic drudgery. Her days are filled with laundry, sewing, and caring for her ailing father-in-law, all while enduring her husband’s physical abuse. However, her life takes an unexpected turn when she receives her first voter’s card in the mail.

As Delia begins to assert her independence, she finds solace in the support of unlikely allies: Nino, a kind-hearted car mechanic; Marisa, a spirited market greengrocer; and William, an African American soldier who wants to help her. But when her daughter Marcella becomes engaged to Giulio, the son of a wealthy family that owes their success to their local bar, Delia realizes that her daughter would be trapped in a similar cycle of abuse and humiliation.

Determined to break the cycle, Delia enlists William’s help to sabotage Giulio’s family business. The plan succeeds, and Delia finds herself faced with a newfound sense of empowerment. As

she prepares to vote for the first time in Italy’s referendum on monarchy and republic, Delia knows she has finally found her voice.

The film’s climax takes place on June 2 and 3, as Delia navigates the complexities of voting for the first time. With her voter’s card lost and then found by her husband and daughter, Delia faces down those who seek to silence her. Her bravery is met with critical acclaim, earning Cortellesi six David di Donatello awards, including Best New Director and Best Actress.

Critics particularly commended the direction by Paola Cortellesi, as well as the screenplay’s thoughtful approach to tackling these complex issues. The performances of the cast were also widely praised, with standout performances from Cortellesi herself, Valerio Mastandrea, and Romana Maggiora Vergano.